

The Pre-Nup

A 10 Minute Play

By Marisa Smith

Characters

Dephina: Woman in her 40's
Heather: Woman in her 20's
Lincoln: A corpse in his 40's

Set: A swanky Beverly Hills funeral home.

Synopsis: Delphina, a film star, is brought to a Beverly Hills funeral parlor to say farewell to her husband, Lincoln (also a film star) by Heather, Lincoln's personal assistant. The goodbye scene doesn't go as any of them planned.

Technical requirements:

Set: casket, table, chair, flowers

Lighting: Basic stage lighting

Sound effects: Pre and post show music as desired

THE PRE-NUP

(A funeral home in Beverly Hills. A private room. Lots of flowers. There's a closed coffin on a platform in the room. A door opens and DELPHINA and HEATHER enter. DELPHINA is dressed all in black, with a big black floppy hat and sunglasses. She has a large black purse slung over her shoulder. HEATHER is dressed in jeans and a tight t-shirt and holds DELPHINA'S arm as they enter. DELPHINA'S head is bowed.)

HEATHER

We're here Delphina, you can lose the sunglasses and the hat now.

DELPHINA

This is it, this is where he is?

HEATHER

Yeah, he's here. Look, this is your only time to be alone with him. Nobody knows he's here but that can't last forever. C'mon, you gotta do this. *(Gently turns her around and takes off her glasses and her hat and starts walking her towards the coffin. DELPHINA covers her eyes.)*

DELPHINA

(Peeks between her fingers.) Is he in there?

HEATHER

Yes! I'll show you! *(Starts to open coffin.)*

DELPHINA

(Runs and throws herself on the closed coffin.) No, no, not yet. Oh my God. Lincoln, Lincoln, are you there, are you really there? I can't believe it. *(To HEATHER.)* Is he really in there? *(Shaking HEATHER'S shoulders.)* How could this have happened Heather, how? He's been drug free for twenty years, alcohol free for ten, and he just stopped eating anything that wasn't in it's original form—

HEATHER

Listen, the frigging clock is ticking Delphina. I should open it. Right now only you and me and well, Buddy knows, but soon—

DELPHINA

Buddy knows?

HEATHER

Buddy was with him when it happened.

DELPHINA

Tell me again.

HEATHER

They were working on the Darwin contract—

DELPHINA

Oh, the Darwin project, Lincoln would be a great Darwin. He loves evolution.

HEATHER

And all of a sudden he had this like freight train of a headache and so Buddy went to get some aspirin in the kitchen and by the time he came back Linc was—

DELPHINA

--end of movie.

HEATHER

Do you wanna see him or not?

DELPHINA

I wish I were Catholic. A Catholic would know what to do now.

HEATHER

I'm opening it *now*.

(HEATHER starts to raise the lid of the coffin.)

DELPHINA

No, no, not yet! Just give me a minute, I just need a minute!

HEATHER

Okay, one minute.

DELPHINA

I really loved him Heather!

HEATHER

Yeah, I know.

DELPHINA

I mean, other women said they did, they threw themselves at him, but I really did, through everything, I loved him!

HEATHER

Chicks really dug him.

DELPHINA

Please.

HEATHER

That musta been tough.

DELPHINA

Yes, but he always came back to me.

HEATHER

I'm sorry, I shouldn't be talkin' like this—

DELPHINA

Oh, c'mon Heather, you're not saying anything that the entire world doesn't know!

HEATHER

No, I'm sorry—

DELPHINA

Stop saying you're sorry. Must we woman constantly say we're sorry? Don't be! Are you kidding? Do you know how many times I fantasized about renting Grauman's Chinese Theater and inviting every woman Lincoln slept with in the past twenty five years just to show them that I knew, that I knew all the time. Jesus, it would be standing room only. Everyone know that Lincoln was the biggest womanizer this side of Attila the Hun, or Bill Clinton— (*She starts to hyperventilate.*) Oh, it's so unreal, so horrible. Okay, (*Motioning to coffin.*) you can do it

(*HEATHER slowly raises the lid and reveals LINCOLN'S prone body.*)

DELPHINA

(*Gasps.*) Oh, he looks so lifelike.

HEATHER

Yeah, he looks really real, yeah.

DELPHINA

What an aristocratic profile. I love his nose.

HEATHER

Great nose.

DELPHINA

An intelligent nose.

HEATHER

That was somethin' Delphina---to put up with that for all those years. Like true fucking love. (*HEATHER remembers something she heard at school.*) Which, like, never did run smooth. (*DELPHINA stares at her, surprised.*) Yeah, Madonna said that I think. Once. Maybe.

DELPHINA

(*Condescendingly.*) The Bard, I believe, Heather.

HEATHER

But everybody says that you were faithful to *him*.

DELPHINA

Yes, I was, I was indeed.

HEATHER

So those rumors about you and Marco Vega—

DELPHINA

(*Walks away from the coffin, agitated.*) Marco is a fantastic actor, a brilliant Achilles. APOLLO'S ANGER is going to put him on the map.

