

FUNeral

Written by  
Rainah Gregory

Based on a true occurrence (but in this case it is exaggerated...)

Winner of the 2020 Comedy Knight Scholarship: Written Category

rg9ys@virginia.edu  
6095825776

INT. HOUSE. DAY

All members of the Lee family: MOM (55), DAD (55), VANESSA (17) and MEGHAN (17), frantically run about getting dressed. Passing the camera in various stages of the process.

VANESSA

Meg! Where are my black converse?

MOM

You are NOT wearing your converse young lady! Dress. Nice.

VANESSA

But Mom-

DAD

Listen to your mother

MEGHAN

Where's my black rose dress?

MOM

Laundry

MEGHAN

What?

MOM

You know how to work a washing machine!

MEGHAN

When are we leaving?

MOM

Five minutes ago

DAD

(holding two ties) Which one?

MOM

(without looking) Green

DAD

How do you know I'm holding it?

MOM puts in her earrings

MOM

You're predictable.

DAD

Am I?

MOM

Always.

DAD

(jokingly though clearly wounded)  
Is that a bad thing?

MOM kisses DAD on the cheek and walks off-screen. DAD stands alone.

INT. CHURCH. DAY

The Lee Family enters the church. MOM and MEGHAN take a program from an usher and hurriedly find a seat.

DAD

Hey, I'll be right back. Need some air.

DAD leaves.

VANESSA stands and looks at the front of the church.

We see a coffin. A pallbearer moves and we see a second coffin.

VANESSA's eyes widen. She walks quickly over to MOM and MEGHAN. They whisper:

VANESSA

We need to get out of here

MEGHAN

What?

VANESSA

We're at the wrong funeral

MOM

What?

VANESSA

This is the WRONG funeral

MOM and MEGHAN turn over their programs and see the faces of complete strangers printed on the front.

They whisper, trying not to make a scene:

MEGHAN

Jesus Ch-

MOM  
Meghan! We're at church!

VANESSA  
We've got to go

MEGHAN  
We can't just leave!

VANESSA  
Uh, yes we can!

MEGHAN  
It's rude to leave a funeral!

VANESSA  
It's rude to CRASH a funeral!

MOM  
Girls!

VANESSA  
Let's go!

MEGHAN faces the front of the church and sits up straight

MEGHAN  
I think we should stay and pay our  
respects to...

MEGHAN flicks her eyes down at the program

MEGHAN (CONT'D)  
The Joneses.

VANESSA  
Meg? We don't KNOW the Joneses!

MOM frantically scrolls through her phone

MOM  
Geoff's Funeral is at Christ's  
Church, not All Saints. Let's find  
Dad.

MEGHAN sighs and stands with MOM. They turn and walk with  
VANESSA up the aisle.

As they reach the door, a mob of mourners gushes in, pushing  
the women and eventually DAD back into the church.

The Lee family struggle, but there is no way out.

The mourners sit and the Lee family finally have a route out. As they walk up the aisle the doors open, the organ begins playing and the family of the deceased begins to process in.

The Lee family turn about trying to find an alternate exit. An usher walks over.

USHER

A bit lost are we?

MOM

Um-

USHER

Here

The USHER takes MOM's arm and leads them to four empty seats. The Lee Family exchange glances as a second usher walks up behind them and helps them to their seats also.

USHER (CONT'D)

(gently) It's alright.

MOM

No, it's really not, you see-

USHER

(gently) These things take time.

MOM

(defeated) Thank you.

The USHER nods sympathetically and walks off.

The Lee family sits reluctantly. As soon as they sit, the congregation stands. The Lee Family looks at each other and quickly stands.

The family of the deceased walk down the aisle. They nod to the mourners. They see the Lee family and furrow their brows.

DAD does a small wave. They nod confused.

The family of the deceased reach the front of the church, hug each other, and sit in the front row.

The organ plays one "last" chord. The Lee family sit. The congregation remains standing.

The organ plays one more chord. The Lee family stands back up. The chord finishes and the congregation sits. The Lee family, distracted, are the last ones to sit.

A young, "too attractive to be a priest" priest, stands from his seat by the altar and walks to the front of the church.

PRIEST  
(oddly energetic) How lovely it is  
to see you all!

Beat.

PRIEST (CONT'D)  
(solemnly) Now death is a difficult  
time.

