

# TIME IN A BOX

by Ken Bradbury



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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 male, 2 female)

Jerry, Laura, Homer, Rosey, Dog

**JERRY:** (*entering, angry*) It's just not fair!

**LAURA:** (*entering, equally miffed*) It's your fault!

**JERRY:** No way!

**LAURA:** You're saying it's my fault?

**JERRY:** I had the TV remote first!

**LAURA:** So what? If you hadn't thrown it at me, it wouldn't have busted!

**JERRY:** If you hadn't ducked it wouldn't have hit the refrigerator.

**LAURA:** You aimed straight at my head!

**JERRY:** Yeh! If you'd let it hit you, it'd still be in one piece. What a lousy way to spend the afternoon ... stuck up here in the attic.

**LAURA:** Mom knows we hate this place. That's why she sent us up here.

**JERRY:** This place gives me the creeps.

**LAURA:** If I was allergic to dust I'd be dead by now.

**JERRY:** What's in the chest?

**LAURA:** Mom said stay out.

**JERRY:** Of what? This dirty old chest?

**LAURA:** She said it contained private family things and we were to stay out of it until she sorts through it.

**JERRY:** You mean she hasn't even looked in it?

**LAURA:** It was part of Grandpa's estate. Probably just old papers and stuff.

**JERRY:** Let's take a look.

**LAURA:** Mom'll kill us.

**JERRY:** The same Mom who tortures me by making me spend the rest of the day in the attic with my sister who ducks when somebody throws a remote control at her head?

**LAURA:** (*stopping him as he moves to open the chest*) Look Jerry, we're in enough trouble.

**JERRY:** You can never be in enough trouble.

**LAURA:** (*moving away*) Just remember, this wasn't my idea.

**JERRY:** What're you gonna do ... duck? (*opening the chest*) Here goes. (*grabbing his heart, desperate*) Oh my gosh, Laura!

**LAURA:** (*frightened*) What?!

**JERRY:** You oughta see it! It's ... it's horrible! And it's moving!

**LAURA:** (*turning her back and covering her eyes*) Jerry! Shut the lid! Shut the lid!

**JERRY:** (*putting on quite a show while his sister's back is turned*) I can't Laura! It's got me by the throat!

**LAURA:** Jerry!

**JERRY:** Now it's coming for you, Laura! It's looking right at you!

**LAURA:** Mama!

**JERRY:** (*putting his hand over her mouth*) Don't do that.

**LAURA:** But ...

**JERRY:** (*Jerry turns her around to face the trunk*) Kidding. Just a bunch of dusty junk.

**LAURA:** (*turning her back, crossing her arms in a huff*) Don't even speak to me.

**JERRY:** Hey Laura. Can't you take a little joke? (*and we see the disheveled form of Homer slowly rise from out of the trunk. He's a crusty old man with a mean look in his eye. Jerry's back is also turned to the trunk*) We gotta have a little fun up here don't we? I mean ... (*just then he turns and sees Homer glaring at him*) Laura?!!!

**LAURA:** (*a grunt, still turned away*) What do you want?

**JERRY:** It's ... it's horrible! And it's moving!

**LAURA:** Very funny, Jerry. (*Homer grabs Jerry by the throat*)

**JERRY:** And it's got me by the throat!!!!

**LAURA:** What kind of an idiot do you think I am?

**JERRY:** (*still being choked as Homer drags him over to where Laura is standing*) Now it's coming for you, Laura! It's looking right at you!

**LAURA:** You're boring me, Jerry. (*Homer keeps one hand on Jerry's throat while he puts his other hand on Laura's shoulder.*) Jerry, take your hand off me. I'm not in the mood for joking. (*Larry makes a choking sound because ... well ... he's choking*) You're a terrible actor, you know that? (*Laura turns*) If you think I'm going to fall for ... (*she turns and comes nose-to-nose with Homer. She tries to speak, but only unintelligible sounds come out of her mouth. Finally ...*) Jerry. Who is this? (*Jerry can only choke*) Jerry! (*nothing ... Homer continues to stare right her face*) Jerry McDermitt if this is ...

**HOMER:** Who?

**LAURA:** What?!!

**HOMER:** Who'd you say he was?

**LAURA:** (*barely getting the words out*) Jerry McDermitt.

**HOMER:** You're joking! (*releases his hold on Jerry and hugs him*) Laddy!

**LAURA:** What're you doing?

**HOMER:** I'm Homer! Homer McDermitt! Your great-great uncle from Killarney!

**LAURA:** That's impossible! You're dead!

**HOMER:** In a manner of speaking. (*shouting into the box*) Rosey! I found family!

**LAURA:** There's somebody else in there?

**HOMER:** (*pulling her out of the box...an old and wrinkled woman*) Rosey! Me wife! Rosey, meet Jerry McDermitt, you're long lost grandnephew!

**ROSEY:** (*hugging Jerry violently*) Praise be!

**LAURA:** But how can you ... I mean ... if you're ....

**HOMER:** Lassie, we've been in that box for over a hundred years! I don't suppose you'd have a wee bit of sweetbread? Or maybe a pudding?

**ROSEY:** I like pudding. (*walking around Jerry*) Sure and you're a fine, strappin' boy! Reminds me of Oscar. Doesn't he remind you of Oscar, Homer?

**HOMER:** Sure and he does. Same strange nose ... spindly legs. The spittin' image!

**JERRY:** This is crazy. How can you ... I mean ... where did you?



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