Jessica Hanback

Little Bombs (an excerpt)

2008 IUSB Creative Writing 1st Place Drama

Setting

Most of the action takes place in the bedroom of an elderly man, Jimmy. The stage is divided into two; the left side would be where the front door/living room is located, the right side is the bedroom. They are divided by a wall and a doorway. There is an open area in front of the front door (for outside) to allow for action in that area. Behind the actors on the left side are a hallway and another door leading to various other areas in the house. When action is taking place in one room, a light will come on signaling what room to focus on and the light in the other portion of the house would be off.

The bedroom has a bed as soon as one enters the door to his/her left. Next to the bed is a nightstand with a few books, a lamp, and a phone on it. A cane is leaning on the nightstand. There is a window on that wall, and a cabinet for clothing on the far side of the room. There is a chair in the far corner of the room, and an extra one next the cabinet on the other side.

The front door room has potted plants, a large sofa, loveseat, and an area rug. There is also a coat rack as soon as one was to walk into the house on the left of the doorway.

Characters

Jimmy, elderly man, 93
Ally, Jimmy's maid and girlfriend to Ben, 28
Ben, Jimmy's grandson, 30

Ally sets the bowl of potatoes back on the tray and goes to answer the door. Talking and laughing is heard in the other room. A few moments later, Ally returns with Ben. She takes a seat back on the chair. Ben hugs Jimmy and pulls up a chair next to Ally.

Ben: “Hi, grandpa! How are you feeling?”

Jimmy: “Oh, not so bad. Couldn’t sleep, eyes the damn walls join the ceiling anymore.”

Ally: “That’s right, Jimmy. (to Ben) He was mischievous kid you were back in the war.”


Jimmy: “What? Oh, yes it was. Tricky. You know what I mean?”

Ben: “Did you get outside earlier today? I thought you didn’t want to get out and see.”

Jimmy: “No. That damn woman won’t let me out she says no. She makes fun of me.”

Ally: “Jimmy, you know that’s not true. You went to bed. Remember, you fed them the pond. You tried to squash him with over an hour.”

Jimmy: “Oh, right. Those birds got me out of that chair.”

Ben: “Hmm.... Well, I’m glad to hear that you’re treating you. Looks like the bandage that you don’t need the chair anymore?”

Jimmy: “Baa! I never needed that chair! A few stairs. It was just a bump on my sh—worse scars when I got blown up.”

Ben: “I’m sure that you did. How are they?”

Ally: “He wasn’t too happy with me about that.”

Jimmy: “Woman won’t make me what. Don’t let her get you.”
The bedroom of an elderly man, Jimmy. The bedroom would be where the front door/living room in front of the front door (for outside) and the actors on the left side are a few various other areas in the house. When a light will come on signaling what room or portion of the house would be off.

One enters the door to his/her left. Next to books, a lamp, and a phone on it. A window is a window on that wall, and a nice view of the room. There is a chair in the far corner next the cabinet on the other side.

Ben: “Hi, grandpa! How are you feeling today? Did you have a good nap?”

Jimmy: “Oh, not so bad. Couldn’t sleep for long. As soon as I close my eyes the damn walls join the ceiling and try to box me in. Can’t sleep anymore.”

Ally: “That’s right, Jimmy. (to Ben) He was just educating me on what a mischievous kid you were back in the war.”

Ben: (a little confused) “What? Oh, yes. The bomb story...or...mine story. Something like that. Pretty tricky of me, wasn’t it grandpa”

Jimmy: “What? Oh, yes it was. Tricky indeed.”

Ben: “Did you get outside earlier today before your nap? You said the other day that you wanted to get out and see your garden?”

Jimmy: “No. That damn woman won’t let me. Every time I ask her to take me out she says no. She makes fun of me because I walk so slowly.”

Ally: “Jimmy, you know that’s not true. We took a walk out there just before you went to bed. Remember, you fed the birds and got to see that frog near the pond. You tried to squash him with your cane. You were out there for over an hour.”

Jimmy: “Oh, right. Those birds got my steak.”

Ben: “Hmm...Well, I’m glad to hear that you got out. How has your leg been treating you? Looks like the bandages all came off. Aren’t you happy that you don’t need the chair anymore?”

Jimmy: “Baa! I never needed that chair to begin with. I only fell down a few stairs. It was just a bump on my shin and a scratch on my arm. Got worse scars when I got blown up.”

Ben: “I’m sure that you did. How are those potatoes?”

Ally: “He wasn’t too happy with me about them.”

Jimmy: “Woman won’t make me what I want. She’s smarter than you Ben. Don’t let her get you.”
Ben: “I think she’s just fine. Wasn’t it nice for her to make you dinner tonight though?”

