

THE RUMINANT REVELATIONS

by

David Schreiber

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Cast:

Marge Knutson Felts..... Female, 30.

Herb Felts..... Male, 30.

Cow ..... Female. A cow. A reincarnation of Marge's mother.

Chicken ..... Female. A chicken. A reincarnation of Marge's mother.

Ashley Dodd ..... Female. Late 20s. A Lutheran pastor. A reincarnation of Marge's mother.

Note: The Cow, Chicken, and Ashley Dodd can be played by the same actor.

Time and Place:

Act I: A slaughterhouse in Pewaukee, Wisconsin in the mid 1970s.

Act II: A farm in rural Wisconsin in the late 1970s.

Act III: A nursing home in suburban Milwaukee in the present.

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ACT I – THE RUMINANT REVELATION

(Lights up on a slaughterhouse. The entry to the slaughterhouse is upstage left. An entry to a pen is at upstage right. There is a phone on the back wall. Marge is upstage center.)

MARGE

Send the next one through!

(Talking on a cellphone via headset)

No! The reception starts at 3:00. It's the service that starts at 1:00.

COW

(Enters from pen, upstage right)

Muh!

MARGE

Are you sure you won't want something to eat? I mean...sure. Okay.

COW

Muh. Muuuuh! Muuuudge...

MARGE

No, only my Dad. My Mom...she passed away about three years ago.

COW

Maaaaarge.

MARGE

(Still on cell phone)

What?...You said my name.

COW

Marge!

MARGE

Hold on.

(Looks around)

Who said that?

COW

Marge, over here.

(Marge looks at Cow, silent)

Oh my God! I'm a cow!!!

MARGE

Uh...um...

(To cell phone)

Can I, uh... I'll call you back.

MARGE (CONT.)

(Hangs up cell phone)

Okay, guys. Very funny!

COW

I'm a cow...and I'm about to be slaughtered!

MARGE

No. Oh God, no. Not now! Please!

COW

You have to help me!

MARGE

Stop it! Stop talking to me!

COW

I can't...I can't remember...I think...

MARGE

Two years! No hallucinations for two years! Why now?!

COW

I'm not a hallucination.

MARGE

Of course you are. I mean, if you're not...that would be...

COW

I'm real!

MARGE

That would be the most amazing thing that... No. No, I'm not going to acknowledge you.

(Trying to lead Cow, left)

Come on, girl. Into the nice cow spa.

COW

Marge ! Stop! I'll be killed if I go in there!

MARGE

No you won't. It's just a nice, pleasant...no! No acknowledging!

COW

I was a woman. I died. Peacefully. Then, I remember...a voice. A quiet, gentle voice. Telling me I still had work to do.

MARGE  
(Looking for cattle prod)

Where's my prod?

COW

I think I was reborn. Reincarnated!

MARGE  
(Exit, left, into slaughterhouse)

Damn it! Where is it?

COW

The voice told me there were many wounded souls in the mid...min...muh...Muh! Muh!

MARGE  
(Enters from left, with prod)

Okay. Here we go.

COW

Muh!

MARGE

Girl?

COW

Muh!

MARGE

Oh, thank God. Thank God that's over. Now in you go.

COW

Muuuge! Marge!

MARGE

No.

COW

Don't leave me again! I couldn't talk when you left.

MARGE

That's because you're my hallucination.

COW

I know! I know what I'm supposed to do!

MARGE

Yeah. Get inside the damned slaughterhouse!

(Marge shocks Cow with prod)

COW

Ow!

(Kicks Marge)

MARGE

(Drops prod and falls back)

Ow!!!! Damn it!

(Cow stands on prod. Marge stands and tries to get prod)

Get off of that!

COW

Listen to me! I've been sent on a mission from God!

(Beat)

And you need to help me!

(Marge takes out cell phone and dials)

I was sent to teach! To reach out to all the wounded souls here in Wisconsin. And throughout the Midwest! That's what the voice told me. Oh, Marge, there are so many people who are hurting. So many who need my help.

MARGE

(On cell phone)

Dr. Anderston! I...damn it!

COW

Anderston? I know that name.

MARGE

Come on...Hi. Dr. Anderston. This is Marge Knutson.

COW

But that's...hang up the phone!

MARGE

I'm having a hallucination. This cow—

COW

Marge! He's the one! Hang up the phone!



MARGE  
(To Cow)

Shut up!

(To cell phone)

The cow is yelling at me. Please, call me back right away.  
(Hangs up)

COW

Anderston...he is the evil one!