HEATHER

(*Following her.*) And you're playing his---

DELPHINA

Mother! (*Laughing wildly.*) Thetis, the sea goddess. I have the most fabulous costumes, like spun sugar and latte foam. (*Puts her hands to her cheeks.*)

HEATHER

Jesus Christ, you're blushin'! You're all frigging pink! So it's true! You and Marco.

DELPHINA

Don't be ridiculous, it's hot in here. I'm old enough to be his mother, and I am his mother, you know, in the movie. Oh God.

HEATHER

What a hunk, no shit.

DELPHINA

I have been faithful to Lincoln for twenty five years, since the day we were married! I'm practically an old crone now, in a few years no man will even look at me much less be attracted to me. God, one time, just one time, I deserved a little— Please on the body of my dear beloved husband, not one word, you caught me at a vulnerable moment, Heather. Please. Oh, Lincoln, Lincoln (*Throws herself on his body.*) you were my one true love, forgive me my sweet, forgive me--

(*LINCOLN bolts upright from his prone position in the coffin, DELPHINA screams. LINCOLN holds up a small recording device.*)

LINCOLN

Okay, that's all I need. Heather, you were great. Delphina, you've violated the terms of our pre-nup with your confession of adultery.

DELPHINA

Lincoln! Ohmygod, I'm having a heart attack! But I knew, I knew you couldn't be dead, I never really believed it. Ohmygod, you're alive, it's a miracle! Heather, Heather, it's a miracle, we witnessed a miracle.

HEATHER

(Laughing hysterically.) He's risen from the dead, woo, woo.

DELPHINA

(Looking back and forth at them.) Wait. Heather. You knew. You knew he was alive. You knew.

HEATHER

The look on your face, farfuckingout, too bad we didn't have a camera. You should get an Oscar, you crazy old diva---

DELPHINA

(Shakes HEATHER.) You bitch! You *evil* bitch!

HEATHER

You hit me! She hit me! I'm callin' the cops!

LINCOLN

(Climbing out of the casket.) Girls, girls, calm down, no physical violence, please.

DELPHINA

(To LINCOLN, furious) What kind of sick joke is this? Here I was, devastated, in total grief—

LINCOLN

Yet you couldn't wait to tell Heather about your *boyfriend*.

DELPHINA

How did you do this, what did you say to the funeral home?

LINCOLN

I told them we were rehearsing for my new movie—

HEATHER AND LINCOLN

DEATH TAKES A SABBATICAL.

DELPHINA

What did you say about the pre-nup before? What's going on here!

LINCOLN

I needed to know whether or not you violated the terms of our pre-nup. As you recall, if you commit adultery, I'm not obligated to give you anything, no monies, assets, or real estate. Nada. Bupkus. *Zilch*.

DELPHINA

You want a divorce?

HEATHER

Tell her Linc.

DELPHINA

You want to marry her? Your little personal assistant? God, Lincoln how unoriginal. You've had dozens of "Heathers."

HEATHER

Linc, let's go. We've got the tape. Let's get outa here, it's creepy.

DELPHINA

Wait, the tape will never hold up. Marco will deny that anything ever happened between us and there are no witnesses so you are screwed on that count. And I'll soak you for everything you're worth, as per California law. Half of all earnings, now and forever, the house in Vail---

HEATHER

Vail is awesome!

DELPHINA

The beach house in Anguilla, the pied-a-terre in New York—

HEATHER

I didn't know you had a beach house in Antigua!

DELPHINA

Anguilla, you idiot!

LINCOLN

I don't believe a word you're saying. I think this little baby (*Holds up recorder.*) will do the trick. (*Gives tape to HEATHER.*)

DELPHINA

And I'll fight the pre-nup all the way buster. I'll say I was coerced, that you drugged me and made me sign it--

LINCOLN

I've got it, I've got it right here! (*Whips the pre-nup out of his pocket and reads from it.*)

This is a legal document, signed, dated and witnessed by (*Looks at paper.*) Melvin Spellman—

DELPHINA

Melvin Spellman is history baby, he bit the dust, in fact he *is* dust--

LINCOLN

He did? He is?

DELPHINA

I went to his memorial. Bathsheba and I do yoga every Monday. They scattered his ashes in the duck pond.

HEATHER

Ducks! Yoga! Ashes! This is crazy! You said once we got her confession you'd get a divorce and you wouldn't have to give her anything, c'mon! (*Tries to drag LINCOLN out of the room.*)

LINCOLN

(*Pulling her to him.*) I know Scotty, I know but—

DELPHINA

Scotty? What?

LINCOLN

Heather, the moors, *you know*.

DELPHINA

Well, far be it from me to stand in the way of a great love, *Heathcliff*, Okay, I'll give you your divorce but you'll have to tear up the pre-nup and give me the tape.

HEATHER

Linc, that's nuts!

DELPHINA

And you can have everything, you can have the house in the hills, all the money, everything but Vail, Anguilla and New York.

LINCOLN

The Bunny Hut, The Love Nest. Park Place?

DELPHINA

No Bunny Hut, No Love Nest, No Park Place?

HEATHER

We aren't playing Monopoly here! There's no negotiating! You said-- all we need is what you have on the tape!

