

A Splendid Place

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A Splendid Place is a comedy about Hannah, a successful television news anchor, who wants to continue to climb her career ladder. Unfortunately, her co-anchor is a nightmare and one day she punches him on-air. When she returns to her hometown for a short reprieve, Hannah's feisty, yet ailing grandmother announces her desire for an assisted death. Hannah's mother, Elaine, is staunchly against it and the conflict begins. Simultaneously, three suitors sniff around vying for Hannah's attention, and she questions her own life choices.

Characters

Hannah (35) professional broadcaster

Elaine (60) Hannah's mother

Viola (85) Hannah's sassy grandmother

Jasper (35) Hannah's high school sweetheart

Asad (25) Elaine's neighbour, he helps out with odd jobs

Edwin (45) Hannah's former on-air radio partner

Settings

Living room at Elaine's house, where Viola lives in a comfortable chair

Outside Bowman's Coffee House

The log at the lake

A studio at the radio station

Notes

The scene titles are for reference only

Forward slash (/) indicates overlapping with the following line until the next (/)

Thanks to Zahida Rahemtulla for the cultural consultation on this scene.

Scene – The Date

(Off stage, we hear several failed attempts to start a car. Hannah enters cursing.)

HANNAH: Stupid piece of shit...

(ASAD enters, casually eating a date)

ASAD: Where ya going?

HANNAH: I gotta get out of here.

ASAD: I don't get a re-do on our date?

HANNAH: Do you know anything about cars?

ASAD: Of course. *(Offering a date)* Want one?

HANNAH: Gross. It looks like you're eating a giant cockroach.

ASAD: Try it.

(HANNAH takes the date and holds it. She is shivering.)

HANNAH: I wanna go home.

ASAD: You are home.

HANNAH: To save my job.

ASAD: Do you have your grandmother's death penciled onto your schedule?

HANNAH: Are you lecturing me?

ASAD: Yes.

HANNAH: What if I just want to feel sorry for myself for a second?

ASAD: Boring.

HANNAH: Not for me.

ASAD: Let me understand... you want to fight for your old job... the one with the guy with the black eye?

HANNAH: It was hard to get there.

ASAD: Uh-huh.

HANNAH: I may never work again.

ASAD: Sounds pretty good to me.

HANNAH: This is a terrible lecture.

ASAD: You wanted to talk about you.

HANNAH: I'm the one in crisis.

ASAD: Because you will never work again?

HANNAH: Because my mother is preposterous.

ASAD: So that is where you get it from.

HANNAH: She took a swing at me!

ASAD: That's not good. Why?

HANNAH: Pardon me?

ASAD: Why did she want to hit you?

HANNAH: We disagree about everything. It's exhausting. She's closed-minded.

ASAD: She's terrified.

HANNAH: So am I.

ASAD: She is the one losing everything... her father, her mother... you.

HANNAH: Are you on her side?

ASAD: She does pay me... and give me cookies.

HANNAH: She made you build a fence in her yard to keep *you* out.

ASAD: And then, she invited me over to her house every day ever since. (*Beat*) She always speaks highly of you.

HANNAH: She does?

ASAD: Bragging, beaming. *(Beat)* She will be your only family remaining, yes?

HANNAH: I have some cousins.

ASAD: Where are they today?

HANNAH: They'll come.

ASAD: A funeral is too late.

HANNAH: *(Shivering)* Why can't I get warm? Can I borrow your sweater, or some body heat, or something.

ASAD: You want my arms around you?

(ASAD holds her)

HANNAH: I want to go so badly.

ASAD: Punch and run... this apple did not fall far from this tree. *(Beat)* Eat your date.

(HANNAH takes a bite and scrunches her face, but eats the rest the during the following)

HANNAH: It's the texture. *(Beat)* You're going to make me go back in there.

ASAD: You could stay with me all night if you like.

HANNAH: Do I have to forgive her?

ASAD: Start by making her feel listened to.

HANNAH: Sounds easy.

ASAD: It's up to you. *(Beat)* But, no, you absolutely cannot leave your grandmother.

HANNAH: I better go in.

(Lights shift)