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Sheila and Angelo sample pages

by

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The lights go down. Lights up on Sheila at the kitchen table with pen and paper, a prescription bottle on the table. Angelo is in bed sleeping. Sheila starts to write and reads aloud or there is a voice over.

SHEILA

We watched Mom and our three Aunts die from this disease and as bad as it was for them I think it was worse for us. I don't want your final memories of me to be clouded by my last agonizing moments on this earth. Please say goodbye to Les for me. He's a good man. Make sure he calls the number I left on his machine. It's Debbie, Dr. Lebow's nurse. If I see anybody we know on the other side I'll say hello for you. Love , Sheila.

She folds the letter and starts to put it in an envelope. Stops. She unfolds the paper writes again.

SHEILA (CONT'D)

PS. Get a hearing aid. It's not the phone system it's you.

Sheila replaces it in the envelope. She picks up her prescription bottle and looks at Angelo. (Pause)She puts the pills down.

SHEILA (CONT'D)

Angelo I can't leave you alone. You'd be broken hearted . I love you too much. You're going to get your wish.

She goes to the stove, blows out the pilot lights and turns the gas jets up full blast. She lies next to Angelo holding his hand. The lights go down. Spotlight up on Sheila and Angelo standing downstage. An image of Sheila and Angelo holding hands is projected onto the bed sheets of a vertical bed.

ANGELO

This is a weird dream.

SHEILA

It's not a dream. I blew out the pilot lights and turned on the gas after you went to sleep.

ANGELO
I just bought all that chicken
broth.

SHEILA
We won't be needing it.

ANGELO
Oh my God!

SHEILA
Isn't it romantic? How we're lying
there holding hands.

ANGELO
It does look serene.
(Pause)
What are you crazy?

SHEILA
Like Uncle Nunzio. In your sleep.

ANGELO
Sheila that was a joke. I don't
have an Uncle Nunzio.

SHEILA
You don't? All these years I
thought you did.

ANGELO
What in God's name did you do for
Christ sakes? Let's shut the gas
and open the God damn windows.

Lights up as Angelo moves around the apartment trying to shut
the gas and open the windows but finds he is without form and
cannot.

ANGELO (CONT'D)
This can't be happening. I can't
get a grip on anything.
(He tries the door.)
God damn it!

SHEILA
If I were you I wouldn't take the
Lord's name in vain right now. He's
probably angry already because we
committed suicide.

ANGELO
**We committed suicide?! You
committed suicide. I was murdered!**

SHEILA

Are you upset? You wanted to die in your sleep?

ANGELO

But not in the prime of my life.

(Laughs)

No! No, no, no, Let me calm down. I'll wake up and everything will be fine. This is a nightmare.

SHEILA

Spending eternity with me is a nightmare? I did this because you told me you wouldn't want to live without me and this is how you act? You're never happy with anything I do.

ANGELO

I know what it is. We were talking about getting older. You spent twenty bucks on wine and now I'm having a nightmare.

SHEILA

If we were alive it'd be a nightmare.

ANGELO

Why? Your sister's coming to live with us?

SHEILA

Very funny! You never pay any attention to anything going on in my life. I went to Dr. Lebow today and you didn't ask me what he had to say.

ANGELO

I don't remember you telling me you were going.

SHEILA

That's because I didn't want you to worry.

ANGELO

How can I ask about something I don't know?

SHEILA

Well I got bad news! The worst.

ANGELO

Oh honey! You beat it once. You'll bounce back.

SHEILA

This is advanced stage. I'm in my late sixties. There's no bounce back. Only sag and droop.

ANGELO

Early seventies but no matter I'm here for you.

SHEILA

So you're not mad about the gas?

Angelo releases her and runs frantically around the apartment trying to shut the gas and open windows without any success.

ANGELO

God damn it!

SHEILA

Again with the swearing? If we get in trouble I swear I'm going to act like I don't know you.

Angelo tries to open a window.

ANGELO

Don't stand there. Do something!

