

SHE & HE

Ten-Minute Duet

by
Judith Estrine



Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

Toll-Free 888-473-8521

Fax 319-368-8011

Web www.brookpub.com

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Play opens when characters meet as young adolescents in the 1950s and follows them through the life course.

AT RISE: A man and woman exhibiting youthful energy and enthusiasm.

SHE: Summer.
HE: Baseball.
SHE: Ices.
HE: Dodgers.
SHE: Yankees.
HE: Ebbetts Field.
SHE: Yankees!
HE: Yankees??
SHE: **(emphatically)** Yankees!
HE: **(shrugging shoulders)** Coney Island.
SHE: Hot dogs.
HE: Rock & roll.
SHE: Buddy Holly.
HE: The Big Bopper.
SHE: The Platters.
HE: **(shyly)** Girls.
SHE: Lifeguards.
HE: Beach blanket.
SHE: **(forlorn)** Acne.
HE: Pinups.
SHE: **(a touch desperate)** Training bra.
HE: Ann Margaret.
SHE: Eddie Fisher.
HE: **(turning to her for the first time)** Beautiful.
SHE: Beautiful?
HE: **(emphatically)** Beautiful.
SHE: **(touching his face)** Sweet.
HE: Prom.
SHE: Strapless. . .
HE: Tux!
SHE: Falsies. . .
HE: Wow!
SHE: Brooklyn College.
HE: Rutgers.
SHE: **(apprehensive)** New Jersey?
HE: **(proudly)** Scholarship.
SHE: Stay.
HE: **(touching her face)** Beautiful.
SHE: Stay.

(Pause as they grow into college days.)

HE: Exams.
SHE: Sorority.
HE: Essays.
SHE: Boys. . .
HE: Lonely. . .
SHE: Beer!
HE: **(proudly)** Phi Beta Kappa.
SHE: **(proudly)** M.R.S.
HE: Graduation!
SHE: Marriage!

HE: Freedom!
SHE: Marriage!
HE: Adventure!!
SHE: Marriage!!
HE: Travel!!!
SHE: **(angry)** Boys.
HE: **(less sure of himself)** Freedom?
SHE: **(exuberantly)** Men.
HE: **(tentatively)** Adventure?
SHE: **(showing him engagement ring)** Proposal!
HE: No!
SHE: **(flaunting ring)** Fiancee!
HE: **(getting down on one knee)** Stay. . .
SHE: **(tentatively – still concentrating on ring)** Commitment. . .
HE: Love. . .
SHE: Commitment!
HE: Adoration. . .
SHE: **(pauses to absorb this wonderful word)** Adoration?
HE: House. . .
SHE: Home?
HE: Family. . .
SHE: Baby?
HE: **(gesturing many babies)** Babies.
SHE: **(matter-of-factly throwing ring over her shoulder and giving him her hand)** Okay.
(Pause: The Wedding.)

SHE: Bride.
HE: **(exuberance that increases each time HE says “Sex”)** Sex.
SHE: Wedding.
HE: Sex.
SHE: Bridesmaids.
HE: Sex.
SHE: Ring.
HE: Sex.
SHE: Virgin.
HE: **(laughing)** You know. . .
SHE: **(apprehensively)** Sex?
HE: **(pulling her down on the chair)** Sex.
SHE: Eeek!
HE: Sex!
SHE: Yuk!
HE: Sex!!
SHE: Headache. . .
HE: Seduction. . .
SHE: Oh?
HE: Lover?
SHE: **(pleasantly surprised)** Oh!!

(Married Life.)

SHE: Home!
HE: **(pride of ownership)** Mortgage!
SHE: Formica!
HE: Lawn!
SHE: Dishwasher!
HE: Basement!
SHE: Icemaker!
HE: Job!
SHE: Carpets!
HE: Money!
SHE: Drapes!

HE: Debt.
SHE: Baby. . .
HE: **(backing off)** My God!
SHE: **(pantomime handing him baby)** Elliot. . .
HE: **(looking in awe)** Beautiful!
SHE: **(pantomime handing him baby)** Joey. . .
HE: Oh my-
SHE: **(pantomime handing him babies)** Ernest. . . Howie.
HE: **(putting hand on her belly)** Girls?
SHE: **(backing off holding herself protectively)** Enough!

(Pause to indicate passage of time. This section spoken in flat, lethargic tones.)

SHE: Den mother. . .
HE: Work. . .
SHE: PTA. . .
HE: Work. . .
SHE: Casseroles. . .
HE: Overtime. . .
SHE: Laundry. . .
HE: Commute. . .
SHE: Redecorate. . .
HE: Promotion. . .
SHE: Bored. . .
HE: Lonely. . .
SHE: Lonely. . .

(Pause – this section explodes with excitement.)

END OF FREE PREVIEW