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### Abe and Mawruss

Founders Staff

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ABE & MAWRUSS

A. H. Woods

CHANNING  
POLLOCK  
THEATRE  
COLLECTION



HOWARD UNIVERSITY

NOV 13 1915

A B E & M A W R U S S

(Continuing the Story of "POTASH & PERLMUTTER")

A Comedy in Three Acts and a Happy Ending

By

MONTAGUE GLASS & ROI COOPER MEGRUE

A C T I.

Copyright, August, 1915, in all countries of  
the world.

ORIGINAL CAST

(In the Order of their First Appearance)

ABE POTASH.....	BARNEY BERNARD
MAWRUSS PERLMUTTER.....	JULIUS TANNEN
MARKS PASINSKY.....	LEE KOHLMAR
ROSIE POTASH.....	MADAME COTTRELLY
IRMA ANDRIEFF.....	CLAIBORNE FOSTER
RUTH PERLMUTTER.....	LOUISE DRESSER
A WAITER.....	ROBERT GIBSON
KATIE.....	AMY SUMERS
MOZART RABINER.....	LEO DONNELLY
BORIS ANDRIEFF.....	FRED H. SPEARE
HENRY S. WOLF.....	JAMES SPOTTSWOOD
MRS. B. GANS.....	CORINNE REILY BARKER
MR. B. GANS.....	WALTER HORTON
SOL KLINGER.....	CARL HARTBERG
MRS. SOL KLINGER.....	KATHERINE DE BARRY
MISS KLINGER.....	MIGNON HOOD
LEON SAMMET.....	JOSEPH REDMAN
MRS. SAMMET.....	FERIKE BOROS
MR. KAYE.....	W.S. ELY
MRS. KAYE.....	ALICE ENDRES
MISS KAYE.....	JEANETTE MARSHALL
MR. GEIGERMAN.....	DORE ROGERS
MRS. GEIGERMAN.....	MONA MORGAN
DR. EICHENDORFER.....	STANLEY JESSUP
MR. FIXBERG.....	EDWIN MAXWELL
SENATOR MURPHY.....	ROBERT E. HOMANS
MISS COHEN.....	GRACE FIELDING
SIDNEY.....	JACK KENNEDY
A. J. REDMOND.....	ARTHUR HURLEY

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A C T I.

SCENE:-

The Living Room in the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Mawruss Perlmutter. The style is late Paterno, white enameled woodwork, imitation Caen stone fireplace, with two semi-naked ladies supporting the shelf and mirror. The doors are of glass with small square panes; the windows are French.

Up right, double doors lead into the dining-room, with oak wainscoting and weathered oak furniture.

Down right is a door, leading into the library.

Up Left, another door leads into the kitchen.

Left of centre, double doors lead into the lobby, which discloses a hatrack umbrella stand, and wall paper to match Caen stone.

A bay-window is down left, showing another Paterno apartment opposite.

The furnishings of the living room are in white cane with medallions. Sconces in the middle of imitation silk panels light the room.

Buffet table all set is in dining room R.U. On table are the usual large round cake with white icing, chafing dish, coffee urn, nuts, olives, sandwiches demi-tasse cups. Sofa near fire place R. Small round table with silver frame and books R.U. Round table near sofa R.C. arm chair R.C. Small seat below table R.C. Couch down L. Small table L.l. Flowers in box in window L. The floor covering is parquet effect.

TIME:-

The time is August.

When the curtain rises, around a rickety green-covered card-table are disclosed MAWRUSS, ROSIE and PASINSKY playing pinochle, centre - Mawruss

facing audience - Pasinsky chair L.  
Rosie R. ABE is looking on, over  
Rosie's shoulder.

IRMA is up stage, just inside double  
doors of dining-room, near phonograph,  
kneeling before it, looking over some  
records which are piled up in front of  
the cabinet.

At rise of curtain each player has nine  
cards. Rosie plays first card and wins  
trick. Mawruss wins second and third  
tricks - Rosie wins fourth trick. When  
she leads - Abe who has been watching  
groans "Oo-ee and goes up stage -  
Pasinsky wins fifth trick then Abe  
speaks.

Abe  
Nu, Rosie, what is the use? Pay up.

Mawruss  
Let her play her own game.

Abe  
She's murdered that hand.

Rosie  
I can't play when you are looking over my shoulder.

Abe  
Nor any other time, neither.

Rosie  
I was playing all right, till you came and sat behind me, Abe.  
Wasn't I, Mr. Pasinsky?

Pasinsky  
It suited me all right.  
(He plays with a large pile of chips in front of him)

Mawruss  
Nu, Rosie, spiel! We got to quit in a few minutes for the party.

Rosie  
I refuse to go on until Abe promises to keep quiet.  
(Lays cards down)

Abe  
I wouldn't say another word, Rosie, I swear it.  
(Stands L. of Rosie)

Pasinsky

Abe remember a kipper should be seen and not heard.

Rosie

Well who's play - who's play

(Pasinsky leads card then Rosie plays. Abe groans  
Oo-ee and goes up stage)

And what a great flat you got here, Mawruss, to give a swell party --

Mawruss

Ruth picked out the furniture, herself --

Rosie

Ain't it hard to keep clean?

Pasinsky

And such a grand mantelpiece -- girls like the Follies!

(Irma starts the phonograph. "Destiny Waltz")

Rosie

I ask you, please -- don't.

(Irma stops)

Mawruss

Oh, Rosie, let her play!

Rosie

How could I remember the cards when she plays a hesitation --

Pasinsky

Do you dance, Mrs. Potash?

Abe

Dance? Twice a week she goes to the Grand Central Palace --  
twenty-five cents, for a private lesson and partners free ...  
Come here, Irma, maybe you bring your mother luck --

(Mawruss leads card)

(Irma comes over and watches game as Rosie plays another  
card. She sits on seat near table R.C.)

Oo-ee!

Rosie

Abe!

Mawruss

What's the matter with you? Can't you keep still?

Abe

Did I say something?



Pasinsky

(Plays a card)

And we get the last trick.

Abe

Let me count them for you, Rosie,  
(Sits on stool near Rosie)

Irma

But you'd better stop playing now. They'll be here any moment.

Pasinsky

(Fingering chips)

I'm satisfied to quit --

Abe

Irma, who's coming to the party?

Irma

Mr. and Mrs. B. Gans --

Pasinsky

You mean B. Gans of New York?

Mawruss

Sure -- there's only one B. Gans.

Rosie

Next thing, Mawruss, you'll be having Stern Brothers here --  
(Mawruss and Abe are counting the cards)

Mawruss

Why not? I'm ambitious, so's Ruth --

Pasinsky

Mr. and Mrs. B. Gans! Well, well, well --

Irma

And about two dozen more!

Rosie

And only one girl to get up the food for all those people!  
and do the general housework, too -- you got a treasure,  
Mawruss --

Mawruss

No, we got a caterer, one waiter, and they bring their own dishes.

Abe  
Breakage extra, I bet you --

Rosie  
Don't it cost a lot for a caterer?

Mawruss  
Four dollars a couple --

Abe  
Co-ee -- and say fifteen couples --

Mawruss  
But we only ordered for five couples - everyone at a party  
ain't hungry like you, Abe --

Rosie  
Well, are you counting the cards?

Abe  
(Counting cards)  
33, 36 --

Pasinsky  
Mawruss, how does it feel to be a whole year married?

Mawruss  
Great! -- I got the best wife in the world -- Markie --

Abe  
(Counting cards)  
Say, Rosie's all right too -- if she wouldn't play pinochle  
(Counting)  
Sixty -- sixty-two --

Rosie  
You taught me --

Abe  
But you ain't never learned yet -- seventy-one --seventy-three --

Irma  
Why don't you get married, Mr. Pasinsky?

Pasinsky  
A question! If all the girls was as nice as you, Irma, I  
would have been married long ago --

Rosie  
Schmoos, Mr. Pasinsky -- You had lots of chances --

Pasinsky

Chances, yes -- but taking chances on a wife is like needing one card for pinochle and a hundred and fifty spades. You've got to pick a queen! I want just the right girl -- and when I find her --

Mawruss

You won't know she is the right girl --

Abe

Meanwhile you look 'em all over, eh, Markie?

Pasinsky

You bet! -- Theatre, Palace de Tango -- it gives you a line on 'em --

Rosie

#WARNING  
TELEPHONE#

You're wrong, Mr. Pasinsky. That ain't no way to find a good wife --

Pasinsky

Maybe not, but it's a lot of fun -- looking.

Abe

But sometimes a peach in a dance-hall is a lemon in a kitchen, Markie -- seventy-six, seventy-eight --

Irma

Just look at mother and father --

Rosie

Twenty-four years married, and never so much as an unkind look between us!

Abe

(Licking his thumb, to count the cards)  
Eighty-three, eight-four --

Rosie

Abe! You make me sick!

