

SCENE 5: JANET'S BRIDAL SUITE—AFTERNOON

JANET

(looking in the mirror)

In a few hours I'm going to be Mrs. Robert Martin. Oh, my head is spinning.

MAN pulls down the Murphy bed revealing a longing DROWSY. She has an empty glass in her hand.

DROWSY

Yes, life is a mad whirlwind.

MAN

This is a really interesting scene. This is the only time in the show that Jane Roberts and Beatrice Stockwell are alone together on stage. Jane Roberts was an emerging star, but Beatrice Stockwell was already well established and a force to contend with.

JANET

I'm so full of apprehension, but I suppose that's normal, considering the circumstances. Have you ever been married, Chaperone?

DROWSY

No. I drink for pleasure, not out of necessity.

UNDERLING enters.

UNDERLING

Your "ice water" madam. I'm afraid we're fresh out of olives.

JANET

Have you ever been married Underling?

UNDERLING

Heavens no madam. If I'm going to serve a woman I prefer to be paid for my efforts.

UNDERLING exits.

JANET

Oh you two. I know it seems crazy to give up a successful career to marry a man I hardly know, but somehow, for some reason when I look into his eyes... his big, monkey eyes...ah gee... I get all woozy. And that's love isn't it?

DROWSY

Not necessarily. The wooziness could be caused by any number of things. I mean, I'm woozy right now and I'm certainly not in love.

MAN

Now, Beatrice Stockwell was famous for her rousing anthems. She entertained and inspired the troops in every major world conflict up to and including the Falklands war. Of course, by that time she was in her late eighties and her anthems didn't so

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(MAN)

much rouse as stupefy. Still, she demanded that a rousing anthem be included in every show she ever did, even if it wasn't appropriate. But you just couldn't say no to her. That's star power.

JANET

Really you're not being the least bit helpful. Couldn't you at least allay my fears with a few choice words of inspiration.

#7 - *As We Stumble Along*

DROWSY

Inspiration? Really, dear, that's not my forte.

JANET

Yes. But if you -

DROWSY

AS WE STUMBLE ALONG
ON LIFE'S FUNNY JOURNEY
AS WE STUMBLE ALONG
INTO THE BLUE

WE LOOK HERE AND WE LOOK THERE
SEEKING ANSWERS ANYWHERE
NEVER SURE OF WHERE TO TURN OR WHAT TO DO

STILL WE BUMBLE OUR WAY
THROUGH LIFE'S CRAZY LABYRINTH
BARELY KNOWING LEFT FROM RIGHT
NOR RIGHT FROM WRONG
AND THE BEST THAT WE CAN DO
IS HOPE A BLUEBIRD
WILL SING HIS SONG
AS WE STUMBLE ALONG

JANET

That was quite....

DROWSY

..ALONG

JANET

That was quite nice, Chaperone, but I don't see how it pertains to my situation.

cluded in
didn't say no

Let me explain.

DROWSY

JANET

Oh, really, that's not necessary. I suppose I'm just looking for a sympathetic —
The Chaperone pulls the screen on stage in front of Janet.

my fears with

DROWSY

IT'S A DISMAL LITTLE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE
IT CAN BORE YA' TIL YOU'VE NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE
SEVEN OVER-RATED WONDERS
SEVEN UNDER-WHELMING SEAS
SIX EXCRUCIATING CONTINENTS
ANTARCTICA — OH, PLEASE

MAN

"Antarctica, oh please"

DROWSY

STILL YOU MUSTN'T LET IT LICK YA'
THIS PLANET OH SO BLAND
KEEP YOUR EYEBALL ON THE HIGHBALL
IN YOUR HAND

AS WE STUMBLE ALONG
CROSS LIFE'S CROWDED DANCE FLOOR
AS WE PUSH AND WE SHOVE
WE LIVE AND WE LEARN

AND WHEN WE FIN'LLY LEAVE THE BAR
AND WE SEE THAT MORNING STAR
WE PULL OUR BOOT STRAPS UP AND HOMEWARD TURN
THEN WE STUMBLE AWAY
THROUGH DAWN'S BLINDING SUN BEAMS
BARELY KNOWING RIGHT FROM RIGHT
NOR LEFT FROM WRONG

BUT AS LONG AS WE CAN HEAR
THAT LITTLE BLUEBIRD
THERE'LL BE A SONG

AS WE STUMBLE ALONG

tuation.

ALDOLPHO

La la la la.

MAN

Look who it is! It's Aldolpho come to seduce the bride.

ALDOLPHO

I am Aldolpho!

MAN

Try not to think of the poodles while you're listening to this part.

ALDOLPHO

I am Aldolpho. And you are bride.

DROWSY

No, I am not.

ALDOLPHO

Whaaat? This is bridal suite, you are the only one here. Therefore you must be bride.

DROWSY

Interesting argument, but I'm afraid you are a moron.

ALDOLPHO

Whaaat?

DROWSY

Me - no - bride. Perhaps I could take a message.

ALDOLPHO

Yes, very good... Dear Van De Graaff bride, I must make love to you, and transport you to the place of ecstasy, sooner is better, signed Aldolpho, King of Romance.

DROWSY

Well, you saw through my little ruse. You've found me out.

ALDOLPHO

Ahh, so you are the bride.

DROWSY

Apparently, yes. Take me, Aldollface.

ALDOLPHO

No, no, no, not Aldollface - Aldolpho. You must remember my name for when we are making love and you are screaming you must say the right name or it will spoil everything. How can I make you remember?

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me away

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