MARGE

Nothing was never proven!

COW

But I was warned!

MARGE

Huh. My hallucination thinks my psychiatrist is the enemy. Imagine that.

COW

Marge, if I'm a hallucination, why are you limping?

MARGE

Because you kicked me.

COW

But how could a hallucination hurt you?

MARGE

I don't...I don't know...Stop it! You're confusing me!

COW

You know I'm not a hallucination.

MARGE

Prove it!

COW

How? How can I? What can I do? I could describe something...no! I know! Say a number between one and five.

MARGE

Why?

COW

Please.

MARGE

Four.

(Cow hits ground four times with hoof)

But that...I've heard voices, but I've never had visual...three!

(Cow hits ground three times with hoof)

Five!

(Cow hits ground five times with hoof)

Oh, my God. You're real!

COW

Told you.

MARGE

Oh my God. Oh my God! This is amazing. This is...it's a miracle. A miracle! Right here in Pewaukee!

COW

That's right, Marge. A miracle.

MARGE

How do you know my name?

COW

I don't know...I...you look familiar. Maybe I knew you?

MARGE

What was your name? When you were a person.

COW

I don't know! All I remember is...I remember drinking tea and watching the news. My daughter brought it to me. It was so warm and soothing. And then—

MARGE

Chamomile tea.

COW

Yes! Yes, that's right!

MARGE

It can't be. No. It's not possible!

COW

Marge, I'm...I'm your mother. That's right. I'm your mother!

MARGE

Back from the dead.

COW

The voice of God must have planned it this way. It couldn't be chance!

MARGE

No. God always finds you.

COW

I told you that.

MARGE

All the time.

COW

I'm so happy. We never have to be separated again!

MARGE

But...

COW

My spiritual center! This place...it's perfect! Imagine, people from across the Midwest coming here to receive my wisdom. In my three years of being a cow, I have learned how to be at peace! You're going to help me bring this wisdom to the people. You'll be my first disciple, Marge!

MARGE

I can't.

COW

There are four steps on the Ruminant Path! The first is a practice of meditation. Standing meditation. Standing, in a field. A grassy field. Second...

MARGE

I'm getting married!

COW

What? When? To who?

MARGE

The day after tomorrow. Sunday. To Herb Felts.

COW

Herbert Felts? The little boy who ran around naked?

MARGE

He was two when that happened! And it only happened once!

COW

Those sorts of urges never go away, Marge. Your father, for example, he could never—

MARGE

Stop! Just stop! Herb's an adult now. He's a good man. I haven't been this happy since...well, since ever.

COW

You can do a lot better than him.

MARGE

Stop it. This is my decision.

COW

But you should listen to me! I'm your mother!

MARGE

I don't care! Even if you are my mother, I don't care. God, you were always so critical. Always harping and complaining. It was such a relief when you died.

COW

Marge!

MARGE

There! I said it! I finally said it! Yes, Mom, it was a relief. I could finally live my own life. Live it the way I wanted. And now I supposed to give that up? I couldn't stand you when you were alive, and I'm certainly not going to walk away from my wedding to help you set up some Bovine Enlightenment Center.

COW

Yes you are.

MARGE

Excuse me?

COW

I'm your mother. If I say I need your help, then I expect you to give it.

MARGE

But I told you...

COW

It doesn't matter what you want. God has decided that we'll be together.

MARGE

But...but...

COW

Don't try to fight against both God and me. You can't win.

MARGE

I...

COW

If you don't help me, God will find you. And so will I.

MARGE

What do you need me to do?

COW

Good. First, you need you to get me away from Anderston. We need to hide out until I can figure out how to defeat him.

MARGE

We've got a cow trailer I can borrow.

COW

Good. Perfect! We'll get on the road, and we can be in Green Bay by morning. We can stay at your Uncle Gustav's farm.

MARGE

(Moves to leave)

I'll go get it.

COW

Wait! You can't leave me out here!

MARGE

No...no, of course. I can't. I'll tell you what...go hide in shed 17, right over there. That's where we put sick animals. I'll get the trailer, and be back in ten minutes.

COW

Thank you, Marge! I knew I could count on you.

(Beat)

I love you.

MARGE

I love you, too. Now, go.

(Cow exits, left)

MARGE

(Marge checks to make sure Cow is out of earshot,  
then picks up phone, upstage)

Chuck? Hi. Can I ask a favor? I've got a really stubborn case penned up in 17...yeah, she might be sick...yeah. Please. I'd get the vet myself but I really need to get going. Could you...thanks.

