

## **The Funeral Party**

Grandpa Richard Jones: He is the one who the funeral is for. He sucks as a person and his defining trait is his sexism and stubbornness

Grandma Ruth Jones: She is the wife of Richard and mourns him the most. She has trouble seeing how much he sucked

Priest: He is supposed to be officiating this funeral but never succeeds

Richie Jones: The grandparents first born child. He is now in his early fifties and left the family in his early twenties

Guy Jones: Richie's younger brother. He is around fifty. He knows his father could have done better but still tries to give his parents the benefit of the doubt

Veronica: Guy's first cousin who only comes to the funeral to talk badly about her uncle Richard

Britta Jones: Guy's wife. She supports Guy but dislikes her father in law

Haley Jones: Guy's and Britta's child. She is seventeen and knows that her grandfather sucked

Clarisse: She is in her early thirties and Richard's grand niece. She is drunk the whole time.

Jeremy: The son of the grandparent's third child who does not attend the funeral. He is thirty years old and only comes to the funeral for Richard's money that was in his will

Kaiya: Jeremy's younger sister. Twenty-eight. And she also only came for the money

The set opens in a funeral home. All of the chairs are facing the audience, the casket is front stage left: it is open but the door is facing the audience so they cannot see the body inside, there is a podium in the middle with a priest speaking behind it, and in the the chair on stage right from the priest is the grandma wiping her face with a tissue and blowing her nose.

The priest is looking at his watch and looks to the door on stage right and then faces the audience looking confused and then to the grandma: Excuse me, miss?

The grandma scowls and looks at the priest while holding the tissue: Yes?

Priest: Do you happen to know when the rest of your family is going to be here?

The grandma waves her free hand: They will be here. Eventually

Priest: Eventually?

Grandma: Yes, now please start. I've been waiting for an hour while you keep looking at the door for who knows what reason

The priest sighs: Do you happen to know when your family is going to be here? Because maybe we can wait-

Grandma: No! I don't. They didn't RSVP, okay?? So let's just start

Priest: Let me get this straight, you ordered the deluxe funeral package when you aren't even sure your family is going to be here?

Grandma: They'll come.

Priest scratches his neck: Ah, okay. Should I start then?

Grandma: Please, finally. UGH.

Priest: Ahem, today we mourn and celebrate the life of Richard Jo-

The stage right door opens to Clarisse stumbling and giggling into the funeral home while holding a bottle

The grandma shoots up from her seat: AHA! SEE! I TOLD YOU I HAVE A FAMILY!

Priest: I never said you didn't have a family

Clarisse stumbles next to the grandma: You told her she didn't have a family? That's rude. Her husband just died, you know?

Priest: I never said she didn't have a- you know what, I'm sorry. How did you know Richard?

Niece: He was my great uncle.. He.. he.. Really knows how to die doesn't he?

Grandma puts the dirty tissue on the seat next to her

The priest looks grossed out

Grandma: Clarisse, are you drunk?

Clarisse giggles: Maybe

Grandma: Why would you get drunk before your uncle's funeral?

Clarisse: I didn't get drunk *before* the funeral, I got drunk *for* the funeral

Priest: Oh..

Grandma: Why would you do that?

Clarisse: I.. I wasn't going to come, you know. But, I thought, I thought, I should come for you and then I thought why not have some fun? So I got drunk.

The grandma looks offended: Why-

The door opens to Kaiya: Heya. Woah, bad vibe in here. Did someone die or something?

The grandma looks astounded: Yes Kaiya, your grandpa?

Kaiya: Duhh, I know that. It's called a joke grandmam

Priest: Hello miss, I'm sorry for your loss

Kaiya: I'm not, I'm glad that he is dead

Priest: Umm

Grandma: What is wrong with you?

Kaiya: What? Being happy that he's gone?

Grandma: Yes. And do you happen to know when your parents will be showing up? They are the ones who should be lecturing you, not me

Kaiya: I don't need to be lectured. I'm twenty-eight.

