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RECOLLECTIONS

A One Act Play

by

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The scene is an unadorned stage. There are four plain chairs at the back of the stage, facing the audience. A MAN sits in one chair. A WOMAN sits in another. Both are dressed in black pants, shirts, and hats. The foreground of the stage is bare.

(LISA enters, followed by BEN. They are both in their mid-twenties, and are both dressed casually. BEN wears a tweed sports coat. LISA wears glasses.)

BEN
What's the matter?

LISA
Just go away.

BEN
I don't understand. What did I do?

LISA
I don't want to talk to you. Leave me alone. You. . . you're smothering me. I need space.

BEN
I'm your fiance. We're engaged. I'm not supposed to give you space.

LISA
How could you do that to me? How could you embarrass me like that in front of your entire family?

BEN
Force of habit?

LISA

Ben, I'm serious! Humiliating me in private is one thing, but with your family there! Why?

BEN

What did I do? Just tell me what I did! I swear I didn't do anything!

LISA

You didn't do anything! What are you, retarded? You did do something! You don't even realize what you did do, do you? I mean, you really don't get it! You just, like, do not get it.

BEN

Well, fill me in! If I did something—which I'm sure, by the way, I didn't—tell me what it was, and I'll apologize for doing it.

LISA

You want me to tell you? I'll tell you. Ok, I'll tell you. It started the moment we walked through the front door of your house. You remember, your mother answered the door.

(Lisa claps and points to the WOMAN and MAN. They take off their hats. The seated WOMAN stands up throws a mink around her neck. The MAN stands up and puts on a sports coat like BEN's. They step forward.)

WOMAN

(embraces LISA)

Oh, Lisa. How are you! It's so nice to see you again

(turns towards the MAN and hugs him)

And how's my little boy? My Benjamin! God, I've missed you!

MAN

(in a nerdy voice)

Hi, mom. How are you?

BEN (interrupting)

Wait a second here! This guy's supposed to be me?

LISA

Yeah? You got a problem with that?

BEN

Yes, I've got a problem with that. He doesn't look at all like me.

LISA

I think there's an incredible resemblance.

BEN

He's not tall enough.

LISA

Just a little bit vain now, aren't we?

BEN

My coat is not that old and ratty looking.

LISA

(suppressing a laugh)

Are you going to stop nitpicking and let me get on with this, or what?

BEN

And what about my mother? She didn't answer the door wearing a mink!

LISA

She did too!

BEN

She did not. She doesn't even own a mink!

LISA

What do you mean? She absolutely does. She wears it all the time. Now are you going to let me finish or not?

BEN

Yes, but under formal protest regarding gross generalizations in the portrayal of a Jewish mother.

LISA

Thank you for letting me get on with it.

(LISA turns back towards the MAN and WOMAN.)

WOMAN

Oh, Lisa. Where did you find that outfit? It's absolutely maaaarvelous. Is it new?

MAN

Oh, it's not new. She's too cheap to buy something new.

BEN

I did not say that!

LISA

(to MAN)

Well, Ben. I do not think that your comments are called for at the present time. However, because I am a sensitive and loving person, I forgive you completely and will act as if your painful and damaging comment was never uttered.

BEN

That's pretty funny! Your performance sparkles with a fresh vibrant quality seldom seen this side of the Mississippi, but you never said that.

LISA

The point is that the minute we got to your parents' house, you immediately started putting me down. Why do you want me to be different than I am all the time?

BEN

Who wants who different? You do the same thing when I'm with your parents!

LISA

Like when?

BEN

How about like last Christmas. Remember that?
(motions towards the MAN and WOMAN)
Come on, hop to it.

MAN

Don't be so damn bossy. We're going as fast as we can.

