

**Our Song**

A Ten Minute Play

By

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### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

This play's world premier was performed at the Rochester Repertory Theatre in Rochester, Minnesota, during the month of July of 2006. The play was part of a winning contest collection called *Reflections in a Mirror*, which was directed by Cheryl A. Frarck and Kimberly Y.W. Holst. The actors that brought these characters to life were Jon Hayenga, Matthew C. Marshall and Dan Sullivan.

My family as always, and especially my dad and Jackson, to whom this play is dedicated.

### **PRODUCTION NOTES**

This play runs roughly around ten minutes.

The set is three blocks or chairs.

The props consist of a rear view mirror and a toy of your choice or props can be mimed if needed.

In the original production, the actor wore hats and Player #2 flipped the bill around backwards when playing the teen and forwards when playing the young father.

## **Cast of Characters**

Player #1:

HE is the wise, elder father.

Player #2:

HE is the disgruntled teen and the young father.

Player #3:

HE is the inquisitive, young boy.

## **Scene**

In a car and in an old pick up truck.

## **Time**

In the past and in the present.

SETTING: There are three cubes on the stage. The first is placed downstage a little left of center. The second is placed upstage of the first, but directly center. The third is placed right of the second cube. PLAYER 1 sits on the first cube. PLAYER 2 sits at the second cube, and PLAYER 3 sits on the third cube, holding a rear view mirror and a toy. The lights should highlight only PLAYER 1 and 2 during a scene OR only PLAYER 2 and 3. The overall illusion is that PLAYER 1 is driving, while talking to PLAYER 2 who is in the back seat. The other scene is that PLAYER 2 is driving, while talking to PLAYER 3, who is in the front seat next to him.

AT RISE: The song “Old Man” by Neil Young is playing on the radio.  
(Music is optional.) PLAYER 1 is humming along with the song. PLAYER 2 is leaning back with his eyes closed, not wanting to be there.

PLAYER 1

Hey, I’ll give you one guess who this is.

PLAYER 2

Neil Young.

PLAYER 1

Yep.

PLAYER 2

That one was pretty obvious, Dad.

PLAYER 1

Why’s that?

PLAYER 2

Gimmie a break. His voice is as annoying as Bob Dylan’s. I’d rather be listening to a cat screaming.

PLAYER 1

It’s not the quality of the voice, it’s what he’s saying in the lyrics and the emotion behind it. This song is a classic.

PLAYER 2

Whatever.

PLAYER 1

Are you going to be this chipper all day?

PLAYER 2

Well, if you hadn't woke me up at frickin' seven in the morning and let me sleep in, I might have been a bit more happy.

PLAYER 1

And if you had come home at your curfew, instead of at three in the morning, I probably would have let you sleep in.

PLAYER 2

I said I was sorry. Jesus, how many more times to I have to say it?

PLAYER 1

Saying you're sorry isn't going to cut it this time. You've been pushing the rules too much and now you've gone too far. You had your mom freaking out last night, thinking you were dead in a ditch somewhere. There wasn't even a phone call or anything.

PLAYER 2

We were just out, cruising around. There wasn't any place to call.

PLAYER 1

Look, I'm not going to argue with you about your lack of judgment. Getting up early with me is only the beginning. You're also going to be grounded for the rest of month.

PLAYER 2

What? But today's the first of the month!

PLAYER 1

Good, so you can tell time after all. Look, your mom and I have decided and that's it. Hopefully, you'll respect our rules from now on and not constantly push the line. (Long pause as PLAYER 2 sulks in back seat.)

PLAYER 2

So where are we going anyway?

PLAYER 1

I'm going out to say hi to Dad, and then we're heading back home, hopping in the old pick up and going to cut some wood.

PLAYER 2

Awww, Dad! Cutting wood sucks!

PLAYER 1

So does the gas bill, buddy.

(Lights out and up on PLAYER 2 and 3. PLAYER 2 changes from the sulky teen persona to a young parent. The song "Sometimes You Can't Make It On

Your Own” by U2 is playing. PLAYER 3 is playing with a toy, while the rear view mirror sits next to him, unnoticed.)

PLAYER 3

Louder, Daddy, louder.

PLAYER 2

I think it’s loud enough, bud.

PLAYER 3

No, louder, Daddy.

PLAYER 2

Hey, who are we listening to anyway?

PLAYER 3

U2.

PLAYER 2

Very good! I’ll have you learning all the cool rock bands by the time you’re five.

