

PLAY #9

by

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CHARACTERS

SUNFLOWER

BEE

MAN WITH WATER BUCKET

SUNFLOWER

(At Rise: MAN comes to water
SUNFLOWER.)

SUNFLOWER

You're gonna need more than that.

MAN

I was going to give you the whole thing.

SUNFLOWER

It's so dry.

MAN

You don't need more water. There are other flowers
here.

SUNFLOWER

How do you know what I need?

MAN

How do I know you're not just being greedy?

SUNFLOWER

That's your nature. Not mine.

MAN

Fine. I'll get more. But remember. You have an
advantage.

SUNFLOWER

What?

MAN

You can move with the sun.

SUNFLOWER

That's a myth! Have you seen me move anywhere since I
opened. I've faced the same way.

MAN

You're right.

SUNFLOWER

Of course I'm right.

a moment with Bee.

(MAN exits.)

Come closer, Bee. Ah... Yes... Let me feel you in my face.

BEE

Bzzzzzzzzzzzz.... Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz...

SUNFLOWER

That's better.

(BEE buzzes round and round the flower
and then settles down nearby.)

BEE

You aren't my favorite flower.

SUNFLOWER

What do you mean?

BEE

You're not sweet like the Sweet Pea flowers. Or spicy
like Nasturtiums. You bring a little acid to our
honey.

SUNFLOWER

I suppose that's my nature.

BEE

But you're by far the most attractive flower to me.

SUNFLOWER

Nice of you to say. (Sigh.)

BEE

But you sound tired, Sunflower.

SUNFLOWER

Thanks a lot.

BEE

No harm meant. I know you. You come and go.

SUNFLOWER

I know.

BEE

Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz... I wait for you to open. And when you
do, I know you'll soon drop your petals. And seeds

will follow.

SUNFLOWER

Food for birds. (Sigh.)

BEE

There's enough of you for that. Maybe you could...
Here he comes. You could ask him to.... You know...

SUNFLOWER

No! Bee! I couldn't.

(MAN returns with water. Approaches
carefully around BEE, who buzzes around
excitedly.)

Be careful. Don't sting him.

BEE

I won't sting you. What do you think?

MAN

About what?

BEE

About this fine specimen of a flower!

SUNFLOWER

Oh stop. I'm not a whore on 5th Avenue.

MAN

It's the prettiest sunflower I've ever had in my
garden.

SUNFLOWER

You're flattering me.

MAN

No. I really mean it.

SUNFLOWER

Really?

BEE

You see? Go ahead and ask him.

MAN

Ask me what?

SUNFLOWER

I really couldn't.

MAN

What, Sunflower?

BEE

Sunflower is getting tired.

SUNFLOWER

It's true. There's a slight shrivel in my petals.

BEE

We were just talking about it.

SUNFLOWER

There are a lot of us left for the birds.

BEE

So why leave him for the birds?

MAN

You're inviting yourself in?

SUNFLOWER

For my last days. I know we've had our differences.
But... It would mean so much to me...

MAN

I don't know. What would the neighbors think if I cut
you down? They come by just to see you.

SUNFLOWER

The neighbors don't take care of me. You do.

MAN

And Bee... You'd have to say goodbye to Bee.

BEE

We have to say goodbye, anyway. Please take him in
with you.

MAN

Is this really what you want?

SUNFLOWER

It's my last wish.

MAN

Okay. If it's what you want. I'll get the garden shears.

(MAN picks up garden shears. Comes to back of SUNFLOWER.)

BEE

Be gentle with him.

MAN

Just don't sting me.

SUNFLOWER

Oh. Yes... Easy.

(MAN gently snips SUNFLOWER from his stem.)

Oh!!! Now you'll have to help me in.

MAN

I know.

BEE

Be sure to give him some water.

MAN

I will. I promise.

BEE

Goodbye, dear Sunflower.

SUNFLOWER

Goodbye, my lovely Bee.

(BEE and SUNFLOWER hug. MAN helps SUNFLOWER into his home. BEE buzzes happily around.)

LIGHTS FADE

END OF PLAY