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SF PERUSALS

Dawn

by Thomas Bradshaw

A Samuel French Acting Edition

SAMUEL FRENCH
FOUNDED 1830

SAMUELFRENCH.COM

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THE FLEA THEATER

JIM SIMPSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **CAROL OSTROW,** PRODUCING DIRECTOR

presents

DAWN

Written by Thomas Bradshaw

Directed by Jim Simpson

with

Gerry Bamman, Kate Benson, Laura Esterman, Drew Hildebrand,
Jenny Seastone Stern, Irene Walsh

and Featuring THE BATS

Jane Elliott, Alexis Macnab, Bobby Moreno, Jessica Pohly, Sarah Sakaan

Set Design	**Lighting Design**	**Sound Design**
Michael Goldsheft	Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew	Brandon Wolcott
Costume Design	**Stage Manager**	**Assistant Director**
Claudia Brown	Yvonne Perez	Sherri Kronfeld

November 9 — December 6, 2008

DAWN

CAST

Hampton.....**Gerry Bamman***
Laura.....**Kate Benson***
Nancy.....**Laura Esterman***
Steven.....**Drew Hildebrand***
Crissy.....**Jenny Seastone Stern**
Susan.....**Irene Walsh***
Ensemble.....**Jane Elliott, Alexis Macnab, Bobby Moreno, Jessica Pohly, Sarah Sakaan**

FOR DAWN

Director.....**Jim Simpson**
Assistant Director.....**Sherri Kronfeld**
Stage Manager.....**Yvonne Perez***
Assistant Stage Manager.....**Alexis Macnab**
Set Design.....**Michael Goldsheft**
Lighting Design.....**Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew**
Sound Design.....**Brandon Wolcott**
Costume Design.....**Claudia Brown**
Graphic Design.....**David Prittie**
Press.....**Ron Lasko/Spin Cycle**
Equipment and Support.....**Technical Artistry**

**These Actors and Stage Manager are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association*

THE FLEA THEATER

Artistic Director.....**Jim Simpson**
Producing Director.....**Carol Ostrow**
General Manager.....**Beth Dembrow**
Technical Director.....**Zack Tinkelman**
Audience Development & Marketing Manager.....**Sherri Kronfeld**
Assistant Technical Director.....**Marlon Hurt**
Marketing and Development Assistant.....**Lillian Meredith**
Development Consultant.....**Rachel Colbert**
Flea Intern.....**Ben Otto**

CHARACTERS

HAMPTON – 60, A successful businessman
SUSAN – 40, His wife
NANCY – 60, His ex-wife
STEVEN – 33, Hampton and Nancy's son
LAURA – 36, Hampton and Nancy's Daughter
CRISSY – 14, Laura's Daughter
DOCTOR

SETTING

The setting is Florham Park, New Jersey.

The time is the present.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

All characters should be played with the utmost honesty and sincerity. The irony in the play should be underplayed rather than overplayed at all times. The characters in this play feel that all their actions are completely necessary and unavoidable. The play should be directed in a straightforward and realistic manner.

Scene One

(At rise **HAMPTON** *has walked onstage very drunk. He is sixty years old and wears an expensive suit. He and his wife* **SUSAN** *arrived home from dinner 20 minutes ago. He is in his home office.)*

HAMPTON. *(Stumbling and heavily slurring his words. Wild.)*

Let light shine like fire!

Through the dawn of these dark times!

(laughing)

Help us to achieve redemption!

(pause)

Teach us the eternal rituals of suffering!

(He stumbles around a bit trying to take off his suit jacket but then falls to the floor and passes out. **SUSAN** *then enters wearing a negligee obviously hoping to have sex on this Saturday night. She goes and lies next to him and caresses him.)*

SUSAN. *(sexy)* Wake up. Wake up. I've got something that I think you'll like. Wake up Mr. Sleepyhead.

(When she sees that this isn't working she undoes his pants and straddles him rubbing back and forth.)

