



ICELAND

By Michael Tooher

A SMITH SCRIPT

This script is protected by copyright laws.
No performance of this script – IN ANY MEDIA – may be undertaken without payment of the
appropriate fee and obtaining a licence.

For further information, please contact SMITH SCRIPTS at info@smithscripts.co.uk

Iceland

Michael Toohar

SETTING: THE APARTMENT OF THE CHADIWICK FAMILY

Character List - Iceland

Max Chadiwick

50ish. male. A failed revolutionary turned technical writer who enjoys strong drink. The father.

Eudora Chadiwick

50ish. female, Max's wife. A stay at home mom with a pill habit and a hazy belief that it's 1957.

Danielle Chadiwick

17, female, the daughter. An anorexia positive hellion who wants to be famous by any means necessary.

Preston Chadiwick

17, male, the son. A troubled young man who finds self empowerment by transforming into a Viking.

Sonja Henie

40ish, female. The 1940's skating sensation and movie star whose spirit lives in the Chadiwick's TV set.

Tad/Jeremy/Doctor Wittgenstein/Viking

Various ages. All these parts are played by a single 20ish male actor.

2 Plot Summaries - Iceland

A Very Brief Summary

A troubled teenager finds empowerment by transforming himself into a Viking with the help of Sonja Henie who lives in the family's TV set.

A Somewhat Longer Summary

PRESTON is a troubled, questioning youth dealing with all the issues that adolescence brings.

Alas, his loving family isn't as helpful as they could be. His father MAX is a failed revolutionary but an extremely successful tosspot. Mother EUDORA has a serious prescription medication jones and a hazy belief that it's 1957.

Adding to PRESTON's tension level is his sister DANIELLE. She's a 17 year old anorexia positive fashionista with a secret plan to become famous by making a sex tape. This is proving rather difficult because she can't bear to be touched.

Just as things look darkest for our young hero, help arrives in the person of SONJA HENIE. The 40's champion ice skater and movie star appears to him through the TV set and offers a glimmer of hope:

Embrace your inner Viking.

PRESTON agrees, seeking empowerment by assuming the guise of a Nordic pirate.

Difficulties arise as he transforms since even his family, whose concept of sanity is very loosely defined indeed, are considering having him committed. PRESTON is rescued from this dire fate by the timely appearance of his Viking horde and he sails away. In his wake he leaves his parents in a state of pharmaceutically reinforced denial.

The play ends with SONJA merrily calling for DANIELLE, beckoning her to come to the TV set....

ACT I

Scene I

An apartment.

A dining area is stage right, the living room is center. Doors lead off to the entrance and two bedrooms.

Elegant forty years ago, it's now a mite shabby. The space is overcrowded with sundry and odd mementos, books and cartons from various home shopping networks.

Sitting on a couch center stage, grasping a pill container in one hand and a phone in the other is EUDORA CHADIWICK, a middle aged woman.

She is staring at a TV set tuned to a home shopping network. The TV set has been muted. The light from the set illuminates her face.

Long pause.

Suddenly, a bell rings.

EUDORA

(Urgently, into the phone.)

Yes...yes?

Pause. EUDORA looks at the phone. There is no response.

EUDORA

Yes?

A bell rings. EUDORA stares at the phone.

EUDORA

(almost in tears)

Yes? What? What, what, what?

Pause.

The bell rings again. EUDORA tears her attention from the TV and starts to look around frantically. She spies the medication timer just as it goes off again.

EUDORA

Oh.

She opens the pill container and starts to count out pills.

EUDORA

One. No...two.

(Beat)

Oh...three. Three will be fun. Three is always fun.

She takes the three pills. Long pause. EUDORA seems instantly calmer.

EUDORA

Now...that's better. Huh?

(Beat)

Why, yes it is!

EUDORA arranges herself.

EUDORA

OK now....phone....

(She picks it up carefully)

Phone...check. Now...hmmm...TV. TV....

She searches around on the cluttered coffee table for the remote. Finding it, she juggles the phone, the remote and the pill container for a bit.