Mawruss

Rosie you lose by two points.  
(Rosie pays each person 2 white chips. Abe goes up stage disgusted)

Rosie

There -- now, you see -- that's your fault, for talkin' to me.

(Pasinsky deals cards)

Abe

My fault! Did I lead twice away from any ace of diamonds?  
Another thing, let them play trump -- why should you play  
trump?

Mawruss

Send for the Coroner, somebody.

Rosie

You are such a grand pinochle player yourself, Abe!

Pasinsky

Umberufen!

(During the following argument, Rosie steals occasional  
chips from the others)

Abe

Well, if I couldn't play a better game of pinochle than you,  
Markie, I would stock to Pisha Pasha or Tiddledywinks!

Pasinsky

Anyhow, me and Mawruss won, didn't we?

Abe

Shall I tell you something, Markie -- You both played that  
hand rotten!

Mawruss

Sh - Somebody ain't comin' -- Will you answer it, Irma?  
(Irma goes to telephone on table in hall L.U.)

#TELEPHONE  
BELL RINGS

Pasinsky

For the last hand -- shall we make it ten cents a hundred --?

Mawruss

I don't care -- a night like this -- an anniversary --

Rosie

Abe, shall I?

(Abe looks at Mawruss and Pasinsky's cards then at  
Rosie's hand)

Abe

I should say not --

Irma

(In phone on table in hall L.U.)  
But, Boris dear, have you forgotten what night this is?

Abe

It's Boris --

Mawruss

Calling up his wife, to say he has a date at the lodge, eh, Abe?

Abe

No, Boris makes a good husband to our Irma, don't he Rosie?

Rosie

Not one night out since they married --

Irma

Hold the wire --

(She comes down stage L. of table C.)

Abe

What is it, Irma -- ?

Irma

Boris wants to bring someone with him to the party -- It's on a business matter --

Abe

We wouldn't do no business tonight with anybody --

Mawruss

Why not?

(Puts cards down on table)

Whose wedding anniversary is it, anyhow, Abe? Couldn't I do business on my own wedding anniversary, if I want to --

Irma

And this is very important -- Henry S. Wolf, he wants to bring with him.

Mawruss

Henry S. Wolf --

Abe

Mr. Stauerman's nephew --

Rosie

Mr. Stauerman's nephew?

Mawruss

Tell him to bring him right away up --

(Irma returns to telephone)

Abe

Tell him to take a taxi -- I'll go fifty-fifty with you, Mawruss --

Irma

(Back to phone)

They say to bring him right up. Good-bye, Boris - I love you -

Pasinsky

Steuerman's nephew! This is a party --

Abe

What do you suppose Mr. Steuerman's nephew can want with us?

Mawruss

How should I know?

Pasinsky

Tell me Abe, what's Boris doing now?

Abe

So far, I seen nothing from my son-in-law but a good future.

Irma

Father!

(X's R. to seat R.1. Picks up phonograph records and registers them in book)

Rosie

Isn't Mr. Steuerman looking out for him?

Abe

Sure, he gave him a job right in his own office in Wall Street in the Stock Exchange.

Mawruss

We should go into stocks, Abe, like Mr. Steuerman.

Pasinsky

It's only a question of getting the real inside information --

Abe

You think you're in on the ground floor and you find yourself in the sub-cellar.

(Irma exits R.U. with phonograph records)

Mawruss

And look at you and me, Abe -- all day long we work like dawgs. And when the year is through, we only make \$20,000 between us.

Pasinsky

Nebich! Only ten thousand dollars a piece --

Abe

And he kicks yet -- Pasinsky --

Mawruss

Sure I kick. Look around you.  
(Rising)

Everybody in New York with any brains is making good money -- Abe and I are smart fellows; we got ideas. We run our business on up-to-date lines. Are we all our lives just to stick in the cloak and suit business? We sell a couple o' thousand dollars' worth of goods, and it's as big to us as the Pennsylvania Railroad. We ought to develop - to expand -- no business can stand still. Take the Universal Cloak and Suit Company -- selling women's suits by mail. Measure yourself, 26, 42 -- and last year they sold just by mail over a million suits to a million women they had never seen. Who are the Universal Cloak & Suit Company? I don't know. But are they smarter as Abe and me? No. But they are a live, up-to-the-minute concern. They took a chance. We should take a chance. We could sell a hundred thousand of our Long Beach model 26 40. Read the papers - Society Brand - College Cut -- Kuppenheimer -- all men's suits; there's a great opportunity for Abe and me with cloaks and suits if we would wake up a little -- and not be just yet a couple of pikers.

Abe

(Rises and X's to Mawruss L.C.)

Say, Mawruss, what's come over you -- You talk as much as Bryan.

Mawruss

Abe, are you for expansion?

Abe

Maybe, I don't know what it is --

Mawruss

Would you rather make \$20,000 than \$10,000 a year?

Abe

Would I? I should say I would.

Pasinsky

(Laughing)

I got to laugh.

Rosie

Mawruss, is right, Abe. Ten thousand ain't much if you want to live nice --

Mawruss

And what's the use of livin' -- if you don't live nice --

Abe

Say! Live nice! If Mrs. Vanderbilt should give Mr. Vanderbilt the gefillite mitz I had for dinner tonight -- then he could call himself a millionaire.

(Irma enters R.U.)

Mawruss

But it costs me all I make to live like this --

Abe

Then don't live like this --- I don't --  
(Mawruss sits, chair C. of table C.)

Rosie

I should say you don't! Why, Mawruss, I'm ashamed to have people see us at all -- an old house in Lexington Avenue, with one maid, and we got to send the washing out -- and \$20 a month when she ain't worth ten. Now, look at Mawruss, He has an elegant flat here -- and all night service. -- and such a marble lobby with real plants, and he has Mr. and Mrs. B, Gans to visit him -- and a caterer -- Nobody comes to see us, except poor relations.

Abe

Say, Rosie, rich friends eats just as much as poor relations -- and they ain't so grateful for it, either.

Mawruss

Sch, Abe! What's a little food! That's the way a business man gets along -- through rich friends -- Look at all them steel trust millionaires! If they hadn't made rich friends, where would they be now?

Abe

Still livin' with their first wives, I suppose --

Pasinsky

Shouldn't we cash in yet?

Mawruss

(Rising)

Well Abe, opportunity only comes a couple of times. Suppose for instance we was in the men's clothing business instead of cloaks and suits --

Abe

But we ain't --



Mawruss

I say, suppose we was. Abe, we could clear a fortune on war orders.

Abe

Say, if we had any war orders, I bet yet that the Kaiser makes peace the day before we ship the goods --

Pasinsky

What is the use of talking like this! The main thing for a live, up-to-date business man is to save your money and invest it in something like real estate --

Mawruss

What for an investment is real estate -- for your children's children -- me, I want mine this year --

(Sits)

Pasinsky

Real estate is A Number 1. I know right now a property -- 33 x 100, new law house owned by MaxGubin

Abe

MaxGubin's house?

Pasinsky

four families to a floor, basement stores and --

Mawruss

'S' enough, Pasinsky -- you talk like an auctioneer in a foreclosure sale --

Pasinsky

This is no foreclosure sales -- all free and clear, worth at least \$100,000 and it can be bought for \$75,000 cash --

Mawruss

And it pays maybe 3% -- I don't care to hear about it at all --

Pasinsky

It pays 8% --

Abe

Tell me about it --  
(Abe sits)

Mawruss

Sure, tell him about it -- he's the easy mark, not me --

Rosie

Say lets play cards for a change.

Pasinsky

What have you got?

Rosie

Four hundred!

Abe

On what?

(Up stage excitedly)

(From dining-room enters Ruth Perlmutter, directing Katie and waiter who are carrying the table with presents - They place table against wall up centre.

(Ruth has on a very stunning and handsome evening gown -- which is a two-piece apron coming up to her neck. As Ruth enters, she is directing the movements of Katie and the waiter)

Ruth

(Her back to audience)

Now, be careful, waiter, don't scratch the paint. Katie, swing your end around -- Look out, or you'll break that glass! There -- now put the table there against the wall --

(They do so)

That's it -- Now, Waiter, you tell Katie when it's time to put the coffee on the gas stove.

Waiter

Yes, ma'am --

Ruth

And Katie, as they only brought ten cups, that won't be near enough, so you'll have to keep washing them. (Waiter & Katie exit)  
(Turning around and surveying them) #WARNING  
Good Heavens! You don't mean to say, Mawruss, that you've BELL# actually dared to start a pinochle game, when people will be here any minute!