(The MAN takes off the sports jacket and tosses it aside. He untucks his shirt, and and pulls a wad of chewing tobacco out of his pocket. He shoves the tobacco in his mouth and starts to chew. The WOMAN takes off the mink fur and tosses it aside. She goes over to the chair and picks up a necklace with a gigantic cross on it and puts it around her neck; the cross is at least 100 times larger than any cross you've ever seen dangling from someone's neck.)

WOMAN

(to BEN)

Oh, Ben. I'm so glad you and Lisa could come to Macon for Christmas this year.

MAN

(chews and spits tobacco)

Shee-it.

WOMAN

Praise Jesus you arrived safe and sound! It wouldn't have been Christmas without you. Not like last year, when you spent Christmas at your parents house. Oh, excuse me. Not Christmas. Chanukah, right?

BEN

Well, Lisa and I are glad we could come.

MAN

(chews and spits tobacco)

Shee-it.

LISA

What the hell is this?

BEN

It's my recollection of what happened last year when we went to your parents for Christmas.

LISA

I wasn't raised by the Beverly Hillbillies.

BEN
I didn't say you were.

LISA
Well, what in hell is this supposed to be?
(points at cross around WOMAN's neck)
I mean, have you ever seen a cross this big hanging around a person's neck?

BEN
Your mother is very religious.

LISA
And besides, what does this have to do with my original point?

BEN
It shows how you want me to be different than the way I am.

LISA
No it doesn't. It may show, however crudely, what my parents think about you, but I have never endorsed anything they've ever said about you, and I have always accepted you for what you are. Not that I can say you've done the same for me.

BEN
Lisa, you have lost it. I really think you've lost it.

LISA
I'm not the one who put a twelve foot cross around my mother's neck and tried to pass it off as realistic.

BEN
How can you argue that I don't accept you as you are when you won't acknowledge you do the same thing to me?

LISA
It's different. That's my parents. I'm talking about you!

BEN
What about me? What did I do that was so bad?

LISA
Think of what you did today, Ben. Just think about it.
(BEN pauses, then starts to laugh)
It's not funny! I can't believe you're laughing!

BEN
(continuing to laugh)
I'm not laughing.

LISA
You are so. God, you weren't at all like this when I met you.

BEN
What's that supposed to mean?

LISA
When I met you, you were so much more sensitive to me.

BEN
No, I've always been this insensitive.

LISA
Not the day we met. Remember? Back when we were at college?
(she looks towards the MAN and WOMAN. They are tallying to each other in the background, not paying attention to BEN and LISA. The MAN is smoking a cigarette and acting flirtatious towards the WOMAN).
Ahem! I said—back when we were at college!

(MAN and WOMAN step forward. He puts on the sports coat like BEN's. She puts on a pair of glasses just like LISA's.)

MAN
(In a phoney, suave voice)
Hi. Aren't you in my psych class?

WOMAN
(Putting the back of her hand to her forehead and sighing melodramatically)
Yeah.

MAN
What's the matter? Why are you sitting here all alone?

WOMAN
I'm not all alone. I'm just. . . by myself.

MAN
You seem kind of sad. How come?

WOMAN
Boy, you're so sensitive. How come I haven't met you sooner?

BEN
I don't remember this happening quite this way.

LISA
Sssh!

MAN
(getting more melodramatic)
I've wanted to talk to you for a very long time.

WOMAN
And I've wanted to talk to you for a very long time.

MAN
My heart senses your pain, and I've longed to speak with you about my feelings for you.

BEN
Oh, now this is accurate!

MAN
You go unaware of the ways in which I feel as you do.

BEN
Oh, barf! That is not me. This schmuck belongs at the Hallmark factory outlet!

LISA
Would you shutup!

BEN
No, that's not the way it happened!

LISA
It did too. You were warm, and loving, and sensitive that day. You said a lot of nice things to me. Not like now.

BEN
What do you mean? I say nice things about you all the time.

LISA
Like what. Say something nice to me right now.

BEN
Well. . . those, they're. . . um. . . you have very nice shoes on.

LISA
Be Still my heart.

