

REST IN PEACE

by Arthur M. Jolly

Comic

Woman (60's-70's)

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*An elderly Southern woman confronts her
husband, in spite of the fact he's in his grave.*

BELLE

Oh my Lord, Charlie, I'm as hot as a snake in a wagon rut out here. I swear, I'm burnin' up, I'm afire. You couldn't 'a gone in the spring, you had to wait until high June, you pig headed old fool.

(beat)

I brung you some flowers - they kinda wiltin' already, though. Sarry was late comin' by, and I sat out on t' porch for about half the mornin'.

(beat)

Why, yes, sweetie, m'joints is much better for the hot weather, and thank you for askin'. Weren't helped none by sitting in the rocker waitin' on Sarry, but I'll bide for our daughter - you know me, I ain't one for complainin'. Wouldn't do no nevermind anyways, I swan that girl takes after your Momma in that way - couldn't budge her into top gear with dynamite.

(beat)

What? Oh, she here, honey. She's over in the car with that AC on full gangbusters. She tole me she'll set a while, 'n then come over and say her g'byes in her own time. B'sides, I need to talk to you on m'own a piece.

(beat)

No, you hush there and let me say what I got to. I've held some words in, in my time, but you gone now, and it's my turn to speak as I see fit. I got no way of knowin' if you heard, but Maisy passed away last week. She ended up in a room two down from mine, and we was under the same roof.

(beat)

I said hush, Charlie - let me finish. I was civil to that woman. I never said boo to a goose. I didn't even hold it over her that Sarry comes by every Sunday like clockwork, and it seems her kin put her in there and then like forgot her. I was civil, I never let her know that I knew. Yes, I knew and I never let on to either one of you. But you listen up - now that you and her are over on th'other side together, you keep your damn hands off her, you hear? I'll be with you soon, and that "death 'til we part" doohickey don't mean diddley squat. I'll be with you by and by, Charlie, so you'd best leave that floozy alone. I got m'eye on you. Now you rest, sweetie-pie, you rest in peace.

END OF MONOLOGUE