Mawruss

We ain't starting it, we're finishing it --

Ruth

I should say you are finishing it. Come, Mawruss, Hurry. Get your evening coat on. Abe, your tie's crooked. Good evening, Mr. Pasinsky - you gather up the cards. Irma, fasten up your mother's dress -- there are three hooks undone -- There! I'll put away the chips --

(She shoves all the chips together, while the others have already begun to carry out her instructions)

Pasinsky

(Talking excitedly in German and English)

(Dropping the cards)

Say, Mrs. Perlmutter, those are my chips --

(To others)

Did you ever see the like! --

Ruth

Oh, which were your chips?

Rosie

And I was a winner, too --

Mawruss

A winner -- you!

Rosie

Yes. What were we playing for, five cents a hundred -- I must have been a dollar ahead --

Ruth

I'm awfully sorry, Rosie, Mawruss'll give you the dollar, but you see, I'm a little excited myself tonight on my anniversary, and I do want the party to go off well -- Give her the dollar, Mawruss --

Abe

(Grinning)

Yes, give her the dollar, Mawruss.

Pasinsky

And what about me --

Rosie

You wasn't as big a winner as me --

Pasinsky

Why, Mrs. Potash, you went back twice in spades, four hundred hands, both times --

Abe

Pasinsky, if you was a married man, you would know it -- when you play with ladies, chips should be paid for strictly in advance.

#DOOR  
BELL#

Ruth

Wasn't that the bell? It's the hall door. Quick

Mawruss, get your coat --

(Mawruss exits hastily R.l.)

Rosie

Is my dress fixed -- ?

Irma

It's all right, mother.

Ruth

Abe, you and Mr. Pasinsky put away the table --

Abe

Where does it go?

Ruth

Oh there, anywhere, --

(Pointing to dining-room)

(Abe and Pasinsky pick it up and carry it to dining-room)

Oh, it's too dreadful, not to be ready for our guests --

(Ruth puts Mawruss's chair up centre against wall, she places Pasinsky's chair upper end of sofa L.C. Rosie puts her chair L. of table R. and Abe's chair in front of table R.)

Rosie

Are you going to receive in that kitchen apron, Ruth --

Ruth

Heavens, I forgot all about it --

(She hastily takes off apron)

Here, Irma, put it somewhere, please --

(Irma takes it and goes out right, as Mawruss enters.)

Mawruss

(Re-entering, in evening coat)

Now I'm ready. Who was it came?

Ruth

Oh, I'm sure it's Mr. and Mrs. B. Gans.

Abe

(Returning with Pasinsky)

Now, everything is ready.

Ruth

Sit down, everybody, please -- try to seem at ease.

(They begin to sit)

(The positions as they sit are - Irma on covered seat R.l. Rosie on stool R. in front of table R. Abe in arm chair L. of table R. Mawruss on chair L.C. Ruth on couch L.C. Pasinsky on lower end of couch L.C. beside Ruth.)

NOTE: Before each speech the pauses are long and will hold)

Irma

Oh, shall I play the phonograph?  
(Rising)

Ruth

For Heaven's sake, no -- oh, do sit down.  
(Irma sits. They are now all seated, in an attitude of expectancy)

Mawruss

I feel as if I was having my picture taken --

Abe

Lookunpleasant, everybody, please --  
(There is a second's pause)  
(Staring, stiffly ahead)

Well, we're waiting --  
(Another pause -- Pasinsky *sneeze*)

Mawruss

S-sh!

Pasinsky

Pardon me -- I really got a cold --  
(Another pause)

Irma

Shall I see if anyone did come?

Ruth

No, no. I know it was the hall bell.

Abe

(Rising and looks off L.U.)  
Nu, all this excitement and nobody comes --

Ruth

Sit down -- s-sh! --  
(Abe sits)

Rabiner

(Off stage L.U.)  
You needn't bother to announce me --

Ruth

It's B. Gans' voice -- I knew it --  
(RABINER enters in immaculate evening dress, gardenia, etc. Stands centre)

Rabiner

Why, how do you do, Mr. Potash and Mr. Perlmutter?  
(All rise. Pasinsky still sits)

Mawruss

Abe, look.

Ruth

Why, it's Mozart Rabiner.

Irma

I thought you discharged him, father --?

Rosie

I'm surprised he should come, at all.

Abe

Mawruss, did you ask that man here?

Mawruss

Me! I ain't ever thought of the feller since I kicked him out of the door a year ago.

Rabiner

Not forgotten me, I see. Well, that's my personality.

(Ruth starts to leave, followed by Rosie and Irma)

Don't go, ladies. My business here can be explained in front of you all.

Abe

Your business? We don't want to talk business here, Rabiner. This is Mrs. Perlmutter's wedding anniversary.

(Abe starts to sit when Rabiner takes him by the arm, swings Abe around and sits in Abe's chair)

Rabiner

(Sitting down)

I know it - that's why I came. Mr. Perlmutter, when a man has been married a year, he wants to look matters squarely in the face. It is time to take stock, to balance accounts, to be honest with himself, to face the future, for there is no dodging the issue.

(Mawruss and Ruth stroll to window L. to get away from Rabiner. Rabiner follows talking all the while.)

(Irma and Rosie sit)

Time conquers all things, the sturdy oaks decay -- the greatest edifices crumble -- the mighty mountains are levelled -- magnificent cities are turned to dust. Where is the ancient glory that was Rome's? And man is but mortal. You, Mr. Perlmutter -- you, on this, the first anniversary of your marriage, you owe it to yourself to ask this question - If I should

die tomorrow, what would happen to my wife?

Mawruss  
Say, what are you talking about?

Ruth  
The man's crazy --

Rosie  
And you sowell, Mawruss - why should he think you should die tomorrow -- ?

Abe  
(Down R. near Rosie)  
And anyhow, if he should - what's that your business, Rabiner?

Rabiner  
As much my business as yours, Mr. Potash,  
(Xing to Abe R.)  
and take yourself for another example. Suppose you should die tomorrow --

Abe  
You'll die tonight, Rabiner, if you don't get out of here --

Rabiner  
Now, Mr. Potash, don't get excited - what is your blood pressure?  
(Rosie and Irma rise)  
Look how he grows red in the face when all I ask is to discuss quietly a business proposition with Mr. Perlmutter.

Mawruss  
And what is this business proposition?  
(Xing to L.C.)

Rabiner  
While like the rest of us.  
(Xing to Mawruss)  
Mr. Perlmutter you seem to be in rugged health, are you? When did you last see your doctor? Have you reflected that in the midst of life, we are in death, and if the grim Reaper should suddenly overtake you -- as overtake all of us he must - have you arranged that your wife shall receive the protection that is her due--

Abe  
Mawruss! He is talking life insurance!  
(Horrorified expression. All turn backs on Rabiner)

Rabiner

I have here, Mr. Perlmutter, a specimen policy of our twenty-year deferred payment plan, involving a small premium annually, that at the expiration of the twenty years will return your investment with handsome interest, or should you die tomorrow will pay to Mrs. Perlmutter --

Mawruss

'S' enough, Rabiner - out of here before I throw you out!

Pasinsky

I think, Rabiner, you would better go --

Rabiner

Why, it's Mr. Pasinsky!

(X's down to Pasinsky stands R. of him)

How do you do! Could I perhaps interest you?

Pasinsky

I am already insured by three lodges and two insurance companies -- geh weg! geh weg! geh weg!

Ruth

(Laughing)

If you weren't so funny, you'd be too impertinent for words. Imagine coming here tonight, to talk business --

Rabiner

Forgive me, dear lady, it is not business that brings me here -- not for my little commission. My work is bigger -- broader -- It is for the protection of women like you and Mrs. Potash and your daughter, Mr. Potash -- it is for the protection of the widows and orphans -- that is my life work --

Ruth

But there are no widows and orphans here --

Rabiner

But alas, for how long can you say that --

Irma

Oh, Papa, does he think you're going to die?  
(Xing in front of Rosie to Abe)

Abe

No. For dead men pay no premiums.  
(Rosie rises)

Mawruss

And without premiums, there ain't no commissions --



Abe

(Angrily)

Enough of talking, Mawruss -- Nu, faker, will you go --

Rabiner

(Centre)

Don't excite yourself, Mr. Potash-- I beg of you -- and another thing, Mrs. Potash -- have him see his doctor - his blood pressure should be looked into. And by the way, Mr. Potash, haven't you an intermittent pulse -- haven't you a murmur in your heart?

Abe

No, but I'm getting a murmur in my foot  
(Raising his right foot)

Rabiner

Mrs. Perlmutter, I hope you'll forgive my intruding this tragic note at a happy time like this, but --  
(Irma sits chair in front of table R.C.)

Ruth

I'll forgive anything, if you'll just stop talking like insurance .

Rosie

And say, Mister, would you go, please --

Rabiner

Anything to oblige the ladies --  
(Rosie sits R.l.)

Mr. Potash and Mr. Perlmutter I shall call on you at your office--

Abe

I'll be glad to see you, We've got an awful strong shipping clerk for people like you, Rabiner.

