



LILLY

Yes! Anyway, it was only two bucks! And it goes with the cushions.

SETH

You mean the cushions we throw on the floor so we can actually sit down?

LILLY

Don't you like it?

SETH

*(Shrugging his shoulders). It's fine, I guess. (He picks it up and looks underneath it).*

LILLY

Careful!

SETH

Lilly, it was two bucks!

LILLY

Yeah, but it could be worth more than that.

SETH

Yeah, three bucks.

LILLY

Or more! There's a multitude of treasures to be found at garage sales these days and who knows ... it could actually be worth millions! I've heard of that happening you know.

SETH

Yes but normally in countries with a few billion people and a few million centuries of history under their belt. You're talking about a garage sale in Sandringham, displaying rusty lawn mower parts and Jane Fonda aerobics videos.

LILLY

Hey don't knock Jane Fonda. She rocks.

SETH shakes his head with disbelief.

LILLY

She does!

SETH

You're so ... weird.

LILLY

*(Looks at him in disbelief)* Pot, kettle, black.

SETH holds the jug upside down.

SETH

Well, there's no trademark. Feels pretty heavy though.

LILLY takes it off him and feels it.

LILLY

Yeah, it does eh?

She shakes it tentatively and puts it up to her ear.

SETH

BOO!

She fumbles it.

LILLY

Seth! What'dya do that for? I nearly dropped it.

SETH

Well it's not a sea shell. What'd you expect to hear?

LILLY

I dunno. *(She feels its weight again)*.

SETH

Do you think there's some genie in there who's gonna come out and grant you three wishes?

She looks at him sarcastically.

LILLY

Seth that's ridiculous. *(Pause)*. Genies come in lamps, not jugs.

She puts the jug on her lap and inspects it in more detail.

LILLY

It's actually in pretty good nick. I wonder where it's been and what it's seen.

SETH

It's a jug.

LILLY

It's a piece of history is what it is, Seth. A visual masterpiece that used to be just an idea in someone's head and is now a stunning artwork of dramatic hue.

SETH

*(Shaking his head)* And lucky us, now it's ours.

LILLY

And now it's ours.

She smiles proudly and places it gently back down on the coffee table. Standing up, she spins on her heel and walks towards a nearby tape deck. Pressing play, the sound of soothing nature music fills the air. She begins practicing her tai chi.

LILLY

Well, personally I don't care if it's not valuable. It's cheap and cheerful and brightens up the place!

SETH

Brightens up the place? It's like a fucking rainbow in here!

LILLY takes a deep breath in.

LILLY

Seth, why'd you have to be like that?

SETH

Like what?

LILLY

So ... *(she pushes away an imagined ball of energy with her hands)* negative.

SETH

I'm not.

LILLY

Yes you are. *(Hands swaying over her head)* You're like a big black cloud raining down on my parade.

There is a long pause. LILLY stops what she is doing, walks over to him and sits on the arm of the settee.

LILLY

I'm sorry. I just ... I know it's been rough for you but ... it's been six months already.

SETH

Is that the necessary time, Lilly? Is there a rule book somewhere that says "one month to get over a relationship, six months for suicide".

LILLY

Of course not, but I just think there has to come a point where you say okay, what happened was tragic and awful and I never want to have to go through that again, but I've done my mourning. *(Pause)*. They may not have wanted to live, but you do! *(Pause)*. Don't you?

SETH

Lilly, you don't know shit about stuff like that. Your heads up in the clouds and all it sees is sun and stars! The world is a very different place from where you're viewing it.

LILLY

That's not true, I just don't let things get me down.

SETH

No, you just haven't had anything shit happen in your life yet. You know, I reckon there's something in numerology. If you call a girl Lilly, all she sees are flowers *(he points around the room)*!

LILLY

Yeah? Well call a guy Seth and all he sees is death!

The two fold arms defiantly and stare at each other for a few seconds.

SETH

That's not all I see. I've just, I dunno, run into some fog.

LILLY plonks herself down on the couch and puts her hand on his shoulder.

LILLY

I know. And I realise I can be ... frustratingly happy, but isn't that why we agreed you should move in here? So I could add a bit of sunshine to your life! *(She beams a big smile at him and points to the jug)*. A bit of colour!

SETH smiles back.

SETH

You're right, and you do.

LILLY

Good! In fact ... I have just the thing right now to add a smile to your dial. Are you in?

SETH

Depends what it is.

LILLY

Oh come on Seth, just say yes! You promised you would make the effort and we're in month six.

SETH

Tell me first.

