

THE SUITCASE

By Tami Canaday

The Scene: Lights slowly rise to a midday sun over KELLY who is sitting in the chair. His eyes blink slowly. CHRIS is standing over him.

CHRIS

Are your eyes okay? They look red. Especially, the right one. Near the pupil. I have some eye drops. You put two drops in. Wait a minute. See if the red is gone. If not, you do it again. Let me see your left eye.

(KELLY looks away.)

CHRIS

You know, I like a nose spray better than eye drops. I hold a tissue in one hand, do the spray, and blow. Eye drops can make your eyes tear five minutes later. Where's the tissue then? That's what I say. It's across the room. Or, in the bathroom. You said, you like herbal mint tea? How do you like your tea, Kelly? Or, would you like some seltzer? Do you want Sleepy Time Tea, too? Would you like both? My tea is decaffeinated. I used to drink caffeinated tea. No more. The coffee shop sells decaffeinated coffee. But not the tea. I don't go there. I walk by. The owner knows me. She waves. I wave back. But do I go in? No. Yesterday, I ordered from Uber Eats. I talked to the nicest man. Owns a cat and likes to cook for fun. For fun, mind you. We talked five minutes. It was an eight hundred number. His dime. I'll boil some water. Was it Sleepy Time...or cranberry...what...hmmmm...was it?

(CHRIS stares into space.
KELLY jumps up, runs across the room,
and grabs the suitcase.)

CHRIS

A...yeah...hmmmm....a...

(KELLY runs back and puts the suitcase
under the chair. KELLY sits down in
the chair just as CHRIS starts
talking.)

CHRIS

I watch reruns of "Happy Days." The Fonz had two girlfriends. One was smart. One was pretty. The Fonz could not make up his mind. It turned out the smart one was pretty too. She took off her glasses and put her hair down. He chose her. Have you seen it? I've seen it twice. Guess how many times I've seen a "NCIS" rerun? Five times. I can say the lines before they say them. "Get your gun." See? I do not want a satellite dish. I will not take one. Mrs. Smith said she would take a satellite dish. She would. Your left eye is red. So is your right one. The eye drops are in a cabinet. Down the hall. Would you like a wash cloth? Or a...tissue? Are they...could they...?

(CHRIS stares off into space. KELLY jumps up and pulls the suitcase out from under the chair. KELLY runs around the room and grabs the pair of pants and the belt. KELLY throws them into the suitcase.)

CHRIS

A...yeah...a...hmmmm...

(KELLY kicks the suitcase under the chair. But before KELLY can sit in the chair, CHRIS sees KELLY standing. CHRIS walks over to KELLY. THEY stare at each other. KELLY sits in the chair).

CHRIS

When I was nineteen, I went to Stanley Lake. We rented a boat. The boat was fast. There were four of us. All boys. Boats are bigger now. Have you heard of a cigarette boat? I have. A recreational boat. That's what I want. Mrs. Smith said she would take a cigarette boat. She would. Maybe, she has eye drops too.

(CHRIS looks at KELLY'S eyes)

CHRIS

Both are red. Reminds me of a fish.

(CHRIS grabs KELLY'S face and squeezes his cheeks together.) **(Continued . . .)**

