

Benny & Boris

A one-act comedy

by

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SCENE ONE.

BORIS, 70's, is sitting on a bench reading a newspaper. He licks his fingers as he turns the page. BENNY, 70's, enters. He approaches the bench, takes a handkerchief out of his pocket and wipes the bench where he eventually sits down. Boris opens the newspaper on the bench between them, takes a deck of cards out of his pocket and starts to shuffle, deliberately taking his time.

BENNY

Schmuck.

BORIS

Putz.

BENNY

How's the wife?

BORIS

Don't ask. How's your doctor?

BENNY

Feh! He's a crook.

BORIS

They're all shysters.

Boris starts dealing cards face down. Benny picks up his cards and looks at Benny over the top of them.

BENNY

So? Your turn.

BORIS

Why is it my turn?

BENNY

Because it was my turn last time.

Beat.

BORIS

So what did you have for breakfast today?

BENNY

Do I remember?

Beat

BORIS

You don't remember what you had five hours ago but last week you remember.

BENNY

Did I say I remember last week?

BORIS

Putz. You just said you remember that the last time you dealt. And that was last week.

BENNY & BORIS

So!

BORIS

Fine. It's my turn. Do you have any...

BENNY

Just a second. For crying out loud. What are you trying to do?

BORIS

What I'm trying to do? I'm trying to play. Better I should go home and take a nap.

BENNY

What game are you playing?

BORIS

I'm playing cards. What game are YOU playing?

BENNY

We're playing gin.

BORIS

Gin? So why didn't you tell me?

BENNY

What's to tell? One week we play gin, the other week we play fish.

BORIS

Maybe we should play another game?

BENNY

What other game?

BORIS

Bridge!

BENNY

Bridge? Nah. That's for old people. We play gin and fish.

BORIS

My grand daughter plays fish.

BENNY

And does she play bridge?

BORIS

Of course not. She's too young.

BENNY

You see! Now your turn.

Boris plays a card, followed immediately by Benny.
Boris starts reading part of the paper they are playing
their card game on.

BENNY

Come on.

BORIS

Shhh... I'm reading.

Benny leans over to see what Boris is reading.

Well?
BENNY

Poor Hersh Mendelbaum.
BORIS

What happened to Hersh?
BENNY

He was struck by lightning while golfing.
BORIS

Does it say what hole it was?
BENNY

What hole it was?
BORIS

Yes.
BENNY

What difference what hole it was? You think they offer rain cheques in heaven?
BORIS

Did you know Hersh?
BENNY

No. Did you know Hersh?
BORIS

No. So why are you talking about him?
BENNY

I don't know. I tell you he died and now you want to join in his foursome.
BORIS

Boris goes back to looking at the paper.

Do you remember Harvey Stein?
BORIS

BENNY

Stein I remember. He used to sell refrigerators. How did he die?

Boris looks at the paper again.

BORIS

Froze to death.

BENNY

Oy.

BORIS

Remember Sally Leonard?

BENNY

How can I forget Sally? She married that zamboni driver.. .what's his name?

BORIS

Tony Gorgonzola?

BENNY

Yeah. Tony Gorgonzola. How did she die?

BORIS

She slipped on some ice. How about Max Yarmy?

BENNY

Max Yarmy?

BORIS

Yes. That's what I said. Max Yarmy!

Benny takes the paper from Boris and starts scanning it up and down.

BENNY

He was the high school jock. Where does it say he died?

BORIS

Who said anything about dying? It just says he's celebrating his 75th birthday next week.