EUDORA

Wait, don't need these for a bit now, do I?

She drops the pill container haphazardly on the table.

EUDORA

There.

She stares at the TV set for a moment.

EUDORA

Ok now...now...wait...ah...

(Beat)

Anti-mute!

She presses a button on the remote and much to EUDORA's surprise and pleasure, the audio comes on. It's the voice of a female announcer.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

...why I do believe that's the quickest sellout we've had. A four times the size of life bust of Hermann Goring.

EUDORA

I love his music.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

One hundred and fourteen units sold in twenty seven seconds.

(Beat)

Of course, it's just so practical. This gigantic bust would make a perfect loveseat...

EUDORA

Awww...of course it would....

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

But now, the What Would Jesus Buy network is proud to offer the latest child rearing book by America's teenage tough love expert, the Reverend Dr. Lacey Merriweather Bacon!

EUDORA

Ooooooo....

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Dr. Bacon is the best selling author of several prizewinning books...

EUDORA

She's good...

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

...including “Spare the Rod, Raise a Terrorist” and “Swing and a Miss, Biblical Permissions For Beating your Teenage Daughter”...

EUDORA

I have those.

(Looks around)

Do I have those?

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

...is today introducing her latest book, exclusively here on WWJB...

EUDORA

Oh!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

...it’s called “The Daddy Hammer, Bringing Fear and Faith to the Teenage Flock.”

EUDORA mutes the TV.

EUDORA

Max will want that...

(Picks up the phone)

I would like a copy please. No...two copies...wait...

EUDORA looks at the phone then at the TV for an instant then back at the phone.

EUDORA (cont'd)

Oh. Hmm...

(Beat)

Right, right...I call them.

The cuckoo clock on the wall chimes. EUDORA turns to face it for a moment. Suddenly the sound of someone coming up the stairs is heard.

Dropping the phone, EUDORA runs into the kitchen. Banging and clattering is heard, growing more intense by the moment.

Just as the footsteps approach the door EUDORA appears dressed in a 50's Donna Reed housewife ensemble. She's holding an elaborate tropical drink and a plate of very fancy looking canapes. EUDORA dashes to the door and puckers up.

The door immediately opens as she steps into place.

MAX enters.

MAX

Why...

(Smiles)

Mrs. Chadiwick...

EUDORA

Mr. Chadiwick.

They kiss chastely. EUDORA offers the drink.

EUDORA (cont'd)

How was your day, Mr. Chadiwick?

MAX slips off his coat, which he kicks into the corner. He takes the drink.

MAX

Good, Mrs. Chadiwick. Productive.

(Beat)

I wrote.

EUDORA

You did?

MAX

I did.

(Beat)

An entire chapter. Chapter 7.

EUDORA

Concerning?

MAX

Concerning the proper care, cleaning and maintenance of the 700 series Samsung DVD/VHS/MP3 player.

(Beat)

I was trying to be pithy and bright but at the same time convey a gentle wisp of concern for the downtrodden souls who make these items.

EUDORA

No doubt.

MAX

Afterward I had planned to check the Internet for the absolute latest information regarding the condition of the laboring classes around the world but...

EUDORA

But?

MAX

I fell asleep.

(Beat. MAX sips his drink.)

Guava? With an infusion?

EUDORA

(Happily)

Yes!

MAX

Of?

EUDORA

You can't tell? You can't guess?

MAX

Well...

(Beat)

I can taste the usual assortment of five different rums...

EUDORA

Of course.

MAX

But...

(Beat. MAX sips his drink)

You have perplexed me.

EUDORA

Passion fruit!

MAX

Amazing. Well done Mrs. Chadiwick.

(Beat)

What news of the children?

EUDORA

Ours?

MAX

Indeed.

EUDORA

Ah...

(Beat. She looks at the clock)

Home presently.

(Beat)

Less than a minute, it appears.

MAX heads to the couch.

MAX

Good.

(Beat)

I like a consistent regularity.

The front door is opening slowly and quietly. Presently DANIELLE and PRESTON's heads appear.

DANIELLE

Well?

PRESTON

Shut up.

