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Eastfield College
1918323 EFC-Play

“Mildred”

3 pages

CHARACTERS

THE GRANDSON: 25-year-old man looking like Jesus in a T-shirt, torn jeans, and sandals.

THE GRANDMOTHER: 70-year old woman in a white nightgown.

SETTING

An old attic crowded with books on shelves, books on the floor, a trunk, and a small bed in one corner, stage right.

TIME

Afternoon an hour before the summer sunset.

ACT I

(THE GRANDSON walks slowly on-stage, from stage left, to center-stage. He looks around, picks up a book from the floor, and sits down on the trunk. THE GRANDMOTHER walks slowly on-stage from stage-right, lies down on the bed, and remains motionless.)

THE GRANDSON

Maybe it was your possessions hidden away or
Maybe it was your books on the shelf
Or maybe it's now my regrets

(THE GRANDSON walks to the bed, kneels down, and kisses THE GRANDMOTHER's head.)

THE GRANDSON

I kissed your head and
I said I loved you
The things I should have said

Before you were gone
Although you were cold
And could not hear

I spoke anyway
While you dreamed forever
Somewhere out in space

(THE GRANDSON stands up and returns to the trunk.)

There are many things I want to say now
But it is long too late
Many things I hope you knew

Many things now to be unsaid
I'm sorry I was rarely there
Thank you for all

(THE GRANDMOTHER sits up, smiling at THE GRANDSON.)

The jeans you repaired

(THE GRANDMOTHER mimes hand-sewing.)

Driving me to school

(THE GRANDMOTHER mimes driving.)

And most of all

Being there
Even when I wasn't
I may have only been

THE GRANDSON and THE GRANDMOTHER (simultaneously)

"Sandwich"

THE GRANDSON

Or

THE GRANDSON and THE GRANDMOTHER (simultaneously)

Jesus

THE GRANDSON

in the end
But I saw you more than
I know you probably didn't know

(THE GRANDMOTHER stops smiling and lies back down, motionless again.)

I was there
I know I was only a stranger
I know that was my fault

(THE GRANDSON stands up.)

I wish I had grown up to care

(THE GRANDSON looks at the inside cover of the book he is holding and shakes his head. He carefully puts the book on the shelf, reads the spines of the books, and shakes his head again.)

I never knew your middle name was Frances
I never knew what amazing books you read

I never knew the person you were
And that I now know
I suffer with compunction and dread

I wish I could tell you why
Maybe it was because I was angry
Even though my quarrel was never with you

(THE GRANDSON returns to the bedside of THE GRANDMOTHER.)

But I made a promise
I intend to keep
I told you I would honor you

And write something
But it is true
I always did love you

(Stage goes dark except for one spotlight on THE GRANDSON and THE GRANDMOTHER.)

Sleep well and sweet dreams
I hope you're in a better place
I'm glad the suffering is over

I'm glad you can now be at peace.

CURTAIN