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# **STRAWBERRY WINE REVISITED**

A Ten Minute Play

by Nikki Harmon

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# Strawberry Wine Revisited

by Nikki Harmon

## CHARACTERS

1 M/1F

JUJU; *A Bank Executive*

FRANK; *A Lawyer and JuJu's husband*

## SETTING/TIME

*A park in San Francisco near Coit Tower – Summer*

## ETC.

*The characters can be any age from 40-60;  
The year the play is set relative to their ages having been 18 in 1968.*

## Strawberry Wine Revisited

by Nikki Harmon

*(AT RISE: A Park in San Francisco on a beautiful summer weekend. JUJU is sitting on a big tie-dyed cloth humming “If You’re Going to San Francisco” and cooking on a hibachi.)*

JUJU

*(Calling off)* You want Strawberry wine or Peach?

*(FRANK ENTERS, exhausted and carrying an ice chest.)*

FRANK

I want a martini served by a decently dressed waiter at the Top Of The Mark.

JUJU

You're not getting into the spirit of this.

FRANK

A couple martinis and I'll be there.

JUJU

The monk fish is almost ready.

FRANK

I thought we were having lobster.

JUJU

It looks like lobster and it's healthier for you.

FRANK

Judith, this is nonsense.

JUJU

JuJu.

FRANK

And that's another thing—

JUJU

My name is—

FRANK

Judith Cynthia Bates and you're the Branch Manager at Bank of America in Santa Monica. JuJu is the name of an unemployed Hippie.

JUJU

It *was* my name.

FRANK

In 1968.

JUJU

Make it JuJu, just for this weekend, Frank. Please.

FRANK

I don't know why I let you talk me into this. I should be at the office now drafting the Bendix Brief. Do you know what's going to happen if Hamilton Bass gets that client away from me?

JUJU

What Frank? What's going to happen if Hamilton's there and you're not for one day?

FRANK

Two days, Judith.

JUDITH

Two days, Frank. What's going to happen?

FRANK

He's going to get the jump on Bendix, that's what's going to happen, and you know what that means? It's his name that'll end up on the account. It'll be Hamilton Bass who gets the bonus and that'll put him on the "A" List this Christmas and you know where that leaves me?

JUJU

On the "B" List?

FRANK

On the "B" List. And you know what *that* means.

JUJU

No Dom Perignon this year.

FRANK

Don't make light of this, Judith. R.T.'ll scratch me from his foursome. I'll end up teeing off with Brockman and Fletcher at the National Convention. Brockman and Fletcher, Judith. They're Associates. They don't even have offices with windows, for God's sake!

JUJU

Calm down, Frank. You're getting over excited.

FRANK

Do you know how many accounts I could lose if my clients see me playing with Brockman and Fletcher?

JUJU

You could call R.T.

FRANK

And tell him what? That I'm not working on the Bendix proposal because I'm drinking strawberry wine in a park? I might as well just give Hamilton Bass my putter. R.T. gave me that Ping Putter last Christmas. He called me into his office and handed it to me himself. This year I'll probably get a bag of tees.

JUJU

You're blowing this whole thing out of proportion.

FRANK

No, I'm not. That's what's going to happen, and all because you had to come here for God knows what reason.

JUJU

For the weekend, Frank. People take time off on the weekend. They go places. Do things.

FRANK

Hamilton Bass's at the office right now going through my Brief. That's what he's doing and I'm here. And why, Judith? Why is that?

JUJU

Because I wanted to find something that would give us some grounding. We need grounding, Frank. Can you understand that?

FRANK

I understand we're at a Hippy reunion—

JUJU

Revitalization Happening.

FRANK

—where we're not going to recognize anyone because all of that was years ago.  
That's what I understand.

JUJU

I'd know Mother Earth if I saw her again.

FRANK

The one who went around breast feeding everyone?

JUJU

She was a free spirit.

FRANK

Not all that free, Judith.

JUJU

And Sun Blossom.

FRANK

With the alfalfa sprouts in her hair and daisies tied to her toes?

JUJU

You're not giving this a chance.

FRANK

There was nothing in Haight Ashbury when there was a Haight Ashbury.

JUJU

There was hope and joy.

FRANK

There were drugs and spaced out guys in dresses.

JUJU

I left something here.

FRANK

What? All you owned was a sleeping bag and a silly floppy hat with feathers.

JUJU

You didn't think it was silly then.