Grandma: Woop dee doo. I didn't know ma'ammmmmm. Twenty-eight, wow you're almost just as old as I am. Time moves by soo fast

Kaiya: Ugh. Anyways I don't think my parents are going to come. I honestly wasn't going to come either

Clarisse: See! I wasn't the only one

Kaiya: I just came for the money

Priest facepalms

Clarisse is intrigued: Money you say?

Kaiya: I was told there would be \$25,000 each for us grandkids when grandpa dies. So, not for you Clarisse. Sorry

Clarisse: Aw

Kaiya: Now, where's my money?

Grandma: You have some nerve coming to my husband's funeral just to ask for money!

Kaiya: I earned it!

Jeremy enters

Grandma: Hopefully your brother will have more sense than YOU. Hello Jeremy, thank you for coming

Jeremy nods then says: So, Kai and I were promised money. I just came to wonder where it is? So that we can leave this place as soon as possible and retrieve it? I am about to be late on rent you know?

Clarisse pouts: I want 25 grand, it's not fair. Why did he have to be your crappy grandpa and not mine?

Grandma: I am disgusted by everyone's behavior! He was your grandpa and your great uncle. You should be honoring him, not begging for cash

Priest: Yes exactly, so, we should start honoring him by star-

Guy walks in with Britta and Haley is on her phone

Priest: Nevermind

Guy hugs grandma: Hello mum, sorry for your loss

Grandma hugs back: Hello honey. See, this is what you're supposed to act like at a funeral. Not beg for money

Guy turns to grandchildren: Really? You chose this as the time and place?

Kaiya: Well, it's not like we're going to see her again uncle Guy

Jeremy: Yeah, we probably won't be seeing any of you until grandma's funeral

Guy: Haley, get off that phone. We are at a funeral. Anyways, look, I know he wasn't the best person. Trust me, he was my dad. But he still deserves our respect.

Haley still has her phone out: This place sucks. I wanted to be in the car. But you guys made me come in

Britta: Haley, phone away now or you will be grounded

Haley puts her phone away and mutters: I hate funerals and I hate my grandfather

Jeremy: You said it

Clarisse: Yeah, even this child knows that he sucked

Haley: I am seventeen!

Clarisse: Yeah, exactly, you are a child

Grandma: Britta! Start being a mother and lecture your child

Britta: Actually, no. Richard was awful

Guy: We all know that he was.. Not good

Grandma: Guy!

Guy: But, still he deserves our respect

Haley: Does he? When he saw me in my prom dress junior year, he said it ‘makes my belly fat show’

Kaiya: And remember when he stole *my* car money to get the Apple Vision Pro Vr headset

Britta starts going on her phone

Grandma: Wow that was a doozy, it seemed so realistic!

Kaiya: A Disney cruise

Grandma: It was so nostalgic

Kaiya: AND a trip to see the sea turtles!

Grandma: They were just so cute with their little legs

Britta puts phone away

Kaiya: And she always indulged him!

Grandma: No I didn’t!

Jeremy: To be fair, when grandpa protested against Ben and Jerry's at their original location, you packed him an overnight bag

Grandma: Because that's what housewives do

Kaiya: So anyways yeah, I think that I deserve the 25 grand. It's the LEAST that he could do

Priest was soaking in the gossip until he got his senses: Excuse me, I believe we have plenty enough people to start now. So can we just-

The door opens

Priest: Of course someone else is here.. come on in

Veronica enters: So, Britta texted me and said we were talking shit about my uncle? This is my kind of party

Clarisse: Wait, this is a party? Then why is it SO boring??

Veronica pats her on the back: Well, how bout after this funeral we'll go to a real party and get mad wasted?

Clarisse: Yes please! But.. can we call an uber or something?

Veronica: Sure thing

Guy looks at Britta kind of mad: We all know he is bad. But we are at a funeral, is this how we want to spend it? Talking badly about *my* father?

Britta: Don't you remember what he said when we got engaged?

Guy sighs: That you not wanting to be a mom right away was going to ruin my life and that marrying you was a waste of my time

Haley: He is a sexist stubborn dick is what he is

Everyone gasps

Britta: Haley! Language

Haley rolls her eyes

Clarisse: She's nearly an adult, what's the big deal? He was and is a dick. With a small one too.

Grandma chokes on her spit and everyone is shocked

Clarisse: See, even aunt Ruth won't deny it

Veronica: How would you know that?

