

3 MEN ON A HORSE

By John Cecil Holm & Geroge Abbott

Adapted for Rose Bruford College by Phil Willmott
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This is a rough draft intended for casting purposes and provisional study by the cast. It may well contain small omissions and many typo errors. It can be further refined as part of the rehearsal period.

CHARACTERS.

Erwin Trowbridge

Audrey Trowbridge (His Wife)

Clary Dobbins (His Sister-in-law)

Mr. Carver (His boss)

Patsy }

Charlie } Professional gamblers

Frankie }

Mable (Patsy's girl)

Gloria (A journalist)

Al (A press photographer)

Bella }

& } Waitress' at The Lavillere Hotel

Eve }

Radio Racing Commentator

THE BARROOM OF THE SEEDY LAVILLERE HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY 1935.

ABOUT THREE IN THE AFTERNOON.

1
2 ONE EXIT LEADS TO THE STREET, ANOTHER TO A TELEPHONE, BOOTH,
3 ANOTHER TO THE HOTEL BEDROOMS, ANOTHER TO THE WASHROOMS.
4
5 BELLA AND EVE ARE SERVING BEHIND THE BAR, CHARLIE AND FRANKIE
6 ARE STUDYING RACE SHEETS.
7
8 ERWIN SITS LISTENING OBSCURED BY A PAPER. HE HAS BEEN DRINKING
9 MORE THEN USUAL.
10
11 BELLA. (TO CHARLIE AND FRANKIE) Say, you've been nursin' that
12 empty bottle for an hour now?
13
14 CHARLIE. Just make it one beer this time. (Counts change.) We'll split
15 it, Frankie. (To BELLA.) We don't want to break a bill if we can help it -
16 maybe we can figure out a horse to play on in this third race.
17
18 BELLA. (DISMISSIVE) Yeh, yeh.
19
20 FRANKIE. Geez, you'd think Patsy would call up or somethin'.
21
22 CHARLIE. It don't take all day to hock a belt buckle.
23
24 FRANKIE. Maybe it wasn't gold after all.
25
26 CHARLIE. He paid enough for it.
27
28 EVE. It just goes to show you how the luck will go. Lobster one day -
29 beans the next.
30
31 BELLA. You three fellows were sittin' pretty - how much was it you ran
32 up to last month?
33
34 CHARLIE. About four hundred bucks. Aw - we'll have it again.
35
36 FRANKIE. Sure.
37
38 EVE. Geez, I could almost open my own place with that. The trouble
39 with this place is - it looks too much like a speakeasy - if a thing is
40 legal it should look legal - that's what I say - and another thing -
41 when anybody takes a room at this hotel they don't come in here
42 much.
43
44 BELLA. Yeh, if they want to have a party - they take the bottle to the
45 room.
46
47 (The Phone rings. BELLA goes into booth.)

1
2 CHARLIE. (Counting money.) Two, three, four, five, six. Well, I know
3 how I'm going to play my six bucks.
4
5 FRANKIE. Yeah?
6
7 CHARLIE. Yeah? I'm playing the surest thing I know ... three bucks on
8 Rose Cross to show.
9
10 FRANKIE. But Charlie, Rose Cross won't pay back anything much
11 even if she wins . . . if you lay three bucks to place, you'd only get
12 about ninety cents - so, if she shows, you're lucky to get two bits.
13
14 CHARLIE. Listen, we got to reserve our capital. Two bits is breakfast
15 money anyways. How d'ya think we're going to eat? We can't get
16 credit for a bet any more - let alone feed money. You know that!
17
18 FRANKIE. But you're puttin' up half your roll. Suppose Rose Cross don't
19 come in?
20
21 CHARLIE. There's only five horses in the race. She ought to show at
22 least. -This is a hell of a spot to be in. I wish Patsy would come back.
23 Sometimes he gets some good ideas. Even Mabel ain't in her room.
24 (TO EVE) Did she go out with Patsy?
25
26 EVE. No, she's doin' the same thing - she took out all her dresses to
27 hock and a parasol that's got a gold top.
28
29 FRANKIE. It's a good thing Patsy's got Mabel - he got forty-five bucks
30 on that bracelet of hers yesterday.
31
32 CHARLIE. What do you mean it's a good thing Patsy's got Mabel? He
33 bought all that stuff for her, didn't he?
34
35 FRANKIE. What I mean is - she's a good investment.
36
37 (BELLA. comes out of booth and goes back to bar.)
38
39 She's a nice kid, Mabel.
40
41 CHARLIE. Yeah, she's all right - well, the hell with all that. I got to bet.
42
43 BELLA. That was Gus on the phone. He wanted to find out if anybody
44 wanted to bet the third race.
45
46 CHARLIE. Who copped that second?
47

1 BELLA. Fairweather.
2
3 CHARLIE. Fairweather, huh?
4
5 BELLA. Brass Monkey took the first. He paid eight to one.)
6
7 (ERWIN STIRS AT THE BAR, TAKES EVE.'S PENCIL - MAKES TWO CHECKS
8 WITH IT IN HIS LITTLE BOOK. HE CALLS TIMIDLY TO EVE.)
9
10 ERWIN. Oh excuse me, Miss.
11
12 EVE. What'll it be?
13
14 ERWIN. Scotch.
15
16 FRANKIE. I don't think I want to bet today.
17
18 CHARLIE. Now listen, we didn't play yesterday nor the day before. --
19 we got to bet today. We might as well break the ice.
20
21 ERWIN. (TO EVE.) I should be at the office.
22
23 EVE. Takin' a couple hours for lunch, huh?
24
25 ERWIN. No. I mean I should have been at the office this morning.
26
27 EVE. Oh.
28
29 CHARLIE. We could play it like this - say we put two dollars on Rose
30 Cross to win - then we put - now let's see . . . (He figures silently with a
31 pencil.)
32
33 EVE. I guess you can always do what you like when you're in business
34 for yourself.
35
36 ERWIN. Gosh, sometimes I wish I was in business for myself.
37
38 EVE. I thought you was.
39
40 ERWIN. No, that's the trouble. I should have been at the office a
41 long time ago. Let me have another drink.
42
43 BELLA. It's none of my business, brother, but don't you think you
44 should go to the office while you're able to navigate?
45

1 ERWIN. (Waves idea aside.) I don't think I'll ever go to the office
2 again. (Rests chin on elbow at bar as his attention is drawn to
3 table.)
4
5 BELLA. Oh. (As if to say "It's as bad as that.")
6
7 CHARLIE. Maybe we should pass up the third. Does anything look
8 good in the fourth?
9
10 EVE. (To ERWIN.) They been sittin' there for an hour tryin' to decide
11 on a horse to play.
12
13 ERWIN. Do you know them?
14
15 BELLA. Sure. They live in this hotel.
16
17 ERWIN. Do you think they'd mind if I gave them a horse?
18
19 BELLA. What's that again?
20
21 ERWIN. I said, do you think they would mind if I gave them a tip on
22 the third race?
23
24 EVE. Do you play the horses, too?
25
26 ERWIN. Me? No.
27
28 EVE. Oh. Well, you see they're down to twelve bucks and...
29
30 BELLA. I think it might be better if they made a choice themselves -
31 because if they lost they wouldn't feel so good.
32
33 ERWIN. You mean they wouldn't like me?
34
35 BELLA. That's it.
36
37 FRANKIE. (ERWIN turns. FRANKIE throws down racing paper.) Aw, hell,
38 do what you like, Charlie. I don't see anything good. I think I'll wait for
39 Patsy. He might have somethin'.
40
41 CHARLIE. All right. I'm playin' Rose Cross.
42
43 ERWIN. (Looks in book. Weaves to table.) Excuse me, gentlemen, I
44 see you're interested in horses. You should really play Semester in the
45 third race.
46
47 CHARLIE. Yeah?

1
2 FRANKIE. Wheredja get that?
3
4 ERWIN. Oh, I have it right here.
5
6 FRANKIE. Semester ain't rated much with the boys.
7
8 BELLA. Hey! You better come back here and finish your drink.
9
10 CHARLIE. One of them long shot guys.
11
12 FRANKIE. Looks like a nut.
13
14 CHARLIE. Say, Bella, you better see if he can pay for his drinks. He
15 might want to pay you with a tip.
16
17 ERWIN. You fellows have the wrong opinion of me. I was just trying to
18 do you a favour. (Pulls bill out of wallet.) Look, twenty dollars. I can
19 pay for more drinks than I ever drank in my whole life. (To EVE.) Don't
20 get me wrong. I don't drink much. But did you ever feel blue?
21
22 EVE. Sure. Lots of times.
23
24 ERWIN. That's just the way I feel today. I got off the bus -and I just
25 didn't care -I should be at the office - but my wife.. oh don't get me
26 wrong, she's the best girl in the world, my best girl... or she was...
27 or... You see my sister in law, she's always trurning her against me..
28 it's like I can't do anything right.... Aw but you don't want to hear
29 about all that. (TO FRANKIE) You married?
30
31 FRANKIE. No.
32
33 ERWIN. Then you haven't got a sister-in-law. I got off the bus and I
34 started for the office - and then I just didn't care any more.
35
36 CHARLIE. I'll put a dollar to win and one to show. Rose Cross.
37
38 FRANKIE. It's your six bucks, not mine.
39
40 (CHARLIE STARTS FOR BOOTH.)
41
42 ERWIN. You should really play Semester in the third race.
43
44 CHARLIE. If it's all the same to you, pal, I'll play Rose Cross.
45
46 (Goes into booth.)
47

1 ERWIN. (Back to EVE.) That's the trouble. Nobody pays much
2 attention to me. I think I'll have another drink. (ERWIN pours drink. To
3 BELLA.) Say Miss.
4
5 BELLA. Yeh.
6
7 ERWIN. You seem to be very up on the horses - would you like to play
8 Semester in the third race just to see what would happen?
9
10 BELLA. (Laughs.) I know what would happen.
11
12 ERWIN. Don't you bet on horses?
13
14 BELLA. Say, I wouldn't bet on a horse if I was ridin' him myself. I've
15 seen what it does to all the poor saps who drink in this crumby hotel.
16
17 EVE. My uncle Billy plays numbers. You got a strategy I can give him?
18
19 ERWIN. I can't help you there, sorry.
20
21 CHARLIE. Just got it down in time. (Returns to table.)
22
23 ERWIN. You seem nice girls. I'd like to see you make some money.
24
25 BELLA. So would I.
26
27 ERWIN. (Takes out book.) Now let's see what I have for the fourth
28 race.
29
30 PATSY. (Enters from street. He is a dapper young man with an air of
31 authority.) Hello Ladies.
32
33 EVE. Hello, Patsy.
34
35 BELLA. (INDICATING CHARLIE AND FRANKIE)Your boyfriends was
36 worried about you.
37
38 PATSY. (Sits.) I been all over town.
39
40 BELLA. Interestin' how many guys never heard of you before when
41 they know you lost your roll.
42
43 PATSY. Well, Frankie, what did you do?
44
45 FRANKIE. Nothin'.
46

1 CHARLIE. Frankie was waitin' to see if you knew somethin' good. I just
2 played two bucks on Rose Cross.
3
4 PATSY. Two bucks?
5
6 CHARLIE. We only got twelve between us. Did you get much on
7 your buckle?
8
9 PATSY. Couple bucks. Mabel come in yet?
10
11 EVE. No Patsy.
12
13 CHARLIE. an' I called her room for you.
14
15 PATSY. Thanks. She's trying to raise something too.
16
17 ERWIN. (Crossing to table and tapping PATSY on shoulder.) I was
18 telling them they should play Semester in the third race.
19
20 PATSY. (To boys.) Who's he?
21
22 CHARLIE. Just some drunk.
23
24 ERWIN. (Starts back to bar, gets dizzy. More to himself.) Semester in
25 the third. Hasty Belle in the fourth. (Suddenly feels sick.)
26
27 BELLA. Hey - right back in there, brother.
28
29 ERWIN. Oh. (Heads for lavatory. Exits.)
30
31 (Phone rings)
32
33 CHARLIE. That's Gus. (Goes into booth.)
34
35 BELLA. Geez, the country's full of amateurs. That guy shouldn't drink
36 much.
37
38 PATSY. He don't look like a drinker to me.
39
40 FRANKIE. He looks like a goof.
41
42 EVE. No. He's a nice guy.
43
44 CHARLIE. (Comes out of booth.) Well, I'll be hit on the nose.
45
46 PATSY. What's the matter?
47

1 CHARLIE. Guess who won that race? - Semester.
2
3 PATSY. Well, what about it?
4
5 CHARLIE. Didn't you hear him? He's been trying to give us Semester
6 for the last ten minutes.
7
8 FRANKIE. Say, how did that guy know?
9
10 EVE. He kept looking in a little book.
11
12 PATSY. What book?
13
14 BELLA. Here it is. This book.
15
16 PATSY. (Crosses to bar.) Let's see. (Takes book. CHARLIE, then
17 FRANKIE crosses to look.) Geez - he's got them all figured out.
18
19 CHARLIE. What do you mean figured out?
20
21 PATSY. Here's yesterday's winners, and the day before--pages of
22 races - My God, he's got Brass Monkey for today he come in - so did
23 Fairweather and Semester.
24
25 FRANKIE. Aw, he maybe wrote them down after the races was run.
26
27 BELLA. Wrote them down nuts. I heard him tell you to bet Semester
28 before you got the result.
29
30 CHARLIE. Yeah, that's right.
31
32 FRANKIE. , (Leans on bar.) Maybe he's a handicapper.
33
34 PATSY. Now you know he don't look like a handicapper.
35
36 EVE. He said somethin' about workin' in an office.
37
38 CHARLIE. What's he got for the fourth?
39
40 PATSY. Hasty Belle. He's got the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth
41 figured out.
42
43 FRANKIE. Hasty Belle, huh, maybe we ought to lay two bucks on him.
44
45 PATSY. Two bucks, nothin'. We'll play the works.
46
47 (FRANKIE takes book.)

