

PLANTING THE MUSIC

By Maureen Brady Johnson

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PLANTING THE MUSIC

A Ten Minute Dramatic Duet

By Maureen Brady Johnson

SYNOPSIS: Marty is worried that his wife, Tess, may be having a break down. After the death of her father, Tess begins “*Planting The Music.*” In this touching story of a father’s tradition all will realize the true gift of love.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female, 1 male)

TESS (f) Late twenties or thirties.
Grieving the loss of her father.
(24 lines)

MARTY (m) Late twenties or thirties. Tess’s
husband. *(24 lines)*

SETTING: A backyard.

PROPS

- Two Small Trowels
- Umbrella
- Multiple Heads of Garlic

SOUND EFFECTS: A storm; rain, lighting and thunder.

*This play is dedicated to my dad, Bud Brady,
who planted the music and shared his love of the garden with me.*

AT RISE: *TESS is on the ground digging holes in the soil. It is raining. Sounds of thunder and lightning are heard throughout the scene. MARTY comes out with an umbrella and stands behind her.*

MARTY: What are you doing?

TESS: Digging holes.

MARTY: In the rain?

TESS: I'm doing what I should have done all these years.

MARTY: You've wanted to dig holes in your parent's yard for years?

Everyone is looking at you. Aunt Pat, Uncle Bob, all your cousins.

They're going to think that you've gone crazy and they're probably blaming it on me and the move to California. Look, I know you're upset...

TESS: I'm not upset. I'm doing what my dad wants me to do. They should understand that.

MARTY: Your dad wanted you to dig holes in his yard in the rain?

TESS: No. I mean, yes. He wanted me to plant the music.

MARTY: Right. Right. The music. Your mom is worried.

TESS: It's not about my mom. It's about my dad.

MARTY: Can we talk about this inside? It's miserable out here and any minute now there will be thunder...

Sound of Thunder.

and lightening,

A crack of lightening.

I rest my case.

TESS: After I dig these holes, I'm planting the music.

MARTY: Ok. I know that the stress of this last week has been unbelievable. Maybe digging holes out here in the rain is some kind of earth/aquatic therapy. But you always get sick when you're stressed and this downpour is not going to help.

TESS: It would go faster if you helped me.

MARTY: I don't do dirt. You know that.

TESS: Suit yourself. I've gotta get these holes dug. After I plant the Music, I'm going to plant the Porcelain, the Georgian Crystal and finally, the Elephant.

MARTY: Tess, you're scaring me. Come inside. I'll make you some cinnamon toast like your dad did...

TESS: My dad made the best cinnamon toast. (*Continues to dig holes.*) He would let the butter melt into the bread before he sprinkled the cinnamon sugar on top just to make sure that it stuck.

MARTY: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to bring up your dad.

TESS: You didn't know. But that's why I'm out here. My dad.

MARTY: I seem to have lost you between the elephant planting and burying the dishes.

TESS: You haven't lost me. I'm right here. I'm just different. I've changed.

Thunder and Lightning.

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