

On Golden Pond

Ernest Thompson

ETHEL

CHELSEA

Ethel, Chelsea's mother, has agreed to watch Bill's son, Billy, while she and Bill traveled through Europe. Chelsea has come to take Billy home.

ETHEL. You're not supposed to come till the fifteenth.

CHELSEA. Today's the fifteenth.

ETHEL. No!

CHELSEA. 'Fraid so.

ETHEL. Well. No wonder you're here.

CHELSEA. Still have the kid or did you drown him?

ETHEL. Still have him.

CHELSEA. Are he and Norman asleep?

ETHEL. You must be joking. They're out on the lake already, antagonizing the fish. Still have Bill or did you drown him?

CHELSEA. Still got him. But he's not with me. He went back to the coast. He had a mouth that needed looking into.

ETHEL. Oh. You must have left Boston at the crack of dawn.

CHELSEA. I left Boston in the middle of the night. I felt like driving. I didn't feel like getting lost, but it worked out that way.

ETHEL. If you'd come more often, you wouldn't get lost.

CHELSEA. You're right. If I promise to come more often will you give me a cup of coffee?

ETHEL. All right. I could do that. Yes. You must have had a lovely tim in Europe. You look wonderful.

(She exits to the kitchen.)

CHELSEA. I do? I did. I had a lovely time.
(Peers out at lake.)

ETHEL.(Offstage) I always thought Norman and I should travel, but we never got to it somehow. I'm not sure Norman would like Europe.

CHELSEA. He wouldn't like Italy.

ETHEL.(Offstage) No?

CHELSEA. Too many Italians.

ETHEL. (Enters, laughing) I've got it going. See the boys?

CHELSEA. Yes. What are they doing out there? It's starting to rain.

ETHEL. Ah, well. I told Norman not to go.

CHELSEA. They're going to get drenched.

ETHEL. I think between the two of them they have enough sense to come in out of the rain. At least I hope they do.

CHELSEA. You seem different.

ETHEL. You mean old.

CHELSEA. I don't know.

ETHEL. Well, that's what happens if you live long enough. You end up being old. It's one of the disadvantages of a long life. I still prefer it to the alternative.

CHELSEA. How does it really make you feel?

ETHEL. Not much different. A little more aware of the sunrises, I guess. And the sunsets.