

Last Chance (a play) by Erica Lee Dorn



A play based in a ghost town on the Eastern Plains of Colorado.
The setting is the Last Chance Cafe - a classic, homegrown, rural diner.
Cafe is always pronounced 'cuh - FAY'

Eureka (35 y/o)

Eugene (65 y/o)

Grandma/Norma (90y/o)

Scene One

(At a booth at the cafe)

Grandma:

Eugene, Eugene would know.

Eureka:

If I could get him to, uh, talk about this sort of this. Hmmm.

or I uhh, grandma you were saying that um, that Grandpa never made as much money as he did when he owned the Last Chance Cafe?...

Grandma:

Yep yep, he said he made more money there... well that was... and... and that was I mean... that was... way back too... you know... you know after that he had a different life in construction...

Last Chance (a play) by Erica Lee Dorn



but uh... at that time... you know he said he made a lot of money from that little cafe. People thought he was crazy to buy it for one thing.

Eureka:
Why would that be?

Grandma:
I don't know... it was out there in the middle of nowhere.

Erica:
Hmm. giggles...

Grandma:
It was before the oil people came in and uh...and I mean it wasn't anything... there! You've never been there, have you?

Eureka:
No!... but I want to go soon.

Grandma:
Yeah

Eureka:
(Clear throat)

Grandma:
It is dreary, I mean it's... past Simla, Last Chance... yeah its just out on the prairie there. so...

Eureka:
Why do you think Grandpa?...

Grandma:

Last Chance (a play)

by Erica Lee Dorn



Though it might even be torn down by now you know.

Eureka:

(Being polite to not cut into what grandma might say... holding her breath a little.)

Yeah, Yeah...

Grandma:

It might not even be there anymore.

Eureka:

Letting her breath go.

Well I did research on that.

Grandma:

You know...Eugene. Eugene loves history.. or this kind of stuff. And I'd talk to Eugene and ask him if its still there. And he might be able to tell you more than anybody in the family.

Eureka:

(Smiling. Exuberant. Laughing.)

You are right Grandma! I hadn't even thought about Eugene. I, I need to call him. Cause yeah I'm going to interview Dad...

Grandma:

Yeah but he hasn't called for a long time.

Eureka:

yeah... (sniffles).

Grandma:

Probably a couple of months I think.

Last Chance (a play)

by Erica Lee Dorn



Eureka:

(Pause...) hmmm. (Pause.....) hmmm...

Well Grandma.. Do you know why Grandpa would have wanted to buy the Cafe?

Grandma:

Do I what?

Eureka:

(Speaking very clearly and slowly.)

Do you know why he would have wanted to buy that?

Grandma:

Pause... why he who?...

Eureka:

Grandpa. Like why would he.. you know if people thought he was crazy. Do you remember what like, he just saw a lot of opportunity?

Grandma:

(Seeming puzzled.)

Do I know why he would have wanted to do that?

Eureka:

Yes.

Grandma:

(Innocently. Softly.)

I don't know. he just wanted to.

I mean gosh.. I was... that was years before I met him.

Last Chance (a play) by Erica Lee Dorn



Eureka:
(Swallowing.)

Yeah. Do you remember any stories he told you about it? like...

Grandma:
Cutting Eureka off.
No but Eugene would. Eugene would know why.

Eureka:
(Softly). Uh huh.. My dad always says I'm just like Eugene.

Grandma:
See I'm trying to think how old Eugene would have been.

Eureka:
Like eight, I think.

Grandma:
He was taking care of Rickie then you know...

Eureka:
(Complacently.)
uh huh hmm right

Grandma:
clears her throat. So...

Eureka:
Do you remember?...

Grandma:

Last Chance (a play) by Erica Lee Dorn



Cutting Eureka off...

He's be glad to do any research, I'll bet, on that. To see if its still standing or anything.

Eureka:

Yeah. I did research Grandma. And I found that ummm..... its. There was a fire there. Like a prairie fire.

Grandma:

Oh!

Eureka:

Yeah in 2012. And so everything was burnt down basically... and umm so it's a..

Grandma:

Oh!

Eureka:

Its a REAL ghost town now. um. but uh there like you can see remnants of things.

Last Chance (a play) by Erica Lee Dorn