BEN
Well, when was the last time you said something nice about me? You're not the way I remember you that day.

LISA
You're not serious. I haven't changed at all.

BEN
Now that I think of it, you're right. You were kind of mean then, too. Remember what happened when I asked you out for our first formal date?

MAN
(down on one knee)
Um. . . if you're not doing anything this Saturday. . . maybe we could, um. . . you know, like go out somewhere, for like dinner or something.

WOMAN
(filing her nails)
Nope. 'Fraid not.

LISA

Come on! I wasn't that way. I didn't say it mean and rejecting like that.

BEN

But you did turn me down!

LISA

I had a boyfriend! What did you expect me to do! Anyway, none of this has to do with why you're really angry with me.

BEN

Whoever said I was angry?

LISA

Well, you are.

BEN

I am not. I am not angry.

LISA

Why can't you even acknowledge how you're feeling about this whole thing? You weren't so rude to me in front of your parents for no reason.

BEN

For one thing, I wasn't rude. For another, I wasn't not rude for no reason.

LISA

When you speak using a triple negative, I know I'm right.

BEN

You're so arrogant! How come you assume you know how I'm feeling?

LISA

I don't assume I know. I know I know. You pulled that whole thing with your parents because you're mad at me and afraid to let me know why. But I know.

BEN

And what, pray tell, am I so damn angry about?

LISA

You know very well what you're angry about.

BEN

Jesus H. Christ! This is crazy! Would someone just tell me what in hell I'm supposed to be so damn angry about! Would someone just please explain this to me!

(turning to the MAN)

You're me. Would you tell me?

LISA

(softly)

The job, Benjamin.

BEN

What?

LISA

The job.

BEN

I don't want to talk about it.

LISA

That's what you're angry about.

BEN

I said I don't want to talk about it.

LISA

We have to. That's what you got so angry about today. That's why you treated me like you did in front of your parents.

BEN

For the last time, I didn't treat you badly in front of my parents.

LISA

You did.

BEN

You want to see what I did in front of my parents. Ok, I'll show exactly what I did.

(sums towards MAN and WOMAN)

Let's recreate this whole damn incident. Get going.

MAN

Don't talk to us that way. We provide a valuable service, but we demand respect!

WOMAN

Yeah!

(The MAN and WOMAN move to their respective chairs. The MAN takes off the sports coat. The MAN sits in one chair, and BEN in the other. The WOMAN sits on BEN's lap. The MAN pulls a cigar out of his coat and puffs on it. The WOMAN keeps her glasses on.)

MAN

(to the WOMAN)

So, Lisa. How's living with my thoughtful, understanding, and thoroughly wonderful son?

LISA

Gee, Ben. You forgot to have him mention your most recent Nobel Peace Prize.

BEN (ignores LISA)

It's just fine dad. We're going to keep on doing it. it's been great.

MAN

Lisa, how long has it been since you finished your doctorate?

WOMAN

Two years.

MAN

Two years! Good God! And you still don't have a job?

WOMAN

Finding a tenure track teaching position in linguistics is extremely difficult.

BEN

Lisa hasn't been able to find a job yet, dad. But she and I decided that she wouldn't keep looking, since I won't be finished with my dissertation for another year, and then my advisor has me in line for the faculty opening in sociology.

WOMAN

(stands up)

Well, Ben. Actually, that's something I've been meaning to bring up. I didn't know when to bring this up, but I got a teaching position out at Berkeley. Tenure track. In linguistics.

MAN

Congratulations.

BEN

(with both hands to his heart)

What? How come you didn't tell me?

WOMAN

I was going to. But. . .

BEN

You know I can't go to Berkeley. I've already started testing subjects for my dissertation, and you know I need to stay in New York after that if I'm going to get the faculty position Dr. Greer has me in mind for.

LISA

I know. I just wanted this job so badly, Ben.

MAN

Young lady. I'm glad you got this job. But look at what you're doing to my son! You're breaking his little heart!