SHEILA

What am I going to do? Every time the window gets stuck I get you to open it. If you can't, what makes you think I can?

ANGELO

This is the craziest thing you've ever done! Why didn't you talk to me?

SHEILA

I wanted it to be a surprise.

ANGELO

You surprise people with birthday parties not death!

SHEILA

You're angry. I can tell.

ANGELO

There were other alternatives we could have discussed.

SHEILA

Like what?

ANGELO

Like killing yourself and letting me live.

SHEILA

Oh, sure. You think I'm going to let you take up with one of these young bimbos. With me not around you'd be spending my insurance money like water and eating your vitamins like candy.

ANGELO

You did this because you thought I might have a good time? I'm seventy years old for Christ's sake.

SHEILA

I thought you'd be happy. We both went in our sleep, together, but no, instead you're thinking about the good time you would have had.

ANGELO

You should have discussed this with me.

SHEILA

Like you never made a decision without me?

ANGELO

Only if I knew what you wanted.

SHEILA

Like this place? When you picked the corner unit you didn't ask me.

ANGELO

I thought you loved the corner unit?

SHEILA

I do but what if I didn't? You always think you know what I want. You never consult me.

ANGELO
Consult?! You didn't even ask me if
I wanted to die.

SHEILA
So, you want to live without me?

ANGELO
I'm not saying that. I'm just
saying..

SHEILA
I know what you're saying and it's
going to be a long, long, long time
before you get to play around with
me.

ANGELO
We're dead. I can't even open the
window.

SHEILA
You felt me when we hugged?

ANGELO
Yeah.
(Extends his hand to touch
her)
Let me.

SHEILA
(walking away)
No. Keep your hands to yourself.
I'm not in the mood. If you don't
like it, go be dead with someone
else.

ANGELO
I don't want to be dead with anyone
else.

SHEILA
Yeah, right. I know your motive.

ANGELO
There's other stuff, poker, a good
steak..

SHEILA
With your cholesterol? You'd put
yourself in an early grave.

ANGELO

Considering the situation. I think it's inappropriate to lecture me on this topic.

SHEILA

Oy! This is going to be something you're not going to let me forget. Every time we argue it's going to be "Oh yeah. What about the time you killed me."

ANGELO

It's a major life changing event.

SHEILA

If it's our last moments let's not fight. I wouldn't want to go through this alone.

ANGELO

We don't fight. We have loud discussions. My poor baby. I don't ever want to let you go.

There is a loud banging on the door. Marlene and Becky are outside the door off stage with Debbie and Jeff who are now in their EMT uniforms. They pound on the door and we hear shouts of open up, etc.

MARLENE

We were knocking before and nobody answered.

BECKY

I smelled the gas all the way over in 16. I phoned and they didn't answer.

ANGELO

We must have been unconscious.

SHEILA

Or dead. Damn yentas. You can't even die without them sticking their two cents in.

ANGELO

You left dirty dishes in the sink.
(They run to the sink to
remove the dishes)

SHEILA

I must have been preoccupied with committing suicide.

JEFF

Ladies, please wait out in the parking lot.

Sheila and Angelo relax and forget about the dishes.

SHEILA

Good. They're not coming in.

MARLENE

Okay. Sheila. Angelo, wake up!

BECKY

Oh my God ! This is terrible. Those poor people.

DEBBIE

I'll open a window.

JEFF

Break it if you have to.

DEBBIE

This ones not locked! Whew!

A window on set opens.

JEFF

Here goes.

The door comes crashing in. Jeff enters and heads straight to the oven and turns off the gas jets. Debbie enters and opens more windows..

ANGELO

Speaking of the devil. There's Debbie.

SHEILA

At this point in time, I'd rather not speak of the devil.

JEFF

I'll get the old guy. You try the woman.

The EMT's go to the bed and work on the images of Sheila and Angelo. Jeff works on Angelo and Debbie works on Sheila. Sheila and Angelo observe them.

SHEILA

She said she was working as an EMT.
So that's what they do. They're
like firemen.

