

SHELL GAME By Meg Hanna Tominga

Sides for Terry,Rochelle,Kelsey

Cast of Characters:

TERRY: 60s; Trust her as far as you can throw her

ROCHELLE: 40s; TERRY's daughter; hasn't trusted or spoken to her in years

KELSEY: 20s; Has never even met TERRY and doesn't know her from Adam

Time: The early morning hours of Nov. 1st, 1989

SETTING: Back door of ROCHELLE's modest house. There is a dirty lawn chair, garbage bins, and a rickety workbench bearing a few sad plants in pots of varying sizes. AT RISE: TERRY, dressed as a clown, sits and waits on the back doorstep. She's been sitting there a long while, bored of waiting, and clearly agitated about more than just having to wait.

(Scene in progress...)

TERRY: *(Putting 2 and 2 together)* Sexy Alf is... I have a granddaughter? Why didn't you ever tell me?

ROCHELLE: There's lots I haven't told you.

TERRY: But I- Rochelle, I always wanted grandkids; you know that!

ROCHELLE: Oh, but maybe I didn't believe it.

TERRY: Don't sass me! Introduce me to her! What's her name? Is she... Does she like... I can't...

ROCHELLE: Will you just go?

TERRY: What, now?! I just found out I have a beautiful granddaughter! I want to pinch her cheeks! Oh, I missed all of the steps! Tooth fairy! First day of school! I've gotta get to know her! At least find out stuff she likes? Does she like boys yet?

ROCHELLE: For Pete's sake.

TERRY: Or girls, I don't care! *(A beat.)* Just let me meet her.

ROCHELLE: I don't

TERRY: Just introduce me to her!

ROCHELLE: She will never get to know you! At least, not now. Maybe, maybe if... This is just so sudden, you showing up like this.

TERRY: I understand but... .

ROCHELLE: I never meant for you to know about her, but you know... now you do.

TERRY: I can give you some time. I can come back.

ROCHELLE: Can you?

TERRY: Well, sure!

ROCHELLE: Can you do that? Cause, you know, you're dying and everything.

TERRY: Well... Now I got a reason to live.

ROCHELLE: Believing don't make it true.

TERRY: But it doesn't hurt. *(A heavy beat.)* At least introduce me. Please? Then I'll leave, and... Gammie and me won't bother you again. I promise.

ROCHELLE: *(Against her better judgement, calls inside.)* Heather! Could you come here a moment, please?

KELSEY: *(At the screen door.)* Did you call me?

ROCHELLE: Heather, please introduce yourself to Ms. Terry.

KELSEY: I'm Heather, nice to meet you, Ms. Terry.

TERRY: *(Fighting tears.)* Heather! That's beautiful. The pleasure's all mine, Heather. You're a beautiful girl. You make a real pretty Alf.

KELSEY: Thank you, ma'am. *(ROCHELLE motions KELSEY inside. ROCHELLE is about to go, but pauses, turning back to TERRY.)*

ROCHELLE: Come by for dinner Monday.

TERRY: Are you... Really?

ROCHELLE: Monday around seven. Come to the back door here.

TERRY: Yeah, yeah, of course. I can bring a salad or- what does Heather like?

ROCHELLE: Just bring McDonalds. It don't matter what.

TERRY: Seven! Oh, Gammie's gonna flip her lid. Okay! See you Monday. *(TERRY exits with a little spring in her step.)*