1
2 CHARLIE. (Going L.) Wait a minute! Maybe it's a new kind of a racket.
3
4 PATSY. To hell with that. How much you got?
5
6 CHARLIE. I still got four bucks. I ain't been any place.
7
8 (Taking out money.)
9
10 FRANKIE. (Does same.) I got six left.
11
12 PATSY. (Crosses to R. of CHARLIE.) And I got eight. (Pulls out money.)
13 You put up your ten between you, that's eighteen bucks altogether.
14 You take it around to Gus, Frankie, while this guy's in there. (Turns to
15 FRANKIE who joins him.)
16
17 FRANKIE. But we don't know anything about him.
18
19 PATSY. Maybe he runs a service or somethin'. You go on around and
20 I'll go in and talk to him.
21
22 BELLA. I'll bet he's sick as a pup.
23
24 PATSY. What the hell do I care?
25
26 FRANKIE. But suppose the horse loses?
27
28 PATSY. If he does Mabel will be in with some dough in time for the
29 next race. It wouldn't be the first time we ever lost, would it? Now
30 you go on around and I'll keep this guy busy in here. (Turns R.)
31
32 FRANKIE. (Up steps.) All right. What's the name of the horse
33 again?
34
35 PATSY. Hasty Belle.
36
37 FRANKIE. (On landing.) I'll lay the eighteen bucks, but I ain't
38 responsible if this goat don't come in. (He goes.)
39
40 BELLA. He kept tryin' to give me a horse.
41
42 PATSY. I'll see if he's still conscious. (Exits.)
43
44 MABEL. (Enters from street. She is an ex-Follies girl, a bit faded.) Hello,
45 everybody.
46
47 CHARLIE. Hi'ya, Mabel.

1
2 BELLA. AND EVE. Hello, Mabel.
3
4 MABEL. Patsy told me to meet him here. We had some business to
5 talk over.
6
7 CHARLIE. That's all right, Mabel, we know where you been.
8
9 MABEL. (Sits R. of table.) Kinda embarrassing, isn't it, to always be
10 hockin' things. Well, it's all over now. I haven't anything left to hock
11 except the dress I got on. It wouldn't be worth much. . .I couldn't
12 hock it anyway because I haven't anything else left to wear. . .you
13 know, in case I had to go out some place.
14
15 BELLA.. Oh, I think you can keep that, Mabel.
16
17 MABEL. Hasn't Patsy come in yet?
18
19 CHARLIE. Sure, he's come in. He's in there. (Gestures with thumb.)
20
21 MABEL. Oh! I'll wait for him then.
22
23 CHARLIE. He's pretty busy.
24
25 MABEL. Sure, I guess he is.
26
27 CHARLIE. I mean he's got somebody with him.
28
29 MABEL. Somebody with him - in the--in there?
30
31 CHARLIE. Yeah - some guy.
32
33 MABEL. What kind of a guy, Charlie?
34
35 CHARLIE. Oh, he's all right. He's a friend of Patsy's.
36
37 MABEL. Do I know him?
38
39 CHARLIE. I don't think so. You see - he knew Patsy in the old days -
40 you know - and he heard how the luck was - and . . and - he just
41 dropped in to tip Patsy off on some fixed races so Patsy could get
42 straightened out. Isn't that right, Bella?
43
44 BELLA. Sounds all right, Charlie.
45
46 MABEL. You mean he fixes them?
47

1 CHARLIE. Yeah, that's it . . . he fixes them.
2
3 MABEL. But what are they doing in the Jonnie?
4
5 CHARLIE. Well, he got sick from the heat and some bum liquor . . . I
6 mean he ain't used to drinkin'. Patsy used to be his best friend - He's
7 holding his head.
8
9 FRANKIE. (Enters.) I put in that bet. Hello, Mabel.
10
11 MABEL. Hello.
12
13 FRANKIE. Where are they?
14
15 MABEL. They're in the Johnnie.
16
17 PATSY. (Enters.) He's pretty sick. Did you lay the bets, Frankie?
18
19 FRANKIE. On the nose.
20
21 PATSY. That's right. Well, Mabel, how did you make out?
22
23 MABEL. (Rising and going to Patsy.) I took the stuff down to this
24 place on Eighth Avenue like you told me. The best I could raise was
25 eight bucks.
26
27 PATSY. Frankie, take this eight bucks and put it on More Anon in the
28 fifth. (TO MABLE) Don't worry Babe, we're gunna be back in the
29 money in no time.
30
31 CHARLIE. More Anon?
32
33 FRANKIE. But we don't know the results of the fourth yet or anything.
34 How do we know -
35
36 PATSY. I know a lot now. I been talkin' to him.
37
38 FRANKIE. All right then, if you're sure. (Starts to go.) The fourth is on
39 pretty soon.
40
41 PATSY. We'll call up.
42
43 (FRANKIE goes out street door.)
44
45 MABEL. My feet are tired. I'm goin' upstairs to change my shoes.
46 Gee, honey, I think it's swell about this friend of yours fixin' some
47 races for us so we can get a roll again.

1
2 PATSY. (At bar.) Yeah...yeah...Sweetheart, ain't that somethin'?
3 We'll see you later then.
4
5 MABEL. All right. (Goes.)
6
7 PATSY. What didja tell her, Charlie, so I'll know?
8
9 CHARLIE. I told her he was a friend of yours who was fixin' some
10 races for you because he heard how you was broke...you two is old
11 buddies...he used to be your best friend.
12
13 PATSY. (ERWIN enters. PATSY goes to him.) How do you feel now,
14 Erwin? (Turns to boys.) His name is Erwin.
15
16 BELLA. I knew it would be somethin' like that.
17
18 ERWIN. (PATSY leads him to chair.) I think I feel a little bit better now.
19
20 PATSY. (CHARLIE rises.) Sit down in this nice chair.
21
22 CHARLIE. I hope he don't have to leave soon.
23
24 PATSY. He's not leavin'. He's stayin' here till he gets straightened out.
25
26 ERWIN. I forgot to pay for the drinks.
27
28 EVE. (Coming around to him.) Aw, that's all right.
29
30 ERWIN. How much is it?
31
32 BELLA. One dollar, even.
33
34 ERWIN. Can you break a twenty?
35
36 BELLA. Sure. (Takes bill to register.)
37
38 FRANKIE. (Enters. Crosses R. to phone booth; speaks while he dials.)
39 The bets are in. I'm calling Gus. It's post time for the fourth. (Dials
40 phone leaving booth door open.)
41
42 PATSY. We had a long talk. His name is Erwin somebody. He picks
43 those horses for fun. He says it's a hobby.
44
45 CHARLIE. Hobby, huh?
46
47 FRANKIE. Hello, Gus . . . this is Frankie. Hasty Belle is 4-1.

1 Yeah, Gus.
2
3 EVE. Gee, I hope he's not a nut; you know how a guy can get about
4 horses.
5
6 FRANKIE. Yeah, Gus, I'm here . . . They're at the quarter—
7
8 BELLA. Here's your change.
9
10 ERWIN. Thanks.
11
12 FRANKIE. Yeah, yeah, Joybird PATSY. This is the fourth
13 ...Little Lie...Post Script CHARLIE. The one Hasty
14 ...I got it...Hasty Belle Belle is in.
15 in that order... PATSY. He ain't done
16 much this season.
17 CHARLIE. Yeah,I know.
18
19 FRANKIE. Joybird up at the ERWIN. (Opens eyes.)
20 Half...Who comes up? What's the matter?
21 Little Lie...Now Post Script PATSY. (Crosses to
22 ...neck and neck...yes booth.) Horse race.
23 ...still that way?...They're
24 in the stretch...yes,yes...
25
26 FRANKIE. He's past...he's past...
27 Who's past?...Joybird? Hasty
28 Belle...passes Joybird...
29 She does?...O.K. (Hangs up,
30 Turns to others.) Hasty Belle
31 Wins.
32 CHARLIE. Hasty Belle
33 Wins.
34 PATSY. Huh?
35
36
37 ERWIN. What's the matter?
38
39 CHARLIE. Hasty Belle wins.
40
41 ERWIN. What do you know about that?
42
43 CHARLIE. (Looks at sheet.) He ran out of the money the last five
44 starts.
45
46 PATSY. (Bangs on bar.) Boy!
47

1 (Suddenly FRANKIE, CHARLIE and PATSY look at ERWIN.)
2
3 ERWIN. (Embarrassed.) Well, he won. (Searches pocket.) Where is my
4 little book?
5
6 FRANKIE. (Across table.) Here I was holdin' it for you.
7
8 ERWIN. Just make a check beside Hasty Belle.
9
10 CHARLIE. Here, I'll buy you a drink. (Puts glass on bar.)
11
12 ERWIN. I'm not sure I can drink any more.
13
14 PATSY. Sure you can. Frankie, collect and put it all on "Rip Van
15 Winkle."
16
17 FRANKIE. I'll put up the same amount for the three of us.
18
19 (Exits.)
20
21 PATSY. (Strolling upstage, then back.) That's the idea - that bracelet
22 don't suit Mabel so hot anyways. I think I'll get her a platinum wrist
23 watch. Don't you want to bet Erwin?
24
25 ERWIN. I never bet.
26
27 PATSY. You don't?
28
29 ERWIN. Oh no. It would spoil the fun. Well, I think 'I'll go.
30
31 PATSY. Where you goin'?
32
33 ERWIN. Oh. I have to be at the office.
34
35 CHARLIE. (Rises) You can't go to any office like that.
36
37 (Turning ERWIN.)
38
39 EVE. You'll lose your job.
40
41 PATSY. Sure. You work, huh? Everybody's goin' to go home pretty
42 soon.
43
44 ERWIN. Huh?
45
46 PATSY. People who work in offices will be goin' home pretty soon.
47

1 ERWIN. Mr. Carver would still be there. He'll be waiting for me.
2
3 PATSY. (Seats ERWIN, CHARLIE stands.) Sit down a second. I want to
4 talk to you. - How much do you make a week?
5
6 ERWIN. Well, I get regular \$40 and then there's extra. At fifty cents a
7 line sometimes I sell stuff and that brings it up to forty-six or fifty some
8 weeks not counting the postage stamps and the envelopes and
9 maybe this week it might come to forty-nine.
10
11 CHARLIE. (Sits.) Don't you want to wait and see how these races
12 come out?
13
14 ERWIN. Oh, no. I can look at the results on my way home.
15
16 PATSY. (Sits.) So you make about fifty bucks a week. That's eight fifty
17 a day. Now why don't you stay here and I'll give you ten per cent on
18 everything I play and Charlie and Frankie will too.
19
20 CHARLIE. Sure.
21
22 ERWIN. That sounds all right as far as the money is concerned ---
23
24 PATSY. What's the matter? We bet on horses, that's our business, but
25 you like to pick them - so we pay you for it - if we bet, say, twenty
26 dollars on a horse and he pays back say, eight to one . . . we get one
27 hundred and sixty dollars --you get sixteen dollars . . .ten per cent. . . .
28 That's about twice as much as you'd make if you worked all day.
29
30 CHARLIE. You see - we take a chance too. Suppose the horse loses?
31
32 ERWIN. (Rises.) Yes . . . but I don't think I want to stay here.
33
34 PATSY. Why not? . . . You can't go to the office like that. We'll call up.
35 (Placing ERWIN back in chair.)
36
37 CHARLIE. What's the number, Erwin ? I'll call him
38
39 ERWIN. B. O. 4-6752.
40
41 PATSY. I'll call your boss and tell him you won't be in.
42
43 BELLA. I guess he knows that by now.
44
45 CHARLIE. We'll tell him anyway. (Dials number.)
46
47 PATSY. We'll tell him you don't feel good.