(Marge's cellphone rings. To Chuck...)

I'll see you Sunday.

(Marge hangs up phone and answers her cellphone)

Hi, Dr. Anderston...yes, but never mind, it went away...Thanks, but I'm okay...No, I'm sure it won't happen again...I'm not. Really. In fact, I'm feeling better than I have in a long time...Yeah...No, no. I'm sure I'll be fine...I will...Thanks. Bye.

(Marge exits, right. Lights down.)

END OF ACT I

## ACT II – REPENTING OF A FOUL DEED

(Lights up on a farm. Marge enters from left.)

MARGE

Herb?

(Beat)

What a beautiful farm!

(Calling offstage left)

Herb!

HERB

(Enters)

I'm here, I'm here.

MARGE

Isn't this a beautiful farm?

HERB

It looks like the last five farms we visited.

MARGE

No, this one feels different. Do it.

HERB

I was just talking to the farmer. They sell a lot of stuff, actually, besides the produce at the stand.

MARGE

Herb, this is important.

HERB

I definitely want to get something. They just finished bottling some jam, and hadn't brought it out yet. They'll even butcher a—

MARGE

Herb!

HERB

I don't like it you know.

MARGE

What?

HERB

The occult.

MARGE

Mother Bellefontaine guaranteed this ceremony would work. As long as it was performed by a male.

HERB

I'm a Lutheran, for crying out loud. I shouldn't be dabbling in...this.

MARGE

Please. It won't be too much longer. I'm sure of it.

HERB

This is the eighth weekend in a row we've spent visiting farms. And you haven't even told me what you're looking for!

MARGE

You'll know when you sense it.

HERB

You promised me an explanation!

MARGE

I'll tell you what. If we don't find it by the end of today, I'll tell you everything. I promise.

HERB

Well...All right. Fine. Here we go...

(Holds arms out)

Om baba om om om. Ba om om ba ba ba.

Om baba om om om. Ba om om ba ba ba.

MARGE

Spin around, like last time!

HERB

(Slowly turns)

Om baba om om om. Ba om om ba ba ba.

Om baba om om om. Ba om...

(Starts coughing hard and doubles over)

MARGE

Herb? Herb!

(Herb still coughing)

Herb! Are you all right?



HERB

Yes, I'm...

(Catches breath)

I'm fine.

MARGE

That was it! I know it! That was it. Herb, she's here. Somewhere.

HERB

No, no that was just my...my allergies. My allergies.

MARGE

What allergies?!

HERB

The allergies I get from going to all these farms all the time.

MARGE

You never said that you suffer from allergies.

HERB

Who is "she"?

MARGE

Who?

HERB

You said "she's here." Who is "she"?

MARGE

Not now. I have to go find...I'll explain tonight.

HERB

No, Marge. If there's someone involved, I want to know. Now.

MARGE

But...

(Beat)

It's an...unusual story.

HERB

Just tell me.

MARGE

You'll think I'm crazy.

HERB

I promise I won't.

MARGE

Okay. Uh...you know my Mom died four years ago?

HERB

Yes.

MARGE

Well...when I was working at the slaughterhouse, she...came back. She was reincarnated as a cow and she started to talk to me and I thought it was a hallucination but it wasn't and she asked me to help her and instead I tricked her into getting slaughtered and that's why I don't eat beef anymore because I know she's out there somewhere and I have to find her.

HERB

I know.

MARGE

What?!

HERB

I've known for a while now.

MARGE

Wha...?! How?

(Beat)

The crystals! Your new connection to the spirit realm. I knew it. Rose, Margaret, all them told me that it was a bunch of crap but I knew there was something behind it.

HERB

No, it's because I read your diary.

MARGE

You...you read my diary!

HERB

Yes.

MARGE

But...that's private!

HERB

I know and I'm sorry, but—

MARGE

How dare you!

HERB

You've been increasing...erratic since the wedding.

MARGE

I have not been erratic!

HERB

Yes, you have. And I've been concerned.

MARGE

Fine. You doubt me? I'll show you proof.

HERB

Marge—

MARGE

We need to talk to the farmer. What's his name? We need to go out to his cows. As soon as I'm nearby, she'll start talking.

HERB

I really think you should talk to someone. Weren't you seeing a shrink for a while before—

MARGE

I don't know how I'm going to explain that I want to buy a cow. I'll think of something. And then we'll need to transport it up to uncle Gustav's farm.