Rabiner

Perhaps I can interest him. Oh by the way Mrs. Perlmutter as you are giving a party if you need any more guests I'll be only too glad to stay.

Abe

And what should he know of a party -- a life insurer -- ?

Rabiner

With your blood pressure, Mr. Potash, I wouldn't argue with you --- but parties -- believe me, there's nothing I couldn't tell you about the usages of good society --

Katie

(Entering from dining-room R.U.)

Mrs. Perlmutter, the caterer man says will you have mayonnaise or French dressing on the salad?

Ruth

(Reproachfully) (L.C.)

Oh, Katie, how can you?

(Katie exits)

Rabiner

A perfectly natural question. And, between ourselves, Mrs. Perlmutter, the best people are often puzzled by it.

Abe

Now he's going to talk salad dressing --

Rabiner

(C)

And why not?

Mawruss

(L)

Because we don't want to hear nothing of it --

Rabiner

(To Mrs. Perlmutter)

As I was about to say, Mrs. Perlmutter, don't have either French or mayonnaise. The really smart people are now using a Graeco-Roman dressing --

Abe

Now he talks wrestling matches!

Ruth

Really? Graeco-Roman! -- I never heard of it --

Rabiner

You take a pint of Tarragon vinegar, three tablespoonfuls of salt, half a teaspoonful of pepper, a tablespoon of paprika and a pinch of allspice.

Abe

Sounds nice and cool.

Rabiner

Mix with a pint of oil at about blood temperature, which Mr. Potash, in a normal person should be 98  $\frac{3}{5}$  degrees Fahrenheit, grate one onion, about the size of -- er -- an onion. Add the yolks and whites of five and a half eggs, beaten separately. At the last moment, before serving, add a champagne glass full of curacao --

Abe  
 Couldn't you also throw in a horseshoe for luck?

Rabiner  
 It sounds complicated, but it's delicious. I've made it a dozen times with great success --

Mawruss  
 And do people eat it --

Abe  
 Yes, after he first insures them.

Rabiner  
 Eat it! -- Once they taste Graeco-Roman, they never eat any other kind of dressing --

Mawruss  
 -- Or anything else either --

Ruth  
 Do you mind, Mawruss, if we try it? It might be fun.

Mawruss  
 I mind nothing, if you get him away --

Rabiner  
 I await your commands, dear lady --

Irma  
 I'd love to learn.  
 (Rising)  
 Boris is so fond of salad. Come mother.

Rosie  
 (Rising)  
 I'll watch him, but Abe, and me, we stick to oil and vinegar with a little sugar.

Abe  
 You bet your life --

Rabiner  
 Now lead me to the kitchen  
 (Starts up R. Ruth goes to door R.U.)  
 and give me ten minutes -- then try it -- that's all I ask --

Abe  
 If you do me a favor, Ruth -- you lead him to the fire escape --

Rabiner

(As he goes)

One thing more, Mr. Potash.  
(Down to Abe R.)

Abe

What is it now?

Rabiner

Never wear a white tie with a dinner jacket, and never wear a dinner jacket anyway, when ladies are present -- Remember that --

(He goes to door R.U.)

(Going up R.)

Ruth

I'm not sure we have any curacao --

Rabiner

Oh, claret or sherry will do just as well --  
(They exit R.U. in dining-room)

Rosie

(Going to L. of Abe R.)

I begged you, Abe, to put on your full dress suit.  
(She goes out R.U.)

Irma

Never mind, father

(Xing to L. of Abe R.)

I think you look grand. I wish you'd dress up every night --

(She exits R.U.)

Abe

God forbid -- Blood pressure! That's something new!

Rasinsky

(Sitting on sofa L.)

And his salad dressing -- an onion the size of an onion --

Mawruss

(L.C.)

Anyhow, there's something in what the feller says. Suppose I should die tomorrow.

Abe

You should die!

(Xing to Mawruss)

Suppose I should die -- I give the business a month.

(Walks away a few steps)

Mawruss

Say, a tough customer like you, ain't killed off so easy.

Abe

Is that so? I stand just as much show of dying as anybody does.

Mawruss

Well, go ahead. I ain't stopping you.

Abe

I know you ain't. I could be dead long since, from what I've got to put up with, down at the store.

Mawruss

You've got to put up with! If you'd got to put up with from me what I've got to put up with from you, Abe, you would burst a blood pressure every ten minutes.

Pasinsky

Geh weg, Mawruss.

(Rises and X's to C.)

I bet you both got blood pressure like plumbing.

Now I got to go. I got to meet Miss O'Brien.

Abe

(R?C.)

Another peach from the Palace de Tango, eh, Markie?

Pasinsky

(C)

And such a peach! That poor girl! She is waiting for me 42nd Street Riker's ten minutes now -- She will think I am standing her up --

Abe

Well, why don't you call at her house for her?

Pasinsky

Call for her? -- She lives out at Flatbush! In her neighborhood a bloodhound could get twisted.

(Shakes hands)

Good-bye, Mawruss, and give my best congratulations to Ruth again.

(Goes up L.)

Mawruss

I will, Markie, and thank you for the present --

Pasinsky

Schmoos Mawruss isn't this your anniversary? And what's a few nut picks?

(Exit L.U.)

Abe and Mawruss

Good-bye, goodbye.

Abe

Nut picks. That feller knows how to save money all right. Where are they?

Mawruss

(Over to table up C.)

Here, with all the other gifts to my Ruth.

Abe

(Going over)

Oo-ee.

(Abe picks up cut glass bowl)

Must have costed at least one hundred green certificates. Such a lot of silver -- and here is Markie's nut picks -- got 'em at a five-and-ten-cent store, I bet --

Mawruss

Say, after all, Abe, he is a customer, whereas Rashkind, the button man, sends us only a half dozen coffee spoons.

Abe

Are them coffee spoons? I thought they was patent dress fasteners--

Mawruss

Well, after all, there ain't much profit in buttons. The International Lining Company sends us this here tea set.

Abe

By Golly, must have cost fifty dollars.

Mawruss

What are you talking -- fifty dollars! There it is the price mark.

(The price mark is a string tag tied to cover of box) a hundred and fifty dollars. They left it on, on purpose.

Abe

Let me see --

(Makes memorandum)

Mawruss

What are you doing?

Abe

I'm making a memorandum Miss Cohen should credit me seventy five dollars on the lining account.

Mawruss

What for?

Abe

One half a hundred and fifty is seventy-five, ain't it?

Mawruss

You mean you expect to get half the value of the lining company's tea set?

Abe

Why not? I pay half the lining company's bills, don't I?

Mawruss

Oh, you want to be credited with half the value of all my anniversary presents?

Abe

Not all of them. I wouldn't be small with you, Mawruss -- I could spare you the nut picks and coffee spoons --

Mawruss

Don't do me no favors, Abe. No one asks you for your suggestions about these presents anyway. This is my anniversary and if you don't like it, Abe, nobody compels you to -

Abe

Well, if that's the way you feel about, where is my hat?  
(X's down R.)

Mawruss

But listen, Abe --  
(Following Abe)

Abe

There's a limit to hospitality even from partners.

(Enter IRMA) (R.U.)

Irma

Mr. Perlmutter, what's the matter?

Abe

Never mind, I stood enough.

Irma

Mr. Perlmutter, where's father going?

Mawruss

I don't know, Home maybe.

Abe

He would like me to, but after I spend hours getting dressed like this - I'll stay for spite -

(Sits on seat R.l.)

(BORIS enters L.U.)

Boris

Hello darling!

(Embraces Irma)

(WOLF enters L.U.)

Irma darling meet Mr. Wolf.

(Irma X'S to sofa L.C. after introduction)

Wolf

Delighted to know you Mrs. Andrieff -

Boris

Shake hands with Mr. Perlmutter.

(Perlmutter X's L. shakes hands)

And this is my father-in-law, Mr. Wolf.

(Wolf x's R. to Abe)

Abe

Have a seat Mr. Wolf

(Offer the stool)

Any friend of Boris is welcome in my house.

(Boris and Irma are sitting on sofa L.)

Mawruss

He means my house.

Abe

Both our houses. We're partners. Mr. Wolf. I hope your uncle is well unberufen.

Wolf

He's splendid. If he'd known I was coming here to see you he would wish to be remember to you ---

Mawruss

You hear, Abe?

Abe

(Shrugging shoulders)

Sure, I hear.

Wolf

(Goes up C.)

I feel an intruder, coming here on the night of your wedding anniversary ---



Mawruss

(Sitting L.U.)

That's nothing! Mr. Steuerman's nephew is very welcome always.

Abe

(Sitting R.C.)

Sure ---- what's a couple of sandwiches.

Boris

Now father, and Mr. Perlmutter -- Mr. Wolf wants to put this proposition up to you --

Abe

(R.C.)

Again -- a proposition ---

Mawruss

Abe -- let Mr. Wolf talk can't you?