1
2 CHARLIE. (As he stops dialing and puts receiver to ear.) Who shall I
3 ask for?
4
5 ERWIN. Mr. J. G. Carver.
6
7 CHARLIE. (Into phone.) Mr. Carver please. Oh, you're Mr. Carver -
8 well, Mr. Carver - (TO ERWIN.) What's your last name, Erwin?
9
10 ERWIN. Trowbridge.
11
12 CHARLIE. (Into phone.) Erwin Trowbridge won't be in today . . . (ERWIN
13 rises - PATSY seats him.) He got sick on his way to the office . . . yeah
14 ... terrible ... he's in the drug store now . . .been here for a long time
15 . . . we been workin' over him. . . .Me! I'm the Pharmastist . . . yeah .
16 . . What? . . . I'll tell him. Good-bye. (Hangs up; comes down, Sits L.
17 Of ERWIN.) He says that's O. K. because there wouldn't be no use
18 comin' in this late anyways. He says as long as you can get your work
19 done by tomorrow that's jake by him. If you don't feel so hot
20 tomorrow you better send them anyways. Does that make sense to
21 you?
22
23 ERWIN. Yes. I should get those verses written.
24
25 PATSY. You a song writer?
26
27 ERWIN. No. Greeting verse. I'm late for Mother's Day.
28
29 PATSY. You're what?
30
31 ERWIN. (Looking at PATSY.) I have to catch up on Mother's Day.
32
33 PATSY. We understand, Erwin. You got an aspirin, Bella.?
34
35 (Going to bar.)
36
37 EVE. (Passes aspirin and glass of water over bar.) Sure.
38
39 PATSY. Now you just sit there and relax.
40
41 EVE. On the house.
42
43 CHARLIE. I'll give it to him. (Taking them.)
44
45 PATSY. You foget all about Mr. Carver and the office and you just
46 think hard about the horses. Think hard Erwin, think hard. What do ya
47 see?

1
2 ERWIN. (WITH A START) Wait!
3
4 CHARLIE. (Holds up hand.) Look, he got somethin' hot.
5
6 PATSY. What you got, Erwin?
7
8 ERWIN. (More to himself.) I got one.
9
10 FRANKIE. Let's have it.
11
12 ERWIN. What?
13
14 PATSY. (Coming down quietly.) Let's hear what you got.
15
16 ERWIN. Oh, no. You wouldn't be interested in this.
17
18 CHARLIE. Sure we would. Let's hear it.
19
20 ERWIN. (PATSY and CHARLIE sink down into chairs on each side.)
21 Well, I think it will do. Here it is.
22
23 "At Christmas Tide your hair was gray
24 But memories chased your cares away,
25 Now lovingly in my simple way
26 I send you love on Mother's Day."
27 Mother's Day No. 16
28
29 PATSY. (Giving ERWIN a long look.) Yeah ... yeah ... that's all
30 right, Erwin. But about the gee gees?
31
32 EVE. That's elegant - what is that, Erwin?
33
34 ERWIN. That's a Mother's Day verse.
35
36 BELLA.. (GENUINLEY IMPRESSED) You mean you just thought that up?
37
38 ERWIN. Yes.
39
40 BELLA.. Since you been sittin' there?
41
42 ERWIN. Sure.
43
44 BELLA.. Geez, can you imagine that.
45
46 EVE. Weird, ain't it?
47

1 CHARLIE. (Stands; snaps finger.) This guys a goof. He just got lucky.
2 Beginners luck.
3
4 FRANKIE. (Runs in.) Hey, listen. What do you think-I played
5 the fifth . . . one two three . . . like in the book.
6
7 PATSY. Yeah . . . yeah . . . so what?
8
9 FRANKIE. They come in.
10
11 PATSY. One two three?
12
13 FRANKIE. One two three.
14
15 CHARLIE. Can you top that?
16
17 PATSY. You hear that, Erwin? Go on take it down. What's a
18 headache to you, eh, Erwin? You're rnakin' money.
19
20 ERWIN: (VERY WOOZY) I think, I think.. I'd like to lie down
21
22 PATSY: Sure sure. Why don't you let me and the boys put you up in
23 this very delightfully appointed bijou little hotel and at our own
24 expense.
25
26 ERWIN: I maybe ought to be getting home now.
27
28 PATSY: Oh no, no you don't my little goose of the golden laying
29 variety. You're gunna stay right here where I can keep an eye on
30 you. There's some very nasty fellahs out there could take an
31 unhealthy interest if word got round about your little gift. (TO
32 CHARLIE AND FRANKIE) Put him in the room next to mine. I wanna
33 hear if he does lottery numbers in his sleep. Say, do you guys realize
34 how lucky we are? Twenty-four hours ago we owed ourselves money
35 . . . now look at us . . . we got the makings of a million dollar bank roll!
36
37 CURTAIN
38
39 SCENE 2:
40
41 The bar again, noon the next day. Erwin is slumped at the bar
42 surrounded by paper and whisky glasses.
43
44 ERWIN WAKES UP AND GROANS - HUNG OVER.
45
46 EVE. How are you?
47

1 ERWIN. Where did everybody go?
2
3 EVE. (Places towel on ERWIN'S forehead.) Don't worry-
4 they'll be back. How's that feel?
5
6 ERWIN. Pretty good - but I don't feel so good.
7
8 BELLA. (HAND HIM A TOMATTO JUICE) Here, drink this. Drink it.
9 (ERWIN is bewildered.) Drink all you can.
10
11 ERWIN. I don't think I can drink anything. (Sighs.) Oh, my head. What
12 are all those papers on the floor?
13
14 EVE. (Picking them up.) Those jingles of yours. Don't you remember?
15
16 BELLA. Charlie says you were up all night knocking back the bourbon
17 and knocking out them poems of yours. In the end the boys locked
18 all the doors and left you to it.
19
20 CHARLIE PATSY AND FRANKIE ENTER.
21
22 ERWIN. How many did I do?
23
24 EVE. I counted twenty-two earlier.
25
26 PATSY. There's about ten more in the bathroom.
27
28 ERWIN. I must have written nearly the whole sixty-seven.
29
30 CHARLIE. You certainly did.
31
32 ERWIN. I don't remember anything about it.
33
34 CHARLIE. You kept me awake the whole night.
35
36 PATSY. Feel better now?
37
38 ERWIN. (Nods.) Say, I must have gotten drunk. (Looking around.)
39 What time is it?
40
41 CHARLIE. It's after twelve o'clock.
42
43 ERWIN. What! thought you said it was daybreak...I must go to the
44 office.
45
46 FRANKIE. Easy now pal.
47

1 BELLA.. You can't go to the office like that. You look like the devil.
2 You'll lose your job.
3
4 ERWIN. But Mr. Carver must have these verses today.
5
6 PATSY. He'll have 'em today. One of us will take 'em around. There's
7 nothin' to worry about - (Winks at boys.) I just had him on the phone.
8 He said if you don't feel good-you can stay out all day.
9
10 ERWIN. I guess I was in a bad way - you see I never drink.
11 (Looks at bathroom.) I must go to the bathroom a minute. I feel
12 better now that I know the verses are practically done. Do they look
13 all right? (Sits up.)
14
15 CHARLIE. They're swell. I wish I could say things like that in poetry. .
16 .especially if you're with a gal. It makes it romantic like—sort of
17 breaks the ice.
18
19 ERWIN. Oh yes.
20
21 CHARLIE. You know, you don't want to start right off and say, "How
22 about it, Baby?"
23
24 ERWIN. You better get a big envelope and put all the verses in and
25 take them personal to Mr. Carver - he's waiting for them.
26
27 PATSY. You take them, Frankie.
28
29 FRANKIE. Where is the joint?
30
31 ERWIN. The Holly Cheer Greeting Co., Inc., in the Wedgewood
32 Building. You walk down Sixth Avenue -
33
34 FRANKIE. I know where it is. I used to know a tomato on the tenth
35 floor.
36
37 ERWIN. Our Office is 909.
38
39 PATSY. O. K. Now get dressed and wash up and you'll feel like a new
40 man.
41
42 ERWIN. Frankie, be sure Mr. Carver gets the verses himself.
43
44 PATSY. Don't worry about it.
45
46 ERWIN. Oh, but it's very important.
47

1 PATSY. Listen, you're going to make more money dopin' horses than
2 you ever made. Now go and splash some cold water on your face
3 so you'll be in shape to pick the horses today.
4
5 ERWIN. (Turns to PATSY.) Horses! Oh, I don't think I'll have time. I have
6 to call my wife and I must see Mr. Carver later on.
7
8 CHARLIE. You can do all that afterwards.
9
10 PATSY. Go on, get straightened up. Meantime I'll count out that
11 money I owe you.
12
13 ERWIN. Money?
14
15 PATSY. A hundred and twelve dollars - I think it is. Yeah, that's right.
16
17 ERWIN. You owe me?
18
19 PATSY. Certainly. Don't you recall the agreement? We said we'd give
20 you ten per cent of all we won.
21
22 ERWIN. I remember something like that . . . but I thought you said
23 eight dollars and fifty cents . . . you mean to say I made one
24 hundred and twelve dollars just picking the horses!
25
26 CHARLIE. That's right.
27
28 ERWIN. Well - gee - I - you mean if I picked them again today I might
29 make that much again -?
30
31 FRANKIE. Maybe more.
32
33 ERWIN. But even that much again. That would be two hundred and
34 twenty-four dollars . . . why with that I could tell Clary to go to hell.
35
36 EVE.. Who's Clary?
37
38 ERWIN. My sister-in-law.
39
40 BELLA.. You could tell a lot of people.
41
42 ERWIN. Its just Clary that I've been thinking about.
43
44 PATSY. Then you mean you'll pick them?
45
46 ERWIN. Yes, (Rises.) I - I'd like to very much. I'll just go in there and...
47 (Goes into bathroom.)

1
2 PATSY. We're set.
3
4 FRANKIE. Sure.
5
6 CHARLIE. I don't know. I wouldn't be too certain I'm worried.
7
8 PATSY. You're always crabbing. If it's rainin' you're afraid of wet feet; if
9 it's shinin', the sun gets in your eyes.
10
11 FRANKIE. What you worried about now? Everything is going fine ain't
12 it?
13
14 CHARLIE. That's the trouble. Everything is going too good. I'm worried.
15 How do we know? (Turns.) For instance, how long it takes him to
16 dope 'em out? Maybe he has to work on 'em for a couple of weeks
17 ahead of time.
18
19 PATSY. (Alarmed, goes to bathroom and opens door.) Say –
20
21 ERWIN. Huh!
22
23 PATSY. Oh, excuse me - say, how long does it take you to dope 'em
24 out? (ERWIN mumbles.) O. K. (Shuts door and turns to others
25 triumphantly.) About an hour. We got plenty of time.
26
27 FRANKIE. There's some good races, too.
28
29 CHARLIE. (Sits.) If he can only pick 'em like yesterday.
30
31 (MABEL enters.)
32
33 MABEL. Hello. I didn't think you'd be up so early, Pats.
34
35 PATSY. Hello, sugar.
36
37 MABEL. Where's Erwin?
38
39 FRANKIE. Freshenin' up.
40
41 PATSY. (Finding a verse on chair under him.) Say, here's another one
42 of them verses. (Reads it.) Listen, fellows, do you know we're
43 associatin' with a genius?
44
45 MABEL. What's that?
46
47 EVE.. Poetry. Erwin's Poetry.

1
2 MABEL. Oh, gee, I thought he was a guy who fixed horse races.
3
4 PATSY. He does. He just does poetry for a hobby.
5
6 FRANKIE. (Picking up verses.) Yeah, I better get those around for him.
7 Room 909 he said. We don't want him to lose his job., (He goes to
8 desk.)
9
10 BELLA.. You know, I feel sorry for that guy. Slavin' every day. For
11 people who don't appreciate his verses.
12
13 PATSY. Listen to this:
14 "Why was it that I chose to roam
15 Cross Land and Sea so far from home?
16 If that be Life - My Mother Dear,
17 I send this card of Love and Cheer."
18 Mother's Day No. 37. That touches you - you know that-right here.
19
20 MABEL. Yeah . . . like when you're seein' a good sad movie . . . geez -
21
22 PATSY. You know, this Erwin guy ain't bein' appreciated.
23
24 CHARLIE. You mean he's better than he is?
25
26 PATSY. I mean he's better than forty bucks . . . do you know any other
27 guys who could sit down and write them gems for forty bucks a
28 week?
29
30 FRANKIE. Well, I guess there is some guys . . .
31
32 BELLA. You don't know any off hand?
33
34 FRANKIE. No.
35
36 BELLA.. That's just it. We ought to do somethin'.
37
38 MABEL. Like what?
39
40 BELLA.. Like somethin', anyway. It gets me sore to think a nice guy
41 like him is workin' for a guy like this here fellow he's tellin' about all the
42 time - J. G. Carver. Look up the Holly Cheer Greeting Company. I
43 don't know Mr. Carver, but he's probably a louse. . . .
44
45 PATSY. Your right Bell. I'm goin' to get Erwin a raise. I feel for him like
46 my own brother. That's the trouble with people in this world-they get
47 a good thing like him and they take advantage of it.

