



JERRY'S WOMEN

by Herb Isaacs

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Jerry's women

by

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CHARACTERS

Jerry 75-85 years old; spry, financially solvent, divorced.

Ellen 75-80, Jerry's ex-wife; good looking, resourceful

Sheila 75-80, widow, good looking, kindly

SETTING

An up-scale Senior living facility

TIME

The Present

SCENE: COMMON ROOM, AFTERNOON

(Jerry is sitting in a comfortable chair next to a couch reading a newspaper. Ellen enters with a rolling suitcase. Jerry hears the noise and looks up.)

JERRY

Ellen! What the hell are you doing here?

ELLEN

Isn't it obvious? (points to suitcase) I'm moving in. What the hell are you doing here?

JERRY

I have been living here since the divorce, damn it. This is my place!

ELLEN

What, you mean you own it? I was told it was Happy Seniors, Incorporated.

JERRY

Of course I don't own the whole place. I mean just my apartment. And why are you moving here anyway? You got the house, for God's sake!

ELLEN

Yes, thanks for that. But I decided it was too big for me, so I'm renting it out. This just seems like a better place to stay.

JERRY

Well you can't stay here.

ELLEN

And why not?

JERRY

Because I was here first. And besides, you told me you never wanted to be anywhere near me again.

ELLEN

Well you don't get to decide who lives here, and just to show you how nice I can be, I won't tell you to leave. Just stay out of my way and we'll be fine.

JERRY

Oh no you don't! You made my life miserable enough for the last 40 years. I'm not going to suffer through that again.

ELLEN

What are you gonna do -- shoot me?

JERRY

The thought had occurred to me ... for several years as a matter of fact. No, all I want now is peace and quiet and the freedom to come and go, and do as I please. You'll have to find another place.

ELLEN

What's the big deal? Why is my being here such a problem?

JERRY

I don't want you around cramping my style.

ELLEN

What style?

JERRY

I might just be interested in being with a woman who actually enjoys my company.

ELLEN

Are you serious? There really is such a person?

JERRY

As a matter of fact there is, and I don't want you around screwing it up.

ELLEN

Now would I do that?

JERRY

Damn right you would. I know you only too well!

(Ellen comes close to Jerry and puts her arms around him.)

ELLEN

You mean like this?

(Sheila enters and sees couple in embrace.)

SHEILA

Whoa! I thought you said there was nobody else in your life.

JERRY

(Hurriedly breaks off from Ellen) This is not what you think it is.

SHEILA

Sure looks like what I think it is!

JERRY

Sheila...this is my EX-wife, Ellen. She just came here to annoy me.

SHEILA

So, when I hug you, does that annoy you too?

JERRY

No. No! I love hugging you. It's just Ellen that annoys me and she's been doing it for 40 years.

SHEILA

So Ellen, are you trying to get him back?

ELLEN

Hell No, not after what I know about him.

SHEILA

Now, there's an idea. Ellen, you and I should talk.

JERRY

Wait a minute! The problems in that marriage are all in the past, Sheila. You and I have something really nice going and we get along great.

SHEILA

Yeah, but I've only known you for a few months. She's got years on me.

JERRY

You're not really going to bad-mouth me, are you Ellen?

ELLEN

What's the matter, Jerry? Can't you stand the truth?