

AGENCY

Written by

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Setting:

A travel agency that time has forgotten about. Overhead fluorescent lights cast their harsh blue light on the white wood veneer (a beech or poplar) of a pool of empty desks, and the light beige of the copier.

There are FOUR desks. Each with an identical desktop computer with CRT monitors. THREE desks have one chair on either side. ONE desk has TWO chairs opposite the computer side. *\*orientation of the desks in the space is not important\**

Stage Right, there is a clear shop door that emits an electronic 'chime' when opened.

Stage Left, there is a door with an EXIT sign over it.

The rear of the space has a counter with a small boombox. Above the counter reads in large-print, "HAVE THE TIME? HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!"

From the ambience, it's a wonder how this place has survived.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Clerk.....uniformed, entry-level employee

Middle Aged Man.....a 50-something year old man

Thirty Something Woman...a 30-something year old woman

Old Man.....an old man

Old Woman.....an old woman

Young Father.....a young father, maybe 20's

Supervisor.....Clerk's supervisor, obnoxious

SCENE THREE: THE OLD COUPLE

OLD MAN

You wouldn't know it from looking at these two old faces in front of you now, but we used to go on some of the greatest adventures. Every moment with this young lady was one grand adventure after the next.

OLD WOMAN

(feigning shyness)

Oh, they don't wanna hear about that. Goodness.

OLD MAN

Of course they do!

(to the Clerk)

Don'tcha?

CLERK

Please.

OLD MAN

See? I knew so.

(beat)

You know, there was one time. Oh, it must have been centuries ago/

OLD WOMAN

He means decades. He likes to exaggerate.

OLD MAN

They knew what I meant, sweetheart. Storytelling needs... flare. Some excitement! Well, this has got plenty of that, I'll tell ya.

OLD WOMAN

He likes to go big. Wants to make everything a grand.

OLD MAN

Well, if you're gonna do something, why not do it spectacularly? I always say.

(beat)

You understand, don't ya? Here? Setting up people's adventures for the ones who don't know how to do it up themselves.

OLD MAN

I was just about 25 years old, and we were still pretty new. Early on in our time together. And I had gotten such a bee in my bonnet about...what was it?

OLD WOMAN

You thought you hadn't done anything with your life yet.

OLD MAN

I was so distraught. I felt like the whole world had just been passing me by.

OLD WOMAN

So you decided you needed to make a change.

OLD MAN

I needed to do *something*. I said to her, I said 'Sweetheart, where I'm going, it might just be too dangerous for the delicate type and I'm afraid I gotta save you from that. Wait for me, if you can. But when I return, I'll be a changed man.'

OLD WOMAN

I just laughed and laughed.

OLD MAN

She did! She laughed right in my face and she said 'Darling, I ain't no flower and if you're heading for excitement, you'd be a fool to think you're gonna be going without me.'

CLERK

And where did you/

OLD MAN

Where?! Where *DIDN'T* we?! We started small, Grand Canyon, Monument Valley/

OLD WOMAN

The Utes, Sierras, Cibola/

OLD MAN

The giant Redwoods/

OLD WOMAN

And Big Sur, winding around like we were on that old road with Jack Karouac himself.

OLD MAN

Ventured off into the Yukon territory, just a world covered in ice and snow.

OLD WOMAN

We sailed the Northwest Passage; all through Jotunheimen.

OLD MAN

Oh, and the Northern Lights, sweetheart. Seeing it all with you.

OLD WOMAN

You're still such an old softy.

OLD WOMAN

Always have been. Even through all of our adventuring.

OLD MAN

(to the Clerk)

Spending a life with her is still the greatest adventure of all.

OLD WOMAN

Oh, you...

CLERK

I...I don't know what to offer to you that you haven't already done.

OLD WOMAN

If there was something to do, we would do it. Always did. Always acted on every impulse to explore something new.

OLD MAN

There is the one thing, though. Sweetheart?

OLD WOMAN

Oh yes. There *IS* that.

OLD MAN

When you follow an explorer's heart, and accept every possibility of adventure, there is this...tiny moment between your last great adventure and your next when you realize that...

(beat)

You begin to realize, maybe even not all at once, but you begin to feel that the thing you've been missing from every experience is the time where you can stop and appreciate them.

OLD WOMAN

We'd talked about this every so often for the last...thirty years or so. Both of us, so scared to bring it up first. You've made a life with someone by doing something. Literally always doing something. And you wonder, when it's all done, will you still have...anything? Together?

OLD MAN

We know this may be a little odd and a bit different from you're normal, every day requests, but...Your sign there:

(MORE)

OLD MAN (cont'd)

'Have the time of YOUR life!' We have *LIVED*, and now, it's time to have the time.

OLD WOMAN

Beautifully said, dear.

OLD MAN

Thank you, sweetheart.

The Clerk is dumbfounded.

CLERK

Well...

OLD WOMAN

We decided it's time to just...stay still for a while, together. And just appreciate it all. Together.

(beat)

I think you know what we mean, dearie.

CLERK

I think I know what you mean.

(beat)

There is something, I think, that will be just perfect for you.

OLD WOMAN

We thought you would.

OLD MAN

We had a good feeling about you.

CLERK

And, we're all set. Just right through that door over there, and you can pick up your itinerary. Everything will be explained/

OLD WOMAN

Oh, we won't be needing that.

OLD MAN

We can find our way.