1
2 FRANKIE: (HE MOVES TO THE PHONE BOOTH) That's right. (INTO THE
3 PHONE) Give me Bogardus 4-6752. . . . I'll get it for you.
4
5 PATSY. (Crossing and taking phone.) Let me have it. Let me talk to
6 him. . . . Mr. Carver. . . . just tell him it's important. . . . Hello, Carver. . . .
7 This is a very good friend of Mr. Erwin Trowbridge. . . in fact, I'm his
8 manager. . . . Since yesterday. . . . Oh, they're all written. . . . They're
9 gems. . . . That's what they are... Well, before I sent them around I
10 thought we'd discuss terms. Those verses are the best verses I ever
11 read and I've read a lot of verses. . . . What I thought was this . . . we
12 might as well talk man to man . . . you're gettin' away with murder.
13 Forty bucks a week. . . . Yeah. . . . Yeah. . . . That's what I call a steal.
14 I'll bet you couldn't - Hello . . . hello. . . . He hung up. . . . is that polite?
15 Is that the way to talk to me that's a manager of a poet practically?
16
17 CHARLIE. Maybe one of us should go down and punch him in the
18 nose.
19
20 FRANKIE. (Stopping CHARLIE.) No – let's not start any fights...not till
21 we make some money.
22
23 PATSY. I don't like that guy. It ain't what he said to me, you
24 understand, but he said for Erwin to go to hell too.
25
26 FRANKIE. (Sits at desk.) It looks like Erwin stayed up all night for nothin'.
27
28 PATSY. Like hell he has. The world should see art like that... those
29 gems should be put in barrooms... railroad stations . . . on calendars
30 . . . wait, I got it.
31
32 FRANKIE. We ought to have somethin' because if Erwin finds out I
33 haven't taken –
34
35 BELLA.. Liebowitz!
36
37 MABEL. The printer.
38
39 BELLA.. Jake Liebowitz, who did all the classy postal cards for that
40 smoker last month. He prints lots of stuff.
41
42 PATSY. You got something there. Suppose it cost us a hundred bucks
43 . . . get a couple o' guys to go around sell 'em to factories, clubs, the
44 Y. M. C. A. . . . the Y. W. C. A. . . . the Y. M. H. A. and all the railroad
45 stations then . . . railroad stations! (Picks up phone.) Frankie, have
46 you ever been in a washroom in a railroad station?
47

1 FRANKIE. Sure. Haven't you?
2
3 PATSY. Lots of times. Well in those railroad stations . . . not only
4 railroads, but all over . . . you've seen those verses like: "A man's
5 ambition must be small to write his name . . ."
6
7 MABEL. . . . and the one about sittin' and thinkin'.
8
9 PATSY. Sure. Well nobody's thought to commercialize that kind of
10 poetry . . . they're gems. That's what that guy can do. If he can write
11 serious stuff like he has here, he can write funny stuff too.
12
13 EVE.. Gee, that's a swell idea.
14
15 PATSY. Frankie, take those around to Jake Liebowitz. I'll call him and
16 tell him you're coming.
17
18 FRANKIE. O. K. I'll shoot right over. (EXIT)
19
20 PATSY. (In phone.) Hello . . . Jake? This is Patsy. How are you? . . . Well,
21 say listen, you ain't so busy . . . yeah, I know . . . but listen, I want a
22 special job done on verses . . . no, not singin' verses . . . poetry verses
23 . . . you know - "Roses are Red" . . .yeah . . . about a thousand and,
24 Jake, I want them on shiny paper, with lace maybe. They'll be there
25 in a couple of minutes. Don't leave before you get them. O. K.
26 (Hangs up.)
27
28 MABEL. If you're going to do all this, what's Erwin going to get out of it
29 ?
30
31 PATSY. All of it . . . we're only helping him out.
32
33 MABEL. Oh, like bein' in business for himself, huh ?
34
35 PATSY. Sure. All he has to do is write 'em. When it gets going good . . .
36 he just stays home and picks horses and the verses sell themselves . .
37 because they're good.
38
39 MABEL. That's what I call givin' him a break.
40
41 ERWIN. (Enters and sees MABEL.) Oh, good morning.
42
43 MABEL. Hello. I hope you feel better than yesterday.
44
45 ERWIN. Well, I guess I do. Maybe I ought to go out and get a little
46 breakfast.
47

1 PATSY. Say, Erwin, I was just talking to Mr. Carver on the phone.
2
3 ERWIN. You were?
4
5 PATSY. Yeah. I don't think that he likes you so much. I could tell by his
6 voice.
7
8 ERWIN. Why, what's happened?
9
10 PATSY. Somethin' good . . . we're settin' you up in business on your
11 own.
12
13 ERWIN. But what about Mr. Carver?
14
15 PATSY. To hell with him. He don't appreciate you.
16
17 ERWIN. Doesn't he like my verses?
18
19 PATSY. I told him I wouldn't even let him see them.
20
21 ERWIN. Why not? What right have you to do a thing like that? I'll lose
22 my job. Where are my verses? (Rushing past PATSY.)
23
24 PATSY. (Holding him.) Wait a minute, Erwin, this is for your
25 good. . . .
26
27 ERWIN. Where are my verses?
28
29 EVE. We sent them over to Liebowitz.
30
31 ERWIN. Who is Liebowitch?
32
33 PATSY. He's one of our best friends. He's going to print your verses so
34 they'll be sold all over the country. See?
35
36 ERWIN. Please don't. You can't do this to me . . . you fellows
37 might think this is funny, but I'm going to lose my job . . . you don't
38 know what it means to have a job, fifty-two weeks in the year - forty
39 dollars a week.
40
41 PATSY. (Going to him.) Don't you know you rate more than that?
42 Don't you know that big crook is cheating hell out of you? Here you
43 are starving along on forty a week, while that big piece of salami is
44 living high with swell offices in the Wedgewood Building. Sure. And
45 he made it all off you. Now Liebowitz is going to print your verses so
46 that every home . . .
47

1 ERWIN. I don't want Liebowitz to print my verses. All I want is to work
2 for Mr. Carver.
3
4 PATSY. But he's a louse.
5
6 ERWIN. (jumping up.) He is not. Don't you say that about Mr. Carver . .
7 . he's the only boss I ever had and I like to work for him. Get me
8 back my verses.
9
10 (FRANKIE enters.)
11
12 FRANKIE. Well, everything's O. K.
13
14 PATSY. Frankie, you've got to get those verses back.
15
16 FRANKIE. What the hell is this?
17
18 PATSY. You're careless, that'S all.
19
20 FRANKIE. I can't get 'em back now.
21
22 ERWIN. What's happened to my verses?
23
24 FRANKIE. Nothing's happened to them. Liebowitz was waitin' for me
25 at the door when I got there and he said, "Congratulate me, Frankie,
26 my daughter is having a baby at the Beth Israel Hospital and my son
27 is being confirmed at the synagogue" . . . so I congratulated him and
28 he took the verses with him in a taxi cab. Say, it's gettin' late; don't
29 you think Erwin ought to start pickin' the horses ?
30
31 ERWIN. Horses? . . . I can't even think of horses.
32
33 PATSY. (Crossing to FRANKIE and giving him a push.) Erwin can't pick
34 any horses until he gets the verses back.
35
36 FRANKIE. Well, what the hell are we going to do about it?
37
38 PATSY. We gotta do something. We gotta get 'em back.
39
40 ERWIN. Working hard all my life . . . trying to get some place, trying to
41 build a reputation.
42
43 MABEL. (Rises.) Don't you worry, Erwin. It'll be all right. Boys,
44 you got to find Liebowitz . . . it's a cinch he's in one of two places; His
45 daughter is havin' a baby at the Beth Israel Hospital and his son is
46 being confirmed at the synagogue.
47

1 FRANKIE. But suppose he's gone to his home? He said he had to get
2 dressed.
3
4 PATSY. I'll take care of that. Mabel is right. We got to find him. We
5 got to keep Erwin happy so his mind can work good and pick the
6 horses. Frankie, you go to the Beth Israel Hospital. And Charlie, you
7 look for him in the synagogue. Come on, boys, get moving ...and
8 don't forget the name, Frankie, Beth Israel.
9
10 FRANKIE. Beth Israel. . . . Beth Israel. .
11
12 (They exit)
13
14 PATSY. There now . . . we'll get the verses right back, see, Erwin?. .
15 Wait till I look up where he lives.
16
17 MABEL. You See, Erwin, now there isn't anything to worry about.
18 (Shaking ERWIN.) Erwin - Say, look, Patsy . . . he's all pale. . . Erwin. . . .
19 I think he's fainted or something.
20
21 PATSY. Fainted, geez.
22
23 MABEL. Should I phone down for a doctor?
24
25 PATSY. Doctor? No! Give me a hand. We'll get him a drink -- a
26 couple o' drinks will fix him up.
27
28 (ERWIN opens eyes for a moment.)
29
30 EVE.. Oh, Patsy, - he just opened his eyes. (TO ERWIN.) How do you
31 feel now?
32
33 (Erwin nods.)
34
35 MABLE. Sure - sure, just a teensie weensie hangover, that's all.
36
37 PATSY. Sure, he'll be all right. - Geez, there's about a million
38 Liebowitzes-Abraham-Benjamin-David-Herman-Isaac-
39 Jacob- (Picks up receiver.) Chelsea 3-1098. Jake, I gotta have those
40 verses back-never mind why.- Oh-well, how long you goin' to be
41 there?-The hell with the baby. This is a matter of life and death. - I'll
42 be right over for them. -Wait for me. (Hangs up; grabs hat.) Work on
43 him, Bella - he's got to pick those horses. Mabel, don't let Erwin get
44 out of here and don't let him call anybody up till I get back. (EXIT)
45
46 ERWIN COMES TOO.
47

1 ERWIN. Oh - Audrey! Gosh! (Sits up.)
2
3 EVE. Now, how do you feel?
4
5 ERWIN. (Rises.) I don't know. Now, I'm going to go home and
6 nobody's stopping me. (Lurching towards the door)
7
8 BELLA. oh no you don't. Come on girls get his pants off. That'll keep
9 him off the streets.
10
11 ERWIN. (Alarmed.) What?
12
13 MABEL. (Going to ERWIN.) Sure. (Starts to unbutton his pants.)
14
15 ERWIN. Hey, don't - no, no, no. Please.
16
17 EVE. Erwin, now don't you worry we'll take care of you.
18
19 BELLA. Jeez look at the time. I gotta get last nights receipts to Mindy.
20 You kids play nicely now. (EXIT)
21
22 MABLE. Gee, it's awful nice of you to stay here and help Patsy like
23 you been doin'. (She sits and drinks.)
24
25 ERWIN. I was feeling blue or I wouldn't have done such a thing.
26
27 MABEL. But if you knew how much we liked to have you here - I
28 don't mean just the boys, I mean more particularly just myself per-
29 sonally.
30
31 ERWIN. Give me back my pants.
32
33 EVE. Now, I'm gunna put them nice and safe 'till Patsy gets back.
34
35 SHE SATASHES ERWINS PANTS BEHIND THE BAR.
36
37 ERWIN. I'm going to call my wife. She'll know what to do.
38
39 MABEL. Not just now, Erwin. You might faint again.
40
41 EVE. Hey, why don't I go fetch you today's paper 'take your mind of
42 things - and a nice sandwich.. Erwin. You wanna keep your strength
43 up. Mable, can you take care of things in here?
44
45 MABLE: Sure
46
47 EVE. EXITS

1
2 ERWIN. I ought to call Audry. She'll be worried.
3
4 MABEL. But listen now, pet, just wait till Patsy gets back, will you?
5 'Cause I promised him I wouldn't let you call anybody.
6
7 ERWIN. Yes, but I haven't been home all night.
8
9 MABEL. She must he used to that.
10
11 ERWIN. Oh, no, she isn't.
12
13 MABEL. You're a good deal different than most men then. God
14 knows Patsy's liable to disappear for a week at a time. But he's
15 awfully good to me though.-You ought to see all the swell things he
16 gave me when I quit the Follies for him! . . . Two weeks later they tried
17 a four-horse parlay at Saratoga and we lost everything. - I didn't
18 have a nightgown left to my name.
19
20 ERWIN. Oh! That must have been terrible.
21
22 MABEL, Well, it's just the breaks. Now, it looks as though things is
23 brightening up again since you come into my life.
24
25 ERWIN. Where's my pencil - quick - (He writes.)
26
27 MABEL. What is it? You got the first race? (ERWIN shakes his head.)
28 Let's see. (She takes the paper and reads.)
29
30 "My soul was sad as darkest night.
31 But now the world seems fair and bright
32 Because you came so true and fine.
33 Oh, stay and be my Valentine."
34
35 ERWIN. Valentine's Day No. 1. It doesn't do any hurt to get ahead of
36 schedule.
37
38 MABEL. Yeah. If you're ahead then you're a fast worker, is that it?
39
40 ERWIN. What?
41
42 MABEL. Never mind. (Reads.) Stay and be my Valentine. Gee that's
43 wonderful! . . . I'm crazy about poetry.
44
45 ERWIN. I don't get much time to write real poetry. I've been so busy
46 with my Mother's Day verses.
47