BEN

No, no father! Upon further consideration, I feel that I musn't hold my beloved Lisa to a double standard. Father, do not lament these woeful

tidings. My love will endure the pain and hardship of this terrible blow.
The love of my life will be gone, but not forgotten.

(standing on the chair, turns to WOMAN)
Be free, my angel! Be free, and seek your destiny!

WOMAN
I will be free, you sap! This job sure is more important than my stinkin'
relationship with you.

LISA
Cut! Hold it! No way! You're sense of events is just slightly skewed. I
never said any of those things.

BEN
You did. That's exactly how it happened, and you know it. Let me finish
it, at least!

WOMAN
Ben, I need to take this job. It's vitally important to my workaholic style
and unattainable career goals.

BEN
Don't worry about me. You go to Berkeley and do what's right for you.
I'll wait. I don't want to stand in your way.

WOMAN
You selfish bastard! You're only thinking about yourself. (storms away)

LISA
I didn't act like that. Only an idiot would act like that.

BEN
My point exactly.

LISA
You remember things the way you want to remember them, Ben. Do you
mean to tell me that you weren't upset by my taking the job in Berkeley?

BEN
No. Of course not. You need to do what's right for you. It doesn't bother
me at all.

LISA
Not at all?

BEN
Not at all. Not in the least bit.

LISA
(taken aback)
Oh. I see.

BEN
You see what?

LISA
Nothing.

BEN
Aren't you going to show me your version of events?

LISA
My version?

BEN
Yeah. You know. You were saying how inaccurate my version was, so I
just thought you'd want to. . . you know, set the record straight with your
version.

LISA
Um. . . I don't. . . I.

BEN
What's wrong? Are you OK?

LISA
Me? OK? Sure, yes. Yes. I'm fine. You know me. Hard as a rock.

BEN
Then what about your version of events?

LISA
My version. Of course! My version! Silly me! What was I thinking!

(to MAN)
Um, let's do it! Right here and right now!

MAN
Gimme a sec. I gotta get into character.

(The MAN proceeds to engage in an acting warmup exercise, making strange cooing sounds. The MAN puts his cigar away, and pulls a yarmulke out. He puts on the Yarmulke, and speaks with a Yiddish accent.)

Oi guvalt! What do you link you two are doingk, vit dis living together!
You put me through all this tzurris!

BEN
My father is not an 19th century shtettel peasant, for Chrissake!

LISA
(to BEN)
Be still. Um, I think you're going to have to play yourself.

BEN
No way. Look at how you're portraying my father! I'd sooner gag on a spare rib than participate in this!

LISA
Fine.
(turns to WOMAN)
You be Ben.

(The WOMAN puts on Ben's sports coat.)

BEN
Wait a minute! She can't play me!

WOMAN
I'm an artist. Of course I can.

LISA
Why can't she? Someone's got to.

BEN
She's a woman!

LISA
Really? No!

BEN
I don't want a woman playing me. It's got to be more realistic than that!

WOMAN
I've got a prosthetic penis in the back, if you want me to get it.

BEN
Now that's weird.

LISA
Ben, Stop being such a sexist prick! She can play you if I want her to play you! It's not like a woman can't do whatever the hell she wants to, you know! Women can play men if they want, women can wear prosthetic penises if they want, and women can take jobs far away that conflict with the career goals of their pigheaded fiances, too, if they want!

BEN
Oh, so now I'm a sexist because I don't want you to go to Berkeley!

LISA
So you admit you don't want me to go!

BEN
I don't care if you go or not. It makes no damn difference to me! Now, are you going to get on with your stupid little scene or what?

LISA
So you want me to do the stupid scene, huh? I'll do it, since you don't want to talk about the real issues here! But then, I am out of here! I want nothing further to do with you. Not now, and not ever.

BEN
Well, if that's how you feel, then. . .then. . . then I'll let this woman play me, after all.

