

Box Your Burden

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A short play

By Jarred Corona

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

ANORA - A woman in her late 20s.

CYRUS - Her younger brother. Maybe. Or maybe something else.

AT RISE: A home office. It doesn't seem lived in, and that's for good reason: the new owner is just now moving in.

ANORA, a woman who has not been getting enough sleep, empties out a packing box.

ANORA

Reunion's soon.

CYRUS, her brother, brings on more boxes.

CYRUS

What's that?

ANORA

What?

CYRUS

You said something.

ANORA

Nothing. Talking to myself.

CYRUS

Most people don't project like that when they're doing that.

ANORA

What?

CYRUS

You said it like you're in a theatre, trying to reach the back row.

ANORA

I'm not that loud.

CYRUS

Correct. You're louder. All your shouting all the time gave Mom those headaches. That's why I was the favorite.

ANORA

She adored you.

CYRUS

Right? That's why my name was all over the will.

Beat.

ANORA

Why are you just standing there? Aren't those heavy?

CYRUS

Nah. Your stuff isn't that heavy. Where do you want them?

ANORA

Dunno what they are.

CYRUS

Here's good then.

He sets them down at his feet.

ANORA

How much is left?

CYRUS

I didn't do a count.

ANORA

God, I wish you would do a Count. Then I could mooch off you for the rest of time. Question is, what type of Count would want you?

CYRUS

Probably a really pretty but also really evil twink. Y'know, most people do their listful reminiscing when they're boxing everything up, not when they take it out.

ANORA

No they don't.

CYRUS

Sure they do.

ANORA

No. You do both. You always do both. Some older sister wisdom for you. Yearbook. The ten-year is coming up.

CYRUS

You going?

ANORA

Dunno.

CYRUS

Thought you hated high school.

ANORA

Maybe. It's a cycle. I used to look like such a dork.

CYRUS

'Used.'

ANORA

Shall we take a look at your school pics?

CYRUS

Nah. Wouldn't be fair. Mom's camera wasn't as nice.

ANORA

Excuses.

CYRUS

I still looked cooler than you.

Beat.

Beat.

Beat.

ANORA

Forgot I was on the rocketry team for a semester. I joined 'cause Donnie DuPree was one of the team leads.

CYRUS

I remember him.

ANORA

Hard to forget the guy who took a rocket to the skull.

CYRUS

Oh shit. No, I forgot about that.

ANORA

What?

CYRUS

I mean, thanks for the exposition, but fully forgot about that.

ANORA

Did I really talk about him that much?

CYRUS

Nah. Well, you did, but you had a million crushes. It's just hard to forget the first guy you suck off, you know?

ANORA

Excuse me? I never slept with Donnie.

CYRUS

Okay? Probably for the best. Would hate knowing we shared a cock.

Anora gags.

ANORA

You hear that? I'm dying. I'm about to paint this place in vomit. I'm literally dying.

CYRUS

Like Donnie?

ANORA

Donnie isn't dead. I don't think.

CYRUS

Oh. He gonna be at your reunion?