LINCOLN

Yeah, but what if she's right and the pre-nup doesn't hold up and that Achilles dude says that nothing happened, then she's gonna go whole hog Scotty. She's gonna sue me for every penny! Do we want to risk losing everything or take a better deal here? We should think this through!

HEATHER

I say fuck another deal, let's stick with the original plan!

LINCOLN

(To DELPHINA.) Would you sign that now, with Heather as a witness, that you'd take *my favorite places* and that's it, if I throw away the pre-nup and give you the tape?

DELPHINA

Absolutely.

LINCOLN

Heather, you know what they say, a bird in the hand is worth one in the bush---

DELPHINA

Two in the bush, Einstein—

HEATHER

Okay, that's it. Linc, if you love me you'll leave with me and the tape *right now*.

LINCOLN

Wait a second honey, I'm trying to work this thing out!

HEATHER

There's nothing to work out. You said you wouldn't have we give her anything if she confessed and she did, you've got it right here! (*Holds up the tape.*)

LINCOLN

But we may have to give her *something* Scotty.

HEATHER

But that's not what you said. You said we could have *everything*!

DELPHINA

Hey, you've got *him* Heather, isn't that enough?

HEATHER

This is a completely ridiculous conversation—

LINCOLN

Yeah, if I had nothing, would you still want to be with me babe?

HEATHER

Of course I would—

LINCOLN

But would you, if I were *broke*—

HEATHER

(Feeling trapped and near tears.) I don't wanna play this stupid game. You promised, all we had to do was--

LINCOLN

(Holding her by the shoulders.) I need to know Heather, if I had absolutely nothing would you want to marry me?

HEATHER

(Frustrated and crying.) Yeah, yeah!!

LINCOLN

(On his knees.) Are you telling me the truth, SO HELP YOU GOD?

HEATHER

(For a moment we see the good mid-western church going girl HEATHER once was before she came to Tinsel Town.) No, No, goddamnit, I'm not!

(HEATHER throws the tape at LINCOLN and runs towards the door.)

HEATHER

And I quit, I quit, you bastard! Find a new assistant to screw!

(LINCOLN and DELPHINA watch her exit and Lincoln calls after her.)

LINCOLN

HEATHER! HEATHER! SCOTTY! SCOTTY! (Still holding the pre-nup.) Anyway, she kept dropping my laptop and she made the worst coffee. *(Brandishing the pre-nup.)* I think it woulda held up actually.

DELPHINA

God, I totally forgot about that thing.

LINCOLN

You didn't have any *reason* to think about it. (*Pause.*) Look, clearly we're at the end of the road here. We've had a great run Delph, really great, but I don't want to get in the way of you and Achilles.

DELPHINA

Please, it was nothing, it was too much ouzo and too much Homer. He's on to Aphrodite, what's her face, Sierra Nevada or something—

LINCOLN

Sally Dakota, she's was just in AN INCONVENIENT HALF TRUTH.

DELPHINA

Whatever. They're together now.

LINCOLN

Oh.

DELPHINA

You know, I don't think you really wanted to marry "Scotty," mouth of a truck driver.

LINCOLN

Hey, I thought she really loved me.

DELPHINA

That's a lot of BS Lincoln, you knew she didn't love you-- you never would have married her no matter what she said.

LINCOLN

Well, probably not in the end.

DELPHINA

You used Heather to get me to confess!

LINCOLN

I didn't believe the rumors, Delph. I never thought you'd be unfaithful to me not in million years, but I had to hear it from your lips. And I had to find out if you still loved me.

DELPHINA

You wanted to see how I'd react if I thought you were dead? That's terrible! That's sick!

LINCOLN

(*Grinning.*) You were really ripped.

DELPHINA

I was. I mean God knows how many times I've wanted you to die, but in reality it was horrible. Just horrible.

LINCOLN

Really? Really bad? Were you in total pain and agony?

DELPHINA

That was an absolutely cruel and inhuman thing to do to me. How can I ever forgive you?

LINCOLN

How can I ever forgive *you*? You have to promise me you'll never do that again, Delphy, I just can't take it.

DELPHINA

Can't take a little of your own medicine, I see. Okay, I promise, you bad, bad boy. *(She crosses her legs.)* Now you have to promise.

LINCOLN

Sure, I promise, baby. *(He crosses his legs.)*

(They both slowly uncross their legs and look at each other amorously.)

LINCOLN

You are one crazy creature, Delphina.

DELPHINA

I know, I'm crazy...about you.

LINCOLN

I'm crazy too.

(They hug and do a little dance.)

LINCOLN

C'mon. it's kinda cozy in here. *(Helps her into the coffin.)*

DELPHINA

Oo, I've never been in a coffin before. I feel like a virgin again. *(Is halfway in the coffin.)*

LINCOLN

Yeah, me too sweetheart, me too. *(Rips up the pre-nup.)* I don't think we need this anymore.

(The pre-nup flutters to the ground.)

DELPHINA

Lincoln, I really think you should *direct*.

LINCOLN

YEAH!

END OF PLAY

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