1 MABEL. Oh . . . gee, I haven't heard from Mom in a long time -- of
2 course I ain't written to her lately maybe I ought to send her one of
3 them . . . a verse . . . it might make her feel good . . . you see, I ain't
4 sure she's my mother. (Drinks.)
5
6 ERWIN. Oh, but she'd feel good anyway.
7
8 MABEL. I guess so. I haven't seen her since I came to New York to go
9 on the stage.
10
11 ERWIN. Did you really used to be on the stage?
12
13 MABEL. Yeah, I used to be in the Follies once. I'd like to get back in
14 show business but Patsy thinks I aint in shape no more. (Stands up
15 and pats her hips.) Don't you think I could get back if I worked hard?
16
17 ERWIN. Sure, I'll bet you could. Of course I've never seen a Follies girl
18 close to before - only from the balcony. You look all right to me.
19
20 MABEL. Do I really, Erwin?
21
22 ERWIN. Why yes - yes - you're beautiful.
23
24 MABEL. Gee, I like you . . . just think - maybe I have read one of your
25 poems in a magazine - like a movie magazine - and here I am sittin'
26 talking to you. . . - I guess that's what you call romantic, huh? Gee,
27 I'm pretty jealous of your wife, you know it?
28
29 ERWIN. You are? Why?
30
31 MABEL. Havin' you all to herself - I'm just thinkin' how wonderful it
32 would be to travel around the world with you -listenin' to your poetry
33 and helpin' you make a lot of money bettin' on the horses.
34
35 ERWIN. Oh, but I wouldn't bet - that would spoil it all.
36
37 MABEL. Well, I mean - just enough for a fur coat and stuff like that.
38
39 ERWIN. But I don't think I could tell what ones are going to win if I
40 ever started betting on them.
41
42 MABEL. Well, anyhow, you could make a lot of money if you wanted
43 to just with words for songs like they have in shows. You know, lyrics ?
44
45 ERWIN. You think so?
46

1 MABEL. Sure. Say, lots of times I sang words in the chorus that wasn't
2 half as good as that.
3
4 ERWIN. Did you sing in the Follies?
5
6 MABEL. Yeah - I did a speciality once. Ya want to see it? (He nods)
7 Say, I'd do anything for you. (Goes to radio.) 'Cause I'm crazy about
8 poetry, that's why. (Turns radio on. Music. Tries a few steps.) I may
9 not be so good till I get limbered up.
10
11 RADIO ANNOUNCER. Don't forget, Mom just two tablets daily and
12 little junior is assured of perfect health and a happy old age. At this
13 time we present Ivan Aronson and his jazzy Cossacks in a program of
14 dance music.- Take it away, Ivan". (Music.)
15
16 ERWIN. I think -I ought to telephone my wife -
17
18 MABEL. Don't you want to see my dance?
19
20 ERWIN. Yes, I do.
21
22 MABEL. (Gets music.) Here we go. I come out, you see, with a big
23 spot on me. (Dances.) The other girls are jealous 'cause I got a
24 speciality. Now, you're one of the chorus boys. And you stand right
25 here while I dance around you. - Of course this is just a rough idea -
26
27 SHE BEGINS TO DANCE WITH HIM
28
29 ERWIN. Say, that's good!
30
31 MABEL. Ready for the big finnish?
32
33 THE CLIMAX OF THE DANCE LANDS MABEL AND ERWIN INNOCENTLY
34 IN A VERY COMPROMISING LOOKING POSITION.
35
36 PATSY ENTERS
37
38 PATSY. What the hell's this?
39
40 ERWIN. Have you got my verses?
41
42 PATSY. Yeah . . .
43
44 ERWIN. She was doin' a dance.
45
46 PATSY. Oh yeah?
47

1 ERWIN. Yes.
2
3 (PATSY WALKS SLOWLY TOWARD MABEL.)
4
5 PATSY. You get back to your room.
6
7 MABEL. What's the matter, Patsy?
8
9 PATSY. I said get back to your room.
10
11 MABEL. He wanted to phone his wife and –
12
13 PATSY. All right, never mind the lip - get back to your room.
14
15 (MABEL backs off)
16
17 You're just good and lucky I don't take a poke at you. Go on.
18
19 MABEL. But, Patsy –
20
21 PATSY. Get out. Get out before I kick your teeth in - you crooked
22 little punk.
23
24 MABEL. Geez, you never talked to me like this before.
25
26 (She goes out almost in tears)
27
28 ERWIN. I hope you don't think - (PATSY tears verses.) Hey,
29 stop that –
30
31 PATSY. Get those on and take yourself out of here.
32
33 ERWIN. Hey, my verses!
34
35 PATSY. (Throws pants at him.) Get your pants on and get out of here
36 before I lose my temper . . . you double-crossin' little . . .
37
38 ERWIN. My verses! (GOES INTO BATHROOM)
39
40 (PATSY, IN A RAGE, TEARS VERSES SOME MORE.
41
42 AFTER A WHILE CHARLIE AND FRANKIE ENTER TOGETHER.)
43
44 CHARLIE. Hey, what the hell did you do to Mabel? She's cryin' in the
45 hall.
46
47 FRANKIE. Geez, I never seen a girl cry so much.

1
2 PATSY. I didn't do a thing to her, but I should have. Can you
3 imagine!
4
5 FRANKIE. What?
6
7 PATSY. And me thinkin' he was a sap.
8
9 CHARLIE. Well, what's happened?
10
11 PATSY. What the hell do you think?
12
13 FRANKIE. (Crosses to c.) She said she was just tryin' to be nice to him
14 till you got back.
15
16 PATSY. Yeah. Nice is right. Took three weeks and a diamond bracelet
17 to get her that nice to me.
18
19 CHARLIE. Well, you told her to hold him, didn't you? Patsy, you can
20 trust Mabel - geez, I never could get nowhere with her.
21
22 PATSY. What?
23
24 CHARLIE. I mean - if I'd tried. No, you just mistook the looks of things.
25
26 FRANKIE. Where's Erwin?
27
28 PATSY. In the john.
29
30 CHARLIE. What did ya do to him? How about the horses for today?
31
32 PATSY. We'll select our own.
33
34 CHARLIE. (Closes in.) And lose our shirts! Now listen, wise guy, he's just
35 as much ours as he is yours.
36
37 FRANKIE. That's what I say. You can't throw him out - just be
38 cause you think your girl happened to go for him. And you ain't even
39 sure - you couldn't prove it in a court of law.
40
41 PATSY. How would you feel if your girl happened to do that?
42
43 CHARLIE, She was just stallin', for time.
44
45 (PATSY paces back and forth.)
46

1 FRANKIE. Sure, she was just trying to keep him from phoning his wife.
2 Geez, she was willin' to come through for you and you don't even
3 appreciate it. Ain't that the kind of a girl you want - ain't that loyalty,
4 huh?
5
6 CHARLIE. And besides, Bella thought of taking his pants off, you know
7 that, don't you?
8
9 PATSY. No.
10
11 CHARLIE. Sure.
12
13 FRANKIE. You sap. You ought to be busted right in the nose for makin'
14 her cry that way.
15
16 PATSY. Was she really cryin'?
17
18 CHARLIE. Was she cryin' - Geez!
19
20 (PATSY goes to phone.)
21
22 PATSY. (Picking up phone.) Hello---give me Mabel's room . . .
23
24 (Charlie sees verses on floor, picks them up.)
25
26 CHARLIE. What the hell happened to the verses?
27
28 PATSY. Oh, I got sore . . . hello, Mabel . . . now listen, honey,
29 stop crying . . . well, I didn't mean it - but I couldn't help it -
30 you know how I feel about you . . . I just didn't like the looks of things .
31 . . . well, it did look bad to me when I come in . . . now listen, I want
32 you to dry your eyes and forget all about it . . . yeah. I'll tell you what
33 I want to do . . . put on that pretty dress I bought you yesterday and
34 go out and look at apartments . . . all right, look at a house, what the
35 hell do I care. . . . Papa wouldn't treat you that way, it's just cause
36 papa loves you.
37
38 CHARLIE. Papa gives me a pain in the - Hang up, will you?
39 You said enough.
40
41 PATSY. (Hangs up.) Gee, she was cryin'.
42
43 (BATHROOM DOOR OPENS. UNSEEN ERWIN ENTERS AND RETRIEVES HIS
44 PANTS FROM BEHIND THE BAR.
45

1 FRANKIE. Listen boys, quit foolin' around about women and all that
2 sort of tripe - let's get down to something important - now, how
3 about those horses?
4
5 CHARLIE. Yeah, it's after one o'clock.
6
7 PATSY. Aw, it only takes him about an hour.
8
9 CHARLIE. Well, we ought to get him started.
10
11 EVE RETURNS.
12
13 EVE. Hey Erwin, I hope you like cheesecake. I got you a nice piece of
14 cheesecake with your Sandwich. Turkey, looks real tasty.
15
16 ERWIN. Thank you, that's very considerate I'm sure. I'll take it with
17 me.
18
19 FRANKIE. Hey, where d'you think your goin'?
20
21 ERWIN. I'm going to the office.
22
23 FRANKIE. (Going to him. Shocked.) Oh, you wouldn't do a thing like
24 that!
25
26 ERWIN. (Passing FRANKIE.) Where's my verses?
27
28 CHARLIE. (Stops him.) No, but wait a minute - let's talk it over, that's
29 all.
30
31 ERWIN. I haven't time.
32
33 PATSY. Now, listen, Erwin, I'm sorry I spoke to you the way I did. It did
34 look a little bad - but I'm goin' to square everything. I've just been
35 talking to Mabel.
36
37 ERWIN. You ought to be ashamed of yourself. She's too good for you.
38
39 PATSY. It's all right, pal, it's all right--only I just forgot myself.
40
41 ERWIN. Where'd you put my verses?
42
43 CHARLIE. After all, Erwin, you got nothing against Frankie and me.
44
45 ERWIN. No, no, I haven't, but -
46

1 FRANKIE. Geez, we sat up all night with you like you was a baby
2 almost.
3
4 PATSY. You wouldn't walk out on us after the way we took care of
5 you. (Takes him by lapels.) Listen, Erwin, didn't you ever lose your
6 temper?
7
8 ERWIN. Yes, I did.
9
10 PATSY. Well, that's me - and I'm sorry. If you walk out on us now the
11 boys will hold it against me for the rest of my life. They'll say I insulted
12 you and that's why you left us.
13
14 ERWIN. I have to get to the office. I'm late now. And Mr. Carver is
15 going to be upset. Maybe he won't even give me my job back after
16 the way you talked to him.
17
18 PATSY. (Tough.) He'll give it to you, 'if I have to go down
19 and -
20
21 CHARLIE. Nix, nix.
22
23 PATSY. We'll buy the joint and let you run it.
24
25 ERWIN. I don't want to run it - I just want to work for Mr. Carver.
26 Anyhow, I have to go and explain to him.
27
28 CHARLIE. Couldn't you just dope out the horses before you go?
29
30 ERWIN. No.
31
32 FRANKIE. I'm disappointed in you, Erwin. I thought we could trust you.
33 I certainly did.
34
35 ERWIN. (Worried.) Well, I'd like to help you.
36
37 PATSY. (Acting the martyr while others gesture encouragement.) It's
38 all right, only, Erwin - I must give you your ten per cent before you go.
39 (Counts out money.)
40
41 ERWIN. What? Well - I -
42
43 PATSY. If you feel like letting us down I wouldn't want to be the one
44 to interfere. (Passes money.) Here you are. One hundred and twelve
45 bucks! Sorry it ain't more, but I thought we was going to have longer
46 to work on it. Might have got up into some real coin if you would
47 have stayed with us today.

1
2 CHARLIE. Yes, I guess your share today would have been a thousand
3 dollars or so.
4
5 FRANKIE. Yeah - it's too bad.
6
7 MABLE ENTERS WITH BELLA.
8
9 MABEL. Patsy?
10
11 BELLA. (TO PATSY) Why you louse!
12
13 PATSY. (Sweet loud kiss.) Oh, come in, honey. You're just in time to
14 say good-bye to Erwin.
15
16 MABEL. Good-bye?
17
18 PATSY. He thinks I didn't treat you right, so he's walking out on us.
19
20 MABEL. Aw.
21
22 ERWIN. I'd like to stay, honest, I would, I feel terrible about it, but -
23
24 MABEL. Oh, Erwin, I can't bear to have you go.
25
26 FRANKIE. If you'd just dope out a couple of horses before you go.
27
28 BELLA.. I tell you what, Erwin; here's the solution to the whole
29 proposition: you can't take these verses back to the office like this,
30 they're - all torn - you just sit down and wait a few minutes while
31 Patsy copies 'em out for you.
32
33 ERWIN. Well --
34
35 CHARLIE. (Picks up verses and sits on bed.) Sure, we'll do it-then we
36 can all part the best of friends.
37
38 FRANKIE. Sure - move over - give me a couple of those.
39
40 PATSY. And while you're waiting for us to do it you can just pass the
41 time figuring a couple of horses.
42
43 ERWIN. I can help copy verses.
44
45 PATSY. No, no, we tore 'em up; we'll copy'em. You figure horses. -
46 Give me some of those, will you? - You figure horses. Give him a
47 pencil, Eve.

