

Family Die-Alogue Side
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What I'm trying to say is Mother will be staying with us for a while, maybe a long while. Carol can't really keep her anymore, and we sold Mother's house. My mother has no other place to go.

Fred, it's not like you have to have a relationship-- We both are going to have to make some adjustments and sacrifices.

I really don't want Mother to hear our discussions-- you know our personal affairs-- so I probably won't be talking to you as much as I usually do. I know it's an inconvenience, but do you want Mother involved in our private conversations? Think about it. You don't have to worry about her; if I know Mother she'll act like you're not even here.

Fred, you're in a vase. What do you think she would talk to you about? She may make a few off-hand remarks but just act like you don't hear her. Eventually she'll stop. Carol has had her for six months ever since we sold her house. We can at least make it through today. Remember what doesn't kill you will make you stronger. I guess I should find a different phrase. Oh gosh, I left Mother sitting on the front porch. I'm going to go get her. I need to pay attention to her for a while but I promise I will talk to you later, OK, honey?

(Leaves the stage and is heard offstage)
Mother, let's go in the house I can turn on the TV for you.

(Grace re-enters stage carrying another urn).

Welcome home, Mother, it's nice and quiet here. I know you'll be happy-- we have a beautiful sunset view from the porch. (*She sets Mother's urn on the table stage right*). Does this feel comfortable for you?

Yes, Fred is here. He's in the kitchen.

He may come over here. It's his house too.

Yes, I know Carol's house is much bigger but she had five people living there; really, Mother, how much room do you need?

No, we don't have a mantle.

Carol has a mantle because Carol has a fireplace.

Mother, there are no children around here so you don't need to be on a mantle.

You know you can't go back to your house. We sold it.

Mother, it was months after you passed.

We are not vultures; there was no one to take care of the house. Did you want us to keep it up as a shrine? Would you want to be there all alone?

I didn't think so. If you will give this a chance, I am sure you will like it here. It's quiet and there aren't any children making a lot of noise.