PRIEST looks out at the congregation. The pause is unbearably long.

VANESSA  
(whispering) Is that it?

MEGHAN shrugs.

PRIEST  
(brightening up) The Jones's  
children have asked me to open up  
the floor today. If anyone would  
like to share some thoughts, please  
go ahead.

The PRIEST walks back to his seat and discreetly puts an Airpod in the upstage ear. We hear the muffled voice of a sports commentator and the crowd of a soccer match.

PRIEST (CONT'D)  
(Under his breath) Get in!

The congregation whisper and look around. No one moves. There is an awkward pause.

MOM  
(under her breath) This is  
insufferable.

DAD looks around the room. He turns back, sighs and looks up. A leg starts to bounce nervously.

MEGHAN  
(whispering) Why isn't anyone  
moving?

VANESSA  
(whispering) I think we should...

She points to the door

MEGHAN  
It's too late now

VANESSA  
We could tell the "bodyguards" that  
we had a family emergency

MEGHAN  
Bodyguards? They're not *bodyguards*  
they're pallbearers

VANESSA  
They're essentially *bodyguards*

MOM  
Girls.

MEGHAN  
Vanessa thinks we should still go

MEGHAN glares at VANESSA

MOM  
Maybe after someone speaks we can  
dip out while the next speaker  
walks up?

VANESSA  
Yes, let's do that

MEGHAN  
I still think it's rude

VANESSA  
No, it's not. Tell dad.

The three women turn to DAD's chair to find it empty.

DAD  
Hello?

Microphone feedback. The three women whip their heads to see  
DAD at the pulpit. Their eyes widen.

VANESSA  
What the-

MEGHAN  
Oh my-

DAD  
Um, hi.

DAD waves awkwardly

DAD (CONT'D)

I'd thought I'd get us started today. Uh...get the ball rolling as one might say. I remember my first conversation with Mr. Jones here...(continues during dialogue)

VANESSA

(whispering) What is he doing?

MOM scans the crowd. The congregation has started to lean forward and listen to DAD. MOM turns back to watch DAD. One leg nervously bouncing.

DAD

I learned everything I know from him. He taught me so much about the world. So wise. He will be missed.

DAD begins to step away from the mic.

The daughter of the deceased, JUNE (60) stands

JUNE

Please, do go on. (Wipes away tears)

DAD hesitantly steps toward the mic and the congregation leans in. DAD gathers himself, fidgeting. A bit nervous now.

DAD

Um, he taught me about the thrill of performing your own dentistry, (beat) how to find the best Mangoes in Puerto Rico, and how to treat a woman.

The congregation whisper memories to each other.

JUNE

You know so much about my father!

DAD

I do?

JUNE

Please continue.

His confidence fading. He pushes on.

DAD

I have so many fond memories of them. We um had some lovely times.

JUNE looks up at DAD expectantly

DAD (CONT'D)  
My wife and I met the Joneses at -

DAD looks around the church. The camera pans frantically like DAD's eyes around the church. It lands on a stain glass window of Adam and Eve.

DAD panics and his talking begins to speed up.

DAD (CONT'D)  
Nudist colony. (Beat) At a nudist colony. In French. FRANCE. At a beach. It was a lovely day. Nice weather. Nice people. Good looking. Good food. SUN. The sun was out. And we met them. Them.

DAD points aggressively at the coffins.

DAD (CONT'D)  
God, I miss them. WE. We, my family. WE miss them. Yep. We sure do. We talked for hours at that beach. With all the naked people. And, stuff. We shared stories. Laughed. We laughed. It was-yeah. Won't be the same. Without them. Certainly. Well, thank you. All. For your time.

MOM, MEGHAN, and VANESSA stare at the pulpit mouths wide open.

EXT. CHURCH. DAY.

The Lee family are practically running out of the church.

MOM  
What the hell was that?

MEGHAN  
(mocking) *Mom, not at church!*

MOM  
Stop it.

VANESSA  
Can we just leave, please.

JUNE tries to catch up with them

JUNE  
Excuse me!

MOM  
(Under breath) Shit.

VANESSA and MEGHAN stare at their MOM eyebrows raised.

MOM (CONT'D)  
Not now.

JUNE  
Hi, I'm June. I'm the daughter of -

JUNE begins to cry. DAD reaches out his arm to comfort her.  
VANESSA swats it away.

