

**I Wish I Had  
A Buddy**

a play about  
Growing Older  
by

**Jerry Walker**



Leicester Bay  
THEATRICALS

Newport, Maine

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## **I WISH I HAD A BUDDY**

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## Cast

WILLY Olson

AUDREY Wilson

SETTING: A park bench

Contemporary costumes

RUNNING TIME: about 12-15 minutes

**I WISH I HAD A BUDDY** by Jerry Walker 1m 1f. Outdoor setting, contemporary costumes. Two strangers, meeting over time, find how much they have in common and begin to share their lives. *Order #3217*

**Jerry Walker** is a retired **Band and Theater** director. He was the director of bands at **Oxford Hills High School** in South Paris and **Stearns High School** in Millinocket. While in Millinocket he was also the theater director and directed the Jazz Ensembles. Since his retirement in 1999 he has acted in and directed plays and musicals at **Schoolhouse**: *The "Hobbit,"* and *"Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep,"* *"The Odd Couple"* and a group of one-act plays; **Lake Region Community Theater**, where he directed: *"The Odd Couple,"* (*female version*), *"Oliver"* and *"You Can't Take It With You"*; **Oxford Hills Community Theater**, *"Carnival"*; and **Windham Center Stage Theater**: *"You Can't Take It With You"* and *Once Upon A Mattress"*. He Directed *"My Fair Lady"* and *"Hello Dolly"* at **Deertrees**. Jerry is one of the founders of the **Daytime Players** as well as an actor and director in the ensemble. Some of his acting roles include *Tevye* in **"Fiddler"**, *Fagin* in **"Oliver"**, *Scrooge* in the **"A Christmas Carol"**, *Fred* in **"All I Really Needed To Know I Learned Kindergarten"**, *Kris Kringle* in **"Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street"**, *Bellomy* in **"The Fantastiks"**, *Sextimus* in **"Once Upon A Mattress"**, *Erroneous* in **"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"**, *Birdboot* in **"The Real Inspector Hound"**, *Al Lewis* in **"The Sunshine Boys"**, and *Samuel* in **"A Little Something For The Ducks"**. He reworked and directed the present expanded version of *"Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep"* at **Schoolhouse** in 2004 and 2008. He is presently writing *"Two Guys Seating on a Bench Talking About Stuff of No Importance to Anyone."*

This short play is taken from the longer compilation play **WE AIN'T DEAD YET!** by Jerry Walker, which is also available as an evening's entertainment, being comprised of 8 short scripts with the themes of aging, and life as a Senior. **ORDER # 3223**

## I WISH I HAD A BUDDY

*AFTERNOON -- An elderly gentleman, WILLY OLSON, is feeding pigeons in a park. He shakes out an empty brown paper bag, folds it up and puts it in his pocket. The Pigeons are represented by a spotlight on the floor DL. They fly away UC.*

**WILLY OLSEN:** *(to the pigeons)* That's all I have left. I will be back tomorrow. Go ahead fly away.

*(WILLY watches the pigeons fly away, then waves to them.)*

Bye bye.

*(To audience)*

Pigeons are a lot like people. When you have something they want they cluster around you and take all you have to give and when you have no more they fly away to find someone else who will give them what they want.

*(Lights up on an elderly woman, AUDREY WATSON, sitting on a bench feeding the pigeons. She shakes out a brown paper bag, folds it and puts it in her bag.)*

**AUDREY WATSON:** *(to the pigeons)* That's all I have left. I will be back tomorrow. Go ahead fly away.

*(AUDREY watches the pigeons fly away, then waves to them.)*

Bye, bye.

*(To audience)*

Pigeons are a lot like people. When you have something they want they cluster around you and take all you have to give and when you have no more they fly away to find someone else who will give them what they want.

*(Back to WILLY leaning up against a tree or something.)*

**WILLY OLSEN:** I was married for a long time and was in love with her for all those years, but she died and since then I have been alone. I come to the park, feed the pigeons, and then I go down to the corner restaurant and have a cup of coffee. I sit alone in a booth at the back of the place and watch people come and go. No one notices me sitting alone up in the corner booth. I guess I am invisible or something. Oh, sometimes they give me a little nod and then they leave just like the pigeons.

*(Back to AUDREY sitting on the bench.)*

**AUDREY WATSON:** I was married for a long time and was in love with him for all those years, but he died and since then I have been alone. I come to the park, feed the pigeons, and then I go down to the corner restaurant and have a cup of coffee. I sit alone in a booth at the back of the place and watch people come and go. No one notices me sitting alone up in the corner booth. I guess I am invisible or something. Oh, sometimes they give me a little nod and then they leave just like the pigeons.