C'mon big daddy. Don't you want to make mama happy? Mama's all ready for you.

(She tries kissing him but it's of no use. She gives up. She walks offstage and comes back with a pillow. She puts it beneath his head. She kisses him on the forehead.)

SUSAN. *(cont.)* Goodnight honey.

(She exits. He suddenly comes back to life and vomits on the floor next to himself and then passes out again.)

(blackout)

End Scene

Scene Two

(At rise **HAMPTON** *is still on the floor passed out. It is morning. He has urinated on himself during the night. He wakes up and gets up slowly. His hands are shaking slightly. He takes off his pants and underwear and puts on new ones. He gets a towel and wipes up the piss on the floor. He seems lost. He then goes to his safe, opens it, takes out a bottle of Johnnie Walker Black label and takes a couple of shots to ease his hangover and stop the shaking. He hears his wife coming and quickly hides the booze. She enters.)*

SUSAN. Good morning honey.

HAMPTON. Good morning.

SUSAN. Would you like me to make you some breakfast?

HAMPTON. No thanks.

SUSAN. How are you feeling?

HAMPTON. Oh, my stomach hurts a little.

SUSAN. Why do you think that is?

HAMPTON. Maybe it's something I ate.

SUSAN. Maybe you drank a little too much.

HAMPTON. No it's not that.

SUSAN. Honey, you drank a case and a half of beer yesterday.

HAMPTON. What do you want from me? I stopped drinking hard liquor because of you and now you have the nerve to criticize me for having a couple of beers!? It's impossible to get drunk off of beer. Have you ever seen anyone get drunk drinking beer? You said that I could drink as much beer as I wanted as long as I stay away from the hard liquor. I'm holding up my end of the agreement.

SUSAN. I know. It's just that I worry sometimes.

HAMPTON. OK honey. I'll drink a little less beer if it'll make you happy.

(She tries to kiss him but he backs away.)

I've got to go shower. I don't want to be late. I've got a bunch of clients to see this morning.

End Scene

Scene Three

(At rise **HAMPTON** *has come home in the middle of the afternoon because he knows that his wife will be out. He is carrying a case of Bombay Sapphire gin. He puts the gin down and throws a coat over it to hide it.)*

HAMPTON. Hello honey? Susan? Are you home.

(He runs around the house to make sure she's not there.)

Susan?

(After he's satisfied that she's not home he picks up the case of gin and sets it on a table. He then proceeds to hide a bottle of gin in every imaginable place. He hides gin with the cleaning supplies, in the fireplace, behind books, in the broom closet, we then see him empty a gallon of water and fill it with gin. We then see him take a couple of 16 ounce bottles of water and fill them with gin.)

Martini time!

(He then drinks a whole 16 ounce bottle of the gin.)

This one needs a refill!

(He then refills the bottle. He then puts the water bottles in the pantry.)

*(***SUSAN** *enters.* **HAMPTON** *puts a piece of gum into his mouth.)*

SUSAN. What are you doing home?

HAMPTON. We decided to close the office early because it's Friday.

SUSAN. You remember that we're supposed to have dinner with Jen and Scott tonight. Right?

HAMPTON. *(He sighs.)* Oh yes. I can't wait.

SUSAN. You forgot.

HAMPTON. Why do we have to spend time with those people? She talks sooo much and all he talks about are stocks, stocks, stocks. I've never met someone so obsessed with his portfolio.

SUSAN. They're my friends Hampton. That's why. Please honey, just try to have a good time.

HAMPTON. I will honey. I promise.

End Scene

Scene Four

(At rise **SUSAN** *and* **HAMPTON** *storm through the door. They are in the middle of a heated argument.)*

SUSAN. I want a divorce!

HAMPTON. Go ahead! Divorce me you stupid bitch!

SUSAN. That's the last time you'll embarrass me in front of my friends! I'm sick of it! Do you hear!

