

Once In A Pink Moon

by

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Cast of Characters

DOROTHY: 40's
SAMMY: 7
MR. RIGHTMAN: 40's

Place
Suburban home

Time
Day

2.

Setting: The play takes place inside a modest home in the suburbs. It's a one level wooden house with the kitchen, dining room, living room and front entrance door all connected one after the other. There may be a plant or two for decoration more so than anything and minimal furniture essentials.

At Rise: The play opens up on Dorothy readying herself in a mirror by fussing with her hair. Sammy pulls on his mother's dress in the play's start of action.

DOROTHY: Oh hush up now and go away, go play outside! Run along, run along!

SAMMY: What's gotten into you?

DOROTHY: Shh! Mr. Rightman is here and we have some business to discuss.

SAMMY: Again? What business?

DOROTHY: Don't you worry yourself about that Sammy! Come on, run along now!

SAMMY exits through the side door of the house.

MR. RIGHTMAN knocks on the front door.

DOROTHY readies herself in front of a full length mirror.

Just a moment!

DOROTHY opens the front door.

Oh, come right in Mr. Rightman. How do you do this very fine day?

MR. RIGHTMAN: Good afternoon, Mrs. Hamilton, how do you do?

DOROTHY: I'm doing just fine, now that you arrived.

MR. RIGHTMAN: That's mighty kind of you.

DOROTHY: Tea? Coffee? Biscuit?

MR. RIGHTMAN: That's alright, I won't be long.

DOROTHY: How do you know a thing like that?

MR. RIGHTMAN: I only need to inspect those faulty pipes of yours and estimate what exactly needs to be done. I'm mighty sorry you've had to undergo any stress.

DOROTHY: Don't be silly! Nothing to cause extreme alarm.

SAMMY pops his head in the window, listening in to the conversation.

MR. RIGHTMAN: I'll only be a moment.

MR. RIGHTMAN looks underneath the kitchen sink. He turns the faucet on and observes the piping.

That's odd.

DOROTHY: What's odd?

MR. RIGHTMAN: The water flows down the drain just fine and I can't make out any such leaks.

DOROTHY: Really? How is that possible?

MR. RIGHTMAN: It was backed up?

DOROTHY: Water wouldn't flow down the drain.

MR. RIGHTMAN: And there was water under--

DOROTHY: Under the cabinet, yes. Had to mop it up.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Funny. I only had those cesspools drained a little over a year ago. This isn't the lowest point in the home, either..that would be the bathroom tub, uh, you mind if I check the bathroom?

DOROTHY: Not at all, go right ahead.

DOROTHY stands in front of MR. RIGHTMAN.
MR. Rightman smiles gently but becomes a bit uncomfortable by DOROTHY'S somewhat obvious advances.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Pardon me.

DOROTHY: Oh! Well, excuse me. (laughing)

MR. RIGHTMAN smiles and walks into the bathroom. DOROTHY watches him from the doorframe.

Any luck?

MR. RIGHTMAN runs the tub water.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Everything seems to be flowing real well. No signs of stoppage or even hesitation. So odd. Did you notice anything coming up in the tub when the kitchen sink backed up?

DOROTHY: Oh no, no, I was too busy in the kitchen to notice anything in the tub.

MR. RIGHTMAN tries to step out of the bathroom. DOROTHY stands in his way.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Uh, excuse me, I'm sorry.

DOROTHY: Don't be sorry. A caring landlord such as yourself should never feel bad about his tenant. I only called last night and here you are the following day. Not many people are that punctual in life...(flirtatiously) Have you always been so punctual Mr. Rightman?

MR. RIGHTMAN: It comes with the territory.

DOROTHY: What else comes...with the territory?

MR. RIGHTMAN: I'm not sure I---

DOROTHY: Surely you can't say no to a cool glass of lemonade, let me just fix you up, please, sit down, make yourself comfortable.

Before MR. RIGHTMAN can say no, DOROTHY has made off into the kitchen fixing a glass of lemonade.

SAMMY enters the house.