(walks over to the corner, away from the other three; turns and watches them)

LISA

Get on with it. Let's do this fast so I can get home and start packing.

MAN

So how's it livingk vit my son?

LISA

Wonderful. He's wonderful.

WOMAN

I love living with Lisa, too dad—though she is a slob. She leaves her shit all over the apartment.

LISA

I do not!

WOMAN

You do so! You are a complete mess around the house. Your underwear drawer is a disgrace!

LISA

You go through my drawers?

WOMAN

And her cooking isn't too good, either.

LISA

Like yours is much better?

WOMAN

It is. When it's my turn to cook, I always cook a fully balanced meal.

LISA

Well, pretty soon you can just cook all the damn meals, because I won't be there.

WOMAN

What?

LISA

I accepted a job in California. At Berkeley.

MAN

Oi vey!

WOMAN

I knew it! I knew it! I knew you weren't telling me something!

LISA

I was going to tell you tonight. I didn't want to upset your parents.

WOMAN

How could you take that job! How could you! You know that this is going to screw up my opportunities here! My work is important; I'm not just farting around studying pig latin!

LISA

It's linguistics, Benjamin!

WOMAN

I don't care what the hell it is! It's not important! You've spent six years studying a worthless bunch of shit, if you want to know the truth!

LISA

What did you say?

WOMAN

You're the goddamn linguist. I said shit! You know, it oozes out your ass, and you've been studying it for the past six years!

(LISA backs away from the WOMAN, slowly; then LISA turns and runs away from her; she runs across the stage, and inadvertently ends up near the corner, where BEN is. She looks up at him, and then runs off stage. BEN takes off his sports coat and tosses it to the floor in anger, then puts his head in his hands.)

MAN

Can we sit down now?

WOMAN

Sshh! Can't you see he's upset?

MAN

I don't care. I've got better things to do than stand around. If they're done with their little tiff, I'd like to take a load off.

BEN

I didn't mean to say all that. I just got angry. What am I going to do?

MAN

Don't look at us. We just work here.

BEN

You two have been here this whole time. Am I really like she says I am? Am I really such an obnoxious, self-centered creep? Don't answer that. I don't think I want to know. I didn't mean to insult her. She's great at what she does. I mean, I'm so proud of her, and I want her to succeed, but is it so outrageous to not want my fiancée to move to California? Is it so crazy? I mean, I'll really miss her if she goes. I don't want to be left behind, all by myself. You know what I'm saying?

WOMAN

Why don't you tell her that?

BEN

Oh, she knows that already.

WOMAN

Does she?

BEN

How can she choose her career over our relationship?

WOMAN

Why don't you give up your plans and go with her to California?

BEN

Are you kidding? I'd have to be nuts or something.

WOMAN

That's probably how she feels, too.

(BEN pauses, then turns and walks a few steps away from the WOMAN.)

WOMAN

What are you going to do?

BEN

Give up, I guess. I just wish I could understand things from her perspective.

WOMAN

You can.

BEN

No, I can't. I really can't. I've tried.

WOMAN

You can if you're one of us.

BEN

One of you two? I don't think so.

MAN

Hey! Yeah. That's a great idea. Why don't you take my place?

(the MAN shoves his hat into BEN's hands and walks off stage)

BEN

I don't know. I . . .

WOMAN

Here she comes! Quick! Hurry!

(BEN puts on the MAN's hat. He then runs towards the back of the stage and hides in the shadows.)

BEN

I don't think this is going to work. What if she recognizes me'?

WOMAN

She won't. It's dark. Just stay in the shadows. Now, be quiet and pay attention. You just might learn something.

(LISA enters, head down.)

LISA

Oh, you two are still here, huh?

WOMAN

Yup.

LISA

I guess that... well, like, is Ben still here'?

WOMAN

No, I'm afraid he left.

LISA

Oh.

(She faces away from the WOMAN and BEN.)