Clarisse: I walked in on him one time, not one of my fine moments

Grandma: Size doesn't matter. It was his personality and handsomeness that charmed me

Jeremy: Wow, how small was he?

Clarisse: A shot glass? Maybe smaller

Kaiya: No wonder he was such a jerk

Grandma: He was-! Ugh, can we talk about anything else?

Veronica: Anyways Guy, Uncle Richard has not only hurt us but your wife and daughter. And you just stand for it?

Guy: Hm, you know what, I won't anymore. I still remember the pain from when he threw my baseball cards in the fireplace. I could've been a millionaire by now

Grandma: Honey, you were obsessed with them

Guy: Wow, you really do indulge him

Kaiya: See?

Richie bursts into the home

Everyone's jaws hit the floor except for Clarisse, Jeremy, Kaiya, and Haley

The priest waves: Hello and welcome to.. Whatever this is. You know what, I give up. Hello, this is a funeral but not really.

Priest walks over and leans against coffin



Richie: Really? I came back after thirty years and you made the priest give up already?

Grandma: Richie? It's been so long

Richie: I feel like I'm twenty again, wow. So.. I heard about dad dying in the paper and even though I hate this family, I still wanted to come and see him one last time

Clarisse: Oh my goodness we have a secret estranged family member? Drama!

Guy: So, let me get this straight. You left for thirty years and now you want to come back when dad is dead?

Richie: Hey, don't blame me. I offered you to come with me when I left and you still chose to stay with mommy.

Veronica: He offered? You said he just left in the middle of the night

Richie: Wow, fantastic information. You're still a liar huh?

Veronica: Dude! You were offered an out? And then you only did not take it, but you lied about it too?

Richie: It seemed to all work out though. You have a lovely wife and daughter

Britta: Thank you

Guy: That was not a compliment. I only lied because I didn't want to associate what you did with me being a good son. No need to tarnish my reputation like you did yours

Richie: Come on, you know you wanted to leave with me. I have felt so free since I walked out of the front door until I walked into this one

Priest: Oof

Richie: You just didn't because you are a coward

Guy: I chose to stay for my mom more than anyone

Richie: Our mother is nearly as bad as him

Grandma: We did the best we could. I'm sorry that it wasn't enough for your spoiled brain, but we put a roof over your head and food into your bellies

Richie: Oh great. You did the bare minimum. Congratulations

Haley: Hi. Can I please have your number and hear all of the family gossip

Kaiya and Jeremy: Me too!

Richie: You know, I am so happy to know that everybody except for my brother knows that he sucked

Guy: Well, if you came in a minute sooner, I admitted that I will not defend his behavior any longer

Richie: After he is dead. You have always had such great timing little brother

Haley pulls out phone: Please, your number

Britta: Put that away

Haley does begrudgingly

Richie: And mom is just as bad as he is because she does not only respect but encourages his behavior

Everyone looks at grandma

Grandma: What? You expect me to apologize? I was an adult, it was my duty to have a boyfriend when I was Haley's age. I'm sorry that now women are available to explore themselves before settling for someone. But I did not have that luxury. He was a handsome guy with nice money even though he was.. small. And I am well off for it

Priest: Oh my-

Clarisse: Oh.. Aunt Ruth

Grandma: Of course I know he wasn't a good guy. Do you expect me to believe he was after he cheated on me? Not only once, but twice? But, I forgave him because that is what good housewives are supposed to do

Richie: We could have left him

Grandma: Not back then. All of that money would have been gone. You kids have no idea what I sacrificed for you

Richie: Then why didn't you leave after we all grew up and moved out?

Grandma: I don't know. It was nice to have somebody, even though whenever I was on my period, he expected me to hold it in

Veronica: He what?

Grandma: I still love him. When you love someone, you'd be willing to do anything for them. Even wonder what might've been

Clarisse: He's dead now. You are free to do whatever you want

Grandma: You know what.. maybe I am

Grandpa suddenly sits up in the coffin: Aha! I knew that everybody hated me!

Everyone but the grandpa: Ahh!

Grandpa: And I have proof now! Prooooooof!

