

HOMECOMING

adapted from *TRASH*

by Arthur M. Jolly

Dramatic

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Diane talks to her estranged sister while they search a garbage dump for a letter from their dead mother that was mistakenly thrown out.

DIANE

The prodigal daughter returns - and there's no fatted calf. No welcome home banner. Just an empty brass bed with a half full oxygen tank next to it. You stayed away until she was gone, and now you slink back. You're such a.... a rebel. Aren't we all so impressed with how independent you are. A red dress for her funeral - can you imagine! The scandal! How shocking, little Becky doesn't need her mommy - she doesn't need anyone. What were you expecting?

(beat)

Why *did* you change your mind?

(beat)

You threw out the letter she sent you. And then those little wheels started clicking away in that drug addled burned out brain of yours. Where's my fatted calf?

Where's my homecoming? Where's Mom's last attempt to get me to return?...

What do you imagine's in that letter - a check?

(beat)

Sure, you never took her money - maybe she never offered enough of it. It was always tied up in offers of airfare and a hotel room - can't hand that over to a dealer. She was always careful about that. But at the end... and she knew it was coming - at the end, what? A great big check? Whatever it takes - a last desperate attempt. If she couldn't get you through love, she'd send a bribe. What would it take to get through to you? Two thousand, maybe, just to talk to you one last time. Five thousand? Sound about right? Not enough to get you to come home in time - but enough to get you into a dumpster. Enough to get you down here, scrabbling through a mountain of garbage.

(beat)

When we find that letter, what will you do if there's nothing in it but a letter? How disappointed will you be if there's nothing in it but her tired scrawls telling you she still loves you?