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Product Code A1001-SP

TERRIBLE TWOS

A 10-Minute Play
by

Donald Dewey

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Terrible Twos
by Donald Dewey

CHARACTERS

1F /1M

CINDY *a young mother, about 25*

GLEN *her husband; a young father, about 25*

SETTING

The back porch of a home in the Midwest

Terrible Twos

by Donald Dewey

AT RISE: *Early evening, summer; the back porch of a home in the Midwest. CINDY is sitting on a rocker with a bottle of beer and is winding down from the day. There is a second (wicker) chair with a newspaper on it. CINDY is dressed in jeans and a T-shirt. She hangs her bare feet off the porch. After a moment, GLEN comes out from the back screen door. He closes the door quietly.*

GLEN

Finally went to sleep.

CINDY nods but keeps her attention on some far object from the house as she drinks her beer.

GLEN, *Continued*

He really tired himself out.

He notices how distracted she is.

GLEN, *Continued*

Did a job on you too, I guess, huh?

CINDY

What'd you say?

GLEN

Bobby.

CINDY

You got him to go to sleep, yeah?

GLEN

What I said.

CINDY

Good.

GLEN

Don't let it get to you. It's natural. The Terrible Twos.

She doesn't respond except to slug more beer.

GLEN, *Continued*

What you thinking about all so quiet?

CINDY

Just a movie I saw once. I don't remember what it was called. One of those science-fiction things.

GLEN

Like *Star Wars*?

CINDY

No. This planet. Our time. There's a scene where this mother calls her husband into the living room. He goes in, and there's his wife holding their son by the arms on his feet. And she says, now go walk to Daddy over there. And the baby does it! Right across the floor giggling all the way. His first steps.

GLEN

I don't remember that one.

CINDY

And the father sweeps up the baby from the floor. He's giddy with joy, too. He looks at the baby a second and then he pitches him out their fourth-floor window.

GLEN

What???!?

CINDY

It can only get worse from here, the father tells the mother. And the mother, she thinks about it and just nods.

CINDY takes a pull from her bottle.

GLEN

This was a movie? I don't believe it! Something like that would've been one of those X-rated pornos. Worse than that.

CINDY

What letter would that be, Glen?

He takes in her expression. She finally laughs.

GLEN

You're making it up!

CINDY

Got you! Got you!

She laughs at him until he pulls the beer bottle out of her hand and takes a swig. She then pulls the bottle back.

CINDY, *Continued*

Get your own.

GLEN picks up the newspaper and flops down in the other chair.

GLEN

Let's see what's on the TV.

CINDY

I'd rather look at the sun set.

GLEN

It's not gonna set all night. How about a movie? One of those sci-fi things since you're in the mood for them.

CINDY

They're all the same.

He consults the listings.

GLEN

(Reading)

"Creatures from the Deep". Some half-shark, half-squid thing. I can see it now. Coupla guys standing on a pier fishing.

CINDY

(Mockingly ominous)

A lot of mysterious deaths lately.

GLEN

People go swimming and don't come back.

CINDY

Especially if they're naked teenagers going at one another.

GLEN

So these guys at the pier are talking about this, and one of them says to the other, "Hold on, Joe. Something tangled on my line here."

CINDY and GLEN yowl a chorus of horror in mockery of the film. They stop only when they realize they're being too loud and might wake up their son. He throws the paper aside.

GLEN

You're right. The sunset's better.

They stare off quietly for a moment.

GLEN, *Continued*

You really have thoughts like that one before?

CINDY

Mmm?

GLEN

The baby thing.

CINDY

It was a joke.

GLEN

I know it was a joke, Cindy. And you got me. But you could've gotten me...I don't know. With something else.

CINDY

Like what?

GLEN

I don't know. Something...more normal.

CINDY

We have normal all the time. That's not a joke.

GLEN

I guess.

CINDY

So what're you saying?

He thinks about it a second, then reaches over and starts rubbing her shoulder in sexual invitation.

GLEN

Is normal so bad?

She feigns disinterest.

CINDY

Maybe not always.

GLEN

I think it's great. Just like the sun setting every night.

He kisses her.

CINDY

(Sardonically)

Well, you have more to appreciate.

GLEN

There's that.

CINDY

Don't you want a beer instead?

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