

**SHE CREPT INTO MY BED....**

**Synopsis**

Two men have their lives saved by a professor's family...  
only to have them placed in jeopardy again.

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Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance)

RUTH STAPANOVICH.....housewife; late 30's; athletic\*

GALE STAPANOVICH.....RUTH'S daughter; late 'teens; trim\*

JOHN STAPANOVICH.....RUTH's husband; middle-aged, retired professor

WILLIAM (BILL) SCOTT...middle-aged investor

TED ZIMMERMAN.....middle-aged investor

\*Sorry; it is essential that these roles be played by women who are trim, athletic. Actually, just plain "thin" would be better, if actors with that build are available.

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Scene

The great room/living room of a hunting lodge.

Time

The present.

SETTING: The room is simply furnished....chairs, sofa, sideboard. If the budget allows, set dressing should indicate that it is a lodge, e.g., guns on wall racks, skin rugs, mounted heads of animals. A fire place would be nice. The total effect is of cozy masculinity.

AT RISE: It is late evening. A winter storm can be heard outside. JOHN and GALE are reading. RUTH enters, carrying a tray with three glasses and a previously opened bottle of wine.

Scene 1

RUTH

Hey, you two. Time for a nightcap and then I'm off to bed.

GALE

OK, Mom. Here, let me help you.

(She takes the glasses from tray; gives one to JOHN.  
RUTH puts tray down; pours as she talks)

RUTH

I don't know about you two, but I'm certainly glad that we're nice and snug in here. I'd really hate to be out on the mountain in this weather.

JOHN

Well, m'dear, you did want a contrast with the dark continent. And this is about as far from Kenya as we can get.

RUTH

(She shudders)

God; don't even say the word. If I never hear of Africa again, I'll die a happy woman.

JOHN

If you were out in this storm, you might well die...happy or not.

(He checks thermometer which is outside window.)

It's now 20 below zero and that says nothing about wind chill. I'd guess, to the human body, it's close to 40 below.

(The doorbell rings. They look at each other)

Now, who in the plu-perfect-hell can that be?

RUTH

John, don't answer it.

GALE

OH, come on. We don't have to open the door. Just use the outer-com...find out who it is.

RUTH

Ach, yes. I've never used the thing...we get so few visitors. Do you know how it works, honey?

GALE

Sure; it's easy. You just hold the little lever to the left, to talk. Then you push it to the right and you can hear what's being going on out front.

JOHN

Wait a minute. Doesn't that mean that we can just push it to the right NOW and simply listen?

GALE

Well, that's a bit sneaky but, yeah, you can do that.

JOHN

OK; here goes.

(He goes to the wall next to front door and pushes a little lever)

BILL

(We hear his voice and TED'S over the outer-com)

Come on; come on; come on...answer the goddamn door!

TED

Give them a minute; they may be at the other end of the house.

BILL

Well, I don't have a minute; I'm freezing my balls off out here.

TED

Come on; it's just incredibly lucky that we found any house at all. This isn't exactly New York City, you know. And you think there's even a chance you might know this family?

BILL

Can't be sure but there was a John Stepanovich who used to teach at USC. I met him a couple of times---

(JOHN pushes lever to the left, cutting off BILL'S comment)

JOHN

This is Professor Stepanovich. Whom am I speaking to?

BILL

Professor! God, I'm glad it's really you. I'm Bill Scott. You might not remember me but we met at the Chancellor's home once or twice a few years back. Do you think we can come in out of this weather?

JOHN

(Opens the door; BILL and TED stumble in)

Come in, come in! Lord, what a night to be roaming around on the mountain. Ruth, get them something hot...coffee, tea... something. You must be chilled to the bone.

(RUTH goes)

BILL

Professor, I don't know how to thank you. As I said, I'm Bill Scoot. This is my associate, Ted Zimmerman.

JOHN

Pleased to meet you both. And this is my darling daughter, Gale.

GALE

Nice to meet you. But what are you doing out in this weather?

TED

It was my fault, really. We were looking at some property on the other side of the mountain---

BILL

And Ted was so damn proud of his new Hummer. "It can go anywhere, Bill"...that's what he said. "We don't have to go down to the valley; this thing can go right over the top."

TED

Bill's right. That's pretty much what I said.

GALE

So, what happened?

TED

We got over the top...barely. There's what might almost be called a road, you know. And then...we hit something. Broke an axle. The weather report said three more days of this storm and we knew we'd run out of gas way before that. So, it was hike and hope.

BILL

We almost missed your mail box in the dark. And then to see "Stepanovich" on it and realize that I might even know you... that's as close to a miracle as I'm likely to see.

JOHN

(RUTH enters with coffee pot; cups; and a bottle of whiskey)

Dear, this is Bill Scott and Ted Zimmerman. My wife, Ruth.

RUTH

So glad to meet you. Here, let's get something hot into you.

(Pours coffee and whiskey for the two men)

JOHN

And I think we might join you. We were having a glass of Merlot when you arrived. But I think something stronger is called for to celebrate this "rescue."

BILL

Hey, Professor, I head those quotation marks. For my money, it is really and truly a rescue.

TED

He's right, Professor. If we hadn't found your house, we would almost certainly have died out there.

RUTH

(She's gotten three glasses from a sideboard; pours for herself and family)

Here you go. Let's drink to Continued Good Luck!

ALL

Hear, hear; hear, hear!

JOHN

Now, Bill, you say we met at the Chancellor's house? And please call me John.

BILL

Yes; it was, oh, maybe five-six years ago. It was one of his famous fund raisers.

JOHN

So you must be an alum?

