

WINNER OF SEVEN GOLD MEDALS

by

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SETTING: MOM is cleaning out the attic to get rid of things she no longer needs. Or is being told she no longer needs by her son PHILLIP. We can see boxes scattered behind MOM as PHILLIP tries to help and remain calm.

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PHILLIP

... Look, you asked me to help you clear some of this stuff out and you're just keep shifting it from one side of the room to the other.

MOM

Well, we have to be careful. There are some valuable things up here and I don't want you telling me to throw things out with no idea of what's worth keeping and what's not.

PHILLIP

Alright, fine. But I'm not going to spend all day video chatting with you. I've got things to do.

MOM

You? What do you have to do?

PHILLIP

Things. Never you mind. (Looks around room) OK, what's next?

MOM

Well, there's that box over there. That's your stuff, isn't it?

PHILLIP

Hey, my tap shoes!

MOM

Junk pile.

PHILLIP

What? You're crazy. Those are my tap shoes!

MOM

I know. You never used them.

PHILLIP

(Proudly) I took lessons for a whole summer.

MOM

You never got any better than the first day. And the racket..
junk.

PHILLIP

So, some old jars you keep, but my tap shoes...

MOM

Old jars I can store pickles in. Can I store pickles in your
tap shoes? No. Junk.

PHILLIP

You're mean.

MOM

I know.

*MOM pulls out a long rolled tube,
the kind that holds a poster.*

What's this?

PHILLIP

Well, open it.

*MOM opens tube and takes it out.
PHILLIP instantly recognizes it.*

PHILLIP

Oh. My. Goodness.

MOM

What? What is it?

PHILLIP laughs gutturally

Phillip, what is it?

PHILLIP

I didn't realize that was still up there.

MOM

(Looking at poster. We still can't see it yet) Who is this?

PHILLIP

You don't recognize that face?

MOM

Well, with that outfit I'm not sure I want to. (pause) I remember this poster. It was hanging on your wall for what seemed like forever. (pause) Who is this?

PHILLIP

Look harder.

MOM

I am! I don't know who this is.

PHILLIP

This helped make me who I am today...

MOM

What ARE you talking about? Who is this?

It's suddenly revealed she's looking at the iconic poster of 1972 Olympic swimmer Mark Spitz with his seven gold medals around his neck.

PHILLIP

Mark Spitz? C'mon, you know who that is.

MOM pauses and studies poster, twisting her head for a different angle.

MOM

He's not a pornographic person, is he? He looks like a pornographic person

PHILLIP

You don't have to say the whole word, ma. It's just "porn." Porn star.

MOM

Whatever. He's not one of them, is he?

PHILLIP

I wish...

MOM

Stop that. So, who is this Mark...

PHILLIP

Spitz.

MOM

That's his name? Spitz? What kind of name is Spitz?

PHILLIP

I think it's German. And Jewish.

MOM

Interesting mix. So who is he?

PHILLIP

Mark Spitz. The famous swimmer?

MOM

Well that would explain that get-up. Why's he so famous?

PHILLIP

Seriously? The 1972 Olympics?

MOM

You know I don't really care for sports.

PHILLIP

He won seven gold medals.

MOM

Is that good?

PHILLIP

(Incredulously) Is that GOOD?

MOM

That's what I asked. You shouldn't answer a question with another question.

PHILLIP

Yes, it's very good. Seven gold medals in one Olympics. Up until then, no one had ever done better that. The next closest was six.

MOM

So. That's only one better.