HERB

Wait a minute. You want to buy a cow?!

CHICKEN  
(From offstage)

Buck buck buck.

MARGE

I can't leave my mother here!

CHICKEN  
(From offstage)

Marge.

MARGE

Who said that?

CHICKEN  
(Enters from right)

Marge! It's you!

HERB

Oh my God.

MARGE

Mom? Mom! But...but...

CHICKEN

I'm a chicken!

MARGE

You must have...but you're supposed to be...

HERB

It's talking! The chicken!

CHICKEN

You found me!

MARGE

Why aren't you a cow?!

HERB

It's a miracle.

CHICKEN

Marge, it was horrible! I don't remember a lot of it, but...but...buck...buck buck buck...

MARGE

It's all right, Mom. Everything's going to be all right now.

HERB

This is incredible! I shouldn't have I doubted you, Marge. My God.

CHICKEN

There is still danger here!

MARGE

Herb, I'd like to you meet my mother, Lucy. Mom, this is Herb Felts. My husband.

HERB

Mrs. Knutson, I am honored to meet you.

CHICKEN

You're the one who runs around naked.

MARGE

Mom, please. He only did that once. When he was two. I told you that.

HERB

You told her...wait a minute...

CHICKEN

Marge, get me away from this place. I sense a...a...buck...buck...bwraak!

HERB

Marge, look at me. What's happening?

CHICKEN

Brwaawk!

MARGE

I don't know. She was born as a cow before, but this time, I guess, she was reincarnated as a chicken.

(Chicken exits, right, unnoticed)

Oh, good Lord. She could have become anything.

HERB

But why?!

MARGE

The last time she said that God or whatever had sent her back to become a spiritual leader, and to...wait a minute, where did she go?

HERB

I...I don't know.

MARGE

You weren't watching her?

HERB

She's a talking chicken! I didn't think I had to keep track of her.

MARGE

(Looking right)

Which one is she?

HERB

I don't know.

MARGE

There's got to be at least a couple dozen over there. We have to find her!

HERB

Hold on, the farmer's coming. We can't just start running around in his chickens.

CHICKEN

(Enters from left, running)

Buck buck buck! Marge! Herb!

MARGE

Oh my God! Mom! How did you get over there?

HERB

Mrs. Knutson, please hold still.

CHICKEN

Buck buck...I can't stay focused. Marge!

MARGE

It's all right, Mom. Just calm down relax.

HERB

Everything's going to be okay.

CHICKEN

Buck.

MARGE

Yes, everything's going to be okay. We're going to take you away from here.

CHICKEN

Please, Marge. Don't leave. You left last time, when I was a cow. And then an awful man came and...and—

MARGE

I know. I know. I'm so sorry.

HERB

Let's get you out of here.

CHICKEN  
(Starts running around)

Buck buck buck!

(Marge and Herb start chasing Chicken around the yard)

Stop!

MARGE

Hold still.

HERB

Damn it!

MARGE  
(Trips)

(Chicken runs off stage, right)

Are you okay?

HERB

I'm fine. Get Mom!

MARGE

Okay. Oh...

HERB

(To farmer, offstage right)

Can we have that one, please. Yes, that one right there. Thanks! We'll meet you up front.

Is she...?

MARGE  
(Gets up)

The farmer caught her.

HERB

Oh, thank God.

MARGE

Come on, let's go up front.

HERB

Herb.

MARGE

HERB

Yes?

MARGE

Thank you. Thank you for...for being so understanding.

HERB

I'm sorry I doubted you. And I'm sorry that I looked through your diary.

MARGE

It's all right. Really. I'm just so happy that we found her. And at how well you're handling it.

HERB

But it's a miracle! It really is!

MARGE

Herb...the last time, she was talking about setting up some sort of spiritual center. A place where she could teach. That was as a cow, but...

HERB

It's all right.

MARGE

It may mean some big changes in my life.

HERB

Our lives. Because whatever it is, I'll be there with you.

MARGE

Oh, Herb, I love you.

HERB

I love you, too.

(They hug.)

CHICKEN

(From offstage right, very loud)

BWRAAK!!!!

HERB

What the...?!



MARGE  
(To offstage right)

No. No! Stop!!!

HERB  
(The farmer cuts off the head of the chicken)

No! We don't want her—  
dead.

(Beat)

Oh my God.

MARGE  
It's...it's happened again! Oh, no. It's happened again!

