

PERUSAL SCRIPT

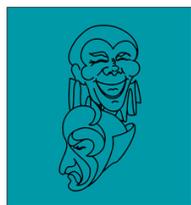
**Two Guys Sitting On A Bench
By A River**

**Talking About Stuff
of No Importance to Anyone**

a play about
Growing Older

by

Jerry Walker



Leicester Bay
THEATRICALS

Newport, Maine

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**TWO GUYS SITTING ON A BENCH BY A RIVER TALKING ABOUT STUFF
OF NO IMPORTANCE TO ANYONE**

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ed

Bill

SETTING: A park bench near a river or lake

Contemporary costumes

RUNNING TIME: about 20 minutes

TWO GUYS SITTING ON A BENCH BY A RIVER TALKING ABOUT STUFF OF NO

IMPORTANCE TO ANYONE by Jerry Walker 2m, outdoor setting. Contemporary costumes. What do guys talk about? Well, no matter the age, the discussion rarely changes through the years; maybe it's the discussions between even long-time friends since High School that keep us young at heart. *Order #3222*

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**

TWO GUYS SITTING ON A BENCH BY A RIVER TALKING ABOUT STUFF OF NO IMPORTANCE TO ANYONE

(ED and BILL are found sitting on a park bench. ED is fishing and BILL is baiting his hook.)

ED: Nice day.

BILL: Yup.

ED: Quiet.

BILL: Yup.

ED: Need help?

BILL: Nope.

ED: Think you might start fishing sometime today?

BILL: Prob'ly.

ED: What's taking you so long? Just put the worm on the hook.

BILL: I can't get the thing to stop wigglin', so I can tie it on.

ED: What do you mean, tie it on.

BILL: I don't want to hurt the worm.

ED: What?

BILL: I tie the worm on. I don't like to stick the hook in it.

ED: It's just a worm, for Pete's sake.

BILL: So what do ya think, worms don't feel pain? What are you some kind of barbarian or something?

ED: So you're going to drown him instead?

BILL: No! Yes! I don't know. I just know I'm not going to stick a hook in him. That's it, end of discussion.

ED: How do you expect to catch a fish?

BILL: I don't.

ED: Then why are we here?

BILL: I like to watch the river.

(THEY sit quietly for a moment.)

ED: You like to watch the river?

BILL: Yup.

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by *Jerry Walker*

(After a long pause)

I like it. It's restful. You know how long this river's been here? Forever. And it's still gonna be here when we're gone. Pretty amazing ain't it.

ED: Yeah, I guess so.

BILL: He just keeps flowin' along.

ED: What does?

BILL: The river.

(BILL breaks into the song "Old Man River")

"OLD MAN RIVER, THAT OLD MAN RIVER.

HE JUST KEEPS FLOWIN' ALONG"

ED: You haven't changed a bit. You're still same old goofball and you can't sing at all!

(Goes back to fishing.)

BILL: That Mother Nature is quite a girl.

ED: Huh?

BILL: Quite a girl. Mother Nature.

ED: Oh, yeah I guess so.

BILL: You know what's funny though? People don't care about her. They don't pay her any attention. None. Well, they better wise up, cause it ain't smart to fool with Mother Nature... They're gonna pay someday, just you wait.

ED: What are you talking about?

BILL: Mother Nature. Weren't you listening?

ED: I thought we were here to catch fish.

BILL: Why?

ED: To eat.

BILL: Don't like fish.

ED: Then what are we doing here?

BILL: Enjoying ourselves. Sitting here, surrounded by nature, birds, trees, ducks, the river...

(To Ed)

You'd dare to eat a fish out'a this river.

ED: Of Course. Why wouldn't I?

BILL: Polluted.

ED: What do you mean polluted?

BILL: The river's polluted. It full of all kinds of crap. And I mean that literally. Look at those ducks over there... what do you think they do in the water? ...and people, I don't even want to think about

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them. I mean, Mother Nature gave us all this great stuff and we go and screw it all up. We're gonna pay someday...

ED: *(reels in line)* What do you mean by that?

BILL: We're gonna pay someday? She sends us messages, but we don't listen. Now you take this global warming stuff. That's not what's going on. Global shifting, that's what's going on. The North and South Pole are shifting and pretty soon they are going to be where the equator is and those poor people on the Equator are going to be the new north and south pole.