PLAYER 3

Yeah, ‘cause I’m getting bigger.

PLAYER 2

You know it.

PLAYER 3

I like the rock ‘n roll, Daddy. Do you like the rock ‘n roll?

PLAYER 2

I LOVE it.

PLAYER 3

Yeah! Me too.

PLAYER 2

You know what else I like?

PLAYER 3

What?

PLAYER 2

Riding in the pick up with you on a Saturday.

PLAYER 3

Yeah, with the rock n' roll.

PLAYER 2

You like riding in the pick up with Daddy?

PLAYER 3

Yeah, it's a big truck.

PLAYER 2

It sure is. This used to be your Grandpa's truck, you know.

PLAYER 3

Grandpa?

PLAYER 2

Yeah, we used ride in it all the time. Just us guys.

PLAYER 3

And no girls? Just boys?

PLAYER 2

So, only boys can ride in the pick up?

PLAYER 3

Yeah, an... an... and the girls can't come.

PLAYER 2

Well, hey, just because Mommy didn't want to come with today, doesn't mean girls can't ride in a truck. Girls can be in trucks too.

PLAYER 3

Yeah, but not today. Today it's just me and Daddy.

PLAYER 2

You got it. And where are we going?

PLAYER 3

We going to go get wood at the store.

PLAYER 2

That's right. We're going to go get some wood so we can build stuff.

PLAYER 3

You gonna build me something, Daddy?

PLAYER 2

Maybe. What do you want?

PLAYER 3

A Power Ranger.

PLAYER 2

You've already got a bunch of those. Besides I want to make something more cool than a Power Ranger.

PLAYER 3

Nu-uh. Power Rangers are cool.

PLAYER 2

How about I make you a dresser or a new bed?

PLAYER 3

A bed? Daddy, I already got a bed.

PLAYER 2

But you're going to need a bigger bed pretty soon.

PLAYER 3

Yeah, 'cause I'm getting bigger.

PLAYER 2

Every day.

PLAYER 3

Yeah, 'cause I'm almost five.

(Scene shifts back to PLAYER 1 and PLAYER 2. Music is optional from this point on.)

PLAYER 2

Grandpa died during the summer, right?

PLAYER 1

Yeah.

PLAYER 2

So, why are you going out there today?

PLAYER 1

I don't have to visit on the day he died, you know.

PLAYER 2

Yeah, I guess. (Pause)

PLAYER 1

I've just been thinking about him a lot lately.

PLAYER 2

So what was he like anyway?

PLAYER 1

Don't you remember?

PLAYER 2

Well, I remember some things, like staying over night and getting to watch scary movies with him.

PLAYER 1

Yeah. We told him not to every time, but I guess he did what he wanted.

PLAYER 2

And I remember he always sat at the kitchen table and played solitaire after I went to bed. He thought I was sleeping, but I would sneak out of bed to see what he was doing.

PLAYER 1

Just sitting there, huh?

PLAYER 2

Yeah. The T.V. would be on, but he wouldn't be watching it. Just playing cards.

PLAYER 1

Sounds like your Grandpa. After your Grandma died, it seemed like he didn't want to go to bed anymore.

PLAYER 2

I always liked staying overnight though. He let me do whatever I wanted.

PLAYER 1

That's what grandparents do, I guess. It was a different story when I was growing up.

PLAYER 2

Did you get in trouble too?

PLAYER 1

Of course I got into trouble. I was a teen-ager once too, you know. And your Grandpa and Grandma grounded me too.

PLAYER 2

What sort of stuff would you do?

PLAYER 1

Pretty much the same as you, buddy boy.

PLAYER 2

So then you should be more understanding and realize that I'm just being a teen-ager and that maybe a month long grounding is a bit extreme for coming home at three in the morning.

PLAYER 1

Nice try. But fortunately for you, getting older means getting wiser, and getting wiser means one realizes teen-agers still need some rules, even though they think they don't.

PLAYER 2

(Opens mouth to speak, but decides not to.)

PLAYER 1

No comment on that one?

PLAYER 2

Nope.

PLAYER 1

You'll see it differently one day. Trust me.

PLAYER 2

Believe me, Dad, when I have kids I'm going to let them do whatever they want. That is if I have kids at all.

PLAYER 1

Uh huh.

(Scene shifts back to PLAYER 2 and PLAYER 3. PLAYER 3 is playing with the rear view mirror and is about to put it in his mouth.)

**TO READ MORE OR TO ORDER THIS PLAY, PLEASE CONTACT  
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