

(Abby, Brophy, Klein, Teddy, Harper)

Abby

Well now, who do you suppose that is? Come in, Mr. Brophy.

Brophy

Hello, Miss Brewster.

Abby

How are you, Mr. Klein?

Klein

Very well, Miss Brewster.

[COPS salute TEDDY who returns salute]

Teddy

What news have you brought me?

Brophy

Colonel, we have nothing to report.

Teddy

Splendid! Thank you, gentlemen! At ease!

Abby

You know Dr. Harper.

Klein

Sure! Hello, Dr. Harper.

Brophy

We've come for the toys for the Christmas Fund.

Abby

Oh, yes.

Harper

That's a splendid work you men do, fixing up discarded toys to give poor children a happier Christmas.

Klein

It gives us something to do when we have to sit around the station. You get tired playing cards and then you start cleaning your gun, and the first thing you know you've shot yourself in the foot.

Abby

Teddy, go upstairs and get that big box from your Aunt Martha's room. How is Mrs. Brophy today? Mrs. Brophy has been quite ill, Dr. Harper.

Brophy

Pneumonia.

Harper

I'm sorry to hear that.

Teddy

CHARGE!

[Runs off]

Brophy

Oh, she's better now. A little weak still...

Abby

I'm going to get you some beef broth to take to her.

Brophy

Don't bother, Miss Abby! You've done so much for her already.

Abby

We made some this morning. Sister Martha is taking some to poor Mr. Benitzky right now. I won't be a minute. Sit down and be comfortable, all of you.

[SHE exits]

Brophy

She shouldn't go to all the trouble.

Klein

Listen, try to stop her or her sister from doing something nice, and for nothing! They don't even care how you vote.

Harper

When I received my call to Brooklyn and moved next door my wife wasn't well. When she died and for months before... well, if I know what pure kindness and absolute generosity are, it's because I've known the Brewster sisters.

(Abby, Martha)

Abby

Teddy! Good news for you. You're going to Panama and dig another lock for the canal.

Teddy

Dee-lighted! That's bully! Just bully! I shall prepare at once for the journey.

Martha

Abby! While I was out?

Abby

Yes, dear! I just couldn't wait for you. I didn't know when you'd be back and Dr. Harper was coming.

Martha

But all by yourself?

Abby

Oh, I got along fine!

Martha

I'll run right downstairs and see.

Abby

Oh, no, there wasn't time, and I was all alone.

Martha

Well...

Abby

Martha... just look in the window seat.

(Mortimer, Elaine)

Mortimer

Where do you want to go to dinner?

Elaine

I don't care. I'm not very hungry.

Mortimer

Well, I just had breakfast. Suppose we wait until after the show?

Elaine

But that'll make it pretty late, won't it?

Mortimer

Not with the little stinker we're seeing tonight. From what I've heard about it we'll be at Blake's by ten o'clock.

Elaine

You ought to be fair to these plays.

Mortimer

Are these plays fair to me?

Elaine

I've never seen you walk out on a musical.

Mortimer

The musical isn't opening tonight.

Elaine

Oh, I was hoping it was a musical

Mortimer

You have such a light mind.

Elaine

Not a bit. Musicals have a humanizing effect on you. After a serious play we join the proletariat in the subway and I listen to a lecture on the drama. After a musical you bring me home in a taxi, and make a few passes.

Mortimer

Now wait a minute, darling, that's a very inaccurate piece of reporting.

Elaine

Oh, I will admit that after the Behrman play you told me I had authentic beauty... And that's a hell of a thing to say to a girl. It wasn't until after our first musical you told me I had nice legs. And I have too.

(Mortimer, Abby, Martha)

Mortimer

When the curtain goes up the first thing you'll see is a dead body.

[Sees dead body in window seat]

Aunt Abby!

Abby

Yes, dear?

Mortimer

You were going to going to make plans for Teddy to go to that... sanitarium... Happy Dale.

Abby

Yes, dear, it's all arranged. Dr. Harper was here today and brought the papers for Teddy to sign. Here they are.