1
2 EVE. (Giving him a pencil.) Sure. Here's a pencil - Erwin.
3
4 FRANKIE. And there's the racing form.
5
6 ERWIN. Well, all right - I'll try.
7
8 MABEL. I knew you would - now - sit right here.
9
10 PATSY. That's the boy.
11
12 CHARLIE. I always said he was a regular fellow.
13
14 PATSY. You bet, you can count on Erwin.
15
16 MABEL. Oh yeah, he'll come through all right.
17
18 CHARLIE. Good old Erwin!
19
20 FRANKIE. (Topping them.) All right, boys, don't talk so much. Let him
21 concentrate.
22
23 (ERWIN thinks, then crosses legs.)
24
25 MABEL. Is there anything I can do?
26
27 CHARLIE. Yeah, go into your dance.
28
29 PATSY. Shut up.
30
31 CHARLIE. Well, don't be talking so much and bustin' up his
32 thoughts.
33
34 PATSY. Well, who's talkin'? - You are.
35
36 MABEL. Yeah, he's doin' all the -
37
38 FRANKIE. Shut up, all of you. I'm going to take Erwin upstairs so he
39 can concentrate. The rest of you get copying.
40
41 ERWIN. I don't know if this is going to work. You see I usually do this
42 on the bus.
43
44 FRANKIE. (GUIDING HIM OUT) Just try - just concentrate. Now, just
45 pretend you're on the bus, see? Just concentrate. Fares, please -
46 have your fares ready.
47

1 FRANKIE GUIDES ERWIN UPSTAIRS.
2
3
4 EVERYONE ELSE FURIOUSLY STARTS TO COPY AND DON'T HEAR OR
5 NOTICE CLARY AND AUDRY ENTER.
6
7 AUDRY. is this really the place?
8
9 CLARY. This is the address the phone company listed. This is where
10 your so called husband called Mr Carver from.
11
12 AUDRY. There must be some mistake
13
14 CLARY. The only mistake you've ever made is marrying that slug.
15
16 AUDRY. I want to go home.
17
18 CLARY. Now Audry, I say we stay here and face him out. Besides this
19 is where the newspaper reporter is meeting us.
20
21 AUDRY. News paper reporter!
22
23 CLARY. That's right sis. She was fascinated when I told her the story.
24 Wife abandoned by no good low life husband. She's also promised
25 to mention the little real estate deal I'm involved in.
26
27 AUDRY. Clary, my husband is missing. This is not the time to be talking
28 about real estate.
29
30 CLARY. Don't you want people to have nice houses Audry? Nice
31 houses sold them by me - on commission?
32
33 AUDRY. Clary I don't like this place it's not respectable.
34
35 CLARY. Of course it's not respectable you don't think any
36 respectable woman would take up with Erwin do you?
37
38 AUDRY. I did.
39
40 CLARY. Well that's different. You were brainwashed. Yes, this is a den
41 of iniquity, all right. I can't wait to clock brother-in-laws face when he
42 sees us in here. Even he'll have to admit that I was right about him all
43 these years.
44
45 AUDRY. I'm scared, Clary.
46

1 CLARY. Nonsense remember mother's words. There's no challenge a
2 well turned out lady can not overcome. (CALLS TO BELLA) I say
3 young woman might we have two glasses of ice tea.
4
5 BELLA: (AGGRESSIVE) Hey! Can't you see we're busy doin poetry
6 here! Gee some people aint got no refinement.
7
8 CLARY. (TAKEN A BACK) Well!
9
10 BELLA: Park your fat ass over there can't you. I'll be over when I'm
11 good and ready.
12
13 CLARY AND AUDRY SIT DOWN OBEDIENTLY
14
15 CLARY. Poetry! I might have known he'd take up with some
16 bohemian drop outs.
17
18 AUDRY. Can't we just go home?
19
20 CLARY. Don't forget Mr Carver's meeting us here. I wonder if I could
21 interest him in a house.
22
23 AUDREY. He isn't coming out here about real estate, he's coming out
24 about Erwin.
25
26 CLARY. Well, if I've got to support you the rest of my life, the least I
27 can get out of this is maybe a sale or two.
28
29 AUDREY. You don't have to support me the rest of your life, so don't
30 say that again.
31
32 (Reporter GLORIA CRAY enters, followed by AL, the photographer.)
33
34 CLARY: Yoo hoo! Miss Cray we're over here.
35
36 GLORIA. Now, Mrs. Trowbridge, if you'll just look natural please. Have
37 you got a handkerchief?
38
39 AUDREY. Handkerchief?
40
41 GLORIA, Yes, you ought to be crying in the photograph, you know.
42
43 AUDREY. I'm not going to cry any more. . . .
44
45 CLARY. She cried terrible this morning. But she's a brave little woman.
46

1 CLORIA. Brave little woman. There's a very trenchant phrase --
2 remind me to use that, will you, Al?
3
4 CLARY. Would you like me in the picture?
5
6 AL. Still - (Snaps picture.)
7
8 GLORIA. That's fine. Now I'd like just one more. We'll take another
9 one brave. That's just as good. (TO CLARY.) You're the sister of the
10 missing man, are you?
11
12 CLARY. No, I'm the sister of the wife of the missing man, and I'm
13 senior lady sales executive for the Willow housing development.
14 Would you care to see a brochure?
15
16 GLORIA. They're very attractive.
17
18 CLARY. And they're all alike.
19
20 GLORIA. I noticed that.
21
22 AL. Still -
23
24 GLORIA. All right, Al, you might shoot her just for luck.
25
26 CLARY. Let's see where'll we - (Picks up chair and looks for a spot to
27 place it and sit for picture.)
28
29 AL. (Snapping picture of CLARY'S rear.) Still -
30
31 CLARY. (Still holding chair.) Oh, I wasn't ready.
32
33 GLORIA. That's all right - you looked worried - just the right expression.
34
35 CLARENCE. I am worried - he was a fine fellow.
36
37 AUDREY. (Taking photo from her purse.) Now, here's the picture of
38 Erwin -I hate to part with it. - It's the only one I've got -
39
40 GLORIA. Oh, we'll send it back in good condition - (Writes on face.)
41 Here you are, Al - (Tosses it to AL.)
42
43 AUDREY. But of course, if it'll help to find Erwin . . .
44
45 GLORIA. Sure it will. Somebody might recognize him - and-you'll get
46 a lot of people who think they do. I'll promise you that -
47

1 CLARY. If you'd print a description I should think it might help. When
2 he left here he was wearing a grey suit, brown hat, - black shoes . . .
3
4 AUDREY. And no necktie.
5
6 GLORIA. No necktie - (AUDREY shakes head.) Why was that?
7
8 AUDREY. He was in a hurry. He was late.
9
10 GLORIA. Often do that, does he?
11
12 AUDREY. (Shakes head.) No -- it's the first time.
13
14 GLORIA. And - this is the first time he ever stayed away from home
15 overnight? (AUDREY nods.) And the first time he ever went to work
16 without a necktie?
17
18 AL. Doesn't look like a date. -
19
20 GLORIA. Who asked you? (Changes tone.) Any suspicious letters or
21 phone calls from women?
22
23 AUDREY. Erwin wasn't like that. He was different!
24
25 GLORIA. Different -
26
27 AL. Hey - toots - (Shows GLORIA ERWIN'S picture as though to prove
28 he wasn't like that.)
29
30 MR CARVER STORMS IN.
31
32 CARVER. Trowbridge! Trowbridge!
33
34 CHARLIE CALL ACROSS FROM WHERE THE GANG ARE BUSY WITH THE
35 POEMS.
36
37 CHARLIE. Hey, keep it down can't you? Jeez the low life you get in
38 here some time.
39
40 AUDREY. Oh, Mr. Carver, it's so nice of you to come. This is my
41 brother, Mr. Dobbins, and this is Miss Gloria Grey of the Newark
42 Gazette, and that's - I don't believe I know your name -
43
44 GLORIA. Just Al, pay no attention to him.
45
46 AL. I better phone the office. (HE GOES TO THE BOOTH)
47

1 AUDREY. Mr. Carver is my husband's boss.
2
3 CARVER. Where is he?
4
5 GLORIA. (Making notes.) Oh sure - J. G. Carver. -Right?
6
7 CARVER. What's the difference? Where is Erwin? -That's the
8 point.
9
10 CLARY. (Comes down to him.) Well, I'll tell you my theory, J. G.
11
12 CARVER. Who?
13
14 CLARY. (stops and turns.) J. G.? Isn't that correct?
15
16 CARVER. My name is Carver - call me Carver or Mr. Carver, but don't
17 call me J. G. Where's Erwin?
18
19 AUDREY. A detective came to the house and he said he thought
20 they couldn't trace him. He said lots of men disappear every day -
21 especially married men about Erwin's age.
22
23 CARVER. Foolish talk. Foolish talk.
24
25 AUDREY. He said they generally turned up in hospitals saying they
26 lost their memory.
27
28 CARVER. A lot of pish-posh. -Now here's a man that's a reliable
29 citizen, see - worth more than you or you or any of you - in his way.
30 He's gone!! Where? Nobody knows. It's a silly country. Man phones
31 me from here, says he's Erwin's manager. I know what's going on.
32
33 GLORIA. What?
34
35 CARVER. (Shakes finger.) Writing verses for a rival concern.
36
37 AUDREY. Oh, but Mister -
38
39 CARVER. (Upstage and back to c.) Don't talk. Don't argue. I've
40 figured it out. Thought I didn't appreciate him just 'cause I didn't pat
41 him on the back every minute - along comes some sneak - gives
42 him a lot of sugar and steals him away - no justice anywhere - never
43 was - never will be.
44
45 GLORIA. But he'd hardly keep it a secret from his wife.
46
47 CARVER. 'Fraid of his wife.

1
2 AUDREY. Oh no.
3
4 CARVER. 'Fraid of this woman.
5
6 CLARY. (ALL SWEETNESS) Oh no Mr Carver. Who'd be afraid of me.
7 I'm in real estate. Would you care to see a brochure.
8
9 SHE FORCES ONE ON HIM, WHICH HE SOON DISCARDS.
10
11 CARVER. 'Fraid of everybody - just a poet. Just lives in himself. (Taps
12 forehead.) Afraid of me, even. The fact is, that none of you can
13 deny, he's gone - (Shakes finger.) and Mother's Day deadline is
14 tomorrow. But I happen to know my rights. I've fought competitors
15 before and I can do it again. Erwin wasn't so good at first. He had
16 the feeling, the warmth and the inspiration to be a top-notch
17 greeting card man, but he didn't have the technique. I taught him
18 all I knew - I worked and struggled to bring him up, up the ladder
19 and then someone steals him from me.
20
21 AL. Hey Joe in the office says The Boy Scouts at Eagleville want to
22 drag the Eagleville Pond for Erwin.
23
24 AUDREY. Why would he be in Eagleville. He was here.
25
26 AL. They said they'd never dragged a pond before -- they wanted to
27 do it anyway.
28
29 GLORIA. Come on, Al. We might use that - (Starts for door.)
30
31 CLARY. It's right next to one of my property -
32
33 GLORIA. We'll go anyway.
34
35 CLARY. Perhaps I could show you some of the more picturesque
36 features for your photograph.
37
38 (GLORIA, CLARENCE and AL go out.)
39
40 AUDREY. I'm sure Erwin wouldn't want to work for anybody but you,
41 Mr. Carver - he was always saying how he liked being in your office
42 and how wonderful you were.
43
44 CARVER. I didn't come here to listen to a lot of sentimental nonsense.
45
46 AUDREY. No, sir.
47

1 CARVER. Easter - I wouldn't care - got a man who can write good
2 Easter stuff - but Mother's Day is Erwin's speciality - nobody in the
3 office has got his touch - Printers have to have the proof way in
4 advance - if I'm late then they charge me overtime. . overtime,
5 double time, all kinds of time . . . bunch of crooks ---can't plan
6 anything - raise prices - pay 'em more every year get less work every
7 year - the whole country is going to the dogs as fast as it can go.
8
9 CARVER SEES A TORN SCRAP OF PAPER.
10
11 CARVER. What's this. I recognise this handwriting. This is Erwin's. It's a
12 scrap of poetry. Poetry that legally belongs to me.
13
14 HE APPROACHES PATSY AND SNATCHES A SCARP OF PAPER.
15
16 PATSY. Hey!
17
18 CARVER. I recognise this homely yet heartfelt style anywhere. I
19 demand the return of my employee. If I don't get action any other
20 way, the United States court will hear about it, let that be understood
21 . . .
22
23 PATSY. What the hell is it you want?
24
25 CARVER. I want Erwin Trowbridge. Do you realise who you're
26 addressing young man. I am Carver of the Holly Cheer Greeting
27 company, sixth avenue.
28
29 HARRY. (jumps up.) What?
30
31 CHARLIE. (Pulls him back.) Take it easy.
32
33 CARVER. I want him back in his office by tomorrow morning, or I'll
34 have subpoenas enough flying around here to make your eyes
35 water. There's no individualism in an organization like this . . . it's a
36 bad thing for him.
37
38 PATSY. We can't have Erwin upset by this jerk. Charlie bounce him
39 out of here.
40
41 CARVER. I ain't afraid of you fellows or any other greeting card
42 company in the United States.
43
44 PATSY. Pipe down, will you. Erwin's got to concentrate?
45
46 CARVER. (Struggles.) Has he indeed. I'll fight all of you.
47

1 PATSY. Did you hear me? Pipe down. . . . Get him out of here.
2
3 CHARLIE. Come on, Boss . . . scam.
4
5 BELLA.. Leave him to me, I can handle him.
6
7 CARVER. Take your hands off me.
8
9 BELLA.. Here's your hat.
10
11 CARVER. Unhand me madame. I'll have you blackguards in jail.
12 Every one of you.
13
14 BELLA.. I've thrown out tougher guys than you.
15
16 CHARLIE. Don't hold back Bella.
17
18 CARVER. I've been in business since 1898. (Charlie slams door shut.)
19
20 CHARLIE. Out and Stay Out.
21
22 ERWIN RETURNS AND SEES HIS WIFE
23
24 ERWIN. Audrey – What are you doing here. (Going to her.) These
25 are my new friends.
26
27 AUDREY. Oh, Erwin-(Rushes to his arms. ERWIN looks pleased.) I've
28 worried so –I couldn't imagine - (Draws back.) Where have you
29 been?
30
31 ERWIN. Oh, cupcake - I've got so much to tell you –
32
33 FRANKIE. (Taking ERWIN by arm.) Listen, Erwin - them next two races.
34
35 MABEL. Yeah, you'd better get started.
36
37 ERWIN. Oh yes, of course - I can't tell you everything now, because I
38 have to hurry.
39
40 AUDREY. Is anything wrong?
41
42 ERWIN. No, no, everything's fine. And I'm going to give you a lot of
43 money - over a hundred dollars.
44
45 AUDREY. I don't need any money, Erwin.
46
47 ERWIN. I'm going to give it to you anyhow.

