

IDA. Where have you been?

DORIS. Fine thank you and how are you?

*(THEY kiss hello.)*

LUCILLE. We've been worried sick here.

IDA. What took you so long?

DORIS. I overslept

IDA. Today?

*(DORIS and LUCILLE kiss.)*

DORIS. I didn't sleep too good last night. Did you get another bill for perpetual care?

IDA. You mean besides the one in the spring?

DORIS. Yeah.

IDA. No.

DORIS. *(To Lucille.)* How about you?

LUCILLE. I haven't paid the spring one yet. When Blue Cross pays me for Harry being sick I'll pay the cemetery for Harry being dead.

DORIS. Well, you'll probably get yours Monday. I'm not even going to tell you how high it's gone up.

IDA. Again it's gone up?

LUCILLE. And what are they going to do if we don't pay? What, they going to move them?

*(The tea KETTLE whistles.)*

DORIS. You want me to make?

IDA. Sit. I'll get it.

*(IDA exits to the kitchen. DORIS hangs up her coat then joins Lucille on the couch.)*

DORIS. So how are you?

LUCILLE. Good. You look different.

DORIS. I dropped a couple of pounds.

LUCILLE. You're losing weight?

DORIS. No, it's just moving lower. So what do you think of this day?

LUCILLE. Nice.

DORIS. Nice? A more beautiful day hasn't been invented. The leaves are just starting to fall. The colors are incredible. Abe's plot is going to look gorgeous. I just hope they kept up the care. You remember the argument I had with them last month. He's telling me they water twice a week while I'm looking down at dead ivy.

LUCILLE. I'm sure it'll look terrific.

DORIS. Funny, you know, fall was Abe's favorite time of year...Eh, a wonderful man taken much too soon.

LUCILLE. Who could believe? Four years ago today.

DORIS. You remembered. I didn't think you'd remember.

LUCILLE. Of course I remembered. How could I forget? It was almost exactly a year before my Harry died.

DORIS. That's Murry.

LUCILLE. What's Murry?

DORIS. Murry. Ida's Murry. He died the year before your Harry.

LUCILLE. Murry died the year before Harry?

DORIS. Of course, Abe died two years before Murry.

LUCILLE. So Harry died three years after Abe.

DORIS. That's what I'm trying to tell you.

LUCILLE. So who died the year before Murry?

DORIS. No one.

LUCILLE. You sure?

DORIS. Of course I'm sure! Abe died four years ago today.

LUCILLE. That's what I said. Four years ago today. Who could forget? A wonderful man taken much too soon.

DORIS. They were all wonderful men. I wonder what the three of them are doing now?

LUCILLE. Probably looking for a fourth to play cards.

*(As THEY laugh, IDA enters with the tea and a plate of cookies on a tray.)*