Mortimer

He's got to sign them right away.

Abby

That's what Dr. Harper thinks. Then there won't be any legal difficulties after we pass on.

Mortimer

He's got to sign them this minute! He's down in the cellar... get him up here right away.

Martha

There's no such hurry as that.

Abby

No. When Teddy starts working on the canal you can't get his mind on anything else.

Mortimer

Teddy's got to go to Happy Dale now, tonight.

Martha

Oh, no, dear, that's not until after we're gone.

Mortimer

Right away, I tell you! Right away!

Abby

Why, Mortimer, how can you say such a thing? Why, as long as we live, we'll never be separated from Teddy.

Mortimer

Listen, darlings, I'm frightfully sorry, but I've got some shocking news for you. Now we've all got to tey and keep our heads. You know we've sort of humored Teddy because we thought he was harmless.

Martha

Why, he is harmless!

Mortimer

He was harmless. That's why he has to go to Happy Dale. Why he has to be confined.

Abby

Mortimer, why have you suddenly turned against Teddy? Your own brother?

Mortimer

You've got to know sometime. It might as well be now. Teddy's... killed a man.

Martha

Nonsense, dear.

Mortimer

There's a body in the window seat!

Abby

Yes, dear, we know.

Mortimer

You know!?

Martha

Of course, dear, but it has nothing to do with Teddy.

Abby

Now, Mortimer, just forget about it... forget you ever saw the gentleman.

Mortimer

Forget!?

Abby

We never dreamed you would peek.

Mortimer

But, who is he?

Abby

His name is Hoskins, Adam Hoskins. That's really all I know about him... except that he's a Methodist.

(Jonathan, Einstein)

Einstein

[Having just buried a body in the cellar]

Whew! That's all fixed up. Smooth like a lake. Nobody'd ever know they were down there. That bed feels good already. Forty-eight hours we didn't sleep. Come on, Chonny, let's go up, yes?

Jonathan

You're forgetting, Doctor.

Einstein

Vat?

Jonathan

My brother, Mortimer.

Einstein

Chonny, tonight? We do that tomorrow or the next day.

Jonathan

No, tonight! Now!

Einstein

Chonny, please, I'm tired, and tomorrow I got to operate.

Jonathan

Yes, you're operating tomorrow, Doctor. But tonight we take care of Mortimer.

Einstein

But, Chonny, not tonight... we go to bed, eh?

Jonathan

Doctor, look at me. You can see it's going to be done, can't you?

Einstein

Ach, Chonny... I can see. I know dat look!

Jonathan

It's a little too late for us to dissolve our partnership.

Einstein

OK, we do it. But the quick way. The quick twist like in London.

Jonathan

No, Doctor. I think this calls for something special. I think perhaps the Melbourne method.

Einstein

Chonny, no, not that. Two hours! And when it was all over, what? The fellow in London was just as dead as the fellow in Melbourne.

Jonathan

We had to work to fast in London. There was no esthetic satisfaction in it... but Melbourne, ah, there was something to remember.

(Mortimer, Teddy)

Teddy

Complete insubordination! You men will find out I'm no mollycoddle. When the President of the United States is treated like that... what's this country coming to?

Mortimer

Mr. President, I have good news for you. Your term of office is over.

Teddy

Is it March the fourth?

Mortimer

Practically.

Teddy

Let's see... OH! Now I go on my hunting trip to Africa! Well, I must get started immediately.

[Sees Mr. Witherspoon]

Is he trying to move into the White House before I've moved out?

Mortimer

Who, Teddy?

Teddy

Taft!

Mortimer

This isn't Mr. Taft, Teddy. This is Mr. Witherspoon. He's to be your guide in Africa.

Teddy

Bully! Bully! I'll bring down my equipment. When the safari comes, tell them to wait. Goodbye, Aunt Abby.

Goodbye, Aunt Martha. I'm on my way to Africa, isn't it wonderful? CHARGE!

[Runs off]