ANGELO

Isn't that the cop that pulled us
over?

JEFF

I'm getting a pulse. Come on
breathe, Pop, breathe.

ANGELO

Hey he's doing a good job!

Angelo starts to go to his image on the bed.

SHEILA

Don't leave me, Angelo. Stay with
me.

ANGELO

Maybe it's not my time.

DEBBIE

This one's not making it. I'm
getting nothing.

ANGELO

Come on, Sheila, try.

SHEILA

Angelo. Stay.

ANGELO

I can't help it!

Angelo places himself atop his bed image. We hear Angelo gasp
for breath.

JEFF

This guy is coming around.

ANGELO

Cough! Cough! Ahh! Ahh!

DEBBIE

Nothing on this one.

JEFF

Let me help.

Jeff moves to Debbie and helps with CPR. Angelo moves away from the bed and turns to watch.

DEBBIE
Maybe we shouldn't try.

JEFF
Why?

DEBBIE
She goes to the Doctor I work for.
She's riddled with cancer.

JEFF
They must have been trying for a
double suicide.
(Checking pulse)
I'm not getting anything.

SHEILA
Angelo. I'm going to miss you.

JEFF
At least we saved one.
(He turns and notices
Angelo not on his bed
image)
Sir, please lie back down. Don't
exert yourself.

ANGELO
Sheila!
(Gets out of bed and
stands. He clutches his
chest)

DEBBIE
Angelo! Lay down don't strain
yourself.

ANGELO
I want my SHEILA!
(Collapses back onto his
image.)

Debbie and Jeff rush to Angelo and start working on him.

SHEILA
Oh, my God! Angelo!

JEFF
He went into cardiac arrest. Don't
die on me. I had you breathing.
Come on, breathe. breathe.

DEBBIE
Maybe we shouldn't try so hard if
this is what they wanted.

JEFF
I'm getting nothing.
(Looking at Angelo)
Wait a minute. I know these people.

DEBBIE
You do?

JEFF
Yeah! I pulled them over once on my
day job. They were a couple of love
birds. She was rushing to get him
in the sack.

Angelo moves away from the bed and starts walking toward
Sheila.

SHEILA
Oh, honey!

JEFF
She was all excited about the pup
tent he had in his pants.

Angelo stops walking.

ANGELO
Oh Jesus! Again this guy with the
pup tent!

Angelo slaps EMT Jeff's head. Jeff turns around bewildered
not seeing anyone.

SHEILA
You're back.

ANGELO
I couldn't leave you.

SHEILA
(She hugs him)
I can feel you again.

JEFF
I get the guy breathing and he goes
from a heart attack.

SHEILA

You hear? A heart attack! Why do you think I was harping on you about cholesterol? I knew you were going to have a heart attack. I was warning you all along. You never wanted to listen. All you did was complain about my nagging and you see what happened? It's your own fault.

ANGELO

I come back and again you're going to start?

JEFF

Come on. Let's get the gurney.

DEBBIE

(To the Sheila corpse)
Sheila. Your nephew called. You're right. He's a nice guy. I'm seeing him next Wednesday.

SHEILA

Oh! I'm so glad to hear that.

DEBBIE

It's romantic in a sad way.

JEFF

If you got to go that's the way. In your sleep. My Uncle Albert went like that. He was a bus driver.

They exit leaving the door open.

SHEILA

You hear? Romantic! In your sleep like you wanted.

ANGELO

It's a shock. You wake up to find you're not waking up.

SHEILA

At least you have company.
(They hug)

ANGELO

Sheila. The door. It's open.

SHEILA

What should we do?

ANGELO

I think we should walk out. What do you think?

SHEILA

I agree. Let's do it.

Sheila and Angelo hold hands.

SHEILA (CONT'D)

This is good. We consulted and made a decision.

ANGELO

Let's pray it's a good one.

THEY WALK THROUGH THE DOORWAY. A BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT SHINES THROUGH.

The End