

6. The Ghost

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3 **CAST:** STAN, ALBERT
4 **SCENE OPENS:** We are in STAN's apartment. It is late at night.
5 ALBERT is sitting in a chair in the living room. STAN comes into
6 the room with a flashlight. He is looking around.
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8 **STAN:** Is anybody there? *(Pause)* Is anybody here? *(STAN flashes*
9 *his light around. It lands on ALBERT. STAN sees him and flicks*
10 *the lights on.)*
11 **ALBERT:** Will you please get that light out of my eyes?
12 **STAN:** Who the hell are you?
13 **ALBERT:** Considering the situation, that seems like a fair question.
14 **STAN:** Are you going to answer it?
15 **ALBERT:** In time.
16 **STAN:** Fine, I'm calling the police.
17 **ALBERT:** There really is no reason to. I'm not armed. I'm not
18 dangerous. *(He stands up, opens his jacket and shows STAN.*
19 *He stops.)*
20 **STAN:** Fine. Then who are you?
21 **ALBERT:** Albert.
22 **STAN:** Just Albert? No last name? Who do you think you are, Cher?
23 **ALBERT:** If it's that important, my last name is Meyers. I'm
24 Albert Meyers.
25 **STAN:** Wait a minute. Albert Meyers? My last name is Meyers,
26 and my middle name is Albert.
27 **ALBERT:** I know.
28 **STAN:** What do you mean "I know"? Who are you?
29 **ALBERT:** Answer me this, who were you named for?
30 **STAN:** Why?
31 **ALBERT:** Just answer.
32 **STAN:** OK, I was named for my mother's father, Stanley Plotnick
33 and my father's father, Albert Meyers.
34 **ALBERT:** There you have it.
35 **STAN:** *Have what?!* All I have is some goof ball in my apartment at

1 two o'clock in the morning who has the same name as my
2 dead grandfather.
3 **ALBERT:** I don't have the same name as your dead grandfather.
4 *(Pause)* I am your dead grandfather. *(Silence)*
5 **STAN:** Yeah. OK why don't you just wait here? I'm going to call
6 some people who can help you find your way back to heaven.
7 I'm sure you just took a wrong turn at purgatory and wound
8 up here.
9 **ALBERT:** I hate this part. Do you know how long it usually takes
10 to convince someone you're a ghost?
11 **STAN:** Now there's a question I don't get asked everyday. No, I
12 don't and would you please get out of here?! *(ALBERT hands*
13 *him a photo album.)*
14 **ALBERT:** Look, to save time, just look at this album. *(STAN does.)*
15 Here's a picture of your father and me. Do I look familiar?
16 **STAN:** OK, there's a resemblance, but that doesn't prove anything.
17 *(ALBERT pulls out a necklace.)*
18 **ALBERT:** How about this?
19 **STAN:** My God, that's my father's. He said only he and his ...
20 **ALBERT:** His what?
21 **STAN:** His father had one. I have his now. *Oh my God!* You are
22 my grandfather!
23 **ALBERT:** I'm glad you believe me.
24 **STAN:** What ... what are you doing here?
25 **ALBERT:** Do you know how I died?
26 **STAN:** From what my father told me, you were walking down the
27 street and a piano fell on you.
28 **ALBERT:** Well, I'm not sure how much you know about heaven,
29 but when you die in a real stupid way —
30 **STAN:** Like having a piano fall on you?
31 **ALBERT:** *(Slightly agitated)* Yes, if you must be blunt, like having a
32 piano fall on you, you don't get a lot of respect. You also don't
33 get any of the choice assignments, so I choose to do some extra
34 work to help me gain some respect.
35 **STAN:** And what's that?

1 ALBERT: To find some hapless human and help him achieve some
2 of his goals.
3 STAN: And *who* might this hapless human be?
4 ALBERT: Whom and — hi there.
5 STAN: I resent that. I am not hapless.
6 ALBERT: Maybe hapless is the wrong term. I mean someone who
7 could use some help.
8 STAN: I don't need any help.
9 ALBERT: Everyone could use a little assistance.
10 STAN: I'm doing fine.
11 ALBERT: Is that all you want to do, just "fine"?
12 STAN: What's wrong with that?
13 ALBERT: Nothing, but you can do better. Everyone in your family
14 has always done "fine," but you can do better. I've watched
15 you for a long time and I know. Don't you want to advance?
16 Don't you want to lead instead of following?
17 STAN: I will. It just takes time.
18 ALBERT: Not if you keep letting others take credit for your work.
19 Stand up for yourself and be counted.
20 STAN: You sound like a commercial.
21 ALBERT: When you've been dead for forty years you miss the
22 latest expressions, but the thought is the same. I'm going to
23 stick around and show you how to assert yourself.
24 STAN: Can anyone else see you?
25 ALBERT: No, that's the beauty of it.
26 STAN: How long did you say you were going to be around?
27 ALBERT: Till you've accomplished your potential. It could be a
28 long or short time. It's up to you.
29 STAN: Why couldn't I have assertiveness training like everyone else?
30 ALBERT: Don't look at it that way; see it as a "godsend."
31 STAN: Great, a funny ghost. I really don't have any say in this, do I?
32 ALBERT: No, so just accept it. We're going to have a good time.
33 STAN: What started out as an ordinary day winds up like
34 something out of *The Twilight Zone*. I'm going to bed. Maybe
I'll wake up and find this a dream. Goodnight, Grandpa. (He

1 *exits. There is a scream Off-stage.)*
2 ALBERT: I guess I forgot to mention his grandma's here too.
3 The End
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