FRANK

I wore a dress for God's sake. What did I know?

JUJU

I have to find something here.

FRANK

Why don't you take a cruise down to Baja. Find a nice deck chair and meditate the waves for a week.

JUJU

What I want's here.

FRANK

Where here?

JUJU

Try, Frank. Just make an effort.

FRANK

Okay. (*Breathing deeply*) It's a nice day. Birds are singing. Peace reins and I have a client in Frisco I can write this whole thing off on, but please don't make me try and re-live a life I never liked when I was living it.

JUJU

I thought you loved being free of society's bonds.

FRANK

That's when I had no bonds...or stocks or mutual funds.

JUJU

You're forgetting what that freedom meant.

FRANK

Sleeping on dirt floors; smoking lettuce leaves someone pawned off on us because we couldn't tell the difference between vegetables and Acapulco Gold.

JUJU

The free love.

FRANK

The trips to the free clinic.

JUJU

Communing with nature.

FRANK

No showers.

JUJU

I'm not getting anything rewarding out of rejecting mortgage applications all day. Foreclosures don't hold that special meaning anymore. I need more from life than approving a loan for a septic tank. I need a real life back, Frank. I need you back.

FRANK

I'm here.

JUJU

I don't know who's here.

FRANK

You're acting foolish.

JUJU

Where were you when Kennedy was shot?

FRANK

Putting Clearasil on my acne.

JUJU

Not J.F.K. R.F.K.

FRANK

I was with you. You know that.

JUJU

And what did you do? I'll tell you what you did. You put your head in my lap and cried.

FRANK

I was eighteen.

JUJU

What did you do when Reagan was shot?

FRANK

I don't remember.

JUJU

You sold your AT&T.

FRANK

I thought the market would drop. What do you want from me?

JUJU

I want back the man who cried.

FRANK

Then find an eighteen year old Democrat.

JUJU

I want you.

FRANK

No you don't. Presidents get shot and I sell stocks. You want a kid with patches on his jeans, a goat skin flask full of wine and five dollars in his pocket. I have CDs and IRAs now, Judith. I throw out slacks that are shiny and I get a rash from strawberries.

JUJU

Do you remember this tree?

FRANK

What?

JUJU

This tree. The one we're sitting under.

FRANK

You're leading up to something, Judith. I always know when you're doing that.

JUJU

Well, do you?

FRANK

Taking a random shot I'd guess we probably sat under it.

JUJU

We made love under it, then we walked all the way up to Coit Tower and stayed the whole night drinking wine and chanting our Mantra.

FRANK

Are you suggesting I take off my clothes in the middle of this park, hump you, then hike up to the top of a hill, down a quart of Gallo and hum for eight hours? Judith, I'm a Sixty-two year old partner of a century old law firm with branches in London, Paris, Hong Kong and Singapore.

JUJU

You weren't always.

*(JUJU goes to pull his shirt off and He tries to get away.)*

FRANK

There're children over there flying kites. What do you think their parents'll think when they trip over two people exhibiting themselves?

JUJU

*(Getting the shirt up over his head)* They'll think there're two people in love.

FRANK

*(Pulls his shirt back down)* They'll call the cops.

JUJU

Frank, I love you!

FRANK

And I love you, but that doesn't mean we have to fondle each other in a public park and squirt wine out of a goat's stomach.

JUJU

I need this weekend and I need it here with you!!!

FRANK

Judith, I sleep on a Sealy Posturepedic extra firm mattress. There're arch supports in my shoes. My blood circulation stinks and I freeze when it drops below sixty.

JUJU

What are you saying?

FRANK

That my body couldn't do what you ask it to even if it wanted to.

JUJU

I want back what I had. I have to know you're still the same man.

FRANK

I am. I'm just not in the same body.

JUJU

Prove you're the same man.

FRANK

I'm here, aren't I?

JUJU

That's not enough.

FRANK

What more do you want?

*(JUJU takes off her vest and starts for Frank.)*

I'll buy you that chain at Tiffany's.

*(JUJU tugs at his shirt, kissing his neck.)*

Judith, please.

JUJU

JuJu.

FRANK

JuJu.

*(JUJU keeps on kissing and tugging until:)*

FRANK

Alright.

JUJU

You mean it?

FRANK

Yes.

They kiss and suddenly, FRANK gets up.

JUJU

Where are you going?

**This is Not the End of the Play**  
**Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes**