

The
Path

a play about
Growing Older

by

Jerry Walker



Newport, Maine

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THE PATH

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Cast

Zack
GPS Voice
Wife

SETTING: a forest
Contemporary costume

RUNNING TIME: about 2-3 minutes

THE PATH by Jerry Walker 1m 1f 1f voice forest setting, contemporary costumes. As we grow older, even the places we have frequented begin to seem less familiar. But then reality and the hand of a spouse can bring us back to our 'home'. *Order #3219*

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 34th 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**

THE PATH

(A man, ZACK, stands alone in the forest UR. He is surrounded by trees and as he moves forward the Forest must move with him so he seems to always be on the path.)

ZACK: I am out on my morning walk and I ended up here. I've never seen this path before. It looks a little scary. All my life I have been confronted with things that seemed a little scary and I didn't go and find out why or if there was anything to be afraid of. I just worried that I would get lost and never find my way back. It never dawned on me that all I would have to do is to turn around and go back the way I had come. There were other paths that frightened me, but somehow I found the courage to go down them. I don't think it was courage as much as the fact I had a good idea where they went or someone would go with me ...you know, someone that had already been there. This path appeared before me and regardless of what lies ahead I have to go down it. I have no other choice. So what am I afraid of... Well it's like this... The other paths were safe. I wasn't in danger and I could protect myself from any dangers that would jump out at me, because I knew what they were. I knew how to avoid them and keep myself safe... Safe, isn't that what we want? To be safe. To not have to worry about the dangers that exist in the world and what harm they would do to us. I know, I can't avoid this path any longer and I can no longer decide to not go down this path or to decide that it is too dangerous and to turn around and go back the way I came. I have no choice. The time has come to face the fears that have held me back my entire life. Finally, I have the courage to do this and I will do it.

(He moves L of CS, the pathway moving with him. The pathway faces DRC and stops. He looks DR and then back to the audience.)

So far so good...

(pointing to DR)

...that way looks safe...

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