



STILL FEISTY

by Vivian C Lermond

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MYRTLE BEACH SUNRISE

A Short Play

In

One Act

By

V. Lermond

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Cast of Characters

Esther 50's - 60's, uptight

Pauline 50's - 60's, cheerful, Esther's best friend

Sid The waiter, -50's

SETTING

The beach, Myrtle Beach, SC

TIME

The present.

SETTING

Myrtle Beach

AT RISE

Two beach chairs and a small side table set between them are downstage center. ESTHER and PAULINE ENTER, wearing beach cover-ups. Each carries a beach towel and beach bag.

PAULINE

It is so nice here at the Myrtle Beach! Such a nice change for us! Not so much with all the razzle dazzle. Not so much all the commotion and the crowds, so you can't find a place to eat before eight in the night.

(They claim their beach chairs, cover them with their towels.)

ESTHER

I like Miami. Thirty years we've been goin' to Miami.

PAULINE

So we have now a new place.

(They settle into their chairs. A WAITER approaches.)

SID

Hey hey, girls! My name is Sid, at your service.

(A girlish giggle from Pauline.)

PAULINE

I'm Pauline and this is Esther.

SID

Good to meet ya. Will you be charging to your room?

ESTHER

Room 402.

SID

Great!

ESTHER

I don't suppose they know how to make a good gin gimlet here.

SID

The best gin gimlet in town or the drink is on me. (Beat) And you, Pauline?

ESTHER

She always has a Manhattan.

SID

Manhattan! Honey that is so old school! You're on the beach. Go crazy a little. You need a kickin' cocktail and I got just the thing. If you don't like, I'll bring ya your usual.

PAULINE

Okay. (Beat) You don't sound like you're from around here.

SID (*Confidential*)

I'm a retired transplant from a little place called Hoboken.

PAULINE

Jersey! We're from Brooklyn!

SID

Small world. I'll get your drinks.

ESTHER

And I want my gimlet real cold.

(*He gives her the "thumbs up" and EXITS.*)

PAULINE

That Sid ... such a sweet man.

ESTHER

A shyster, lookin' for a big tip.

(*She slathers on suntan lotion.*)

PAULINE

Esther! You need to relax and enjoy! Always lately you're like a sour glass of the Manischewitz.

ESTHER

We shoulda gone to Miami. We know people there.

PAULINE

Boring people who think fun is playin' Canasta every night.

ESTHER

You like Canasta.

PAULINE

Herb liked Canasta. I hate Canasta.

ESTHER

So you wait thirty years to tell me this? (Beat) You miss him?

PAULINE

I did at first. Five years and now, not so much.

ESTHER

But the loneliness.

PAULINE

I don't feel lonely. I feel like I'm livin' a life with no curfew, restrictions, compromisin' and yes ... no more Canasta.

ESTHER

That is a very weird thing to say, Pauline. Very disrespectful.

PAULINE

So I should lie about how I feel?

ESTHER

But you and Herb ... all those years married.

PAULINE

Good years. But now I'm on my own and I don't have to answer to nobody.

(Sid ENTERS, hands off their cocktails.
Esther takes a sip.)

SID

Cold enough?

ESTHER

Fine.

(Pauline sips her drink.)

PAULINE

This is delicious! What's it called?

SID

Myrtle Beach Sunrise.

PAULINE

Sunrise! Well, let my new day begin!

SID

Enjoy! I'll be back to check on ya.

(He EXITS.)

ESTHER

Let me taste.

(Pauline passes her drink to Esther.
She takes a sip.)

It's good. What's in it, do you think?

PAULINE

Liquid sunshine! (Beat) The beach, it is beautiful. The dunes ... I like the dunes.

ESTHER

It's not Miami.

PAULINE

It's better.

ESTHER

How better?

It's all new. I want that. PAULINE

What. ESTHER

A life that's different. PAULINE

At our age, it's too late for different. ESTHER

At our age? So what you want for us? Just to keep breathin' until we die? PAULINE

And I'd rather do that in Miami. ESTHER
(Pauline drains her drink. Sid returns.)

Another Pauline? SID

Yes sweetie. And get Esther one. PAULINE

Sure thing. SID
(He EXITS.)

I don't want a sunshine drink! ESTHER

Sunrise. PAULINE

Maury and I always had a gimlet. Maury and I -- ESTHER

-- Maury and I, Maury and I ... will you stop already with the Maury and I! Maury is dead! PAULINE

How can you speak like that to me! ESTHER

Seven years now you've been hidin' under the widow's veil, sittin' Shiva for yourself. Life goes on if you let it. You don't want to let it! PAULINE

I'm not like you. I don't want a life that's different. I want a life that can be the same as it used to be! ESTHER

PAULINE (*Softening*)
Esther, life just don't work that way.
(Sid reappears with their drinks.)

SID
Here you go! Cheers!
(He *EXITS*. Esther takes a tentative sip, sets the drink on the table. Pauline takes a healthier pull.)

PAULINE
Remember Eddie Bernstein's college graduation party?

ESTHER (*Terse*)
No.

PAULINE
You wouldn't chug the beer.

ESTHER
I hate beer and Eddie Bernstein was a pig!

PAULINE
That's better than what he called you.

ESTHER
I don't care what he called me. (Beat) What did he call me?

PAULINE
Prissy ass Esther.

ESTHER
The nerve of him!

PAULINE
Said you couldn't hold your liquor.

ESTHER
The liar!

PAULINE
He was right.

ESTHER (*Riled*)
You wanna see I can hold my liquor? I'm gonna drain this fruit juice drink right now!
(She guzzles until empty, rattles the cubes.)
There. You happy now? Eddie Bernstein was dead wrong!

PAULINE
We'll see if he was wrong. But you're right about the dead part.

ESTHER
Dead? Eddie?
(A nod in the affirmative from Pauline.)

PAULINE
A marathon runner ... 53 ... just keels over. (Beat) Dead happens.
You alright, Esther?

ESTHER
HmMMM ... I feel like maybe I just took a Valium.

PAULINE
I feel ... Remember that song *Mellow Yellow*? I feel mellow yellow.

ESTHER
Dingleman.

PAULINE
What?

ESTHER
The guy that sang the song.

PAULINE
It was Donovan.

(Singing.)
They call me mellow yellow
(Quite rightly)
They call me mellow yellow
(Quite rightly)

ESTHER (Singing)
I'm just mad about Fourteen,
Fourteen is mad about me --

PAULINE
-- I'm just mad about Fourteen,
Fourteen's just mad about me.

ESTHER (Giggling)
Fourteen! Who would ever have a name that was a number!

PAULINE
So maybe you could say to them, I got your number?

ESTHER
You can say whatever with words in a song.

PAULINE
And I'm mellow yellow.
(She is distracted.)
Esther, that man over there. He's giving you the once over.

ESTHER
What man? Where?

PAULINE
Over there! The tall, good-lookin' one with a full head of hair!