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Dramatic Publishing

A Mustache and a Mattress

by
Nancy Gall-Clayton

From...

35 in 10

Thirty-Five Ten-Minute Plays

Compiled and Edited

KENT R. BROWN



Dramatic Publishing

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A MUSTACHE AND A MATTRESS

By
Nancy Gall-Clayton

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A Mustache and a Mattress was first produced in 2001 by Love Creek Productions at the Creative Place Theatre in New York City.

CHARACTERS

ROSIE: A shopper, a woman with a mission.

BURT: A mustachioed man, also with a mission.

SETTING: A store. A mattress with a sign reading “Special” placed next to it.

TIME: The present.

A MUSTACHE AND A MATTRESS

AT THE CURTAIN: *ROSIE enters, sees the sign, and makes a delighted little gesture. She goes to the mattress, touches it, traces the pattern, looks around to make sure she's not being observed, and leans down to touch her face to the mattress. She looks at the tag, drops her pocketbook on the mattress, and quickly descends to check the "bounce factor." She is investigating this mattress every way but lying on it when BURT strolls in. ROSIE is so engaged she doesn't notice.*

BURT. Thinking of a new mattress?

ROSIE. Oh! Hello.

BURT. Thinking of a new mattress?

ROSIE. Thinking of a new person.

BURT. When it comes to mattresses—

ROSIE. It has come to mattresses.

BURT. And you've come to the best mattress store in town.

ROSIE. Your...uh...mustache.

BURT. You need a new mattress?

ROSIE. Yes, he's staying the weekend. What a beautiful mus—

BURT. For the new man.

ROSIE. No, no, not new.

BURT. Right, but he's staying the weekend. This weekend?

ROSIE. Yes, but—

BURT. Under your roof.

ROSIE. Under your nose is the most glorious mustache.
BURT. A new man is staying the weekend under your roof? You need a mattress, and we have an excellent one on special.
ROSIE. Not under my sheets, you understand. Well, they're my sheets, of course, but not *my* sheets. When did you start growing your—
BURT. A light sleeper? A man who tosses and turns? A man who stretches out? A tall man?
ROSIE. Yes, but not a new man.
BURT. An old man? Your grandfather perhaps?
ROSIE. Not exactly. How long have you had that mustache? If I may ask.
BURT. My whole life. This mattress has a lifetime warranty.
ROSIE. Absurd. The mustache, I mean. Not *the* mustache, the "mustache for life" comment.
BURT. Since puberty, I've had it since puberty. The mustache, I mean.
ROSIE. You've never cut it?
BURT. Trimmed, yes. Cut, no. A complimentary pad comes with this particular mattress. Quilted. Satin. Your choice of three colors.
ROSIE. Is it religious, Burt? I may call you "Burt," may I not? It's on your name tag in big navy blue curlicue letters like your you-know-what. It's not a secret or anything, is it?
BURT. I'm Burt.
ROSIE. I'm Rosie. Is it religious?
BURT. My mustache?
ROSIE. Certain religions don't believe in hair cutting.
BURT. I trim it.