

Smell Ya' Later
A One Act Play
By Harry Adelman

Time: The present

Cast: Randy A man in his early forties
Judy A woman in her late thirties
Lynn A woman in her late thirties

Set: Stage right A bedroom with a bed and nightstand
Center A den with a desk and chair
Stage left A park bench

Props: Alarm clock, laptop computer, cell phone, man's light jacket, coffee mug, briefcase, perfume bottle, car remote

Scene 1 3:30 AM one morning

Lights come up on a bedroom on stage right. In the bed sleeping are Randy and his wife Judy. Randy suddenly stirs, sits up, and starts sniffing the air.

Randy: “Lynn?”

Judy (*still half asleep*): “What’s going on?”

Randy (*rubbing Judy’s back*): “Nothing Judy; just go back to sleep.” *He gets out of bed and starts pacing back and forth, addressing the audience.*

Randy: “Lynn.....Lynn Polenkja....it was an idyllic summer twenty years ago of walks in the park, tennis, movies, and nights out with our friends. And then one night in her dorm room several months later she dumped me and ripped my guts out. As the old saying goes, it was the best and worst of times.”

“My strongest memory of Lynn is her perfume or her ‘witches brew’ as she called it. She would dilute some name-brand perfume with water, and then add a couple of drops of vanilla. The result reacted with her body chemistry to produce a scent that was both subtle and intoxicating. For me, it was like catnip. It was that perfume I just thought I smelled. We lost touch with each other after we broke up, and I haven’t seen her since.”

Blackout

Scene 2 Later that morning

Lights come up on center stage. Randy is sitting at his desk with a mug of coffee working on a laptop computer. There is a cell phone on the desk and a light jacket draped over the back of his chair. Judy walks in carrying a briefcase.

Judy: "You were a little restless last night. Are you feeling OK?"

Randy: "Yeah, I'm all right. I just had a little unsettling experience last night. You remember me telling you about my old girlfriend, Lynn, don't you?"

Judy: "Of course. What was it, a hot dream about her?"

Randy (*chuckling*): "No, nothing like that. It was like she was in the room; I thought I smelled her perfume."

Judy: "Wow, Freud would have a field day with that. What's it been now, over twenty years since you've last seen her?"

Randy: "Yep; I wonder what brought this on. I haven't even thought about her for a long time."

Judy: "Sigmund would say your sub-conscious is trying to tell you something. Why don't you see what Google has to say about her when you get a chance? Well, I have a couple of houses to show. I should be done in time to pick the kids up after school. If not, I'll call. See you later." *She kisses him and exits. Randy continues working on the laptop until his phone rings.*

Randy: "Phillips consulting, Randy speaking." *He listens for several seconds.*

Randy: "Lynn...Lynn Polenkja." *He listens again for several seconds.*

Randy: "Sure, I can meet you at the park. There's a bench on the side of the pond near the band shell. I have some errands to run, but I can be there around 12:30. Does that work for you?" *Pause* "OK, see you then." *He puts the phone down, and then sits at the desk with his head in his hand in thought.*

Blackout

Scene 3 Early that afternoon

Lights come up on a park bench on stage left. Randy is sitting on the bench looking around. He is wearing the jacket from the back of his desk chair. As Lynn enters from off-stage he stands up to hug her, and then they both sit down on the bench.

Randy: "Wow, you look great; just how I remember you!"

Lynn: "I'll bet you say that to all the girls."

Randy: "Well, maybe I'm exaggerating a bit. But you do look terrific! So, what's your story?"

Lynn: "I'm married, you know. My husband Jack is the son of one of my Mom's friends, and was only interested in Dad's business, which you may recall went bankrupt a year after we were married. Then we moved to Rhode Island. We've drifted apart.....never had any kids. We stay together now more out of habit than anything else. We had about two years of marriage where I thought he loved me; I now doubt even that."

Randy: "Sorry to hear that. I've done better. I have a wonderful wife, and two lovely daughters. I'm running a consulting firm from home, and Judy is selling real estate, so we can both spend a lot of time with the kids. Things couldn't be better."

Lynn: "Nice to hear someone is doing well...."

Randy: "So...now the million dollar question. Why, after all these years, did you call me?"

Lynn: "I had to apologize, and I felt I may not get another opportunity. I realize now how much I hurt you when I broke up with you. I thought that you weren't good enough for me, but it turned out that the reverse was true; that I wasn't good enough for you. I was young and didn't realize what I had in you.....can you forgive me now?"

Randy: "It's all water over the bridge. I'm just sorry that things haven't gone as well for you as they have for me." *They sit in silence staring ahead for several seconds.*

Lynn: "Well, I have to get back on the road now. Thanks for meeting me." *They both stand up and hug each other.*

Randy: "Thanks for calling me. Ah, I see you're still using that old 'witches brew' of yours! I still love that scent. If you ever come through again, you're welcome to stay with us, and meet my family.

Lynn: "I appreciate that; we'll see. Goodbye, Randy. Take care of yourself. Oh, and since you've always liked it so much, here's some of my perfume for your daughters to try." *She opens her purse, pulls out a perfume bottle, and hands it to him. He looks at it and then puts it in his jacket pocket. Lynn exits and Randy watches her leave. He pulls out his car keys and steps towards the audience. He points the remote and a car alarm starts going off.*

Randy: "Oh shit, hit the alarm instead of unlock!"

Blackout. Car alarm continues and then morphs into an alarm clock going off. While lights are off, Randy moves to stage right and gets into the bed.

Scene 4

Lights come up on a bedroom on stage right. In the bed are Randy and his wife Judy. Judy sits up, turns off the alarm, and then gets out of the bed.

Judy: "Time to get up, sleepyhead!" *She exits. Randy lifts his head from the pillow.*

Randy: "What the....."

Blackout

Scene 5 Later that morning

Lights come up on center stage. Randy is sitting at his desk. The jacket is draped over the back of his chair. Judy walks in carrying a briefcase.

Judy: "Did you see the paper this morning?"

Randy: "No, why?"

Judy: "I saw an obituary for your old girlfriend, Lynn."

Randy: "What! What happened?"

Judy: "The article didn't say much. Just that she died after a brief illness and was buried yesterday."

Randy: "That can't be. I don't believe it."

Judy: "There's a memorial fund listed. We can make a contribution to it. Oh, darn, I left my car keys upstairs. Can I borrow yours?"

Randy: "Sure; wait a sec." *He reaches into his jacket and pulls out a perfume bottle. He holds it up in front of himself with a puzzled look on his face.*

Judy: "What's that?"

Blackout

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