Wolf

(Standing centre)

I may say at the start that this is a proposition that has my uncle Mr. Steuerman's approval --- for it is the kind of thing that he himself is constantly handling with the success that has made him so justly famous.

Abe

Well, if Mr. Steuerman approves, it must be good ---

Mawruss

For once in your life, Abe, you are right ---

Abe

What is it -- not war orders?

Wolf

It is this, gentlemen. How would you like to turn your firm of Potash & Perlmutter into Potash & Perlmutter, Incorporated capitalized at say \$250,000 and retaining a majority of the stock yourselves, to sell the balance to the public for the development of the business, voting to yourselves such yearly salaries as your twenty years' reputation for hard work and honesty justly entitles you? How would you legitimately like to increase your income by fifty thousand dollars a year?

Abe

How would I like to own the Singer Building -- but who's going to give it to me?

Wolf  
The public, Mr. Potash, the public.

Abe  
Yes, but the Public don't own it.

Mawruss  
Abe, for Heavens sake, be quiet, can't you?  
(Angrily)

Wolf  
With more capital you could do a greater volume of business  
and with more business, more profits ---

Abe  
Where's the capital coming from?

Mawruss  
From the public.

Abe  
Mawruss, for Heaven's sake, be quiet, can't you. Let Mr.  
Wolf talk ---

Wolf  
Mr. Perlmutter is quite right -- the public will give you the  
capital.

Abe  
Why?

Wolf  
They will buy stock in your firm.

Abe  
Who's going to sell it to 'em?

Wolf  
Your son, Boris, and I --  
(Boris rises proudly)

Abe  
You, may be -- but Boris, he couldn't sell records to a man  
if ~~he~~ gave him the phonograph free.  
(Boris sits)

Mawruss  
What's this got to do with Potash & Perlmutter, Incorporated?

Wolf  
As I was saying, with proper flotation, which I will handle,  
your stock should find a ready market in Wall Street.

Abe

Wall Street?

(Rises)

How can a cloak and suit manufacturer do business in Wall Street? Even Fourteenth Street is too far down town nowadays --

Wolf

No, no, Wall Street, is where the stock would be sold.

(Abe returns to his chair)

Now, you and Mr. Perlmutter are too smart to stay in your present small business. The modern note is incorporation, expansion, publicity, and greater profits ---

Abe

(Rises, goes to Wolf C.)

Looky here, Mr. Wolf. What is the use of beating bushes around? It's like this, ain't it? We are to make more money out of our business, by putting 'incorporated' after the name, Potash & Perlmutter, and we don't run no risks. Also, it's an honest, legitimate, A. No 1. proposition, the same as Henry Steuerman goes in every day. Am I right?

Wolf

Absolutely.

Abe

Schon gut! Then I am willing we should go into it. Am I right, Mawruss?

Mawruss

For the second time in your life, Abe.

Abe

When was the first?

Mawruss

When you went into partnership with me --

Boris

You really mean you'll do it?

Irma

Oh, Father, I'm so glad!

Wolf

(Xing down R.1.)

Then, now, we can get down to details --

Abe

(Rising)

But before we settle it, I should like to talk it over with Rosie first.

Mawruss

Go ahead. I've got no objection. Call her in --

Abe

Well, ain't you got a wife, too?

Mawruss

My wife's a business woman -- I can speak for her.

Abe

Say, a business woman can speak for herself -- I'll call 'em both in.

(Goes to door R.U.)

Ruth, Rosie-- come in --

Rosie

(Off stage)

Just a minute, Abe -- You'd better stop stirring it so much.

Ruth

It looks now as if it'd curdle again --

Abe

What are you bothering your heads with salad -- we got business to attend to in here --

(He puts his head in door)

Ruth

(Entering excitedly from R.U. Rosie enters goes to Abe R.)

(To Abe)

Business on our wedding anniversary?

Abe

Sure --

Mawruss

That's a good time to celebrate, by putting through a big deal ---

Boris

Good evening, Mrs. Perlmutter. This is Mr. Wolf, Mr. Steuer-  
man's nephew --

Ruth

(Centre)

How do you do, Mr. Wolf.

Wolf

Delighted -- delighted to know my old friend Morris Perlmutter's wife.

Abe

And this is my wife, Mr Wolf.

(Sa)  
*Abe.*  
 (Shake hands with the gentleman)

Rosie

Pleased to meet you.  
 (Rosie X's to Mr. Wolf R.L. shakes hands then sits  
 on seat R. in front table R.C.)

Mawruss

Now we're all here -- go ahead, Mr. Wolf  
 (His arm around Ruth)

Abe

(R)

And cut out all the modern notes and the expansions -- just  
 be quick ---  
 (Abe sits chair R. on Rosies L.)

Wolf

(R.L.)

We want to incorporate Potash and Perlmutter ---

Ruth

(C)

Who wants to --

Wolf

Mr. Steuerman and I --

Ruth

Oh! ---

Rosie

We're going into business with Mr. Steuerman?

Wolf

Potash and Perlmutter to retain a controlling interest, but  
 to make additional profits through the expansion of business  
 by virtue of the sale of stock to the public. Do you see,  
 Mrs. Perlmutter?

Ruth

(Standing centre)

Yes, I see.

Mawruss

(Sitting L.C.)

And it's great, ain't it? We could move from here, and have  
 a house on Riverside Drive, and an oitermobile and a shover.

Rosie  
And so could we, Mawruss ---

Irma  
(On sofa L.)  
And think what it would mean to Boris and me ---

Abe  
More money and no risks. It's a great idea, Ruth, ain't, it?

Ruth  
The idea, is a good one.

Mawruss  
Then it's all settled.

Ruth  
Before we actually go ahead, don't you think it would be just as well if we talked things over alone first ---

Wolf  
Absolutely -- absolutely -- and very proper. You can't be too careful in a thing like this ---

Ruth  
(Eyeing him)  
I think not, either.

Boris  
(Rising)  
Mr. Wolf, and I can go into the library ---

Mawruss  
And help yourself to the cigars you'll find the keys in the safe.  
(Boris X's to R. talks to Rosie)

Wolf  
(Going up to Abe)  
Well, talk it over, but remember, as my old friend Abe Potash says, more money and no risks.  
(Slaps Abe on the back)

(Wolf and Boris exit R.l. in library)

Mawruss  
(L.C.)  
Now, Ruth, what is it?

Ruth  
(C)  
Mawruss and Abe -- you know I'm very fond of you. You're both clever men! you've made a success in your honest, legit-

mate business, but it's a small business and you've done it in a small way.

Mawruss

Are you disappointed in me?

Ruth

I'm proud of you --

Abe

(R.C. turning away)

But she's onto us, Mawruss ---

Ruth

Yes, I'm onto you, you're not smart enough to go down into Wall Street. I don't know much about Wall Street, neither do you -- but I do know that men down there are a thousand times cleverer than all of us put together. Here, where we belong, we're big frogs in a small puddle -- we know how to meet our competitors Mawruss knows how to design for the trade. Abe knows how to sell to our customers. But down there, they'll laugh at us, we'll be the smallest kind of frogs. I beg of you both, don't go into this scheme.

Mawruss

Now Ruth, after all, you're a woman -- You don't understand business like a man. And I tell you this scheme's all right --

Abe

Sure, and Mr. Wolf's all right -- he's Steuerman's nephew.

Ruth

Does that make him all right? Cain and Abel belonged to the same family too. King George and the Kaiser are cousins. You don't know anything about Mr. Wolf -- and I think he talks too much -- he's too flowery -- too full of "my dear lady" --

Irma

But Boris knows about him --

(Rising and X's to Ruth C.)

Ruth

But my dear, Boris is only a boy -- What does he really know of this scheme?

Irma

It's as much Boris's idea as it is Mr. Wolf's And Oh father he's

(Xing to Abe)

worked so hard over it! He wants to repay you for all you and Mr. Perlmutter have done for him.

Abe  
So far as that goes, I don't want to get repaid. I'm your father, Irma leben, and like any father, I naturally expect my daughter's husband would be a little expense to me once in a while -

(Pause then Irma exits R.U.)

Ruth  
I beg of you both not to go into it --

Mawruss  
S-sh -- s-sh -- Ruth, your imagination is workin' over time --

Abe  
What do you say, Rosie?

Rosie  
I say yes, Abe, I'm sick of Lexington Avenue.  
(Goes up stage)

Ruth  
Why do you want to do this thing, Mawruss?

Mawruss  
I want to be something more than what you said, Ruth -- just a small cloak and suit manufacturer -- I want you to have the place that belongs to you -- I want to do for you what other men do for their wives --  
(Mawruss puts both hands on Ruth's shoulder affectionately)  
men like B. Gans.

Abe  
Me too, Rosie --

Ruth  
But I don't want those things. I'm perfectly happy now -- and forgive me, both of you -- but can you be more than what you are? Are you smart enough to compete with these Wall Street people?