JUNE (CONT'D)  
Sorry. (Beat) We're having a small  
reception in the annex. Will you be  
joining us?

MOM  
Us?

JUNE  
Yes.

DAD  
Um-

JUNE  
Please, don't be shy.

JUNE walks over and links arms with MOM and DAD

JUNE (CONT'D)  
Friends of my parents are friends  
of mine!

JUNE, still linked to MOM and DAD, leads them back towards  
the church, to the annex. VANESSA and MEGHAN follow.

INT. ANNEX. DAY.

A table of refreshments sits near a window. Tables line each  
side of the room with various photos, trinkets, and photo  
albums.

A group of mourners mingle. Some leaf through photo albums. A  
small group of kids stuff their faces with sweets. Two tweens  
try to sneak some wine when no one's looking.

The Lee Family walks in with JUNE. JUNE excuses herself and grabs a drink, greeting others as she does so.

BRYAN (65) walks over. Shaking DAD's hand.

BRYAN

Hi, I'm Bryan. June's brother.

DAD

Hi, I'm Milton, this is my wife Darlene and our daughters, Vanessa and Meghan.

MOM

Hi.

BRYAN

Thank you for coming today. We were glad some of our parent's friends could make it. (beat) We thought they were all dead.

BRYAN takes a gulp of wine. JUNE walks over.

JUNE

You've met my brother.

MOM & DAD

Yes.

JUNE

We wanted to talk to you and find out more about how you knew our parents.

BRYAN

They never mentioned you.

DAD

Ah well, it was just one holiday. But they sure left an impression on us.

MOM

(To VANESSA and MEGHAN) Grab us a drink will you?

The girls walk to the drink table.

BRYAN

Which holiday was it?

MOM

Um-

DAD

It was-

DAD flicks his eyes over to a table and sees a picture of the Joneses at the Eiffel Tower

DAD (CONT'D)

Paris.

JUNE

'88 or '98?

MOM & DAD

Yes.

JUNE

Which one?

MOM

'98

DAD

'88

MOM (CONT'D)

'98. We got *married* in '88 and went to *Paris* in '98.

BRYAN

Wow

JUNE

So you knew Dad well?

DAD

Hm?

BRYAN

All those things he taught you.

DAD

Ah yes.

JUNE

He certainly knew about Mangoes

DAD

Did he?

JUNE

Yes.

BRYAN

You're surprised?

DAD

I didn't realize you knew his secret.

DAD walks over to a table with trinkets and dental instruments. DAD examines a small stone. He lifts it to the light.

DAD (CONT'D)  
Wow, where did he find this?

BRYAN  
Oh you found his kidney stone

BRYAN takes another sip of his drink. DAD puts down the stone.

JUNE  
He was very proud of passing that.

MOM  
(trying to hide disgust) What a man.

VANESSA and MEGHAN bring their parent's paper cups of water.

DAD  
(whispering) Please can you bring me a coffee...and some hand sanitizer?

The girls disappear into the kitchen.

BRYAN checks his watch and gestures to JUNE to help him.

JUNE  
Excuse us for a moment.

JUNE and BRYAN walk over to the refreshments and organize the table. They pull another table to the front and clear it off by consolidating with other tables.

MOM  
Can we please go home now. This is all getting a bit weird.

DAD  
You don't want to see how much we can guess right about these people?

MOM  
I think I've had enough of weird hobbies for a century.

MOM and DAD laugh. Beat.



VANESSA  
(dazed) Ughhh

MOM and DAD rush over to help VANESSA stand.

MEGHAN  
Is it safe?

VANESSA, eyes squeezed shut hesitantly opens one eye.

VANESSA  
I think so.

MOM  
What is going on?

MEGHAN  
We were in the kitchen just helping  
out when we turned and-

DAD  
(to JUNE and BRYAN) I'm so sorry-

BRYAN is now shirtless and turns to help JUNE with her dress zipper. The Lee Family turn to see the rest of the mourners also undressing and placing articles of clothing on the table JUNE and BRYAN set up.

JUNE  
Well? Aren't you joining us?

DAD puts a hand over each of his daughter's eyes.

JUNE raises a glass.

JUNE (CONT'D)  
To Paris '98!

Shot of clothes dropping to the floor.

DAD  
That was unpredictable.