I don't understand what's happened to us. Things have gotten so complicated. I don't want to go to Berkeley by myself. But, I also really want this job. How is a person supposed to choose between these things? I love Ben so much, but this is really important to me, ya know? It could really lead to something bigger down the road. How can he ask me to give this up? He'll never understand.

WOMAN

How do you know?

LISA

I just do.

WOMAN

Why don't you talk to him about it?

LISA

No. I couldn't. I really couldn't. You saw what happened the first time we tried to talk about it.

WOMAN

Why not try again?

LISA

For one thing, he's not here.

WOMAN

You could act it out with us. You know, like a practice run for the real thing.

LISA

You think?

BEN

(trying to disguise his voice)

Um... I'm not so sure that's a good idea.

WOMAN

(hits BEN)

Of course it is! It's why we're here, isn't it?

LISA

Maybe he's right. Maybe it's a bad idea.

WOMAN

For the last time, it's a great idea! Now would you at least try it?

LISA

Well, ok.

(There is a pause. LISA, standing on the opposite side of the stage as BEN and still facing away from BEN and the WOMAN, glances back at BEN.)

Don't you have to get into character?

BEN

Oh, yes. Right. Character. Almost forgot.

(he makes a poor attempt to imitate the MAN's earlier cooing exercise)

Ok. I'm ready.

LISA

Ben, I um. . . I'm sorry about what happened earlier. I just got very angry about everything, you know? I just didn't handle it well. But we really need to talk about this Berkeley thing. We've got to reach some kind of decision about what we're going to do.

BEN

Um. . . yeah, I think you're probably right. I think we do need to discuss this calmly and rationally.

LISA

(to WOMAN)

This is silly. He's not talking the way Ben talks.

WOMAN

Give him a chance, would you? He's trying his best.

BEN

Yeah. I mean, cut me some slack, here. It's hard to be as witty as the real Ben.

LISA

Ok, ok. Let's pick up where we left off.

BEN

Can't we discuss it? I mean, Berkeley is so far, and I thought we'd agreed that until I was finished with my degree that you would just stay with me and not look for jobs unless they were nearby.

LISA

I know, but it's important to me, Ben. Why can't you see that?

BEN

I see it. I just. . . it's just. . . I don't know.

LISA

I'm not asking you to give up anything. Why am I always the one who has to sacrifice?

BEN

Since when is staying with the person you love a sacrifice? I thought you

enjoyed being with me enough to do anything.

LISA

I do enjoy being with you.

BEN

Then what's wrong with a little sacrifice?

LISA

Then why don't you make it for a change. If you can come up with a good reason why I should give up what I want to do instead of you, then I'll do it.

BEN

I can give you a hundred good reasons.

(LISA looks at BEN expectantly)

Well, I can give you a handful of reasons.

(pause)

At least is my voice tone convincing?

LISA

No.

BEN

I didn't think so.

LISA

Can't you see what I'd be sacrificing if I didn't accept the Berkeley job? I mean, it's a real opportunity for me, Ben.

BEN

I know that. And I don't want to stop you from going. You deserve that job. You've earned it. I'm really proud of you.

LISA

You're proud of me, but you also can't forgive me if I go.

BEN

I can so.

LISA

No you can't. The idea of my going makes you really mad at me.

BEN

(backing away)

It does not. I'm not mad. Maybe I'm just completely selfish, but I just don't want to be alone.

LISA

Then come with me.

BEN

I can't.

LISA

Then where does that leave us?

BEN

Marry me.

LISA

What?

BEN

You heard me. Marry me. We've been engaged for three years now. I'm never going to like this whole Berkeley thing, but if we got married before you went to Berkeley, I at least could realize that one day we'll be together.

LISA (to WOMAN)

This is not working. Ben would never act like this. He certainly wouldn't suggest marriage!

WOMAN

How do you know?

LISA

I just know. I mean, you don't live with someone for three years and not know these things!

