

Three Windows

Written by
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For the
ATYP Home Theatre series

CAST:

Emmy, granddaughter

Doug, granddad

NOTES:

In this script, the characters are identified as a granddaughter and grandfather. However, full permission is given for edits along gender, age and relationship lines, as applicable. If your household requires that the pair be a boy and his great-aunt, then go with that option. Pronouns and descriptions can of course be changed accordingly.

Thanks for bringing it to life – sure you’ll do wonderfully.

This play is viewed from outside, Emmy (a child or teenager) and Doug (her grandfather) visible in two windows, denoting two rooms of a shared home. They stare out at the world.

Emmy: Granddad?

Doug: Yeah, kiddo?

Emmy: Have you ever been inside this long?

Doug: Sure. When I grew up – when I was about your age – there was this er... this explosion. At a... lab thing right next door to the family farm.

Emmy: An explosion?

Doug: Big one. The farm was okay but the lab see, it'd been working on... a new kind of cake. Vanilla one. And there was so much vanilla dust in the air/

Emmy: /I've never heard of vanilla dust.

Doug: Oh it's a thing. There was so much of it you couldn't breathe. So they made us all stay inside for a while.

Emmy: How's long a while?

Doug: Six years.

Emmy: Woah.

Doug: I was eleven when I came in from playing cricket – 17 when they let us out.

Emmy: Is that true?

Doug: Hundred percent.

They return to staring out.

Doug: What about you?

Emmy: What?

Doug: You been inside for a while before?

Emmy: Well I was grounded for four days once.

Doug: Oh yeah. What'd you do again?

Emmy: Rob a bank.

Doug: That's right. Get away with much?

Emmy: Two million.

Doug: Good effort.

Emmy: And there was that excursion I went on.

Doug: Yeah?

Emmy: It was a... a submarine one.

Doug: Submarine is it?

Emmy: Yeah. We were meant to go to this bush-camp, up the coast, but... all the school buses were booked out.

Doug: Hate it when that happens.

Emmy: Me too. So Mr Cogan, he remembered his brother had this submarine.

Doug: Just lying around?

Emmy: Think so. And he made a call, and we all met it at the harbour, and climbed in and headed... to the place.

Doug: Bush-camp. Up the coast.

Emmy: Exactly. Headed there. But oh no.

Doug: Bad news was it?

Emmy: *[Nods sombrely]* We. Got. Lost.

Doug: Bugger.

Emmy: Ended up being down there for... two months. All squidged together like that. Just squidged in a submarine together.

Doug: Two months is a fair while. Bet you got some stories.

Emmy: *[Shrugs]* Nah – we've never really talked about it since it happened.

Doug: *[Nods]* Why would ya?

They both stare out at the world again.

Emmy: Do all old people know each other?

Doug: Mostly.

Emmy: So you know that guy? With the dog?

Doug: Him, not so much. *[Beat]* I mean, yeah we played in a rock band together for a few years, toured the world but... haven't chatted for ages. The dog though. *[Nods]*

Emmy: You know the dog?

Doug: Mr Sunshine. Used to live here actually.

Emmy: In my house?

Doug: In your room. Before you came along, your mum and dad had him as a kid. When you turned up they gave him to that guy. All your clothes are actually hand-me-downs from the dog.

Emmy: Is that true?

Doug: Hundred percent.

They stare out at the world again.

Emmy: You like living with us?

Doug: Sure.

Emmy: You still think of Nan lots?

Doug: Always. *[Thinks]* Least a couple of times an hour I reckon.

Emmy: Like when something reminds you of her?

Doug: Nah. It's just like... She's waiting off to the edge. Like you and me can be chatting. Or... we're all eating tea. And yeah she's... just there. Just smiling. Just watching.

Emmy: She was always quiet.

Doug: Mm.

Both stare out at the world once more.

Emmy: She there now?

Doug: Course she is.

Emmy: Is that true?

Doug: Hundred percent.

Emmy smiles and both watch the world go by.

The End