#WARNING  
DOOR BELL#

Mawruss  
(Ruth goes up centre dejectedly)  
Süre! Ain't we, Abe?

Abe  
A question!

Mawruss  
As a matter of fact, Abe, she don't really know nothing against it --



Abe

Just woman's tuition --

Mawruss

And that ain't never right ---

Rosie

And Boris and Irma wouldn't do anything crooked --

Ruth

Don't I know that?

(Comes down stage C.)

Oh, I think it's cruel, to spoil my first wedding anniversary like this!

(Xing down L.)

Mawruss

There, there, Ruth! -- I don't mean to spoil it --

Ruth

Then won't you promise, both of you, to wait a little longer, to investigate more, before you decide. Don't settle it tonight.

Mawruss

(With a wink at Abe)

Sure, we promise anything on a wedding anniversary --

Abe

(Winking back)

Sure, we do.

(Business of nudging each other)

Ruth

Thank you, Mawruss. Now that's settled --

Rosie

(Up stage R. to exit)

Yes, so we'd better go back to the salad dressing ---

(Ruth X's to centre)

Abe

Say, ain't that feller Rabiner gone yet?

Ruth

(C)

Well, we asked him to stay to the party --

Abe

Now, my evening's ruined --

(R)

Mawruss

(L)

Why should he stay -- at a nice, respectable party?

Ruth

(Smiling)

Ask Rosie --

(Rosie comes down stage)

Rosie

(Weakly)

Well, he promised to teach me a new step in the hesitation --

Abe

The old saying is a true one, 'He who is a hesitator is lost' -

Mawruss

Abe, when he comes back, I insult that feller good --

Abe

You could as much insult that feller as you could kill a rhinoceros with a nut pick.

#THE DOOR  
BELL RINGS#

Ruth

The bell again! This time, it must be some of the party. I'll see if everything's ready --

Rosie

Wait, Ruth, I'll come help you -  
(Starts up R.)

Ruth

No, no, you stay here, and entertain the guests. I'll be back directly.

(Exit R.U.)

Rosie

(Prinking)

I hope I'll do all right --, I've never been to such an elegant party before --

Abe

Say Mawruss, your wife's a smart woman -- with all that talk she gave us about Wall Street --

Katie

(Enters L.U.)

Mr. and Mrs. B. Gans.

(Enter Mr. & Mrs. B. Gans)

(Rosie X's to Gans C. and shakes hands)

(They greet everybody. "How do you do etc.")

Mawruss

Good evening, Mrs. Gans.

Mrs. Gans

Congratulations, Mr. Perlmutter, Many happy returns of the day! Why, how do you do, Mrs. Potash.

(Shakes hands with Rosie)

(Rosie goes up R. all the while watching Mrs. Gans)

Gans

(L.C.)

(Shakes hands with Mawruss)

Well, Perlmutter, I suppose you feel like an old married man, now?

Mawruss

(L.)

It seems longer than a year since I lived in hotels -- a lonesome bachelor --

Gans

(L.C.)

You're certainly very comfortable here --

Abe

(R.1.)

I should say so. When me and Rosie was married a year, we--

Rosie

(C xing to Abe R.)

(Trying to stop him)

Abe, ain't you going to tell Boris to come in?

Abe

I was saying, when me and Rosie was married a year, we lived on Forsyth Street in one room and kept 2 boarders yet.

Mrs. Gans

(Up stage C.)

What a lot of beautiful presents you have, Mr. Perlmutter!

Abe

If he has a party every year, by the time he's married twenty years, he could go into the second hand silver business.

Rosie

Come, Mrs. Gans

(Xing to Present table C.)

I show you them -- all genuine -- made from the solid silver.

Mrs. Gans

(L)

You don't say!

(They go up to presents on table up C.)

Gans

Anniversary's must be more profitable than the garment business, Potash. There isn't much money in cloaks and suits nowadays,

Mawruss

That's what we were just saying --

Abe

Sure, there's times you got to expand --

Gans

True, very true --

Abe

There ain't much money in the cloak and suit business if we sell a couple of thousand dollars worth of goods it seems to us as big as the Erie railroad --

Mawruss

(Disgusted with Abe)

Schemeil Erie Railroad.

Abe

What is the difference what railroad it is - Then there's something about the modern note - well Mawruss will tell you the rest - Don't you think we ought to ask Mr. Gans's advice?

Mawruss

You see, Mr. Gans, we're thinking of incorporating, expanding -- advertising --

B. Gans

Indeed, indeed! That's a very interesting idea --

Abe

Say, Mawruss -- we should take Mr. Gans into the library and have him meet Mr. Wolf, Henry Steuerman's nephew --

Gans

Is Mr. Steuerman interested in the matter?

Mawruss

Very much so.

Gans

Well -- Steuerman is a financier of the highest standing --

Abe  
And it's his nephew going to flotation it --

Gans  
Then you don't need my opinion --  
(X's down extreme L.)

Abe  
But we'd like it --  
(Mawruss and Abe follow)

Mawruss  
Because, Mr. Gans, you certainly know cloaks and suits and  
you got all the money in the world --

Gans  
The world is a large place.

Abe  
Well, say all the money in New York, then --

Mawruss  
Come let's talk it over, because soon we got to come back  
to the party -- We been keeping Mr. Wolf waiting a long time  
as it is --

Gans  
Go along, gentlemen, I'll join you in a minute -- I must speak  
to Mrs. Gans for a moment --

Abe and Mawruss  
Sure, sure --  
(They move quickly R. Abe in advance)

Abe  
Gans is a great man.

Mawruss  
If we can get Mr. Gans interested it will be the biggest thing  
in the world.  
(They exit R.1.)

Gans  
Emma, just a minute --  
(Xing R.)

Mrs. Gans  
Excuse me, Mrs. Potash; they're beautiful gifts --

Rosie  
And yours is the most beautiful! Look at that dirty waiter --  
He's got finger marks on these bowls -- excuse me --

(And she hurries out R.U.)

Mrs. Gans

(Over to husband)

What is it?

(R.C.)

Gans

I've got to leave you for a few minutes -- to give some advice to Potash and Perlmutter ----

Mrs. Gans

(L.C.)

What dreadful people! Why on earth did you ever come! --

Gans

Say, with our business the way it is, it doesn't hurt to keep in with everybody.

Mrs. Gans

Is business worse again?

Gans

With the way you spend money, certainly it is.

Mrs. Gans

Well, you don't expect me to live like these people --

Gans

Heaven forbid!

Mrs. Gans

What possible business can you have with them?

Gans

They're going to incorporate or some fool scheme. It might be a chance for me to declare in for a bit of the company.

Mrs. Gans

You'd put money in their business? --

Gans

Where'd I get it from? No, my dear, I'd have them put money in my business --

(ROSIE re-enters with tea-towel and polishes silver)

Mrs. Gans

Then for Heaven's sake - hurry to them -- I'll manage to stand it here somehow -- look at that silly old woman actually polishing those tin presents!

Gans

By-bye, dear -- and trust me to do my best --

Mrs. Gans

(He exits R.l.)

(Mrs. Gans, coming over to Rosie)

Oh, my dear, in these days, what a comfort to see a domestic woman like you!

Rosie

Say, I like to see things clean --

Ruth

(Up centre)

(Entering)

Oh Mrs. Gans, I'm sorry not to have been here to welcome you, My husband only just told me you'd arrived --

Mrs. Gans

Oh, that's quite all right -- I know what parties are -

(X down R.l. and sits)

Ruth

Rosie, hide that dish towel --

Katie

(Entering)

Mr. and Mrs. Sol Klinger and Miss Klinger.

(When they enter Katie announces Mr. and Mrs. Sammett)

(They enter greet one another, with "How do you dos")

How sweet you look Mrs. Klinger etc --

(Waiter goes to buffet table in dining-room with champagne and pail - Pours the wine for the guests. Rabiner enters on same cue with bowl of lettuce. Seeing Mr. Klinger he puts dish on table and greets Mr. Klinger, takes him by the arm)

Rabiner

Well, well, if it isn't my old friend --

Klinger

Pardon me Mr - Mr.

Rabiner

Rabiner, Mozart Rabiner -

(Leads Klinger over to couch near fire-place proceeds to talk life insurance - Ruth leads guests to buffet table in dining-room. Rosie escorts Mrs. Gans to dining-room)

Ruth

You all know each other?

(All answer)

All

Surely - yes, yes, ad lib -

Abe

(Enters from library R.l. going centre)

By golly, that fellow Wolf can talk the legs off the piano --

Rabiner

(Rabiner on couch, near fire-place R. with Mr. Klinger)

The sturdy oaks decay, the greatest edifices crumble, the mighty mountains are levelled ---

Abe

(Has stopped and is listening to Rabiner)

Say, Rabiner, we'll have to charge you office rent -  
(Katie announces)

Katie

Mr. and Mrs. Kaye and Miss Kaye.

