

SHE by Art Walsh

Two older middle-aged men (Probably live at the 'Y') have been charged by a dieing friend to deliver an envelope to someone but dies before telling them who it is. The envelope is addressed to She. The men attend the viewing and attempt to discover who She is. At the end of viewing hours when they are about to leave a younger woman arrives.

LENNY ----- LATE MIDDLE-AGED SIMPLY DRESSED TOM ----- LATE MIDDLE-AGED SIMPLY DRESSED SHEILA ----- LATE THIRTIES NICELY DRESSED

Number of pages 10

SHE

The two men are seated on folding chairs near the coffin. One of them, Lenny is holding an envelope and slapping it into the palm of one hand.

LENNY Would you go check again, please.

TOM Really? We've been here three hours. I think they are going to ask us to leave.

LENNY What about the priest? Ain't he gonna say prayers or somethin'?

TOM He already did. Don't you remember?

LENNY Of course I remember. I just forgot, that's all. So go and check.

TOM Again?

LENNY Yea again. We gotta know.

TOM Okay, I'll go but even if somebody comes in how will we know?

LENNY We'll know. I just know it.

TOM Are you sure?

LENNY Yes I'm sure. Now go.

Tom turns to walk away from Lenny. Stops and turns.

TOM Just let me know what's in it. That's all I ask.

LENNY Can't.

2.

TOM Why not?

LENNY Cause I promised.

TOM A big thick envelope like that? There has to be something important in it and we are running out of time.

LENNY

Joe is the one who run out of time and he made me promise. He said to make sure that she gets it.

TOM

It? She? What is it and who is she? Don't we have a right to know? After all we are the guardians.

LENNY

We ain't the guardians. I'm the guardian.

TOM

I was there. I was, I was there when he gave it to you.

He looked right at me and said make sure that she gets it. I heard him. But who is she what did he mean?

LENNY

If you was there then you know that we don't know cause that was the last thing he said.

TOM And then he just up and died.

LENNY

Right. He just up and died. And so now I have to give this to her who ever she is. I promised him.

TOM

You didn't actually promise Joe anything.

LENNY

Yes I did. I did promise him something.

3.

TOM

No, you didn't. On account of he was dead. If he was

alive and could hear you then he could hold you to a promise but since he was dead by the time you opened your big mouth he didn't get any promise. Any way that's how I see it.

LENNY

That can't be right. Can it? I don't want to think about it.

TOM

Well you should think about it. What the hell are you going to do with it?

LENNY

I have no idea. Maybe give to the police.

TOM

Without even knowing what's in it. That is just plain stupid.

LENNY

Maybe it is but I promised and a promise is a promise

even if he was dead. Besides I ain't interested in what's in it I just want to keep my word. That's all.

TOM

I can't believe you're not even curious.

LENNY

Not a bit. Well a little bit, maybe but I ain't gonna look.

TOM

You are really different. If he had given it to me I

would at least have a peak. Aren't you the least bit curious?

LENNY

No and to tell the truth I wish he did give it to you.

4.

TOM

So do I. At least by now we would know what's in it and might know who we are supposed to give it to. Lenny

No, you wouldn't.

TOM You couldn't stop me.

LENNY

I wouldn't have to. You would stop yourself.

TOM

That's stupid. Why would I stop my self?

LENNY

Cause a promise is a promise, whether to the dead or the living.

TOM You think so, do you?

LENNY

I know you better than you think. You might be just some bum but you ain't one to go back on a promise.

TOM

Oh, yeah? Maybe I am just some bum but you know what you are? A pain in the ass. A genuine pain in the ass is what you are. I don't believe you don't care what's in there. Ain't you even a little bit curious?

LENNY

Don't get me wrong. I wish we did know.

TOM

There you go. I knew it. You want to know what's in it too.

5.

LENNY

What I really want to know is who it's meant for. Who the hell are we supposed to give the damned thing to. It's starting to bother me. A lot!