LILLY

Ok, well, I was thinking I could dress you up.

SETH

Absolutely not!

LILLY

Oh come on, it'll be fun! I don't mean put you in a dress or anything. I'll just pop some make-up on you ... I've done it with my other guy mates and it's a laugh!

SETH

Good for them.

LILLY

Why not? That guy from The Cure wears makeup and you're practically wearing foundation anyway.

SETH

It's different.

LILLY

Come on, just a little swipe of lipstick?

SETH

No.

LILLY sits back and ponders her next move.

LILLY

Ok. How about this?

She walks to the sideboard and removes a plastic bag. She pulls out the contents; two bright green wigs and two strap-on red noses.

She hands one of each to SETH and places the wig and nose on herself.

LILLY

You can be a clown at least, right? Some harmless fun?

SETH looks reluctant.

LILLY

Oh come on Seth. It's the latest craze ... a new form of happy therapy. It's very successful.

SETH

For clowns maybe.

LILLY

No, for anyone!

SETH slowly puts the wig on and the nose around his face.

SETH

Ok – now what?

LILLY

Now we laugh. Come on, get up. You have to do the biggest, belly shaking laugh you can and keep it going for (*she looks at her watch*) a minute.

SETH reluctantly stands up.

SETH

This is stupid.

LILLY

Yeah, but who's gonna know? Ready?

LILLY begins laughing hysterically. SETH watches. After a few hesitant stops and starts, LILLY's enthusiasm overcomes him and he starts to laugh, and enjoy it. Eventually the two of them are bending over in hysterics and slapping each other on the back. Suddenly, SETH stands back and knocks into the coffee table, causing the jug to fall onto the floor and break, sending the contents across the carpet. They both stop laughing and bend down to look at it.

LILLY

What is *that*?

Oh my god. SETH

What? What is it? LILLY

She goes to pick some up. SETH quickly grabs her arm.

Don't do that! SETH

Why not? LILLY

Because it's ash. SETH

Ash? LILLY

Yes, Lilly. You are looking at the residue of death. Something you've never experienced before. SETH

Gross! LILLY

To some, yes. But that's somebody's mother or daughter down there. SETH

LILLY bends over and looks at it more closely.

How can you tell? LILLY

Whaddya mean? SETH

The sex? LILLY

(Rolling his eyes) You can't! I mean, it's someone's father, uncle, brother, sister. SETH

LILLY

Oh. Of course. *(Pause)*. I can't believe they sold me someone's ashes!

SETH

Me neither.

LILLY

And for two bucks!

SETH

Totally.

LILLY walks towards the door.

SETH

Where are you going?

LILLY

To grab the vac!

SETH

You can't do that! You can't just Hoover up a human, along with fur, and dirt and ... pubic hair!

LILLY

Well it's not staying on the floor! *(Pause)*. Pubic hair?

SETH walks over to her and leads her back to the couch. He pushes her down and sits beside her.

LILLY

What are you doing?

SETH

Look at it, Lilly. Really look at it.

LILLY looks down at the ash.

SETH

This is what it comes to. What we come to ... in the end. *(Pause)*. Death. D.E.A.T.H. Death. Life ... it's not all flowers and sunsets you know.

LILLY

And your point is?

SETH

Well, no amount of larking about, having fun and acting like a clown is going to prevent it, is it? This is our destiny. Right here.

LILLY

True, but no amount of moping about, mourning and being depressed is going to prevent it either is it?

SETH

*(Pause)* I guess not.

LILLY

And do you know how stupid you look right now?

SETH

About as stupid as you?

LILLY

Correct.

They stare down quietly, contemplating the ash.

LILLY

I guess I should ring the people from the garage sale.

SETH

Why?

LILLY

Let them know I've got their ... family member.

SETH

Don't bother. They sold him for two bucks!

LILLY

Oh true.

SETH

We're not hoovering him up though.

LILLY

Well we're not spreading him out at sea. I've heard that when the winds change direction, you end up eating them.

SETH

Okay. Well, how 'bout we sweep him up with the dust pan and brush, fix the jug and pop in back in there.

LILLY

And then?

SETH

And then we'll stick him on the shelf and keep'm as a reminder of how short life is.

LILLY

And why we should make the most of every moment?

SETH

Yes.

LILLY

Yeah. He'll be ... kind of like a flat mascot?

SETH

Exactly.

LILLY

That sounds choice.

*LIGHTS BEGIN TO FADE*

LILLY

Or we *could* just pop him down our new in-sink-erator?

SETH

No.

**LIGHTS OUT - THE END**