*(WILLY at the tree.)*

**PERUSAL SCRIPT -- I WISH I HAD A BUDDY** by *Jerry Walker*

**WILLY OLSEN:** I miss having my little buddy. We did a lot of things together, in fact we did about everything together. I think I miss the companionship that she brought. The warmth of having someone sitting across the room from me. I still glance over at her chair expecting to see her reading a book or a magazine. We didn't have to talk, just having her there was enough. I wish I had my buddy back.

**AUDREY WATSON:** I miss having him here with me. We did a lot of things together, in fact we did about everything together. I think I miss the companionship that he brought. The warmth of having someone sitting across the room from me. I still glance over to see what he was doing. He sometimes would watch a show on the TV, or read a book. Sometimes he'd be looking at me and he'd have this dumb smile on his face. I loved that. I wish I had my buddy back.

**WILLY OLSEN:** Well, I guess it's time to go home and fix up a little lunch. I used to take my wife out to lunch after we fed the pigeons, but now I just go home.

**AUDREY WATSON:** I am really late today. I usually go to the Corner Restaurant for a lunch after I feed the birds, but I think I will go home today;

**WILLY OLSEN:** The funniest thing happened at the Corner Restaurant this morning. I got there a little earlier than usual and my table was still set up for someone else. I sat down and waited for the waitress to clean it up. God forbid I'd sit at another table. Well, anyway there was this cute little lady at the counter going through her purse, desperately searching for something. Evidently she had left her wallet or change purse or whatever ladies use to carry their loose bills and change at home. I signaled Lennie that I would pick up her tab. He told her and pointed to me up at my usual table. Of course, I struck my most handsome studly pose, raised an eyebrow and gave her a thumbs up. She was cute as hell. She blushed a little and mouthed a thank you and then she scurried out the door. Not bad... not bad at all.

*(WILLY moves back to bench.)*

**AUDREY WATSON:** Oh my God, this morning I was running late and forgot my change purse. So I am at the Corner Restaurant and of course I didn't realize it until I went to pay the bill. So I am fumbling around in my purse when Lennie said, "Don't worry about it Willy will take care of your bill." and he pointed up to the table in the corner. There sat this cute little guy, wearing a goofy hat, striking a real dumb pose and giving me a thumbs up. Well, I thought I would die from embarrassment and mouthed a quick thank you and skedaddled right out of the restaurant. He must think I am the dim-wittedest woman on earth. I hope I don't run into him again. I don't know what I'd do.

**WILLY OLSEN:** I was kind of waiting for the cute lady to come back, but she didn't and I went through my usual Corner Restaurant routine, paid Lennie and headed for the park to feed the pigeons.

*(Back to AUDREY on her bench.)*

**AUDREY WATSON:** I walked along the sidewalk occasionally looking back in case he was following me or something. Old guys, who strike funny poses and wear goofy hats and pay for your coffee, sometimes get some funny ideas in their heads. A thumbs up, who does that anymore.? I suppose he

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was just being nice. He was kind of cute. Oh phshaw, get those silly thoughts right out of your head Audrey Watson. I wonder if he goes to the corner restaurant very often? I've never seen him there before. He was cute. He had his cute little thumb right up in the air, and he kind of looked sort of handsome in that goofy hat. Oh my God, listen to me. What's wrong with me? I'm acting like a silly schoolgirl. I hope I don't see him again.

*(AUDREY feeds the pigeons. WILLY is at his tree feeding the pigeons.)*

**WILLY OLSEN:** I wonder if she goes to the Corner Restaurant very often? I've never seen her there before. She was kind of cute, with her little cheeks all red and blushy. I think she kind of liked the way I did the thumbs up thing and the neat sexy pose I had. Maybe tomorrow I will go to the restaurant a little earlier. .. see if she's there. What hat should I wear tomorrow? Maybe I should wear the same one. She liked it.

*(AUDREY moves back to her bench.)*

**AUDREY WATSON:** Maybe tomorrow I will go to the Corner Restaurant a little later and see if he is there. I should pay him back for today . I don't want him to think that I always take money from strangers. I hope he doesn't wear that goofy hat again. Alright, that's what I will do tomorrow morning. I better get some new clothes or something. Maybe I'll wear the red dress tomorrow. Audrey Watson, you silly old thing, you are getting ahead of yourself, slow down.

*(AUDREY smiles and suppresses a little giggle.)*

**2 ½ PAGES TO THE END OF THIS PLAY**