(screaming at the top of her lungs practically insane)

Sick of it! I'm sick of waking up in a puddle of your piss every night! Our bed is disgusting. I'm sick of nursing you through your hangovers everyday! Sick of having a husband who can't have sex because his dick is limp from drinking too much!

HAMPTON. You're sick?! You think you're sick of me!?

SUSAN. *(screaming)* You haven't been able to get it up for six months!

HAMPTON. I'M SICK OF SUPPORTING YOU! I work hard every day so that you can have your furs and diamonds! So that you can spend all day chatting with your nosy friends at the country club. Sick of having a wife who yells at me every time I have a couple of drinks.

SUSAN. You punched Scott in the middle of dinner!

HAMPTON. He deserved it. He thinks he's better than me!

SUSAN. He just told you that his stocks are doing well.

HAMPTON. *(imitating Scott)* "Oh Hampton, you really should switch to my broker. I made a million dollars last month. How much did you make?"
Fuck Scott! I wish I had punched him twice.

SUSAN. You'll be lucky if he doesn't sue you!

HAMPTON. Let that faggot sue me!

HAMPTON. *(cont.)* The only reason you married me was so that you can inherit my money when I die. Well guess what? First thing in the morning I'm going to write you out of my will you ungrateful cunt!

SUSAN. *(She gets in his face.)* Who are you going to leave it to? Huh? Your kids won't even speak to you because you've been an absent drunk their whole lives. Your children hate you.

HAMPTON. I'll leave all my money to my ex-wife. She was grateful for everything I did for her unlike you.

*(***SUSAN** *slaps him.)*

And did you ever stop to think that maybe I don't have sex with you because you're unattractive? Because you act like a slob, always belching at the dinner table! Who does that?

Now my ex-wife Nancy, she knew how to take care of herself. She was amazing in bed.

*(***SUSAN** *slaps him again.)*

SUSAN. How dare you speak to me like that.

HAMPTON. I'll speak to you any way I want.

(He slaps her across the face and she falls to the ground).

Let that be a lesson to you.

(He grabs his heart, falls to the floor, and passes out. **SUSAN** *gets up and goes over to him.)*

SUSAN. Are you okay? Hampton? Answer me.

(She checks to see whether his heart is beating. It is not. She calls an ambulance.)

End Scene

Scene Five

(At rise **HAMPTON** *is in the hospital. He wakes up.* **SUSAN** *is sitting by his side.)*

HAMPTON. Where am I?

SUSAN. You're at the hospital, honey.

HAMPTON. What happened?

SUSAN. You don't remember?

HAMPTON. No. I don't remember anything.

SUSAN. You passed out. Your heart stopped beating.

HAMPTON. Am I alright?

SUSAN. Your heart is having trouble working because of all the drinking. Hampton. You need to stop.

HAMPTON. Oh, you're exaggerating. I'm sure it didn't have anything to do with the alcohol.

(pause)

C'mon, let's get out of here.

*(***HAMPTON** *starts to get out of his hospital bed when the* **DOCTOR** *enters.)*

DOCTOR. Hello Mr. Dempsy, Mrs. Dempsy.

SUSAN. Hello doctor.

HAMPTON. Hello.

DOCTOR. How much alcohol do you drink a day?

HAMPTON. I have a couple of drinks every night. That's it.

DOCTOR. Are you being honest, Mr. Dempsy?

SUSAN. He's lying doctor. He drinks at least a case of beer a day and I constantly find liquor hidden around the house, so it's hard to say exactly how much he's drinking, but it's a lot.

*(***SUSAN** *and the* **DOCTOR** *both stare at* **HAMPTON** *for a moment to see if he has a response. He is silent.)*

DOCTOR. We want to send you to a detox, Mr. Dempsy. Your drinking is putting a strain on your heart and you have cirrhosis of the liver.

HAMPTON. *(worried)* Cirrhosis? Am I going to die?

