

## INTRODUCTION

Jenny Lawson was an actress and her husband Gilbert is a film director. Now Jenny stays at home, in their nice house, but she wants more. She wants to live a little before she dies! Gilbert loves Jenny, but a wife must stay at home, he thinks. Suddenly something happens to Gilbert, and then he understands Jenny. But is it too late?

## CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Jenny Lawson, a film actress

Gilbert Lawson, Jenny's husband, a film director

Henry, a young man, a film student

Laura, a friend of Jenny's from school

Jenny's father

Jenny's mother

A waitress at the airport café

Two women and one man at the airport

British Airways man at the airport check-in desk

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

Scene 1: In a garden with a table, two chairs, breakfast (with bread), a book.

Scene 2: At the airport café, with a table, two chairs, a big bag, a coffee, a coke, a sandwich.

Scene 3: A check-in desk, some plane tickets.

Scene 4: A room with a table, three chairs, a telephone.

Jenny must have a watch.

# Sleep now, My Darling

## SCENE 1

### Jenny must stay at home

*It is a hot summer day. Jenny and Gilbert Lawson are having breakfast at a table in their garden. Gilbert is reading a book.*

JENNY Gilbert, can I come with you? To America?

GILBERT (*He is reading. Looking up*) What?

JENNY Oh, Gilbert! Please listen to me! I said 'Can I come to America too?'

GILBERT (*Eating some bread*) Mmmm. This is good bread. Did you make it?

JENNY Yes. Gilbert! I said, 'Can I come with you?'

GILBERT No, Jenny. You have work here. There's the house, the garden . . .

*He begins to read his book again.*

JENNY I remember *My New Friend*. It was your best film. It was my best film, too! They were happy days.

GILBERT (*He puts the book down, smiling.*) Yes. I watched *My New Friend* again last week. It's the best Gilbert Lawson film. And you were good in it, my love! You're a good actress.

JENNY *(Smiling)* The film had a good director! Gilbert Lawson!

GILBERT Oh, thank you! But now I have this new film, so I must go to America for six weeks.

JENNY Gilbert, can I be in this film, too? I want to be an actress again.

GILBERT Perhaps next time. Would you like that? Perhaps you can be in the next film.

JENNY You said that before.

GILBERT Did I? *(Eating again)* Yes, this bread is very good.

JENNY Can we go to America together then? Not for a film. Just you and me. Perhaps next year?

GILBERT Perhaps. *(He smiles at her.)*

JENNY *(Smiling at him)* Next year, then.

GILBERT Yes. Next year. Love, I must go now. I'm going



*'Yes, this bread is very good.'*

to be late for the plane. I love you, Jenny.

JENNY *(Unhappily)* I love you, too, darling.

SCENE 2

**Jenny talks to a film student**

*It is six weeks later. Jenny is having a coffee at the airport. She is waiting for Gilbert's plane. A young man, Henry, sees her. Henry has a big bag in his hand.*

HENRY Hello! Are you Jenny Lawson?

JENNY Yes.

HENRY I knew it!

*A young waitress brings Jenny's coffee. She smiles at Henry.*

WAITRESS *(To Jenny)* Here you are. *(To Henry)* And do you want something?

JENNY *(To the waitress)* Thanks. *(To Henry)* Sorry, but do I know you?

HENRY *(To the waitress)* A coke for me please, and a sandwich.

WAITRESS *(She smiles at Henry.)* One coke, one sandwich. *(She goes away.)*

HENRY *(To Jenny)* Oh sorry – yes. I know your film, *My New Friend*. And I know Gilbert. Can I sit down?

JENNY *(Smiling)* You can't stand up and have a coke



and a sandwich. Wait a minute. I know you. I know your face. But I can't remember – tell me, how do you know Gilbert?

*Henry sits down at the table with Jenny.*

HENRY I'm learning about his work. I know all the Gilbert Lawson films. But forget about me. I want to talk about you. You aren't happy. I can see that.

JENNY (*Angrily*) What? You can't say that!  
*The waitress comes back with a coke and a sandwich.*

WAITRESS (*She puts the things down and smiles at Henry.*) A coke and a sandwich.

HENRY Thank you.

WAITRESS That's OK. The sandwiches are very good. I have them for lunch sometimes.

HENRY (*Smiling and eating the sandwich*) Yes, you're right. It's very good. Thank you.

WAITRESS That's OK. Goodbye then. (*She goes.*)

JENNY (*Looking at her watch*) I must go soon.

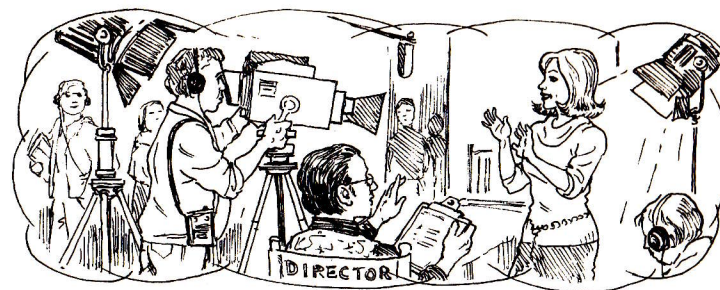
HENRY What do you do every day?

JENNY What? I don't know you. You can't ask—

HENRY (*Smiling*) Jenny. Please. Tell me. What do you do every day?

*Jenny begins to cry. Henry smiles, but nicely.*

JENNY (*Crying, angry*) OK. Here's your answer. I get up in the morning and then I do nothing. We have no



*'I was happy when I was an actress.'*

children. A woman does the house for me. A man does the garden.

HENRY Do you have friends?

JENNY (*Crying*) Yes! No! I have coffee with people. I have dinner with people. We say things like, 'Nice weather for the time of year'. But we don't talk.

HENRY Yes. I understand. Now I'm going to tell you about me. I'm twenty. I go to America, sometimes. I have friends. I like films, so I make films. I'm happy. What about you?

JENNY (*She stops crying.*) I was happy when I was an actress.

HENRY There! There's your answer! Be an actress again.  
*Laura comes in. She sees Jenny.*

LAURA Jenny Lawson!

JENNY Laura!

LAURA What are you doing here?