(Lights down)

END OF ACT II

## ACT III – ANTHROPOMORPHIC RENAISSANCE

(Lights up on a nursing home. Marge is sitting in a chair, quietly, center-left. An empty chair is next to her. Another chair is far right. Herb and Ashley enter from right and remain right.)

ASHLEY

How long has she been like this?

HERB

The dementia has been getting worse for years. I had to...to put her here about a year ago.

(Beat)

Thank you, Pastor. For coming down. It's very kind of you.

ASHLEY

I'm glad you asked me to visit. Bringing the Eucharist to people who can't come to church is an important part of my job. I'll be happy to come every week, if you'd like.

(Beat)

Is there anything I should know?

HERB

She has good days, and bad days. On her bad days, she can say some pretty crazy things. I hope today's a good day.

ASHLEY

I'm sure it'll be fine.

HERB

Come on. Let me introduce you.

(Crosses to Marge)

Marge?

MARGE

Hello.

HERB

Marge...it's Herb.

MARGE

Hello, Herb. It's a nice day today.

HERB

Marge, I'd like you to meet Pastor Ashley Dodd. She's the new assistant pastor at the church. She's come to visit.

ASHLEY

Hello, Marge. I'm happy to meet you. How are you doing?

(Beat)

Marge, we're going to have a church service here today. Is that okay?

(Beat. To Marge and Herb.)

Okay. Then let's begin.

(Beat)

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

HERB

Amen.

MARGE

You're a chicken. Stay away from the farmer!

HERB

Now, Marge, don't be silly.

ASHLEY

It's all right.

HERB

I'm sorry.

ASHLEY

No, it's fine. Really. Should I...?

(Herb assents. Ashley prays.)

Almighty God, you know us. You know our hearts. You—

MARGE

You're a big, fat cow. Full of milk!

ASHLEY

Okay.

HERB

Marge! Pastor Ashley is here to hold a church service. You can't call her names!

(Ashley crosses to far right and watches Marge and Herb)

MARGE

I want my pudding.

HERB

Promise that you'll be nice to Pastor Ashley.

MARGE

Pudding!

HERB

(Crosses to Ashley)

I'm sorry. She's usually not that insistent.

ASHELY

It's fine. Really.

HERB

Perhaps you should come back. Today looks like a bad day.

ASHLEY

All right. You've got my schedule, so let me know when would be a good time.

HERB

I will.

ASHLEY

Good.

(Beat)

Herb, this is going to sound funny, but...have we've met before?

HERB

Excuse me?

ASHLEY

I mean, before you came to the church. Seeing Marge...it's like we've met before.

(Beat)

Have you and Marge ever been to Dubuque? That's where I grew up.

HERB

No. I don't think so.

ASHLEY

This is...it's very weird...I just...

(Crosses to Marge)

Marge—

Pastor...  
HERB

Marge? Do you recognize me?  
ASHELY

Who are you?  
MARGE

It's Pastor Ashley. From the church.  
ASHELY

Ashley. The chickencow.  
MARGE

Why do you say that? Why are you saying that?!  
ASHELY

Pastor, I think you should come back later.  
HERB

And then a sheep then a turkey then a donkey then a goose then a... then a...  
MARGE

Then what?!  
ASHELY

I really need to insist that you leave.  
HERB

Then what, Marge?!  
ASHLEY

I want my pudding.  
MARGE

Marge, I need to know!  
ASHLEY

Pudding!  
MARGE

Pastor, please leave. You're upsetting her!  
HERB

ASHLEY

But...

(Beat)

I'm sorry. I don't...I really don't know why I did that. I...nevermind. I'll go.

HERB

I think that would be for the best.

ASHELY

I'm really sorry.

HERB

It's all right. Just go. Please.

ASHLEY

Penguin.

HERB

What?

ASHLEY

Then a penguin. A tiny little penguin.

HERB

How do you know that?

ASHLEY

Coming up a beach at dusk after spending the day feeding in the ocean. Coming home to safety when...

HERB

It's caught by a seagull. Right in front of Marge and me. The little three-pound penguin is caught because it stopped...Oh my God.

ASHLEY

Stopped to talk to you. But...talk to you? But how could I have...I...

HERB

It's happening again!

ASHLEY

Just like the chicken. And the sheep. It talked. I talked. What the...it's...oh, my head is spinning.

HERB

Here, sit.

(Helps Ashley to a chair)

ASHLEY

Thank you.

(Beat)

What's happening again?