TOM

That guy. (Indicating an unseen person.) He's the

undertaker right?

LENNY

Yeah, he is. But I think they call them funeral directors nowadays.

TOM

Whatever. Any way he's waving to us. I think he wants us to leave.

LENNY

I don't know what to do. Go over there and talk to him.

Tell him we are waiting for someone. TOM

Why don't you go.

LENNY

Because I have the envelope. Ask him if we can stay a little longer. Ask nice.

TOM

What the hell. But I think we should leave and then open that thing.

Go!

Okay.

LENNY TOM

Tom gets up and as he exits Sheila enters and walks up to the casket.

SHEILA It's closed. Why is it closed?

6.

She remains standing and looking at casket.

LENNY Excuse me.

SHEILA What?

LENNY I said excuse me.

SHEILA For what?

LENNY I guess for interrupting you.

SHEILA

You didn't interrupt me. I was wondering why a closed casket, I didn't expect, oh I don't know what I expected.

LENNY

Are you a friend.

SHEILA

No, well, not exactly. Were you?

LENNY

Yes. Well I knew him pretty good.

SHEILA

Close?

LENNY

You might say. The coffin is closed cause he wanted it to be, I guess. He was a nice man. You was related? SHEILA

No.

She begins to sob.

LENNY Are you okay.

7.

SHEILA I'll be fine.

LENNY Did he have family?

SHEILA Yes, he did.

LENNY He did? I never ---

Tom returns.

TOM

He was nice but he really needs to close up, he said.

He walks up to Shelia.

TOM (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Tom. Lenny, did you hear me? He said we have
to leave.

LENNY

Did you tell him about the, (Indicating the envelope.) --

- you know?

TOM

Sort of. But he said it's time to close and asked if we

would please leave. He was very polite, but --- (He shrugs his
shoulders.)

SHEILA

I didn't realize it was this late I had best be going.

Nice to Have met you Tom. Although the circumstances are, well
not nice is probably the best way to put it.

LENNY

My name is Lenny and likewise I guess.

Shelia turns to exit.

LENNY (CONT'D)

Miss?

8.

SHEILA Yes.

LENNY Who are you?

TOM Her name is Shelia. That's what she signed in the book.

LENNY Sheila? Well good bye Sheila.

SHEILA

Yes that's my name. Sheila, but Joe always called me

She. Kind of a pet name. LENNY

What did you say ---

TOM

You're She? Lenny, you get it? She's She.

LENNY

Oh, shit! (Embarrassed) Sorry I didn't mean to swear.

Epecially not hear, if you know what I mean.

TOM

You're her, I mean She you're --- She. Lenny it's her,

it's She, I mean She. The one ---

LENNY

I guess so. I guess you must be.

SHEILA

She? Well yes but Joe was the only one who ever called

me that. How did you know?

Lenny shows her the envelope.

TOM

It says, She.

LENNY

This must be for you. He said make sure she gets it.

9.

TOM

And then he died, he just died. Sorry.

Lenny hands her the envelope.

SHEILA

Thank you.

She takes the envelope and looks the two men up and down.

TOM

(Emphatically.) Well?

LENNY (Sternly.) Tom?

TOM I was wondering, that's all.

SHEILA

You want to know what's in it. Don't you?

They both nod.

Very well.

SHELIA

She opens it. It is filled with pieces of newspaper.

TOM

That's it? We sat here all this time and that's it.

LENNY

I don't understand.

SHELIA

You will. Did you know that Joe was a doctor?

LENNY

Know? How would we --- We thought he was like us, old
and kinda' not thought of as much of anything.

10.

SHEILA

He thought highly of you two and he was sure that you

would carry out his wish. And so he instructed me to give you this.

She produces another envelope.

SHEILA (CONT'D)

This one does not contain cut up newspapers. It is

three thousand dollars. From him to you for being his friend when you thought he had nothing.

CURTAIN

11.