SAMMY: Mom, there's a dead squirrel floating in a bucket full of water! It was right behind the shed---

DOROTHY: GET your little ass out of my sight. I told you I am conducting business with Mr. Rightman.

SAMMY: But Mom, I've never seen anything like that before in all my life!

DOROTHY: Go outside!

SAMMY: But Mom!

DOROTHY'S eyes widen and she points in her son's face. Defeated, Sammy exits the house.

DOROTHY enters the dining room, where Mr. Rightman has been seated.

DOROTHY: Here-we-go. The freshest lemonade this side of town.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Thank you, kindly Mrs. Hamilton.

DOROTHY: Dorothy, please call me Dorothy.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Dorothy, was that your son?

DOROTHY: Oh, yes, boys will be boys.

MR. RIGHTMAN: And how's that young man keeping?

DOROTHY: He's quite the treat.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Have things been getting on in a good way for you here?

DOROTHY: I should think so, they can always be better, gets lonely sometimes.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Can't seem to understand what caused the pipes to back up. I'm hoping there's no break in the mainline.

DOROTHY: What's a mainline, is that a large pipe?

MR. RIGHTMAN: Well, uh, yes, the smaller pipes run into the larger pipe, which runs into the cesspool connection.

DOROTHY (flirting): Everything travels through that big old pipe?

MR. RIGHTMAN (uneasy): Uh, yes. I'm hoping there isn't a break in the line, there shouldn't be, it was exposed when we drained the cesspool and I had one of my workers snake out the line for good measure. Strangest thing.

DOROTHY: Sounds so strange.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Well, if it happens again, just give me a call and I'll head over here with a camera.

DOROTHY: A camera?

MR. RIGHTMAN: I could place a camera into the pipe and see if there's any breakage. If so, I'll have to replace the damage.

DOROTHY: Makes sense.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Well, I must be off, thank you so much for---

DOROTHY (coming on strong): It does get lonely sometimes. Especially when Sammy's off to school. I find myself wandering about the rooms. Not much to do in these parts. It'd be nice to have a companion, someone who can visit me once in a pink moon, just to make sure the pipes are clear and the heating works, or if the bedroom needs a paint job. Things like that. Especially on summer days, that's when I'm most thirsty, you ever get so thirsty you could scream? Well, now, I don't imagine you would, you being a hard, strong working man, I bet you're always satisfied. That right? You always satisfied Mr. Rightman?

MR. RIGHTMAN: I'm quite satisfied Mrs. Hamilton, I'm a happily married man.

DOROTHY: Are you??

MR. RIGHTMAN: Yes, I---

DOROTHY (one last attempt): You did say happily married?

MR. RIGHTMAN: Yes, that's right. We have two boys and two daughters. There's Ryan, Hopper, Sue and Darlene.

DOROTHY (heartbroken): You don't say?

MR. RIGHTMAN: Darlene being the youngest, she's about the same age as your son Sammy.

DOROTHY: Oh yeah?

MR. RIGHTMAN: Thereabouts.

DOROTHY: It's so nice to have a big family.

MR. RIGHTMAN: It does come with its challenges but I wouldn't change it for the world.

DOROTHY (disappointed): That's really nice.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Taking the family to the ball game this weekend. It's how we have family time together, all big baseball fans. Think my daughter Sue could be a star pitcher. You should see the way she throws a ball, like being struck by lightning. My oldest son Ryan, he's all brawn, loves to build things, he is a born builder and Hopper has the mind for finance. That boy can process numbers faster than his old man can. (he laughs) And Darlene, she's got a heart of gold that one, loves animals, all kinds, like they're sacred and I guess they are when you think about it, she wants to be a veterinarian. Been married sixteen years now. Funny how fast time goes.

DOROTHY: Sure thing.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Well, I must be off. You have my number if things act up again, hopefully it's nothing to worry about.

DOROTHY: Nothing to worry about.

MR. RIGHTMAN: Good day to you and thanks again for the sweet lemonade. Feel that sugar rush coming on. Ha!

DOROTHY: Good day to you Mr. Rightman.

MR. RIGHTMAN exits the home.

(to herself) Good day, good day...

END OF PLAY