

Stormy Weather

By Alan S Austin

**Arizona Performing Arts Theatre
2641 E Beekman Place,
Phoenix,
Arizona 85016**

E-Mail : austinas@cox.net

Tel: 602 3271222

CHARACTERS

Charlie 60+

Doris 55+

An easy chair S.L. Box which is TV D.R. Small table and chair with some flowers on and a cloth.

CHARLIE

As the lights come up he is behind his open newspaper.

Cor, look at that!

(pause)

Would you believe it! He must be over seventy.

Moves to another page of the newspaper. He reads

Dear Abby: I have been reasonably happily married for forty years. Now I have fallen in love with another woman. She and I get on wonderfully and we enjoy each other's company. We' have a wonderful sex life.

(he pauses)

Um...um...

he continues reading

I haven't told her I am in love with her. Should I tell my wife? Aging and Guilty in Arizona. Dear Aging and Guilty: The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence. I suggest you tell your wife the truth and get counselling to try to repair the damage. Honesty is always the best policy.

He stops reading

No... I don't agree Sometimes honesty isn't the best policy. Does she need to know? I usually agree with you Abby and like your articles. Well, At least you learn that you're not the only one with problems. Doris. Doris?

He puts the newspaper down and we see his face for the first time.

Oh, I thought she was here.

(he bellows)

Doris?

(pause)

(like a lost child)

Doris??

Enter Doris breezily with upscale shopping bags. She is wearing a coat and hat. She puts her bags down, carefully takes off her gloves which are good quality. Checks her bags.

DORIS

Just came in the door. Goodness it was busy out there. That Mercedes is a beautiful car. Drives like silk. Everybody looks at it.

(Removes her hat and coat)

CHARLIE

Shopping?

DORIS

I told you I was going shopping.

CHARLIE

Huh! Save money did you?

DORIS

Of course dear. Don't I always? No point buying anything unless you're going to save money. I got this beautiful blouse. \$99 on the tag. Look . Guess what I got it for?

CHARLIE

\$5?

DORIS

Don't be silly. Less than half price.... \$46. Beautiful quality. Oh and I got you a nice shirt .

CHARLIE

I've already got shirts. You bought me two last week.

DORIS

Look at the color. It'll suit you down to the ground.

CHARLIE

We never go anywhere for me to wear it.

DORIS

Not the point. You never know. I have to try this blouse on. Oh and I got my Iphone back.... Thank goodness. I was lost without it. Would you believe it? The Apple shop mended it for free.

CHARLIE

No. Free?

DORIS

Didn't charge a cent.

She exits with the blouse. From off stage

Do you want a cup of tea?

CHARLIE

Is the Pope a Catholic? Course I'd like a cup of tea. She's obsessed with that phone. On it night and day, prod, prod, prod, poke, poke, poke. Takes up her life. She plays games on it. Angry something or other. Woman her age. Games! I refuse to have one... always having to charge it up. It's like a dog leash. Leads you by the nose. She's loses it once a week and then she has to hunt around the house to find where she left it. She's had two new ones. She dropped the last one and that's the second time she's had this one repaired. If that's the future you can keep it.

She returns buttoning up the blouse

DORIS

How do you like it?

CHARLIE

(indifferently)

Very nice.

DORIS

Beautiful material. Color suits me. \$49. It'll go with that new skirt I bought last week. Isn't it nice just to buy what you like and not worry so much about the price? I always used to worry about spending too much money. And, I'm so glad I've got my phone back. I was lost without it.

CHARLIE

I'm sure you were.

DORIS

Oh! There's the kettle. I'll make the tea. I'm so glad you like the blouse. I'll wear it next time we go out. There's a really nice restaurant just opened up the road, upscale, fountains and stuff outside. Very posh. We have to go. You can wear your new shirt.

She exits

CHARLIE

TV is plenty for me. I can get everything I want now on deluxe cable. I can get hundreds of movies and all the TV shows I want and of course a bit of hanky panky if I need it. Know what I mean? Adult. Boys will be boys. Pay per view. Brilliant. Not that I have to worry now. I don't need an iphone. I've got the world at my fingertips... well sort of. With those things you never know who's keeping tabs on you. They can track you. Read your messages. Spy on you.

She re-enters puts the trays with tea pot and two cups on the table

DORIS

Whoops forgot the sugar. I'd forget my head if it wasn't on my shoulders.

