

SHALL WE DANCE?

A Short Play by Jean Blasiar

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CAST:

Older Woman (fifties)

Older Man (fifties)

Young Man (20's)

Young Woman (20's)

LIGHTS UP:

A dance studio.

A MAN (30-40, dressed in a business suit, having come directly from the office) literally drags his WIFE (also 30, dressed in pants and top and flat shoes, carrying a purse) into a dancing studio where an OLDER MAN (50) and OLDER WOMAN (also 50) are setting up the music and chairs for a lesson that evening.

OLDER MAN

Welcome. Come in, come in. What do we have here? One eager to dance,
and one...

(looks at the woman cowering behind him)

not so eager, are we?

OLDER WOMAN

Let me take your purse, sweetheart. We'll put it over here. You're just in time
for a private lesson.

YOUNG MAN

My wife needs to get out more. Maybe take a few lessons so she won't be embarrassed
when we dance. She doesn't like to dance.

OLDER MAN

Dancing is one of the joys of life.

The older man walks over to the younger woman, takes her hand.

OLDER MAN

Felicia, music please.

Older man takes younger woman in his arms and slowly steps around the room with her, making it so
easy for her to follow him.

OLDER MAN

I'm Bruce. And you are?

YOUNGER WOMAN

Marcia.

OLDER MAN

Marcia. Beautiful name. It fits you. Isn't this fun.

The woman is surprisingly light on her feet. Picks up the steps almost at once.

OLDER MAN (cont'd)

I don't believe that you don't like to dance.

Marcia smiles sheepishly at Bruce.

OLDER MAN

(whispers)

Ah. I see.

The older woman begins to dance with the younger man.

Younger man is eager, too eager, takes over leading.

OLDER WOMAN

What is your name?

YOUNGER MAN

Eddie.

OLDER WOMAN

Eddie, I'll lead.

The younger man dips the older woman way down, nearly drops her.

YOUNGER MAN

I loved that movie where Pacino was blind and danced the tango.

OLDER WOMAN

Yes. Maybe we should start with the fox trot.