OLD LADY
But then again, they always say
those sorts of things about lonely
old ladies, don’t they?

The traveler’s eyes are wide, looking back and forth between
the woman and the dolls.

TRAVELER
Oh...ha ha ha...do they...

OLD LADY
They become like your family. See,
I couldn’t have any kids of my own,
so these little ones keep me
company.

TRAVELER
Yes, they’re very nice. I don’t
mean to be rude but if I may please
use your phone?

OLD LADY
Oh yes, of course.
She pats his arm. Squeezes his bicep.

OLD LADY
A fine specimen, you are. Just like him...

She EXITS.

OLD LADY
(O.S.)
My husband thought I didn’t know he was sneaking around on me. But a woman always knows. It was because I wasn’t able to give him a child of my own, you know? What he did, with all those other women. He needed to prove to himself that his dick wasn’t the problem.

The doll FALLS OFF THE SHELF AGAIN.

The traveler walks over to pick it up...and stumbles like a drunk. He leans against the wall.

TRAVELER
Whoa...

The old lady enters. She’s holding something behind her back.

OLD LADY
And after all he put me through, he still tried to leave. You know, I don’t take it too well--when people leave. So I put a stop to it.

She picks up the doll that fell from the shelf.

OLD LADY
Didn’t I, sweetheart?

She sets it back on the shelf.

TRAVELER
I don’t feel so good...please...I need a phone...

He slumps to the floor, his limbs splayed like a doll.

OLD LADY
Young man, you aren’t going anywhere. Not ever again.

TRAVELER
I can’t...I can’t feel my legs!

END