Priest: This funeral was a farce? All that time, all my sanity, for nothing?

Guy: Dad! You're alive?

Grandpa stands up and walks to the rest: Yep, I faked my own death. Of course I knew that my no good son Richie hated me. What a worthless use of my name. But you Guy? I am appalled.

Richie: You know, I hated having your name. But now I use it to say that even though I have the family name, that I am *nothing* like you

Guy: You have never treated any of us well. What did you expect?

Richie: And it is so like you to fake your own death out of pettiness. You can always stoop lower, can't you?

Grandpa: I am done with you two. You are no longer my sons

Richie: No worries, I stopped being your son long ago

Clarisse: Oooooo!

Grandpa: And you Clarisse, showing up to my funeral drunk? You will always be a disappointment

Clarisse: Aw, bummer

Veronica: Hey, don't talk to her like that. It is your fault for being like this

Grandpa: Like what?

Veronica: Like this! You never came to my birthday parties even though Aunt Ruth and my cousins were. When I turned eighteen, you said it was childish to still celebrate birthdays!

Grandpa: You just don't like my honesty do you? Nobody does. You were the one who came by only to talk badly about me

Veronica: Because that is all you deserve

Kaiya: We don't like anything that you're honest about

Grandpa: Says the one who came by for my money. Well guess what? None of you are getting it now

Jeremy: Good, because we don't need it

Kaiya: Didn't you say you're about to be late on rent?

Jeremy: Shh, I'm trying to make a point

Britta: Here, take some of my money

Jeremy: Oh n-

Britta: I have plenty enough

Jeremy: Thank you

Grandpa blows raspberry

Haley: You act like you are five. You know, I am glad I am so young because at least I don't have to spend as much time with you as they have

Clarisse: Ohhh! This kid has some moves. Lemme know when you turn twenty-one girl

Haley clicks her tongue in approval

Grandpa: But Ruthie, I am most ashamed of you. My beloved wife, speaking badly about me at my own funeral

Priest: To be fair you did cheat on her twice

Everyone but grandma and priest: Yeah yes yes

Priest: And because this whole thing was a lie and I wasted my time, I'm going to be taking my leave now

Clarisse: Sorry priest!

Veronica: Yeah, sorry

Priest leaves

Grandpa: He was weird anyway. I only cheated on you to show you that there are more beautiful women out there

Everyone but grandparents gasp

Clarisse: I want to party now! He's not dead and I'm becoming sober, can we just leave and get drunk

Haley: And I'll be the designated driver since I'm not allowed to drink

Everyone but Haley, Guy, Richie, Britta, and grandparents: Mhm mhm

Guy: Actually, I want to spend some time with my brother and remember it. Hey, Rich, do you want to catch up and talk badly about our father?

Richie: I'd love that

Grandpa mutters: Parents get no respect these days

Clarisse: Cool, but I want to drink after this funeral of lies. Who's coming with me?

Everyone but Guy, Richie, Britta, and grandparents: Woo!

They all start to leave

Britta grabs Haley's sleeve: Nice try

The party goes leave

Haley mockingly: Nice try mm

Guy: So Rich, if you want, you can stay overnight?

Richie: That'd be nice

Britta: I'll start the car, I'll meet you there

Haley: I will come too

They leave

Richie: Well, mom, are you coming?

Grandma: Me?

Guy: Yeah. Even though he isn't dead, this is still an opportunity to see what might be

Grandpa: Don't you dare leave or you will be poor again

Guy: No worries, I have a state job

Richie: I'm an auto mechanic

Guy: So we could support her just fine while she stays in the guest room

Richie: This could be the start of fixing our relationship, but.. Only if you go with us. I can't talk with you if you still choose to support him

Grandma: I'll come. I don't want to be with somebody who made me set up a whole funeral just to see that he was alive the whole time

Guy: Okay, see you outside then

Richie and Guy leave

Grandma is about to leave when Grandpa says: If you leave, this will be the biggest mistake of your life

Grandma: Actually, my biggest mistake is about to end

Grandma leaves

The grandpa sits in the chair where the grandma was at the beginning of the funeral

Grandpa: Those no good sons of-

Fade to black

End