(Ruth receives them "How sweet you look etc. and escorts them to dining-room - Abe goes to Mr. Kaye)

Abe

Hello Kaye, <sup>you're late</sup> you're partner is a couple dozen sandwiches ahead of you. Come on hurry and catch up.

(Kaye exits to dining room)

(Klinger seeing Kaye)

Klinger

Excuse me Mr. Rabiner there's my friend Kaye.

(Both go R.U. and eat salad)



Ruth  
(Coming down)(L.C.)

Abe, what's happening in there now?

Abe

(R.C.)

Boris, Wolf and Mr. Gans are talking it over, there's nothing settled.

Ruth

It's dreadful of Mawruss to act this way at his own party.

Abe

Well, ain't he entertaining the most important guest -- B. Gans and he leaves me here with all the competitors.

(During this scene all guests are eating, drinking in dining room R.U., Rabiner and Kaye are sitting near fire-place R.)

Ruth

I don't like Mr. Gans --

Abe

You haven't met him.

Ruth

But I looked him over, while he was sitting there in the library.

Abe

Sure, woman's tuition again - Say Ruth, would it be all right if I went and sat down somewhere? My feet hurt, --

Ruth

Go get Irma -- ask her to come in, to play the phonograph --

Abe

Don't ask me to dance Ruth -- my feet are terrible --  
(Starts to exit as Ruth goes and joins group of women)

Katie

Mr. and Mrs. Geigerman.

(Ruth greets them)

Abe

At last a customer!

(Enter Mr. & Mrs. Geigerman L.U.) *Ruth greets them*

Ruth

How sweet you look Mrs. Geigerman?

Abe

How do you do, Mr. Geigerman and Mrs. Geigerman.

(Makes up to them effusively)

Every time I see you, Mrs. Geigerman, you are looking younger.

(Mrs. Geigerman giggles)

Ruth  
I'm so glad to know you, Mrs. Geigerman. You must forgive me if I tell you how sweet you look.  
(Mrs. Geigerman giggles)

Abe  
Everything comes in this house.

Ruth  
Have you been away from Rochester long?

Geigerman  
We just got here this morning.  
(Xing to Abe R.)  
(Ruth and Mrs. Geigerman are talking up C.)  
I expect to come down to the place tomorrow, Potash, to look over your line.

Abe  
(Xing to door R.1.)  
We don't talk business tonight, Mr. Geigerman. This is a wedding anniversary. We are out for pleasure, not business  
Say Mawruss  
(Xing to door R.1.)  
the Geigerman Dry Goods Company from Rochester is here.  
(Exits library R.1.)

Rabiner  
(Comes down stage with Kaye and Klinger  
Klinger L.C. Kaye R.C.)  
Now, you leave that to me, Mr. Klinger. I'll have one of our medical examiners down to see you both at your place tomorrow morning. In the meantime, both of you be careful of your blood pressure. Don't eat any rich greasy or starchy foods. Confine yourself to light diet like roast or salads.

Klinger  
Salads! I tried the salad here, and I give you my word, I thought I was poisoned. I think it's got gasoline in it.

Rabiner  
Maybe it's the chicken.

Kaye  
The chicken was all right. It's the dressing. A cook never made that dressing -- It must have been a chauffeur.  
(Rabiner goes up R. watches them)

Sammett  
(Approaches them)  
Klinger let me give you a tip. Don't touch the salad.

Klinger

You're too late. I had some already.

Kaye

Let's have one more glass champagne --  
(They go to buffet table R.U.)

Ruth

Come, Irma, start the records -- it's time to dance.

(The Music played here is called "Bird of Paradise Medley")

(Ruth dances with Rabiner - On Gans entrance Rabiner leaves Ruth and x down to Gans R. Ruth goes to dining room and dances with Mr. Geigerman)

(Irma starts couples pair off, Rosie dances conspicuously all are dancing in dining-room. Gans enters R.1.)

Rabiner

Why, how do you do, Mr. Gans?

Gans

Mozart Rabiner, isn't it?

Rabiner

I see you remember me.

Gans

No, I forgot you right after I fired you.

Rabiner

Excuse me, Mr Gans. At a social party, this reference of yours to a closed business incident is in distinctly bad taste.

Gans

Rabiner, I advise you, never air your knowledge of etiquette. Perhaps you will tell me who that good looking blonde person is you were dancing with?

Rabiner

Don't you know her?

Gans

I do not. Who is she?

Rabiner

Why -- er --- there you could get yourself in right -- That's a model of Potash & Perlmutter's their best one.

Gans

What's she doing here?

Rabiner

She's wearing a new design. There are some customers of the firm's here, you know.

Gans

Introduce me to her.

Rabiner

Is it necessary? She's a model, you know.  
(Exit L.U.)

(Ruth stops dancing come in room looking for her fan which has been left on sofa L. She goes over to window L. then around the sofa when Gans intercepts her)

(RUTH crosses room)

Gans

(R.C.)

Good evening, fair one.

Ruth

(L.C.)

I beg your pardon ---

Gans

That's a very successful garment you have on.

Ruth

Oh, you like it?

Gans

You look as if you'd come straight from the Rue de la Paix.

Ruth

Do I really?

Gans

And you'll appreciate the compliment the more when I tell you who I am, my dear --

# WARN CURTAIN #

Who are you?

Ruth

I'm B. Gans.

Gans

Of New York?

Ruth

Of New York.

Gans

I've often heard of you, Mr. Gans, but you're not a bit like what I pictured --

Ruth

Ah, indeed, and my pretty blonde, what's the difference between your picture and me, myself --

Gans

Oh, I'd hate to tell you --  
(Turning away)

Ruth

Flatterer! Say, could you perhaps lunch with me Monday at the Waldorf?

Gans

Perhaps -- but do you know who I am?

Ruth

Does that matter? Lunch Monday?

Gans

You'll have to ask Mr. Perlmutter --

Ruth

Oh, I'll get you a day off --

Gans

Will you really? Perhaps you can't.

Ruth

You work for Perlmutter, don't you?

Gans

Yes, all the time --

Ruth

Gans

Then I'll fix it -- or better still, just say you're sick and stay home --

Ruth

But you see, I couldn't deceive Mr. Perlmutter - he happens to be my husband.

(She leaves him and goes into dining room)

Gans

Good Lord!

(He stands transfixed)

(The couples are dancing in dining-room, as Perlmutter WOLF, BORIS and POTASH enter from library. Mrs. Gans enters R.U. goes L. to Mr. Gans)

Mawruss

Hay, stop the music.

(Goes up stage. Irma stops it)

Here, everybody, pay attention - we have something to tell you all --

(All guests enter talking excitedly - etc. to keep up the scene)

Ruth

(Coming to him)

What's happened?

Mawruss

Wait and you will hear --

Abe

Rosie, come here, and Irma, too -- all of you should listen to Mawruss --

Mawruss

Ladies and gentlemen - on this, the first anniversary of our wedding, it gives me great pleasure to announce that we, Potash and Perlmutter - me and my old partner, Abe --

Abe

Schmoos, Mawruss --

Mawruss

We are about to branch out - to expand. We are about to join hands with that great NewYork merchant B. Gans - to unite our businesses and to become Potash and Perlmutter Incorporated, with a capital of \$500000 -- one half million dollars --

All  
Hurrah! -- Grand! -- Elegant --

(Ruth, alone sinks down on seat R, unhappy and miserable)

Boris  
Ain't it great?

Mawruss  
And I know you, our good friend, all wish us success!

All  
Sure! -- Yes -- You bet! --

Irma  
(To Boris)  
Oh Boris, I'm so proud of you!

Abe  
I say, now we have a drink -- Waiter, some champagne.

Waiter  
The champagne's all gone.

Abe  
Never mind, send out for more -- here's three dollars, go -- hurry --

(Waiter exits)  
-- but meanwhile, friends, I should drink to my old friend Mawruss --

Mawruss  
(Taking up glass)  
To my old friend, Abe --

## C U R T A I N

(SECOND CURTAIN:

Gans

(With glass)  
And to Potash & Perlmutter, Incorporated.

All

To Potash & Perlmutter, Incorporated! --

(While all are saying: "Hurrah!" Potash & Perlmutter shake hands. Irma and Boris cling together with Rosie beside them, while Ruth, alone, covering her face with her hands)

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A B E & M A W R U S S

A C T II.

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A C T II.

S C E N E: ABE POTASH'S flat on Lexington Avenue.