Exits

CHARLIE

That letter's bothering me. I always agree with Abby. Perhaps I should be honest and tell Doris about... She's not the same woman she was. She's... We all change. We don't... well like we used to. I mean she's been a good wife... Loyal... I think. Maybe I should tell her. I don't think she would care. Abby was right. Can't do any harm. It's not as if anything is going to change the way it is.

Enter Doris

DORIS

There we are. I know how you like your cup of tea.

CHARLIE

I'd like to talk to you about something personal.

DORIS

What dear? You're not having a problem again with your ... you know... down there...

CHARLIE

No.

DORIS

Did I tell you I got that new app for making sound recordings?

CHARLIE

No.

DORIS

It's brilliant. Here's your tea.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

DORIS

I got an idea from a blog on the internet. It told me how to make a sound diary of your life. Something to look back on when we're older. Look, you just press go and it records all the sounds around you. People's voices. Nature. The birds. The whistle on the kettle. Even the wind. Then you pause and can edit it. Put it all together with a little introduction. I thought we'd make a sort of sound diary especially at Christmas for all our friends and relatives. Wouldn't that be nice? What do you think?

CHARLIE

I suppose so.

DORIS

I'll turn it on now and you can hear for yourself. Just wait.

CHARLIE

All right.

DORIS

What is it you wanted to talk about?

CHARLIE

Well, I was reading Dear Abby, in the newspaper, and there was a guy writing in who was in love with a woman who wasn't his wife.

DORIS

What a shame.

CHARLIE

He didn't know whether to tell her or not about falling in love.

DORIS

Those things are best kept quiet if you're married.

CHARLIE

Abby said no. Having secrets was not good for your relationship long term... So I felt...I felt...I wantedto tell you that... I've..

(hesitantly)

I think I've fallen in love with another woman.

DORIS

Another woman?

CHARLIE

Yes.

DORIS

But you spend all your life either sitting in that chair watching TV or sleeping. You haven't been out the house for a month .

CHARLIE

It's not like that. You see ever since we won the lottery and moved to this big house, and don't get me wrong I love the house, I don't have a lot to do.

DORIS

It's not that woman next door?

CHARLIE

The one in the wheelchair?

DORIS

No, the other side. They have the Alfa Romeo and the Rolls always parked in the drive. All sorts of odd things going on in there. People coming and going.

CHARLIE

No... it's no one I actually know.

DORIS

You don't know? Who is she then? This woman... you've fallen in love with.

CHARLIE

She makes films.

DORIS

Films? You've fallen fall in love with a film star? You're even crazier that I thought.

CHARLIE

Yes but... these are different sorts of films. They take their clothes off.

DORIS

What?

CHARLIE

But they have nice personalities.

DORIS

Personalities?

CHARLIE

And... and... they're very accommodating.

DORIS

What do you mean? .

CHARLIE

They have sex. In the film.... with each other

DORIS

You watch them having sex?

CHARLIE

Yes.... And they look at you.... Nicely as if they really like you and that is... and..

DORIS

I don't think I'm hearing this right.

CHARLIE

And there's one... she's very beautiful ... And I think I'm in love with her.

DORIS

You're a dirty old man - that's what you are.

CHARLIE

I've never felt this way about a woman

DORIS

Oh, thank you.

CHARLIE

Not in the same way... I get... I'd like to get to know her. And she might... now that we.. I've got money.

DORIS

We've got money! I might remind you that I bought the lottery ticket. Now he tells me. After forty years. He's turned on by a porn star and wants to marry her.

CHARLIE

I'm just trying to be honest. She might not want to get to know me.

DORIS

You must be kidding.

CHARLIE

I feel guilty...

DORIS

Oh, poor Charlie...why didn't you just keep it to yourself.? Where are you watching this stuff?

CHARLIE

The adult channel. Pay per view.

DORIS

Adult channel??? Sounds like the little boys fiddling with their thingeys channel.

CHARLIE

She's really nice. Warm, intelligent. Long blond hair. Beautiful voice. She's called Stormy.

DORIS

Oh, I see... big (*mimes tits*) I suppose? Everything that I'm not.. is that it?

CHARLIE

No.

DORIS

I'm worn out. Is that what you're telling me? You're ready to throw me in the waste bin ... for a.... porn star...who's probably had more plastic surgery than I've had hot dinners.

You think she'd look at you. Just because you've got money? You're not exactly a catch. Sometimes men are just stupid.

CHARLIE

I was just trying to be honest.

