

"Bridge"
by
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1

INT. SITTING ROOM - EVENING

1

A small sitting room filled with the clutter of two very full lives. The radio is playing the Golden Oldies station.

On top of a television case sit several photographs, all feature a woman at ages from her early twenties up to her forties. The pictures are all black and white, even the newest was taken in the 1960s judging the fashion.

Around the room sit trinkets and ornaments from these olden days.

ESMERALDA is sat on the double seater sofa. She's well into her eighties. She's knitting.

Just above and behind her, on a mantle-piece, an object stands out from the other clutter - a little trophy. It's two gold people in a dancing pose; clearly an award for a dancing competition.

SAMUEL is on the single chair adjacent to her, about the same age. He's dressed up to go out. He's sat with his hands on his knees looking tired and bored.

She glances up at him every so often, looking just a little frustrated.

He checks the big old clock on the wall and stands.

SAMUEL

Bridge.

He carefully makes his way out of the sitting room.

A moment later the sound of the front door opening and closing .

Esmeralda puts her knitting down, wrapping it up and putting it away properly.

She reaches into a deep pocket and produces a first generation mobile phone. She struggles to work her way around it and eventually manages to send a text message.

She pushes herself up and shuffles towards the door.

2

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

2

Esmeralda closes the door behind her after she enters the bedroom. It's also small, like the sitting room. This time it's cluttered with accessories, make-up and other cosmetic goodies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

There are two single beds in the room separated by a little bedside table.

Esmeralda opens the wardrobe door and bends down, getting onto her knees. She reaches into the back and pulls out a shoe box.

She sits down on a single bed and gets out of her old moth-eaten slippers. She opens the shoe-box next to her and produces a pair of clean, new, glimmering slippers. Her lips curl up into a smug grin as she puts these fancier slippers on her old feet.

Next she sits at the dresser. She touches her hair up and checks that her clothes are straight. She finally puts on some skin toned lipstick.

She stands and takes a shawl off a hanger to wrap over her shoulders.

After one final look in the mirror she leaves the bedroom.

3 INT. HALLWAY - EVENING 3

The doorbell goes. Esmeralda shuffles out from the sitting room and opens the front door.

OLD MAN is standing on the other side. He's sharper looking than Samuel, in a black suit and hat, he's also a few years younger.

She smiles at him. He takes off his hat and nods at her.

Both of them are smiling, just a little.

4 INT. CORRIDOR - EVENING 4

Esmeralda shuffles down the corridor with Old Man behind her. There are pictures along the walls of various family members, all old black and white photos; she's many years younger in the pictures.

5 INT. KITCHEN - EVENING 5

Esmeralda flicks the kettle on. Old Man waits at the side of the tiny room.

She takes two cups out, drops in tea-bags and heads for the fridge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Whilst she's getting milk out he goes to the cups and removes one of the tea-bags, he drops it onto the work-top and finds the coffee pot. He sprinkles in three or four times the amount of coffee even an addict would take.

He turns to go back to the side. Esmeralda is standing at the fridge, milk in hand, watching him.

6 INT. CORRIDOR - EVENING 6

Esmeralda has the tea, coffee and two slices of cake laid out on a tray. She is slowly walking towards the sitting room. Old Man is behind her.

7 INT. SITTING ROOM - EVENING 7

Esmeralda is sat in her two seater sofa, Old Man in her husband's chair. She sips her tea, he nibbles at his cake.

Every so often he glances up at her.

Old Man notices a photo, taken around 40 years ago, of Esmeralda and Samuel on their wedding day. Old Man reaches over and turns the photo towards the wall.

Esmeralda pretends not to notice.

The television is playing an old game-show.

8 INT. SITTING ROOM - EVENING 8

He's finished with his cake. He stands and picks up his coffee. She watches curiously as he positions himself next to her on the two seater sofa.

She looks uncomfortable. He sips at his coffee and turns to smile at her. She glances at him and looks away at the television.

She stands up, too uncomfortable, and goes to the television. She turns it off.

She stands there for a moment, facing away from Old Man, then turns to the radio next to the television. She switches it on.

"Sonny Boy" by Al Jolson plays on a golden oldie station. She turns around to see him stepping towards her.

He takes one of her hands and lifts it, then places his other hand on her waist. She realises that he wants to dance. They start to gently move around the living room dancing to the song on the radio.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Esmeralda is beginning to look more comfortable with the situation.

There is a noise from the hallway, a key turning in a lock. Esmeralda only hears the door closing a moment later.

Samuel has appeared in the living room doorway. The other two have stopped dancing and are now one step apart from each other.

Samuel looks from his wife to the younger man and back at his wife again. He looks destroyed; shocked and miserable.

Esmeralda has realised what he must be feeling and looks down in shame. She gently pushes Old Man with her fist (not a more caring open palm).

Old Man looks across at her, irritated and unforgiving. He shakes his head, disgusted. He moves towards Samuel and stops just in front of him.

For a moment it seems there might be a confrontation. He glances around at Esmeralda one final time, still angry and disappointed. Then he leans sideways to collect up his hat.

He moves past Samuel, knocking his shoulder as he does so, and lets himself out the door.

The couple stand in the sitting room, lost.

9 INT. SITTING ROOM - EVENING

9

Another day.

Esmeralda is sat on her two seater sofa watching a game-show, the knitting is sitting on her lap not getting done.

Samuel brings a cup of tea in. He places it on the little table next to his wife. He can't look at her. She nods a thank-you, still too ashamed to speak to him.

He sits on his single chair and quietly sighs.

10 INT. SITTING ROOM - EVENING

10

Later. The television is off. The radio is playing "Ain't we got fun" by Van and Schenck.

Samuel checks the time and stands up.

SAMUEL

Bridge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He heads towards the door.

Esmeralda also stands.

ESMERALDA

No.

He turns back as she shuffles over to him.

She rests one hand on his shoulder, they stand quite close. She has watery eyes.

He looks into her eyes for the first time this scene and takes her other hand up in his. He places his second hand on her waist. It's a dancing position though the two don't dance.

He pulls her closer to him and hugs her.

SAMUEL

(Hard)

I'm sorry.

She smiles, huge relief.

The two break apart and he leads her towards the two-seater sofa.

They sit together.

Next to Samuel's single sofa, where there was an old wedding photo, sits a new photograph; the couple are in their eighties, sitting together at a family social.

END