

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW

by

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A Candle in the Window

Characters:

Teresa, and Adam Warner (*married couple, or siblings; story can be changed as Needed depending on gender of actors*)

Clara Stevens, elderly (*depending on actor, script can be adapted for gender*)

Setting:

The Warner living room – a Sunday night. it is about 10:30 PM -

Sofa and a chair – possibly a coffee or side table

They're having a cup of coffee or tea, looking at the newspaper, or reading books.

Adam has his foot up with an ice pack on it.

Teresa You know, I'm kind of glad Christmas is over – it seemed more hectic than usual this year - I was only too glad to pack it away.

Adam I'm never in a hurry to put it away – it seems like it's only that time between Christmas and Epiphany I have time to enjoy the the lights and decorations.

Teresa By then all I can think about is how they've collected dust. And you're not much help – all that reminiscing over each little ornament ... And you said we could put the candles away tonight – and now you've gone and kill your ankle – (*sigh*) I suppose I'll just do it myself. Do you remember where we hid the boxes for them at least?

Adam I think in we stashed them in the attic – You don't have to do it yourself I was thinking, they look so nice in the window – look how pretty they Are with the snow falling outside....What if we just leave them Until spring?

Teresa (*annoyed*) Adam.....! Come on – really?

Adam (*also annoyed*) What's the big deal? Just leave them up! You always Are rushing the season!

Teresa And you don't know when to quit! If we don't do it on time, I'll never catch up. You have no concern for my schedule.

Adam And you are too concerned about your schedule to appreciate life....(*adding a little humor*) You are such a Martha to my Mary.

Teresa (*relaxing*) I know....I just don't like leaving things unfinished.
Putting Christmas away is on my list of things we should have done
by now – and it's not done...it makes me anxious.

Well, at least they're on a timer now – we don't have to go around
To each window and turn each little switch on and off anymore –
I hated that! And you have to dust them!

Adam Deal... I didn't even realize how much I like them until we were out
shoveling earlier – I forgot how long it takes to shovel the sidewalks on a
corner house.... – but then I looked up and saw the lights in the windows
all the way around...it just was so homey...comforting you know?

Teresa I guess so... I was so focused on getting the shoveling done, I didn't even
pay attention. Maybe I should look up more, huh? So, how's your ankle?

Adam (*takes the ice pack off, moves his foot around*) – a little swollen –
But I think it'll be ok – (*stands up*) – yeah – I can put my weight on it
– probably be fine by tomorrow. I can't believe I tripped over
that stupid stump.

Teresa (*Laughs*) you did look pretty silly sprawled out in the snow –

Adam (*laughing also*) oh yeah, laugh at my humiliation...there I am, pastor of
the First Presbyterian Church, face first in the snow....not funny!

Just be glad nobody saw it – they'd probably think I'd been (*fake shocked*
gasp) DRINKING!

Teresa Thank God for the snow – other wise you probably would have
broken your nose or your teeth or something – that would be a lot harder
to explain.

(*A knock on the door*)

Teresa Oh no, there they are now – there's the session come to scold you.
Looks out the window... Oh my goodness – it's a woman –
No coat – Good Lord, she's in her stocking feet ...

Adam (*crosses to the door and opens it*)
Well, hello there! Oh my goodness – you must be freezing - please,
come inside.

Clara (*hesitates, looking bewildered, then steps inside, wearing a housecoat – no shoes, carries a small purse –wet from the snow*)

Teresa (*grabs a throw blanket off a chair or couch and wraps it around Clara*) – Here, come and sit down – would you like a cup of Coffee or tea? We have some already made.

Clara thank you, if it's not too much trouble...
(*numbly allows herself to be seated, looking around, confused*).

Adam It's awfully cold out there

Clara It is? it started to snow...I wassurprised

Adam It's been snowing for quite awhile – it's coming down pretty hard out there. How long were you outside?

Clara Oh, I don't know...not very long...

Teresa (*enters with a cup and saucer*) (*hands Clara a cup*)

Clara (*takes the cup, warming her hands*) Thank you... you are so.... Kind.

Teresa I'm going to get you a nice pair of warm socks ...I'll be right back
(*exits*)

Adam So, I'm Adam... – (*gesturing*) what's your name?

ClaraClara ...

Adam Well, hello Clara – I'm glad you came to our door – it's pretty dark and cold out there.

Teresa (*re-enters with fuzzy socks and sits beside Clara to help her put them on*)

Adam (*waiting*) ... And this is my lovely wife, Teresa. Teresa, this is Clara. Our last name is Warner by the way, what's your last name, Clara?

Clara Parker..... No,that's not it..... I have a married name.....

Teresa Hmm...I don't think I've ever seen you around town. Do you live near here?

Clara I...I thinkmaybe not... I must have gotten lost...I thought this was My grandpa's house...*(looking around)* but it's not... *(bewildered)* I should go...Mama and Daddy will be worried about me...but...I don't know what way to go.

Adam That sounds scary! Maybe we can help you.

Teresa Your married name is Warner? Do you want us to call your husband?

Clara *(seems puzzled, then remembers)* Oh no, he passed away – We had a beautiful home up at Silver Lake –

Adam That's a couple hours driving from here...er... what brings you to our town?

Clara I'm not sure...

Adam and Teresa exchange concerned looks

Clara I'm not supposed to drive any more...my doctor said it Frank said to come live with him now...

Teresa Who's Frank?

Clara *(momentarily puzzled)* Oh, Frank...he's....my...father....no...my son. ...he's so good to me you know

Teresa Maybe we should call Frank and tell him where you are?

Clara oh yes....that would be good.... *(wait)*

Adam um..... what's his phone number?

Teresa *(takes cell phone out of her pocket)*

Clara ummmm 570.....ummmm 36...no 63.....ummm 2? No... *(getting frustrated)*

Adam That's ok....take your time...

Teresa Maybe we could look in your pocketbook?

Clara *(has been holding it close to her the whole time) (gets suspicious, holds it closer)* Why?

Teresa I just thought maybe you had a phone number in there...that's all...

Clara *(hesitates, then laughs)* I don't have any money any way....*(allows Teresa to take the purse)*

Teresa *(looks through the purse – many pieces of paper are in there...)*
(finds a wallet, hands to Adam – while she looks through the papers)
Adam finds a small card)

Adam Oh here we are – Clara Stevens...that's your married name, right?
it has your address on it too.... And it as Frank's phone number on it.
(hands to Teresa)

Teresa *(on the cell)* Hello? Is this Frank? Frank Stevens?
Hi! My name is Teresa Warner – Just wanted you
To know that your mom is at our house – *(cautious, mindful that Clara*
Is listening)

Oh yes – she's fine - cold, *(quietly)* she said she....
got lost....She'll probably need her coat and boots...

We're on the corner of Church Street and Grandview –
yes across from the cemetery by the First Presbyterian Church....

No kidding.... Thank you....I'll see you soon.

Clara who was that?

Adam We were calling Frank.

Teresa Yes! And you'll never guess what! He knew right away where
our house was.... Clara – Frank said that when you were a
little girl, you often stayed with your grandparents who lived in this house!

Clara This house? *(looks around)* why yes....it looks different now...
Grandpa Parker was the pastor at the Presbyterian Church....Do you
Know him? Such a wonderful, kind man. *(smiles as she remembers)*
And grandma's kitchen always smelled like cookies...
They always had candles in the windows....That's why I came to your
house...Grandpa said if I was ever lost, I'd be able to find him because
therewould be a candle in the window.

Teresa *(wait 2-3 beats...then to Adam)* Ok....you win – we keep the candles....