ED: *(shaking his head)* That's what is going on.

BILL: Yes. It's gonna be a whole new world. You better buy a boat, cause nobody knows what the oceans are gonna do. It's gonna be quite an event. Everything switching around. People will have to buy new clothes, sun screen, long johns... just you wait. It's coming soon.

(THEY sit and ED casts his line into the river.)

ED: You hungry?

BILL: Yeah, you?

ED: What did you bring to eat?

BILL: A tuna sandwich.

ED: I thought you didn't like fish.

BILL: I like canned fish. Then, I know where it comes from.

ED: Where's that?

BILL: A can.

ED: That's full of all kinds of chemicals.

BILL: No it isn't.

ED: How do you know?

BILL: I read the can.

ED: And that tells you what?

BILL: What's in the can.

ED: And that is?

BILL: Water, Tuna fish... and a bunch of other stuff.

ED: Chemicals...

BILL: I don't know.

(THEY sit quietly for a few beats. BILL puts down fishing pole.)

I'm tired of fishing... guess I'll dig into that tuna fish sandwich...

(ED digs into a backpack and removes a plastic container and a few smaller ones and places them on the bench and begins to assemble his salad throughout this entire conversation.)

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ED: That's white bread. How come you eat white bread?

BILL: I like it.

ED: You should eat whole grain bread.

BILL: To hard to chew.

ED: Not always.

BILL: Alright then, too many choices... 12 grains, 6 grains. White bread is easier. It's just white.

ED: It's not good for you.

BILL: Probably will be, next week, next month, who knows they're always changing their mind. Take coffee — one day it's bad for you, the next day it's good for you, then it's bad and then it's good. They can't make up their mind. It's better to just drink the stuff and not worry about it.

(BILL takes a few more bites. ED finishes assembling his salad and takes out a napkin, and silver ware and begins his lunch. BILL gets up.)

I gotta take a leak... let me know if anyone's coming.

(BILL darts behind a bush. Starts to sing 'Old Man River' again...)

ED: *(after a moment)* OH, HI THERE MRS. JOHNSON!

BILL: WHAT... YIKES!

(We hear some zipping and the tree shakes and BILL appears with his shirt sticking out from his fly.)

How you doing, Mrs.....

(ED is laughing. BILL goes back behind the tree to finish...)

BILL: You're not funny, you know... I could have hurt myself.

ED: *(eating his salad and sipping his ice tea)* There's a fly on your tuna sandwich.

BILL: *(coming back)* Well, shoo him off.

ED: *(singing)* "Shoo fly, don't bother me...."

BILL: Don't sing, you can't carry a tune. You never could.

ED: I thought we were doing a musical, what with you and 'Old Man River.'

BILL: *(returning)* You always was a wise butt.

ED: What can I say?

BILL: Is that all you're gonna eat?

(Pointing to Ed's salad)

What's those wrinkled black things?

ED: Dried prunes.

BILL: You put them on a salad?

ED: Yeah, they are high in antioxidants. They're good for you.

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BILL: Anti what?

ED: Antioxidants.

BILL: What the are antioxawhatevers.

ED: Antioxidants are nutrients in our foods which prevent or slow the oxidative damage to our body.

BILL: Why do you talk like that?

(Imitating Ed)

“Antioxidants are nutrients in our foods which prevent or slow the oxidative damage to our body”
You sound like a college professor.

ED: I am a college professor.

BILL: Where do they come up with all these words? The English language is too long... way too many words and they keep adding more. And now, everything is capital letters... FBI, CIA, OCDC, ADHD, LMNOP. I don't know what they're talking about half the time.

(Looking at Ed's salad)

What are all those little white things? Never mind I don't want to know.

(They both continue eating.)

ED: My granddaughter and one of her friends is coming to visit tomorrow.

BILL: That's nice.

ED: I guess so.

BILL: You don't seem too excited. What's the matter?

ED: I don't know. It's just that girls are different now. I feel uncomfortable around them. They make me nervous. I can remember when I was young and you'd see girls... Well, how do I say this? They were covered up more.

BILL: I know. You knew where to look.

4 more pages to the end of this play