HERB

Nothing.

ASHLEY

Herb, tell me!

HERB

It's nothing important. Really.

ASHLEY

I need to know. Please!

HERB

Well...I...I don't know how to describe this...but I think you're the reincarnation of Marge's mother.

ASHLEY

Don't be ridiculous.

HERB

I've seen her mother appear before us as talking animals over the years. Lots of different kinds.

ASHLEY

Herb, I need you to be serious. Please!

HERB

I am! Each time, the animal would start to talk, but before we can get it to safety, something would happen to it, and it would...the last time was thirty years ago, at a penguin refuge in southern Australia. Our big trip to Australia. God, has it really been thirty years?

ASHLEY

You are being serious.

(Beat)

No. I'm a pastor. An ordained Lutheran pastor. I can't believe in reincarnation.

HERB

But you remember being a penguin.

ASHLEY

I remember...something. Being a penguin. And I think...no. No, it was just a dream.

HERB

What? What do you remember?

ASHLEY

Herb...

HERB

Please.

ASHLEY

A voice. Something telling me I needed to do something. But I don't know what.

(Beat)

This can't be true.

HERB

I think it is.

ASHLEY

Even if it was, I can't just start running around talking about maybe being reincarnated. I could be defrocked. For heresy!

MARGE

I want my mommie!

HERB

(Crosses to Marge)

It's all right.

MARGE

Mommie!

HERB

It's all right Sweetpea. It's okay. Herb is here.

MARGE

Mommie mommie mommie!

HERB

Pastor.

ASHLEY

But I'm not—



Mooooooooommmieeeeeee!

MARGE

Marge.

ASHLEY  
(Crosses to Marge)

Thank you.

HERB

Hello. Do I know you?

MARGE

I understand that you...have had some experiences with the supernatural.  
(Beat)  
That your mother comes back to talk to you.

ASHLEY

You're not a cow. Or a chicken.

MARGE

No, I'm not.

ASHLEY

Mom, is that you?

MARGE

I—

ASHLEY

You're...that new pastor. Aren't you?  
(Becomes mostly lucid)  
(Notices Herb)  
Oh, hi. I didn't see you there.

HERB

Hi, Sweetpea.

MARGE

Hi, Puddin'.

HERB

I think it's happened again.

What's happened again?  
MARGE

You know. It.  
HERB

Again? But it's been years and years. Where? When?! What was she this time? Wait, should we be discussing this in front of...?

It's her.  
HERB

Her? Her?!? But...But she's...she's a person!  
MARGE

Look, I don't know what's going on. But I came in here and I started to remember...I don't know what.  
ASHLEY

Mom, is that really you? Be careful! Every time we find you, you die.  
MARGE

I'll be fine.  
ASHLEY

Please, I don't want you to die!  
MARGE

I'll be fine! Really.  
ASHELY

Promise?  
MARGE

I promise.  
ASHLEY

Good.  
MARGE

(Beat)  
You're here. You're really here.

I don't know that—  
ASHLEY

MARGE  
Herb, could you excuse us, please?

HERB  
What?

MARGE  
Could you please...give us a few minutes?

HERB  
Are you sure?

MARGE  
Yes.

HERB  
But...all right. I'll be out in the hall.  
(Herb exits, right)

MARGE  
I...I don't know how to say this. But I have to tell you something.

ASHLEY  
Marge, look, I don't know if I'm really—

MARGE  
No, I don't have time. I...Mom, when you died the first time...

ASHLEY  
Yes?

MARGE  
You were drinking tea.

ASHLEY  
Chamomile tea.

MARGE  
I...uh...I put something in your tea.

ASHLEY  
You put something...?

MARGE  
Sorry.

ASHLEY

But you...you're saying that you...oh my God.

MARGE  
(Dementia returns)

Sorry.

ASHLEY

You killed...you murdered your...no, no. Wait...wait! That's what the voice meant!

MARGE

Sorry.

ASHLEY

It said that you thought...Marge...it wasn't you. It was a heart attack. That stuff you put in...it couldn't have killed a mouse.

MARGE

It's a nice day today.

ASHLEY

Marge?

MARGE

Who are you?

ASHLEY

Oh, Marge. My poor baby.

MARGE

I want my mommie.

ASHLEY

But—

MARGE

Don't go, Mommie!

ASHLEY

It's all right, I...It's all right. I'm here. And I'll stay as long as you want.

MARGE

I love you.

ASHLEY

I love you, too.

(Lights down)

THE END