DOCTOR. We have medication that can heal your liver if you quit drinking now, but if you don't you'll be dead within a year.

HAMPTON. What if I don't want to go to detox?

DOCTOR. It's your choice.

SUSAN. *(pleading)* Hampton. Please. Please go. I need you. I need you to get better.

DOCTOR. It'll only be for three days.

HAMPTON. *(resigned)* OK I'll go. I'll go.

End Scene

Scene Six

*(***HAMPTON** *has just come home from the detox. The atmosphere is full of hope.* **SUSAN** *sits in* **HAMPTON***'s lap.)*

SUSAN. Welcome home honey!

HAMPTON. It's so good to be home.

SUSAN. How are you feeling?

HAMPTON. Susan, I'm a new man. I feel like I've just walked out of a fog. Like I've awoken from a long, terrible, nightmare.

(pause)

I want to apologize to you, Susan.

(They're looking deeply into one another's eyes. **SUSAN** *is on the verge of tears.)*

I know that I've said that I would stop drinking a million times before, but this time is different. This time is for good.

(pause)

I want to apologize for all the years of pain that I've caused you. I know that I've been a hard man to live with, and you've been a saint for putting up with me for all these years. But from this day forward I promise to treat you as you deserve to be treated. I'm going to love you like the goddess that you are. Please forgive me Susan, I promise that I'm going to start being the husband that you deserve.

SUSAN. *(She is crying now. Tears of joy.)* I forgive you Hampton. I'm just glad to have my husband back.

(They kiss.)

C'mon. Let's go upstairs.

(They run upstairs like teenagers. Giddy and giggling.)

End Scene

Scene Seven

(At rise **SUSAN** *and* **HAMPTON** *are in bed. They have just had sex.)*

SUSAN. That was wonderful Hampton. You still know how to please me.

HAMPTON. You were wonderful.

(pause)

What do you want to do for your birthday?

SUSAN. We don't have to do anything special.

HAMPTON. How about we take a trip?

SUSAN. Where?

HAMPTON. Wherever you want.

SUSAN. Can we go to Paris?

HAMPTON. We've been to Paris.

SUSAN. So what? I want to go again! I hate going new places cause I always feel like I have to see everything. I don't want to spend a week going to museums. This way we can just relax.

HAMPTON. How about Iceland?

SUSAN. Boring.

HAMPTON. O.K. Paris it is.

SUSAN. Yaay.

(They kiss.)

(pause)

HAMPTON. *(remembering)* I still have all those bottles hidden around the house.

Will you help me to get rid of them?

SUSAN. Sure Honey.

(They go around the house with **HAMPTON** *showing* **SUSAN** *hiding places and them emptying out the bottles of liquor. While* **SUSAN** *is emptying out a bottle* **HAMPTON** *starts to take the gallon water*

jug filled with gin to pour out then decides to put it back. He can't quite bring himself to get rid of all his liquor even though he wants to.)

SUSAN. *(cont.)* Is that it?

(He thinks.)

HAMPTON. There's one more bottle in my safe.

SUSAN. In the safe?

HAMPTON. What can I say?

(They laugh. They go and get the bottle from the safe and pour it out.)

That's all of it.

SUSAN. Are you sure.

HAMPTON. I'm positive. Now we have a clean house.

SUSAN. I love you.

HAMPTON. I love you too.

End Scene

Scene Eight

(At rise **HAMPTON** *is lying on the floor with half of his gallon sized water bottle filled with gin next to him. He's been drinking all day. There is a bucket next to him that he's using to vomit. He takes another swig and then lies back down. He vomits into the bucket.* **SUSAN** *enters.)*

SUSAN. Hampton? Hampton what's wrong?

HAMPTON. I don't feel too good.

SUSAN. Why aren't you at work?

HAMPTON. I couldn't make it. I just couldn't make it.

(She picks up the bottle and smells the gin.)

(disappointed)

SUSAN. You've been home drinking all day.