BILL

Yeah; Ted and I both went to the Figueroa Street Kindergarten. Got our degrees, if barely. But we sure love those Trojans and about die unless they make it to the Rose Bowl. Anyway, Ted and I have done right well and the Chancellor does know how to lean on a guy for a few thou.

TED

Don't let him kid you, John; our William has put a few mill into the pot.

BILL

Just like you, buddy. Go Trojans!

(From this point thru the end of the first scene, the two women gently, ambiguously express interest in Bill and Ted. A pat on the head as they walk past; a big smile as a glass is topped off, etc. It should be apparent to the audience that something is happening.)

Bill and Ted only marginally realize what is going on but don't know what to do about it. John remains oblivious as they all drink and drink)

GALE  
Go Trojans!

RUTH  
Hey, come on! Let's hear <sup>IT</sup> for UCLA.

THE REST  
Boo, UCLA!

TED  
Sorry, Ruth. That wasn't very nice. But you are outnumbered, it seems.

RUTH  
Even when you guys aren't here, it's me against the rest of the family, So I'm used to it.

BILL  
OK; let's change the subject. You know why we're on this mountain. But, why are you so far from civilization? What made you want to live up here?

JOHN  
Do you want the long version...or the short one?

TED  
This is excellent bourbon; I'm up for either version.

GALE  
Daddy, just give them the middle.

RUTH  
Excellent idea; not too long; not too short.

BILL  
Just right.

JOHN  
Well, Bill, you may remember that my field was anthropology.

BILL  
Ah, umm-m-m---

JOHN  
No matter; I was...I am...an anthropologist. And my specialization is the Rift Valley.

RUTH  
Africa.



JOHN

Yes, m'dear, I'm sure our guests know where the Rift Valley is.

TED

Kenya, isn't it?

GALE

Good for you; not one American in a hundred knows that.

BILL

I've heard of Rift Valley fever.

JOHN

Ah, yes. The fever. And ebola. And so many other pathogens just waiting for the right moment to bring their blessings to the world.

RUTH

Now, dear---

JOHN

Sorry; sorry. Anyway, I finally realized that I was never going to be another Leakey...never make a real mark in the field...certainly never become a household name---

GALE

Daddy---

JOHN

I apologize, gentlemen. The long and snort of it is that we all got very tired of Africa. We wanted to get far, far from heat and disease. And we have found this haven.

RUTH

John, maybe I should show Bill and Ted to their rooms? Isn't it about time?

JOHN

Right; forgive me, gentlemen. I have some unpleasant memories of Kenya. By all means, dear, show them to their rooms.

BLACKOUT.

Scene 2

(The next morning. RUTH and GALE are putting coffee and doughnuts on the sideboard.)

RUTH

I hope the guys had a good night's sleep.

GALE

Me too. Pretty tough...coming that close to dying.

(BILL and TED enter. It is clear, from their demeanor and actions, that something has happened during the night)

BILL

Good morning, you lovely ladies.

TED

Indeed; good morning to...both of you?

RUTH

(With no idea of what they are hinting at)

Yes; it is a lovely day. Gale and I have to see if there was any damage from the storm. We've put out coffee and doughnuts; help yourselves.

(RUTH and GALE go)

TED

Bill, you won't believe what happened to me last night.

BILL

Hey, hey...you won't believe what happened to ME.

TED

Yeah? Well, along about 2 o'clock, she crept into my bed---

BILL

No! Well, along about 4 o'clock, she crept into my bed!

TED

No! That's amazing. I've heard all the jokes about the farmer's daughter but I never thought I'd live that fantasy. How did it go for you?

BILL

Well, as I said, I was sound asleep and then, about 4 AM, someone crept into bed with me. She...it was definitely a "she"...just said "shush" and reached for my John Henry. And we screwed for the next 30 minutes.

TED

Same thing with me. Now, who do you think it was...the mother or the daughter?

BILL

Hard to tell. Maybe one came to me and the other to you. She was pretty thin, so maybe the daughter?

TED

Yeah; that's my bet, too. Although either one would be prime, just prime, love making companions. Think we'll ever learn who it was?

BILL

From the totally non-committal conversation we just had, I'd say the answer is "no." Oh, oh...put a sock in it...here comes John

(John enters)

Mine host! Top of the morning to you. And, once more, thank you for saving our lives.

JOHN

Again, gentlemen, think nothing of it. Just happy that we were here when you needed us. Did you sleep well?

BILL AND TED

Oh, yes; very well; never better; thanks for asking.

JOHN

Good; good. I was afraid that my ramblings last night might have bothered you. I do have a bit of a fixation when it comes to Africa.

TED

I noticed that. Some bad experiences?

JOHN

Well, now that you mention it...yes. My family and I spent just enough time there to confirm what we suspected... it is the home of disease. Pathogens we don't even know about are lurking in the flora and fauna. And the ones we DO know about are truly horrible.

BILL

Oh?

JOHN

Yes. You may wonder why RUTH and GALE and I have decided to live way up here...away from almost everything.

TED

It did cross my mind---

JOHN

The truth is that it isn't just the three of us. Gale has a twin sister. Oh, she was a twin physically but nothing...nothing like our sweet Gale. Robin...that was her name...did everything she could to embarrass us, humiliate us, disgrace us. When we were in Africa, she ran wild. Drugs were the worst of it. Needles; dirty needles---

TED

So...she caught some... disease?

JOHN

Yes. AIDS. HIV. She's past the point where any medication can help her. So, the four of us have holed up here, RUTH and GALE and ROBIN and me...just waiting for her to die. She has the room down the hall from you.

(BILL and TED stare at each other)

BLACKOUT