1
2 AUDREY. Where'd you get it?
3
4 ERWIN. The horses.
5
6 AUDREY. Horses?
7
8 ERWIN. Yes. My little hobby, you know. It's been quite a source of
9 revenue just for advising.
10
11 FRANKIE. (Grabs him.) Say, I don't want to rush you, Erwin,
12 but -
13
14 ERWIN. Yes, I must get started.
15
16 AUDRY. Where are you going?
17
18 ERWIN. I have to take a bus.
19
20 AUDRY. What?
21
22 ERWIN. I have to take a bus. You see it doesn't work unless I'm riding
23 the bus. (HE HANDS HER THE PIECE OF PAPER HE'S BEEN CLUTCHING)
24 I'll explain later.
25
26 AUDREY. Erwin, you'll be back?
27
28 ERWIN. Oh sure.
29
30 FRANKIE. Sure. He'll be back on the bus -- every day - back and forth
31 - you know . . .
32
33 ERWIN. (AS HE GOES) Audrey I've missed you. This is for us.
34
35 HE HANDS AUDRY HIS WINNINGS SO FAR.
36
37 FRANKIE. Erwin. We got to hurry.
38
39 ERWIN. Yes, yes, I know. I know. Oh, wait a minute. (Breaks away.
40 Rushes back to kiss AUDREY.) See you later.
41
42 FRANKIE WHISKS HIM OUT. AUDRY IS LEFT STARING AT THE MONEY.
43
44 CLARY BURSTS IN.
45
46 CLARY. Hey Where's Erwin going with that shifty character. (SHE SEES
47 THE MONEY) Audry, where did all that money come from?

1
2 MABEL: What a guy. (TO AUDRY) You're so lucky. Every horse he says
3 will win, wins. He writes it all down before the race. It's like magic.
4
5 CARVER RETURNS
6
7 CARVER. I'm going to give you hooligans one last chance to be
8 reasonable before I go to the expense of hiring a lawyer.
9
10 AUDREY. Mr. Carver, Erwin was here - he just left.
11
12 CARVER. Where? Where's he gone? (Rushes out.)
13
14 AUDREY. (Starts after.) They went up that way, I think.
15
16 CARVER AND AUDREY EXIT
17
18 CLARY SEES THE DISGARDED PAPER LEFT BY ERWIN. SHE PICKS IT UP,
19 UNFOLDS AND READS, HER EYES BULGE WITH EXCITEMENT.
20
21 CLARY. It's his list of the winning horses. - Thought he'd hold out on his
22 own family did he--we'll, I'll show him -
23
24 (SHE EXITS TO THE STREET.)
25
26 CHARLIE. (Crossing and looking over Mabel's shoulder.) I ain't so sure
27 Erwn's going to like your handwriting.
28
29 MABEL. What's the matter with it?
30
31 CHARLIE. Plenty.
32
33 CHARLIE. Why don't you do it like me?
34
35 MABEL. Aw - you write like a gorilla.
36
37 CHARLIE. Well, that's the way you're supposed to write. (Sarcastic.)
38 The idea is so that somebody else can read it, see?
39
40 PATSY. The idea is to keep Erwin happy, that's all.
41
42 MABEL. Well I'm fatigued. Patsy are you gunna let Charlie bully me.
43
44 PATSY. Charlie lay off. (TO MABEL) Honey, why don't you take a little
45 break.
46
47 MABEL MOVES AWAY AND STARTS TO READ CLARY'S BROCHURE

1
2 BELLA. How about us. Do we get a little break too?
3
4 CHARLEY. You carry on. And keep it neat.
5
6 BELLA.. Who appointed you foreman anyhow? Get busy instead of
7 criticising so much.
8
9 EVE. The thing is to be able to say they are copied.
10
11 CHARLIE I got this one all straight exceptin' one word down there in
12 the corner.
13
14 EVE. I got an extra word here. What d'you need?
15
16 CHARLIE. Something to rhyme with-let me see-(Reading.)
17 "We trudged our way on Sundays"-something to rhyme with Sundays.
18
19 EVE. (Looking at his piece of paper.) No. The word I have here is
20 "blue-birds."
21
22 CHARLIE. The only word I can think of is undies, but I don't suppose
23 Erwin would want to use that. (BEAT) Suppose he comes back and
24 finds they ain't ready. The missing word's got to be around here
25 somewhere?
26
27 HE PICKS UP THE PIECE OF PAER THAT CLARY DROPPED AND READS IT.
28
29 CHARLIE. No, that don't rhyme neither. (STARTS) Hey, just a minute –
30 the lousy two bit.... He must take us for a right load of dummies.
31
32 PATSY. Who, What're you talking about?
33
34 CHARLIE. Supposing this guy Erwin's holding out on us.
35
36 PATSY. Why you . . .
37
38 CHARLIE. Well, look, what does he give us? A load of baloney about
39 having to take a bus. What does he give his wife. The highly
40 regarded "Equipoise." Running this afternoon.
41
42 THE PHONE RINGS. PATSY GOES TO ANSWER IT. AS HE CROSSES -
43
44 PATSY. What of it? Maybe that's the way he warms himself up.
45
46 CHARLIE. Equipoise, Equipoise.
47

1 PATSY RETURNS FROM THE PHONE CALL.
2
3 PATSY. That was Frankie. Erwin says Mr. Khayan in the fourth. Charlie
4 (Extracting a roll of dollar bills.) Here's some housekeeping for you.
5 Go round to Gus and tell him to put it on Mr. Khayyam in the fourth
6 race.
7
8 CHARLIE. Don't do that, Patsy, what d'ya say? Equipoise is a pretty
9 good horse.
10
11 PATSY. Has Erwin missed yet?
12
13 CHARLIE. No but –
14
15 PATSY. Then do what I tell you – get going.
16
17 CHARLIE. Just the same
18 (Goes to door.) I'm worried. (Exit.)
19
20 (MABEL LOOKS UP FROM READING HER BROCHURE)
21
22 MABEL. I seen it, Patsy --I seen it.
23
24 PATSY. Seen what?
25
26 MABEL. Our little dream house. Oh, Patsy - it's gorgeous – look at the
27 brochure – there's the nicest little a real garden and a porch to sit on
28 - and a second floor.
29
30 PATSY. (Crossing R.) O. K. Buy it. Just don't bother me, that's all.
31
32 MABEL. Patsy, don't you think we ought to get married if we're going
33 to live in a house?
34
35 PATSY. We'll get married. You can get married any day --(Going to
36 phone.) -- but I got a sure thing in the fourth race and they don't
37 come up often.
38
39 MABEL. They come up too often - they come up and hit you right in
40 the face.
41
42 PATSY. What do you mean by that?
43
44 MABEL. I think we ought to buy this house before everything goes
45 back into hock.
46
47 (FRANKIE enters followed by ERWIN.)

1
2 FRANKIE. The heroes return.
3
4 ERWIN: Where's my wife.
5
6 MABEL. She went right after you.
7
8 ERWIN. Well if she went to the bus stop maybe she took the bus
9 home. Are my verses copied?
10
11 PATSY. (Crosses UP to L. of ERWIN.) I think you'll find everything in A-1
12 condition, Erwin. We got plenty ridin' on Mr. Khayyam.
13
14 ERWIN. (Looking at verses.) Gee, I can hardly read these. Oh, this is
15 terrible.
16
17 PATSY. What's the trouble?
18
19 BELLA.. What's the matter?
20
21 ERWIN. Look at this! (Crosses to R. of PATSY.)
22
23 EVE.. The handwriting?
24
25 ERWIN. No. The words. Those aren't my words at all.
26
27 (CHARLIE enters.)
28
29 PATSY. Well?
30
31 CHARLIE. Geez, they certainly are afraid of us -- Gus had to lay it on
32 with three bookies.
33
34 ERWIN. Oh, Mr. Carver would die if he saw this -- I'd lose my job.
35
36 MABEL. Looks like one of yours, Charlie.
37
38 CHARLIE. (Going to ERWIN.) What's the trouble?
39
40 ERWIN. I couldn't write anything like this.
41
42 CHARLIE. (Taking paper.) Write what? Let's see.
43
44 ERWIN. It doesn't even scan.
45
46 PATSY. (At desk.) Well, come on, boys, let's not have any fuss -- let's
47 just fix it, that's all.

1
2 CHARLIE. I did fix it.
3
4 ERWIN. I don't want anything fixed - I just wanted them copied.
5
6 CHARLIE. But we lost the last line.
7
8 PATSY. What is it? (Takes verses. Reads.)
9 "I wonder if the old church stands
10 Where we trudged our way on Sundays;
11 I recall how we sat with folded hands"
12
13 ERWIN. That part's all right - see -- but the rest of it.
14
15 PATSY. "So now I don't ever get drunk no more on Tuesdays or
16 Mondays." (Looks at Erwin.) That's no good, huh?
17
18 ERWIN. Oh no --- it's awful.
19
20 CHARLIE. It's the right idea, ain't it? He's thinkin' of his mother, see -
21
22 ERWIN. No - it's no good.
23
24 FRANKIE. (Going up to CHARLIE.) Yeah, you got a crust monkeying
25 with Erwin's verses.
26
27 CHARLIE. I was only tryin' to help out.
28
29 PATSY. Well, come on, Erwin - just put in your words. What's the stew
30 about?
31
32 ERWIN. I can't think what it was myself now. You got me so upset.
33
34 FRANKIE. There, you see - you got him all upset, you mug.
35
36 EVE.. What you cheap-skates ought to do is hire some first class poet
37 to write Erwin's verses for him - then he wouldn't have to worry so
38 much.
39
40 PATSY. (Crossing to desk.) When my Khayyam comes in we'll hire
41 Longfellow.
42
43 EVE.. You can't hire Longfellow -'cause he's dead -I think he is.
44
45 PATSY. Never mind about that poetry for just a minute, will you,
46 Erwin?
47

1 ERWIN. (Absently, pieces of paper in his hand.) What?
2
3 PATSY. Let's just concentrate on this -- the fourth race, I mean.
4
5 ERWIN. Of course.
6
7 PATSY. We can't lose. Can we, Erwin?
8
9 ERWIN. No -I don't think so.
10
11 PATSY. Mr. Khayyam is your selection, isn't he?
12
13 ERWIN. Oh, yes - that's the horse. (Sees paper.) There! - the line -
14 there's the verse.
15
16 PATSY. Stop changing the subject.
17
18 CHARLIE. Do you think we should shift to Equipoise?
19
20 ERWIN. No.
21
22 CHARLIE. No. Then why did you write his name on a piece of paper?
23
24 ERWIN. I didn't -
25
26 CHARLIE. Oh, you didn't - what about this? (Flashes paper.)
27
28 ERWIN. (Takes paper.) Oh, that?
29
30 CHARLIE. Yeah that. Why did you give it to your wife?
31
32 ERWIN. Oh, that was when I was sitting on the bed trying to dope
33 them and I wasn't sure I could do it - so I wrote out the name
34 Equipoise to see how it would look-but I didn't think it looked so
35 good.
36
37 PATSY. Oh, you wasn't sure.
38
39 ERWIN. No. - Don't you see - I'm surprised at you fellows -you were all
40 right yesterday, when I was sick and you took care of me and all
41 that - but now you're getting greedy.
42
43 PATSY. I notice you took your ten per cent all right.
44
45 ERWIN. Oh, yes indeed.
46

