

SIDE 1 MAVIS-MARGIE-GLADYS

MARGIE, MAVIS & GLADYS have just brought a body at their hidden cemetery in the woods.

MARGIE

I can't believe we are doing this again, **so soon.**

GLADYS

We've dug a lot of holes.

MARGIE

[Looking at two of the graves] Hello, Max. *[at another grave]* Hi, Byron.

GLADYS and MAVIS

[with contempt in their voices] Byron.

MARGIE

He wasn't that bad.

MAVIS

Byron was mean.

GLADYS

We were worried about you when he was around. Byron was crazy, you couldn't trust him.

MAVIS

Remember that time he chased me out of your house! I thought he was going to kill me.

MARGIE

[Remembering fondly-giggling] Yeah. *[beat]* I'm glad we did this. *[Indicating the cemetery]* Aren't you? This is special, only to us. Three best friends, a couple of flashlights, and a shovel.

MAVIS

Well, if you can't bury bodies with your best friends, who can you bury bodies with?

GLADYS

Exactly!

MARGIE

It's spiritual here too. The three of us on these hallowed grounds together. Can you feel it?

MAVIS/ GLADYS

No/I feel it!

MAVIS

No, you don't.

GLADYS

I do too!

MARGIE

Try it, Mavis. *Feel it. Feel the power of three.*

MAVIS

Father, Son, the Holy Spirit.

GLADYS

Mind, body, and soul

MARGIE

Prue, Piper, Pheobe. *[GLADYS & MAVIS look at her] [Playfully] What? I'm charming. [She accidentally hits MAVIS'S injured arm]*

MAVIS

Ouch! Damn it, Marg!

MARGIE

Oh! I'm so sorry. You probably could use some Tylenol or something.

MAVIS

This is why we can't keep doing this. We're ancient, feeble women! When we were younger, and crazier, yeah, no problem. I'm too old to dig graves. My sciatica flares up, and then I'm hanging upside down on my Teeter inversion table for a week! I want to retire from our covert nightly rendezvous in this forest. I want to sit on my porch, get hammered drinking wine out of a box, and yell at people to stay off my lawn.

GLADYS

You do that anyway! This is just breaking up the monotony.

MARGIE

This is something we will always have with each other. How many friends can say that?

GLADYS

Zero! We could be playing boring bingo with other blue-hairs. Or getting fat and lazy just watching our stories on the Bravo network. At least this way we get our exercise. We are so lucky we have this.

MAVIS

Not so lucky when you've got an apex predator stalking you. What if the bear digs up Pete?!

GLADYS

Don't say that! What a horrible thing to say!

MAVIS

It's your fault we're out here tonight.

GLADYS

It's Pete's fault!

MAVIS

Pete's rotting!

GLADYS

Don't start blaming me for this. We've all done it.

MAVIS

Yes! But when does it stop? Margie and I have already sworn off companions. They're a hassle to deal with at our old age.

GLADYS

Well, I hate being alone. It's sad, it's depressing. Alone is...empty. Who wants to feel like that? *[pointing to the body-bag]* Was Pete annoying? Yes! *[talking to the body-bag]* You're annoying, Pete! *[turning back to the women]* Was dragging a frozen body through the woods, on the wrong non-existent trail, a pian in the ass? Yes! But he gave me some meaning. Isn't that important?

MARGGIE

Of course it is.

GLADYS

Pete made me happy and kept me busy. Without a Pete in my life, I would be bothering the two of you...*all the time*. Imagine that!

MAVIS

I guess Pete was helpful.

GLADYS

Well, imagine how bad it would have been if there was no Pete. So, I need companion to keep me off your front porch annoying you like a little gnat in your ear. I can't be in my big old house alone, with no one to share it with, no one to talk to. Being alone, with your own thoughts, and isolated, time hardly ticking away, is not healthy for people our age. It makes old people like us go crazy. And I refuse to become a crazy old *cat* lady!

MARGIE/MAVIS

God forbid!/ Fuck no!

GLADYS

Exactly! Being alone sucks, and I can't do it, I won't do it, so I will forever be doing *[waving the shovel at them]* this!

MARGIE takes the shovel from GLADYS and starts to dig for her.

MAVIS

[Beat] I get it. It's just that, we seem to be outliving everyone. This cemetery will be bursting at the seams if we aren't careful. That's all I'm saying.

MARGIE

I know what you mean, Gladys. I fell in love with Max the minute we met. He was the best thing that ever happened to me. He kept me social. He got me out of the house. I was scared to go outside when my mind was first starting to get *slippery*. It would be easy to become a hostage in your own house when you're that scared. What if I step outside to get the newspaper, and I get turned around, and things are suddenly unfamiliar, and I can't remember my way back into the house from the sidewalk? Legitimate fear. (Beat) I know you've seen me do it. You know I get a bit scatter-brained sometimes.

MAVIS

You're doing really good.

MARGIE

You would think that, since I haven't been honest. I didn't want to scare you but it's getting worse. It's been getting dangerous so I think it's time you knew. The other night, on my way home from the grocery store, I thought I was on the main road, but I wasn't. And I almost drove my car right off a boat ramp and into Carson Lake!

MAVIS/GLADYS

[Concerned] What?/Oh my God

MARGIE

Yeah. Imagine it. Go ahead. It should terrify you. You guys wouldn't have known what happened to me. I would have just disappeared. That was a close one. I didn't even realize until the last second that I wasn't on a road at all but a ramp, headed straight to drowning inside my car.

MAVIS

Marg, this is something you aren't allowed to keep from us. This is serious.

MARGIE

I know it is.

GLADYS

I didn't know it was that serious. I mean, I knew stuff, but not like this. I see you all the time, how didn't I know?

MARGIE

I didn't give you any major signs, Gladys. Not if I could help it.

MAVIS

Why didn't you tell us it was this bad?

MARGIE

I just wasn't ready to. Once I say it out loud, it becomes...real. [Standing at Max's grave] Things have been hard. It would be more tolerable if he were still around. You are right, Gladys. Being alone sucks.