Jimmy: “Couldn’t have made it better myself. It’s her magic. And the pepper.”

Ally: “I think that’s enough Jimmy. You’re lucky I’m here to watch you. It’s not too many people that would give an old, grumpy man a bath and make him dinner.”

Ben: (smiles at Ally) “And what’s this she told me about wanting to spank her?”

Jimmy: “Lies. All of you are liars. I think you’re plotting something. Something evil. I can feel it. Every time you two are together…”


Jimmy: “Great. If it means you two will leave me in peace!”

Ben: “Ok then. I’ll come back tomorrow afternoon to see you again. Good night.”

Ben leans over and gives him a hug and kiss goodbye. Ally shuts off the lamp on the nightstand and walks Ben out. Jimmy rolls over and tries to sleep.

Ben: “How has he been really?”

Ally: “The same as always really. I’m worried about his getting out of the house though. He can’t hold himself up steady anymore. But, at least he’s still making up stories and talking dirty to me.”

Ben: “Ha! You gotta love him for trying.”

Ally: “He brought up your grandmother again. He told me that you are going to send her back and get rid of me. I really wish he would remember that she has passed away.”

Ben: “I don’t want to keep telling him that she died. Every time I do he acts like it’s the first time that he ever heard it.”

Ally: “I know. You don’t want to upset him even though you don’t actually care.”

Ben: “Yea, well. Say, do you think we’re getting married? He’s going to kick and scream when I kick him out of the wheelchair from out of the basement again. But I’m not going to walk there! No. Better have the chair in. I’ll pick him up.”

Ally: “What’d he do last time we told him? Oh yea! He tried to stab you with his cane and làm maniac. Hopefully next time he’ll react a little better. But then again, he’s probably not going to believe that he’s going to be sent away. And I can’t let him go back to the nursing home. He needs to be here, in his home.”

Ben: (reaches over and grabs her arm and gives her a tight squeeze.) “You love him as much as I do. He’s been with you for a long time. And I don’t need to talk to Ester. I’ll hold. Hurry, be back now. Where have you been? I need to talk to you back too. She doesn’t know where you go. Are you in the garden? I’m still wait. I’ll wait.”

Holding on to the phone, Jimmy lies back and covers.

Ben: “Alright. Not too young though. I’m 30 and I’m in love with that one too…”

Both leave out the front door laughing at each other. The slam of the door causes Jimmy in the other room and he turns on his lamp to go back to sleep.

Jimmy: “Baa! I knew it was morning. So did time. Time stopped when I was asleep…clever of him for this.” (reaches over and grabs the phone. A response.) Hello! Ester! Thank goodness you’re back now. Where have you been? I need to talk to you back too. She doesn’t know where you go anymore. Are you in the garden? I’m still wait. I’ll wait.”
Ally: "I know. You don't want to upset him, and he probably won't remember it anyways."

Ben: "Yea, well. Say, do you think we should tell him again that we're getting married? He's going to kick and throw a fit. We'll have to get the wheelchair from out of the basement again. Do you think he'll be able to walk there? No. Better have the chair in case he gets tired."

Ally: "What'd he do last time we told him we were getting married? Oh, yea! He tried to stab you with his cane saying, 'She's mine! She's my cook!' Hopefully next time he'll react a little better. What are we going to do with him though? He needs attention all the time... and I'm afraid that some new girl won't be good enough. And I can't stand the thought of him being at a nursing home. He needs to be here, in his bed, with his garden..."

Ben: (reaches over and grabs her arm to pull her towards him. He gives her a tight squeeze.) "You love him as much as I do don't you? We won't have him sent away. And don't worry. We'll hire someone together. You can make sure that she's perfect for him."

Ally: "Alright. Not too young though... or too pretty... don't want you to fall in love with that one too..."

Both leave out the front door laughing and talking to say goodbye to one another. The slam of the door causes Jimmy to sit up in his bed. Lights go off in the other room and he turns on his lamp.

Jimmy: "Baa! I knew it was morning. I knew it wasn't late and time for bed. Time stopped when I was asleep... clever time. I'll have to get Ben and Ally for this." (reaches over and grabs the phone again.) "Hello? Yes, it's Jimmy again. I need to make another call. No, it's alright, I'll pay the charges. I need to talk to Ester. I'll hold. Hurry, before Ally comes back. (waits for response.) Hello! Ester! Thank goodness it's you. Listen. I need you to come back now. Where have you been? I need to hear you talk to me. Ally needs you back too. She doesn't know where you are either. She won't talk to me anymore. Are you in the garden? I'm still in bed where you left me. I'll wait. I'll wait."

Holding on to the phone, Jimmy lies back in bed and slips under the covers.