HAMPTON. I'm sick Susan. I don't feel well.

SUSAN. Drinking a half gallon of gin will do that to you.

(silence)

You promised that we emptied out all of your liquor. How do you expect me to trust you? I don't know why I trusted you in the first place.

HAMPTON. You can trust me. I'm sorry honey. I'm so sorry. I tried. I tried so hard but I couldn't do it. I tried so hard.

SUSAN. You couldn't make it five days?! Five days without fucking drinking. You have no will power. You're a weak weak man.

(pause)

I'm leaving you Hampton. I can't live like this anymore.

HAMPTON. I think I'm dying.

(He takes another drink and then he vomits.)

SUSAN. You just don't care about anyone? Do you?

HAMPTON. Hold me Susan. I think I'm dying.

SUSAN. What do you mean you're dying?

HAMPTON. I've been shitting blood all day.

SUSAN. *(suddenly alarmed)* What do you mean?

HAMPTON. I've been shitting blood. Lots of it. I'm scared.

SUSAN. We've got to get you to the hospital.

HAMPTON. No hospital. Just hold me Susan. Please.

SUSAN. *(She goes over and holds him.)* You've got to stop this.

HAMPTON. I know. I love you. I love you so much. Please forgive me.

SUSAN. I love you too.

End Scene

Scene Nine

(At rise **HAMPTON** *is in the hospital.* **SUSAN** *is by his side.)*

SUSAN. There's someone here to see you.

HAMPTON. I don't want to see anyone.

SUSAN. I think seeing some people will help with your depression.

HAMPTON. I think a drink would help with my depression.

SUSAN. If that's your attitude then I hope they lock you up forever.

HAMPTON. How can you say that?

SUSAN. At least you can't hurt yourself here.

HAMPTON. Who is it?

*(***SUSAN** *goes out into the hallway and brings back* **HAMPTON***'s thirty-three year-old son* **STEVEN**. *They haven't seen or spoken to each other for seven years.* **STEVEN** *is a lawyer dressed in a tailored suit.)*

*(***HAMPTON** *stares in amazement once he recognizes who it is.)*

Steven?

STEVEN. Hi Dad.

HAMPTON. It's been a long time.

STEVEN. It has been.

(pause)

I miss you Dad.

HAMPTON. I didn't think you were ever going to speak to me again.

STEVEN. That's all in the past.

(pause)

I heard that you were sick.

HAMPTON. That appears to be the case.

STEVEN. I can help you Dad.

HAMPTON. *(chuckles)* I appreciate that son, but I'm beyond help. I don't think that anyone can help me.

STEVEN. I stopped drinking four years ago.

HAMPTON. Why?

STEVEN. Because I'm an alcoholic. I swore that I would never become like you. But I did. It's in our blood.

HAMPTON. Don't blame your problems on me.

STEVEN. I'm not. I know that you have no power over your alcoholism. It's a disease that we both share. I realize now that you treated Mom, Laura, and I the way you did because you were sick.

(pause)

And I forgive you Dad. I forgive you.

HAMPTON. *(pause)* I apologize Steven. I apologize for not being there for you. I didn't do it on purpose. I was just so wrapped up in my own head that I couldn't see anything else. I couldn't see or help those around me. I couldn't be a good father to you and Laura. Are you sure that you can forgive me?

STEVEN. Yes Dad. It's water under the bridge.

(pause)

But I want you to know that there is a solution.

HAMPTON. What is it?

STEVEN. Alcoholics Anonymous.

(pause)

HAMPTON. Get out of here! Get out of here! How dare you come in here and start preaching religion to me?! How dare you?

(yelling)

Susan! Susan! Get him out of here!

*(***SUSAN** *enters and* **STEVEN** *waves her back out.)*

STEVEN. Dad. You've got to calm down. It's not religion.

