

# I'M NOT GOING

A Dramatic Duet

by  
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AUTHOR'S NOTE: Jim and Val, husband and wife in late thirties or early forties, have a generally good relationship. Val is defensive about a tragedy that she feels responsible for that happened about ten years ago. Val is in kitchen preparing the evening meal. Jim has just walked in the door.

JIM: Hey, Val! How was your day?

VAL: Oh, not so bad. I finished the Steven's project. The kids are down at Jason's. Dinner will be in about thirty minutes.

JIM: What are we having?

VAL: Pizza. "It's not delivery...it's Di Giorno." Did you get the mail?

JIM: Yeah, I've got it right here. Let's see...Your "People" magazine. (Looking at cover) Saddam Hussein did not make the top ten best dressed list. (Tosses the magazine on the counter.)

VAL: Oh wow! I needed to know that.

JIM: Couple of bills, some credit card offers. Hey, look at this...we've been pre-approved to outspend Congress...oh, here's a letter from Susan and Dave.

VAL: Oh...I wonder what's happening with them.

JIM: (Opens letter; takes a brief look.) Hey, look at this! The family reunion is going to be at \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of recreation area.) this time. Susan and Dave are organizing it. (Longing, but with excitement) Boy, that would be great! Water skiing, \_\_\_\_\_ Park, (Name local park) just sitting on the beach.

VAL: (Turns away)

JIM: Val...

VAL: You and the kids can go, but I can't.

JIM: (Moves toward her; she moves away.) Val...we've gone through this every other year for the last ten years. Don't you think it's time to move on?

VAL: Jim...I don't want to talk about it. Now drop it.

JIM: Look...the kids and I have gone to the reunion by ourselves the last four times. The family loves you Val. I'm really tired of going without you. We're supposed to build family memories together. I feel deserted when you're not there.

VAL: You?! Feel deserted?! Oh, I'm so sorry! (Pause) You don't have to deal with what I feel every day.

JIM: Look, Val... I know it's tough. But it wasn't your fault. It just happened.

VAL: You don't know...

JIM: You couldn't have known he was going to die. That's how SIDS is.

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---