BEN

(steps out of the shadows and takes off his sports coat; he imitates her voice)

You don't live with someone for three years and not know these things!

LISA

Ben! Why you little weenus!

BEN

Ha! You had no idea it was me.

LISA

Now, I've seen you be cruel to me before, but this is just pushing it too far.

BEN

What do you mean?

LISA

I mean, how can you fake this whole getting married idea? Is this your idea of a perverse joke!

BEN

Whose joking? I was serious about that! Let's get married.

LISA

Really?

BEN

Yeah.

LISA

Nah!

BEN

What?

LISA

I don't think I want to get married yet.

BEN
You don't?

LISA
No.

BEN
I see.

LISA
I mean, you make me nuts. And you did say some pretty mean things to me before. You never make the bed, and you're terrible about cleaning up after the cats. Then again, you've got a pretty cute butt, and you're sense of humor's not all that bad.

BEN
Well, thanks for the ringing endorsement. And you're right. I was out of line before and I'm sorry. Now, will you marry me, or what?

LISA
(looks towards the WOMAN, who nods in the affirmative)
Mmmmmm. . . what the hell. I'll do it.

BEN
Really?

LISA
Truly.

BEN
Holy shit! I'm gonna get married!

MAN
(coming out of the shadows)
Well, good God! It's about time!

LISA
(She takes BEN by the hand, and they start to walk off)
We can get married two weeks from tomorrow, and still be able to arrange a honeymoon. I'm not due in California until next month.

BEN
It'll be great. Let's go call everyone to let them know about it!

LISA
You're mother better not butt in with all her crazy opinions about everything!

BEN
My mother? You're mother's the one whose gonna want to butt in! She's gonna want to have Jesus officiate the damn thing!

LISA
At least she won't wear a mink stole to the ceremony!

BEN
Oh, yeah! Right!

(They are almost at the edge of the stage, about to exit. LISA stops suddenly.)

LISA
Ben?

BEN
Yes?

LISA
I love you.

BEN
I love you, too. We'll work it all out.

(They kiss, then exit. The WOMAN and MAN are standing in center stage, looking off towards where BEN and LISA just exited. The MAN is crying in a comical, exaggerated manner.)

MAN
That was so beautiful. I've never seen such a wonderful thing in my whole life.

WOMAN

Since when did you get so sentimental?

MAN

Even though they'll be thousand of miles apart, they're willing to get married to prove their devotion to each other! It really shows you that love conquers all!

(The MAN starts to exit in the direction opposite where BEN and LISA exited.)

WOMAN

Where do you think you're going?

MAN

Everything's been resolved. They're not going to need us anymore.

WOMAN

(takes MAN by the arm, and leads him in direction BEN and LISA exited.)

Everything resolved! Hardly! For them, everything's just beginning!

MAN

But, you mean?

WOMAN

I mean, they're gonna need us now more than ever!

MAN

(immediately stops crying)

Shit! And I thought we were done with them!

WOMAN

Hardly. We better hurry up and catch them. They're about to call their parents!

(offstage voices are heard)

BEN'S VOICE

Hello? Mom? Guess what? Lisa and I are getting married. Uh-huh. No, she's not gonna convert.

LISA'S VOICE

Damn right I'm not gonna convert! And I don't want that stupid rabbi your father likes officiating at the wedding!

BEN'S VOICE

Lisa, be reasonable! I mean, we are going to let your mother sing!

LISA'S VOICE

Are you saying my mother has a bad voice?

BEN'S VOICE

Bad? No. I'm saying she has an awful voice!

LISA'S VOICE

Why you little shit!

WOMAN (to MAN)

(come on)

MAN

How much longer is this kind of stuff going to go on?

WOMAN

Oh, about fifty-five more years, give or take a few.

MAN

And I thought they loved each other.

WOMAN

(pauses, then smiles)

Who said they don't?

(The WOMAN and the MAN exit in the direction BEN and LISA did earlier. The lights go dark.)