HAMPTON. Don't lie to me! I know all about you A.A. weirdos and your higher power. I never thought I'd live to see the day that my own son would come to preach religion to me. God does not exist. Only science. If god does exist then he's a malicious god. Why else would he allow innocent people to get murdered and raped everyday? Why does he allow homelessness? Why did he allow the Holocaust? No Son, you shall not convince me that there is a god.

STEVEN. Are you finished now?

HAMPTON. Yes. I suppose so.

STEVEN. A.A. saved my life Dad. And it can save yours too. You don't have to believe in god Dad. That's a common misconception that people have about A.A.

HAMPTON. Really?

STEVEN. Yes. When I came into the program I felt the same way as you did. You don't have to do anything you don't want to do. The only thing that is a requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

(pause)

Do you want to stop drinking Dad?

HAMPTON. *(pause)* Yes.

STEVEN. Good. Just give it a try. One meeting. If you don't like it then you don't ever have to go again.

HAMPTON. OK. One Meeting.

End Scene

Scene Ten

(At rise **STEVEN** *and* **HAMPTON** *have just arrived home from an A.A. meeting.)*

STEVEN. So what did you think?

HAMPTON. I think you lied to me.

STEVEN. How?

HAMPTON. All they did was talk about god, god, god. You swore to me that A.A. wasn't a religious organization.

STEVEN. It's not.

HAMPTON. How can you say that? It even said it on the fucking wall:

Step two: came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Step three: made a decision to turn our lives over to the care of God *as we understood* him.

STEVEN. Exactly! Right there! As we understood him. That's what you have to focus on. A.A. isn't about Jesus or organized religion. A.A. just says that you need a higher power. But that higher power can be anything. It could be A.A. itself, it could be your car, it could be the fucking doorknob. A.A. doesn't care what you believe. These steps are just suggestions. The steps are simply what the founders of A.A. did to get sober. You don't have to follow any of them if you don't want to.

(pause)

But I would highly recommend that you do. Those steps saved my life.

HAMPTON. Well, what do you believe?

STEVEN. I believe that God is everywhere. I believe that God permeates everything. God is in the trees. It's the very air that we breath.

HAMPTON. What about the evil in the world?

STEVEN. I don't believe that God dictates human affairs. I don't think that God helps people get parking spaces or makes the subway come on time. I don't think God gets involved with the minutiae of human affairs. I think god is everything that is good. God is about action. If you perform good actions and try to help other people then you will know and see good. If you perform evil actions you will know pain and suffering. Choice is what makes humans unique.

HAMPTON. I don't really understand.

STEVEN. You don't have to understand. This program is not about understanding. Just take this leap of faith and follow the program. I promise it'll keep you sober.

HAMPTON. I just don't know.

STEVEN. What do you have to lose? You have to let go of your will. Where has your way of living gotten you?

(pause)

It's gotten you cirrhosis of the liver, blood in your shit, and complete alienation from your family. I mean, who are you to say that God doesn't exist? You've tried your way, now try another.

HAMPTON. *(Something is awakening in* **HAMPTON**. *He is beginning to have a spiritual transformation.)* You're right Steven.

STEVEN. All I ask, all A.A. asks is that you have an open mind. And Dad, you ARE going to know a new freedom and happiness.

HAMPTON. I can do that. I can have an open mind.

STEVEN. All you have to do is get on your knees tonight and pray. Ask for your obsession with alcohol to be lifted. It doesn't matter whether you understand

what or who you're praying to. Just do it. I certainly don't know what I pray to, but I know it works. It works.

HAMPTON. I will pray Son. I will pray. Thank you.

(They hug.)

STEVEN. Now get on your knees and repeat after me.

*(***HAMPTON** *is hesitant.)*

(They both get on their knees.)

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change.

HAMPTON. God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change.

STEVEN. The courage to change the things I can.

HAMPTON. The courage to change the things I can.

STEVEN. And the wisdom to know the difference.

HAMPTON. And the wisdom to know the difference.