DORIS

Well, you want honesty? I'll give you honesty. I have never ever, ever looked at another man while we've been married. Or have you forgotten we are married? Forty two years and what did I say when we collected the lottery money? That's for both of us.. It's a piece of luck, it has to be shared. The money went straight into our joint bank account.

CHARLIE

I've always been grateful. I would have done the same for you. We bought a nice new car and a big house.

DORIS

I don't know where I am any more. I'm confused.

She sees her Iphone which has been recording all this
God Almighty this has all been recorded.

CHARLIE

What?

DORIS

Our conversation.

She picks it up and stops the recording.

I'll have to wipe that out.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry Doris. I didn't mean to upset you. I know... you've been a good wife. These are just feelings I've had and I can't help it.

DORIS

(Long pause. She shakes her head)

You know. Come to think of it, it's probably a good thing.

CHARLIE

What do you mean?

DORIS

You being honest..

CHARLIE

Perhaps we could go for counselling?

DORIS

I don't need counselling. I'm perfectly capable of counselling myself. You know... I suddenly realized that perhaps I haven't been honest. I haven't been honest

CHARLIE

We've always told each other everything

DORIS

I don't think I have.

CHARLIE

We agreed we didn't want children.

DORIS

That's so odd isn't it.? Don't you think? Why would we want children?

CHARLIE

We had to struggle... you lost your job, remember? I had to keep working. We got by.

DORIS

Right we got by. And yes, you were the breadwinner and I was always grateful for that. When I was sick you supported me. But....

CHARLIE

Perhaps I should never have mentioned my feelings for Stormy.

DORIS

No you were right. Abby was right. If I'm honest. Come to think of it. I've endured my marriage. Yes. Endured I had nothing to compare it to except my parents who were miserable as long as I could remember. They barely talked to each other. So I thought if my relationship with you was better, more cheerful and positive then it was a good marriage.

CHARLIE

I thought we had a good marriage.

DORIS

Yes... good ... but ... there's got to be more.... than just "good" and we just accepted it. I just accepted it. I didn't fight for something better.

CHARLIE

You've been happy haven't you?

DORIS

Sort of... but it's ..allForgettable...

CHARLIE

Forgettable?

DORIS

The odd holiday, the daily routine, buying the groceries, looking for the best prices, chatting to the neighbors, looking after each other when we were sick. A routine... comfortable but forgettable.

CHARLIE

Well, I'm sorry.

DORIS

Don't be sorry Charlie. You just woke me up. I owe you. I have a right to happiness just as you have. Go and get your porn star if that's what'll make you happy, if that's what you want.

CHARLIE

What?

DORIS

Go and get her. Chase her down. Blondie with the big tits. Stormy or whatever her name is.

CHARLIE

Do you mean that?

DORIS

Yes.... But if it all turns sour... or the money runs out, or she runs away with another richer, younger man, don't come back.

CHARLIE

Doris... perhaps I was a bit....hasty

DORIS

No Charlie, I just woke up. Don't worry we'll split the money and the house and the car right down the middle. Maybe I'm not finished yet with life. Maybe I have a little bit of Stormy left in me. It's amazing what a bit of plastic surgery here and there will do. I've got money now. My figure's not so bad. Bit of exercise. I could buy myself a nice little condo, nothing extravagant. I always wanted to go back to school. I always dreamed of being an anthropologist... carefully digging up things.

CHARLIE

Wait a minute Doris. I might not agree to that. We're joint owners. ... Community property laws

DORIS

Charlie, did I ever tell you that I know you always thought you were more intelligent than me but really ... You see this phone... It's been on record for the last twenty minutes. I COULD go to a lawyer, play him the recording and find out who's on the right side of the law. Telling your wife you're in love with a porn star isn't going to look very good in a divorce court.. I could probably take everything. It was my ticket remember. But I am a kind woman. I'm not going to do that. We'll just split everything equally, down the middle.

CHARLIE

Doris. I don't think that's what I want. Doris... won't you change your mind?

DORIS

Let me get you another cup of tea Charlie. ... Thank you...Thank you for being honest. It'll be difficult for both of us. But it will be honest. We can still be friends. No hard feelings. Ill take the Mercedes for the time being. You better find out where Stormy lives and send her a nice letter. You never know how life's gonna turn out.

*She moves to go out but suddenly realises she has left her
iphone.*

Oooops..... Don't want to forget that..... Or the shopping. Take care of yourself.

Exits

CHARLIE

BUT... I only... you see... I only.... I just thought I was being honest.

Lights off.

(CONT'D)