

The Wish

a short play by
Peter M. Floyd

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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Judy Stratford: A woman between 25 and 45

Gavin Stratford: Judy's husband, between 25 and 45

Gene: A genie

SCENE: Judy and Gavin's home, on a Saturday afternoon

The scene is the living room of a small house or apartment, belonging to the Stratfords. As the lights come up, we see Judy Stratford sitting in a chair reading a book. After a moment, the door bursts open, and Gavin Stratford enters. He is carrying a large bag.

JUDY

There you are! What took you so long?

GAVIN

Judy, wait 'til you see what I've got. You're gonna love this. *(He sets the bag down on the coffee table.)*

JUDY

Did you find an ironing board?

GAVIN

What? Uh, no, I didn't. But check this out...

JUDY

'Cause I mean, the whole point of your going out was to scope out yard sales to pick up a cheap ironing board. You couldn't even find *one*?

GAVIN

Naw. I must have gone to a dozen places, no one had an ironing board that I could see.

JUDY

Well, did you ask?

GAVIN

THERE WERE NO IRONING BOARDS! Sorry, I didn't mean to yell. But take a look at this. *(He opens the bag and reaches inside.)*

JUDY

What is it?

GAVIN

A lamp!

JUDY

We've already got plenty of lamps.

GAVIN

Not like this one.

JUDY

What we don't have is an ironing board.

GAVIN

Here, check this out! (The lamp that he pulls out of the bag is the ugliest table lamp imaginable. Perhaps it is garishly colored. Perhaps it is covered with tassels. Perhaps it has pictures of Star Wars characters on the shade. The exact nature of the monstrosity can be left to the imaginations and resources of the theater group that is putting this on. It just has to be something that no person of taste would ever allow in his or her home.)

JUDY

Um, Gavin... What is that?

GAVIN

It's a lamp. A cool one, too! Come on, you can't tell me you don't like it.

JUDY

How much did it cost?

GAVIN

Only forty bucks, if you can believe it.

JUDY

Gavin, do you remember that little conversation we had about how you were going to consult with me before making any major purchases? We don't really have space for a new lamp.

GAVIN

Sure we do. We can move that lamp we got from your mother into the bedroom, and put this one in its place...

JUDY (*ominously*)

Gavin.

GAVIN

What, you don't like it? (*JUDY gives him a pointed look.*) See, you think it looks bad, but it's really just needs to be cleaned, that's all. Here, let me just wipe off some of the dust...

Gavin pulls out a handkerchief, and begins to rub the surface of the lamp. As he does so, Gene materializes before him. This is something that can be done with a minimum of special effects -- in fact, the cheesier it looks, the better. The lights can just go out for a couple of seconds, allowing the actor playing Gene to walk on stage and be revealed when they come up again.

Gene is dressed in casual clothes, such as jeans and a t-shirt. If the t-shirt displays the logo of a heavy metal band, so much the better.

GAVIN

What the hell?

JUDY

Who are you? Where did you come from?

GENE

Well, who do you think I am? I'm Mr. Clean.

GAVIN

Mr. Clean?

GENE

That's sarcasm, my friend. I'm the genie of the lamp, of course. Who else would I be?

JUDY

Genie of the lamp? You mean *this* lamp?

GENE

Yep.

GAVIN

But, this isn't the kind of lamp genies are supposed to be in. I mean, shouldn't you be in one of those golden dealies that looks like a little, stretched-out teapot?

FOR FULL SCRIPT, CONTACT PMFLOYD01@GMAIL.COM