(lights down)

End Scene

Scene Eleven

(At rise **STEVEN** *has shown up at his sister* **LAURA***'s house. Her fourteen year-old daughter* **CRISSY** *has answered the door.)*

CRISSY. Hi Uncle Steven!

STEVEN. Hey Crissy! Is your mom home?

CRISSY. No. She's at the supermarket. She should be back in like fifteen minutes.

STEVEN. Cool.

*(***STEVEN** *enters the house.)*

How's school?

CRISSY. School's fine.

STEVEN. You just started high school didn't you?

CRISSY. No, I'm still in the eighth grade. I got held back a year.

STEVEN. Really? Your mom didn't tell me that.

CRISSY. That's because she's embarrassed. I don't think that it's a big deal. She's being stupid about the whole situation if you ask me.

STEVEN. Your mom just wants you to be successful. That's all. What's a smart girl like you doing failing classes?

CRISSY. I don't know. I just think that school's boring.

STEVEN. What subjects did you fail?

CRISSY. Math and Chemistry.

STEVEN. Are there any classes that you like?

CRISSY. I really like painting. I like acting class too.

STEVEN. I was just like you when I was in high school. I failed Trigonometry and Chemistry.

CRISSY. *(shocked)* Really?

STEVEN. Yup. Had to go to summer school twice.

CRISSY. Oh my God! I can't believe that *you* had to go to summer school! But you're so successful.

STEVEN. I'm just letting you know that all teenagers fuck up.

CRISSY. Even Mom?

STEVEN. Even your mother.

CRISSY. What did she do?

STEVEN. I'm not going to get into that.

CRISSY. C'mon tell me.

STEVEN. Well, she used to skip class all the time and she dated a few guys that your grandfather hated.

CRISSY. Mom used to skip class! I can't imagine.

STEVEN. But you have to promise not to tell her that I told you.

CRISSY. I promise.

STEVEN. The point is that you still have plenty of time to turn things around. If I did it then you can do it. You're going to be a great artist one day.

CRISSY. Thanks Uncle Steven.

(She gives him a hug.)

STEVEN. That's very nice skirt that you're wearing.

CRISSY. Thanks! I got it at *The French Connection.*

*(***LAURA** *enters holding bags of groceries.)*

LAURA. Crissy will you help me with these groceries?

(Sees **STEVEN**. *Happily surprised.)*

Hi Steven. What are you doing here?

*(***CRISSY** *grabs a bag and* **STEVEN** *grabs the other.)*

STEVEN. I just wanted to see my lovely sister.

(He kisses her on the cheek. She chuckles.)

LAURA. Yeah right. What are you really doing here?

STEVEN. I saw Dad.

CRISSY. You saw grandpa?

LAURA. Go upstairs honey.

CRISSY. Why?

STEVEN. You need to go study so that you can become a famous artist.

CRISSY. Fine.

*(***CRISSY** *exits.)*

LAURA. How did this come about?

STEVEN. Well, Susan called me because Dad was in the hospital.

LAURA. Is he OK?

STEVEN. He has cirrhosis of the liver.

LAURA. That's a surprise. It's remarkable that it didn't happen sooner.

STEVEN. I want you to see him.

LAURA. I don't think so Steven. I haven't spoken to him in ten years. There's no reason to start now.

STEVEN. He stopped drinking.

LAURA. So what? He's still a cradle robbing asshole.

STEVEN. This is not about Susan.

(pause)

I talked to him and I convinced him to go to A.A. I've seen an amazing change in him over the last few weeks. He's undergone a wonderful transformation. He wants to see you so that he can apologize for all the wrong that he's done to you and ask your forgiveness.

LAURA. So he's not going to die?

STEVEN. Not as long as he stays away from alcohol. And I think that it would be really great for Crissy to have a relationship with her grandfather, *especially* now that you and Mark are divorced.

LAURA. OK I'll see him.

STEVEN. You won't regret this, Laura. Thank you.

End Scene

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