

The Surprise by Dawson Moore (dawsonguy@juno.com; 907.255.5325)

(Dim lights rise on Ryan and Jay, two guys in their twenties, crouched over, hiding behind furniture. After a tense moment or two...)

RYAN

You're sure he's on his way.

JAY

He should be here by now.

RYAN

Because I'm about done hiding in the dark.

JAY

You're fine.

RYAN

My back is starting to hurt... This is stupid, anyway.

JAY

Just relax.

RYAN

Who's going to be surprised by a party on their fiftieth? "Oh my gosh, I had NO IDEA." Right.

JAY

We are doing it because it needs to be done. Shut up.

RYAN

I don't really care. About him. Personally.

JAY

He's a good man.

RYAN

Except when he's drunk. At work. As our boss.

JAY

Well... he's a good father.

RYAN

Which is why his kids are throwing him this party. Or, you know, came to it.

JAY

Before Martha passed, he was a good husband.

RYAN

Except when they went through that rough patch...

JAY

Right.

RYAN

... where he cheated on her with a prostitute...

JAY

Right.

RYAN

...and gave her herpes. But hey, other than that...

JAY

He's turning fifty. He should have someone do something nice for... did you hear that? Shhh, hide!

(After a few moments, there is the sound of a key rattling, then a tired-looking 50-year-old man... let's call him Bob... enters. They leap out at him.)

JAY & RYAN

Surprise!

(Bob shrieks and falls back off stage. His screams are interlaced with the thumps as he falls down a long staircase off-stage. Jay and Ryan are too late to help, and watch him go down. Jay is mortified and freaking out. Ryan just stares.)

JAY

Ohmygod, ohmygod, OH MY GOD!!!

RYAN

I guess I was wrong...

(They look at each other.)

... he was definitely surprised.

(Lights out. The end.)