1 PATSY. You wouldn't by any chance be thinkin' about crossin' us,
2 would you, Erwin?
3
4 ERWIN. No - of course not. - Oh no.
5
6 PATSY. (Turning up to FRANKIE.) All right, boys, everything goes on Mr.
7 Khayyam.
8
9 EVE.. How much you betting, Erwin?
10
11 ERWIN. Oh, I wouldn't bet.
12
13 PATSY. (Coming back slowly to Erwin.) What do you mean?
14 Which way wouldn't you bet?
15
16 ERWIN. I wouldn't bet on anything. That would spoil it.
17
18 MABEL. Sure. Erwin explained that to me.
19
20 PATSY. Shut up. (To ERWIN.) I thought maybe you ought to bet on this
21 nag, Erwin - you doped him.
22
23 ERWIN. But don't you see, if I did -
24
25 PATSY. No, I don't see a thing except that if he's good enough for us
26 to put our shirts on - he's good enough for you too.
27
28 BELLA. Just give your bet to Frankie and he'll take it over with him.
29
30 (FRANKIE rises.)
31
32 ERWIN. Well, it'll spoil all my fun - but - Well, I think I'll bet two dollars.
33 Miss Eve would you be so kind as to take this two dollars round to the
34 bookmakers.
35
36 EVE. Ok Erwin (EXIT)
37
38 ERWIN. (AFTER HER) Be careful it's a busy road.
39
40 CHARLIE. Two dollars!
41
42 PATSY. What are you doing - kidding?
43
44 ERWIN. No, I'm serious - I think he'll win. I want to bet two
45 dollars.
46

1 PATSY. Well, this is a hell of a joke. We got eleven thousand dollars on
2 Mr. Khayyam and you want to bet a deuce.
3
4 BELLA. You can't think much of the horse.
5
6 ERWIN. I certainly do -- I picked him.
7
8 PATSY. Well, then play something worthwhile.
9
10 ERWIN. Oh, I see what you mean. Here, Frankie - put ten dollars on
11 his nose. (Counts it.)
12
13 PATSY. Frankie didn't hear you.
14
15 CHARLIE. No, he's deaf.
16
17 BELLA. They think you ought to put up some real dough, Erwin.
18
19 MABEL. I don't think we ought to make him bet.
20
21 PATSY. Well, we're going to, whether you think so or not. I
22 wouldn't go so far as to say that Charlie's right about you, but a
23 good-sized bet from you would make me think your heart is in the
24 right place.
25
26 ERWIN. All right -- here - put a hundred on Mr. Khayyam to show.
27
28 PATSY. To show, huh - he's good enough for us to have all we got on
29 his nose and you want to play a lousy century note to show.
30
31 FRANKIE. You better hurry up if you want to get this down.
32
33 PATSY. (TURNS TO FRANKIE) Shut up. You're goin' to play what you
34 got -- on the nose. (TAKING BILLS FROM ERWIN'S VEST POCKET AND
35 ADDING TO ROLL.) Here you are, Frankie. (GIVES HIM MONEY.) Put
36 that on Mr. Khayyam for Erwin - right on the nose.
37
38 ERWIN. Hey, wait -- that's my money for the Bowery Savings Bank.
39
40 PATSY. The hell with it. If he's good enough for us, he's good
41 enough for you - every nickel. Go on, Frankie.
42
43 FRANKIE. O. K. I'll have to hurry.
44
45 PATSY. (Looks at watch.) Ah, it's too late to do anything. It's post
46 time.
47

1 ERWIN. Gee, you fellows are getting pretty serious. I haven't missed
2 yet, have I?
3
4 PATSY. (More to himself.) Eleven thousand dollars.
5
6 ERWIN. Well, I suppose Mr.Carver is waiting for me – I better get my
7 verses together and – get over there –
8
9 FRANKIE. You stay here.
10
11 ERWIN. But I can't, I –
12
13 CHARLIE. Until after the race.
14
15 ERWIN. But Charlie –
16
17 CHARLIE. (MAKES A GESTURE OF FINALITY AND SITS BY THE DOOR.)
18 After the race.
19
20 ERWIN. (Poetic.) "After the race. " "After the race." - That ought to
21 lead to something. (Takes pencil and paper.)
22
23 MABEL. (Turns on radio.) Maybe I can get the race on here. (Goes to
24 radio and turns on wrong stations.)
25
26 ERWIN. W.M.C.A. at the top of the dial - I think.
27
28 (MABEL Gets the station.)
29
30 ANNOUNCER. . . . and took the first turn in that order. War Glory,
31 Good Advice, Ladies' Man, and Mr. Khayyam.
32
33 PATSY. That's it - hold it.
34
35 EVE.. (To BELLA..) Is this our race?
36
37 BELLA.. Yeah - they're on their way.
38
39 ANNOUNCER. At the quarter. . . . War Glory, Good Advice,
40 Mr.Khayyam there in that order now. Lady's Man going up . . . yes,
41 past Farino. Good Advice is holding that lead, jockey Meade using
42 his head. There they are at the half, Good Advice, War Glory,
43 Mr.Khayyam. Mr. Khayyam driving now - rushing in there. Ah, there's
44 a tumble, a spill. Chase Me stumbled, throwing the jockey, Slate.
45 But he's all right. Slate's all right. That's the three quarter pole.
46 Mr.Khayyam still leading with Lady's Man coming up and War Glory
47 right behind. There they come fast into the stretch. Looks like a little

1 shoving there . . . no, no, it's all right I guess. At the stretch coming
2 down there with a rush, Eq-Equipoise passes Mr. Khayyam, Sun
3 Archer right behind. Yes, - yes, that's the finish. Equipoise wins.
4 Equipoise, the Whitney horse with Workman up. Mr.Khayyam
5 second and Sun Archer closed fast to get third and in the
6 money. Those who backed Equipoise had something to be thankful
7 for today. (MABEL turns off radio.)
8
9 ERWIN. Well that's too bad.
10
11 EVE. Yes, it's just too bad.
12
13 MABEL. Ah, geez, I'm just sick - you know it - I'm just sick to the
14 stomach.
15
16 ERWIN. Well, the handicappers were right - they all thought
17 Equipoise would win. Well, that's what makes it interesting.
18
19 CHARLIE. You guys wouldn't listen to me. I been telling you all along -
20 I had a hunch something like this would happen.
21
22 ERWIN. I feel awfully sorry for you fellows.
23
24 THE GAMBLERS ARE BEGINNING TO LOOK THREATENING.
25
26 BELLA. You better start feeling sorry for yourself.
27
28 CHARLIE. He tried to beat it off to the office and leave us holding the
29 bag.
30
31 CHARLIE. The crook.
32
33 MABEL. (Terrified.) Boys, what are you going to do?
34
35 PATSY. We'll give him something to remember us by. He knew damn
36 well Equipoise was going to win.
37
38 ERWIN. I didn't. That's not so.
39
40 PATSY. Well, I'll tell you one thing . . . he'll never forget that
41 Mr.Khayyam lost. (Bang. He hits ERWIN.)
42
43 EVE.. Patsy.
44
45 MABEL. Maybe Erwin got mixed up?
46
47 BELLA. Now wait a minute.

1
2 PATSY. Learn you to cross us. (Grabs him by the coat and hits him
3 again.)
4
5 FRANKIE. Give him one for me.
6
7 MABEL, Don't -- don't.
8
9 ERWIN. Don't you think this is a little drastic?
10
11 PATSY. I'll show you what's drastic.
12
13 MABEL. Patsy . . . Patsy . . .
14
15 PATSY. You keep out of it.
16
17 EVE.. Don't hit him again.
18
19 PATSY. I ain't started yet. Get a loud station, Frankie.
20
21 (PATSY TAKES OFF HIS COAT. FRANKIE SWITCHES ON RADIO.)
22
23 CHARLIE. (Grabs MABEL and holds her.) Here. Don't try to interfere.
24 That ain't going to do any good.
25
26 MABEL. No. . . . No. . . .
27
28 PATSY. Listen. I ain't even begun.
29
30 (Radio is heard.)
31
32 ANNOUNCER. Something going on down at the judge's stand and
33 no bets are being paid until the official announcement.
34
35 CHARLIE. Wait a Minute.
36
37 ANNOUNCER. Looks like a disqualification to me.
38
39 PATSY. What?
40
41 CHARLIE. Listen.
42
43 ANNOUNCER. Well, well . . . I was all wrong, folks,-I was all
44 wrong. Equipoise did not win after all - the judges have been in a
45 huddle down there at the stand and boy - what excitement - wait a
46 minute, folks, - what is it, Perry? Oh, here's the latest announcement. I
47 just got it - Equipoise disqualified - Mr. Khayyam declared the official

1 winner -Sun Archer second and Lady's Man third. Mr.Khayyam paid
2 12-1. (FRANKIE snaps it off.)
3
4 (PATSY DURING ANNOUNCEMENT WALKS CLOSE TO THE RADIO. HE
5 TURNS TO OTHERS WITH A NAIVE GRIN.)
6
7 PATSY. We won. (They look at ERWIN. Patsy goes to him
8 apologetically.) Gee, I'm awfully sorry, Erwin -
9
10 ERWIN. YOU -- (Hits PATSY a belt in the jaw.)
11
12 (PATSY staggers back more from surprise than force.)
13
14 PATSY. Hey, what the hell -
15
16 MABEL. You had it coming to you.
17
18 EVE. (Crosses below ERWIN to L. Of PATSY. Pushing him
19 about.) Yeah, I don't blame Erwin. What's the idea of hitting him that
20 way?
21
22 FRANKIE. Yes, what's the idea? You make me good and mad.
23
24 CHARLIE. Don't hit him again, Patsy - he'll quit us.
25
26 PATSY. Come on, Erwin, don't be sore. Announcers don't make
27 mistakes like that often - and geez, we had our shirts up.
28
29 AUDREY. (Enters.) Erwin! I want to talk to you. - It's very important.
30 What did you do to Clary?
31
32 ERWIN. What do you mean?
33
34 AUDREY. She's lost all her money on a horse. She says you tricked her-
35 she's so upset -
36
37 (MR CARVER APPEARS)
38
39 CARVER. Erwin!
40
41 ERWIN. Oh, Mr. Carver -
42
43 AUDREY. And, Erwin, will you do me a favour -?
44
45 ERWIN. Oh sure, of course I will, dear.
46
47 AUDREY. Will you speak to Mr. Carver?

1
2 ERWIN. Yes, Mr. Carver - I'm sorry I –
3
4 CARVER. Have these men a contract with you?
5
6 ERWIN. Oh no – no - they just –
7
8 CARVER. Who gave you your start?
9
10 ERWIN. You did, Mr. Carver.
11
12 CARVER. Who taught you the business?
13
14 CLARY BURSTS IN.
15
16 CLARY. (Pointing.) There he is. There he is. You sneak. You low down
17 cheat. You had to trick me - you crook.
18
19 PATSY. Hey, wait a minute.
20
21 CLARY. He pretends he knows all about horse races. He cleaned me
22 out. He tricked me. He left a name on the floor - knew I'd find it –
23
24 ERWIN. That's not the facts at all.
25
26 CLARY. The double-crossing, Mother's Day crook.
27
28 ERWIN. Shut Up!
29
30 CLARY. What!
31
32 ERWIN. I said shut up! You interfering, sour faced, evil minded, harpy.
33
34 CLARY. (STUNNED) Yes Erwin.
35
36 AUDRY (QUIETLY) Erwin.
37
38 ERWIN. Patsy, you will buy Mabel one of Clary's houses. And what's
39 more you will marry her and live in it and make her very happy.
40
41 PATSY. (STUNNED) Yes Erwin.
42
43 ERWIN. I'm sorry we've been interrupted, Mr. Carver.
44
45 CARVER. (SCARED) I'm going to have the room with the north light
46 repainted and redecorated and you can have that to work in, and

1 I'm going to get you a new desk and put your name on the door
2 and I'll give you sixty dollars a week.
3
4 ERWIN. Sixty?
5
6 CARVER. Seventy-five dollars. (Phone rings.) Don't interrupt, I'm in
7 conference . . . telephones, telephones . . . all day long . . . haven't I
8 had enough trouble . . . I'm sorry, Erwin, I'm sorry.
9
10 PATSY. O. K. for me to take that call, Erwin?
11
12 ERWIN (Crosses to R. Of PATSY.) Sure, go ahead.
13
14 (PATSY does so.)
15
16 AUDREY. Erwin, please do me a favour . . . go back to Mr. Carver. I
17 know you'll be happier that way.
18
19 PATSY. That was Gus he wants to buy twenty per cent of you, Erwin.
20 You're worth a fortune.
21
22 ERWIN. Yes. That's all right, except I won't be able to dope horses any
23 more.
24
25 PATSY. Why not, why won't you?
26
27 ERWIN. 'Cause you made me bet two dollars.
28
29 EVE. That's right, I took it round to Gus.
30
31 PATSY. What's the difference?
32
33 ERWIN. Well, you can't dope them for money. You just have to do it
34 for fun. I wouldn't have any idea who was going to win now. I told
35 you that. (Puts hands to his head.)
36
37 AUDREY. (Crosses below CARVER to R. of ERWIN.) What's the matter,
38 Erwin? Do you want Clary to leave the room?
39
40 ERWIN. Mr. Carver, have you got a pencil?
41
42 CARVER. (Hurrying to get it.) Yes, Erwin, yes, my boy, what is it?
43
44 ERWIN. Take this down:
45 "The race is o'er,
46 We've won, my lad,
47 Love and kisses

1 To dear ol' Dad."

2

3 (Raises one finger indicating Father's Day No 1)

4

5

THE END.