The setting is the parlor - Arches R. & L. upper. Painting is a green wall paper effect. Hangings and carpet are red. The furniture is imitation mahogany upholstered in green plush - (Old fashioned furniture) Old fashioned chandelier gas fixtures, hangs centre. Fire-Place and mantel R. clock and Bric-a-brac on mantel. Windows below and above fire-place. Lace curtains on windows - Flowers in wooden boxes on sills ( Geraniums) Sofa near fire-place R. small table with magazines etc. near window up R. Library table R.C. with arm chairs R. & L. single chair C. Red table cloth, telephone - fern dish and album are on table - Rugs R. & L. upper - Pictures on wall in keeping with scene. Over mantel R. is a picture of the old Potash and Perlmutter store on East Broadway - On wall L. down stage are large crayon pictures of Abe and Rosie taken twenty years ago - couch against wall L. Arm chair below door L.2. Single chair L.1. against couch. Up R. through the arch can be seen the dining room with table, chairs etc - Chandelier hanging centre. Picture of Rabbi on wall. Window with lace curtains and upholstered seats in Dining Room C. Up L. is the hall, and bath room. Hat tree in hall pictures on wall. Arm chair in alcove. Gas bracket outside bathroom door. In bathroom in full view of audience, are old fashioned sink and bath-tub. Gas bracket lighted on wall. Medicine cabinet on wall - Toilet articles on shelf. Razor strop hanging from cabinet. Towels on bath tub. Oil cloth on floor for tile effect. (A what not in corner of parlor L.U.)

NOTE: The furniture and furnishings, are cheap - but everything is neat.

DISCOVERED: ROSIE seated playing Canfield solitaire,  
chair R. of table R.C.)

Rosie  
At ten dollars a pack I am already out a thousand five hundred  
dollars --

(She turns over two cards and places them on the third  
card -- she studies, then shuffles the deck -- takes  
a card, smiles, and transposes six cards as IRMA enters.)

Irma  
(Enters R.U. comes down stage to her mother)  
How is Father now, Mother?

Rosie  
He feels pretty bad. His side hurts him something terrible.

Irma  
What do you think's the matter with him, Mother?

Rosie  
I don't know. He's afraid it's appendicitis. And this was  
the day he was to go down and sign the papers for the incorpor-  
ation.

Irma  
But Boris said that Mr. Gans insists it's just as easy for them  
all to come up here.

Rosie  
And I haven't so much as a dill pickle in the house. Couldn't  
we send out for some turkey sandwiches?

Irma  
Mother dear, they're coming on business.

Rosie  
Even so, they ain't got stomach trouble.

Irma  
But it's long past lunch time and besides, they don't expect  
anything to eat.

Rosie  
Then I'd like to surprise them. I feel so nervous, having that  
big lawyer, Mr. Fixberg, up here and everything. I wouldn't  
mind if I had a nice apartment like Ruth Perlmutter.

Irma  
Never mind, Mother, we'll have one twice as nice when Father  
and Mr. Perlmutter are in business with B. Gans.

(Sits chair C. of table R.)

Rosie

I'd be quite satisfied with Ruth's flat. What a beautiful large dining-room she has, Irma! You could sit down to dinner there thirty-five people. Gawd forbid!

(Abe is seen filling the hot water bottle at sink in bath room L.U.)

(Enter ABE from bath room L.U. in bath-robe, holding red hot-water bag)

Abe

Oo -- oo -- ee!

(Sits down in arm-chair L. below door L.)

Rosie

Is it as bad as all that, Abe dear?

(Xing to Abe. Irma rises X's to R.C.)

Abe

Worse. Every time I draw a breath, it goes through me like a knife.

Irma

I telephoned Dr. Eichendorfer. He said he would come right over.

Abe

That's a good girl! Oo--ee!

Rosie

They say Eichendorfer's fine for the stomach. Old Mr. Gambitz had him that time he was so sick down in Averne and he didn't die till they got back to the city.

Irma

Dr. Eichendorfer saved his life.

Abe

Well, he didn't save it for long. Ain't you heard from Mozart Rabiner -- I telephoned him this morning.

Rosie

What for?

Abe

For life insurance.

Rosie

You're taking out life insurance -- oh what shall I do -- what shall I do!

Irma

Mother, that doesn't mean Father's going to die.

Rosie

And so sick as you are now, Abe, what insurance company would take you?

Abe

Never mind, Rabiner says his company will take me so long as I am well enough to sign a check for the first premium.

(Irma X's to table R.C. and picks up the cards then puts them in case on mantel R.)

Rosie

What company is it?

Abe

The Crescent Life Insurance Company of Waco, Texas.

Rosie

It is a good company?

Abe

Is it a good company? Rabiner says they got the most successful law department of any life insurance company in the world.

Rosie

That's good, that's good.  
(Xing R. stops when Abe speaks)

Abe

Say Rosie, now that we got important people among us send over the girl to the cigar store on the corner and get twelve Bismarks.

Rosie

All right, give me the money.

Abe

I ain't got a cent on me. I left my vest downtown on Monday.

Rosie

Then I ain't got any money neither.

Abe

What do you mean, you ain't got any money? Didn't I give you yesterday the housekeeping money?

Rosie

Cigars ain't housekeeping.

Abe  
Couldn't you trust me for three dollars?

Rosie  
I already trusted you for two pinochle decks I sent out for last Sunday.

Abe  
You ain't got no confidence in me at all.  
(He pulls big roll of bills out of pocket--pulls off a dollar bill)  
Here, here's a dollar bill. Tell the girl to get a dozen Admirations, and take off the bands.

(Enter MAWRUSS PERLMUTTER AND RUTH) from hall L.U.  
Mawruss puts his hat on hat tree R. of bath room door)

Mawruss  
Hello Rosie -- hello Irma --  
(They answer his greeting)

Ruth  
(L.C.)  
How are you, Rosie --  
(Kisses Rosie R.C.)

Mawruss  
(L)  
(In angry tones)  
Nu, Abe, is this a time to be sick?

Abe  
(L. in arm chair)  
You talk like I made an appointment with myself to get appendicitis.

Mawruss  
Well, what can you expect, when you make a God out of your stomach?

Rosie  
(R)  
For shame, Mawruss, Abe, ain't eaten a thing today!

Mawruss  
It won't harm him none.

Ruth  
How are you feeling now, Abe?

Rosie

He's feeling terrible, he makes me play pinochle with him all day long. Two ~~handed~~ it's a dogs life.

Abe

(Groans)

Oo -- ee! I'm sick.

Ruth

Maybe he'd feel better if Irma would make him a nice cup coffee and some toast.

Abe

I couldn't eat a thing I tell you.

Rosie

I don't think it would harm him.

Irma

We'll have it ready in a few minutes.

(Exit IRMA and ROSIE R. upper)

Abe

Lass mir im Ruh. I wouldn't touch nothing. Expect me to eat with appendicitis yet!

(Groans)

Well, Mawruss, what do they say downtown about the new corporation?

Mawruss

(R.C.)

Everybody congratulates us, Abe -- everybody except Ruth.

Ruth

(C)

Indeed I congratulate you too, Abe -- but. . . .

Abe

But what?

#WARNING  
DOOR BELL#

Mawruss

It's no use arguing any more about it. We've agreed to go into it.

Ruth

I know you did, without consulting me -- and you promised that you wouldn't.

Mawruss

We didn't want to hurt your feelings, Ruth.

Abe

And besides, we thought you'd object.

Mawruss

Anyhow, Gans and the lawyers will be here in a few minutes.

Ruth

Then they'll have to wait.

(Xing R.C. to table)

Mawruss

(Centre)

To wait? Who for?

Ruth

Senator Murphy.

Mawruss

Senator Murphy. Why, who asked him to come here?

Ruth

I did. I saw him yesterday.

Mawruss

But we already got lawyers, Ruth --

Abe

Fixberg and Fixberg and they ain't no popular price lawyers either.

Ruth

But they're Gan's lawyers.

Mawruss

They're Wolf's lawyers too.

Ruth

I know they are -- and that's why I've got the Senator for us.

Mawruss

Why didn't you tell me you were going to see Murphy, Ruth?

Abe

You should have done that, Ruth. It wasn't right of you.

Ruth

Well, Mawruss, in the first place, I didn't want to hurt your feelings, and in the second place, Senator Murphy is an old friend of mine, and he declines to accept any fee.

Abe

You mean he wouldn't take no money?

Ruth

Not from me.

Abe

After all, Mawruss, I think Ruth has done the wise thing.

Mawruss

Somehow I don't quite like the idea of that Senator doing favors for my wife --

#BELL#

Ruth

You jealous old darling.

Abe

Was that the bell I heard? I guess it's the doctor, and now that he's here -- the pain's better. Still, Mawruss, go and let him in.

(Mawruss goes out hall L. U.)

Ruth

I'll go and tell Rosie.  
(Exit R.U.)

Rabiner

(Off stage)

Good Afternoon, Mr. Perlmutter.

Mawruss

Nu, Rabiner, what do you want here?

Rabiner

I called to see Mr. Potash, not you.

Mawruss

He's sick, Rabiner....

Rabiner

(Entering goes R. of Abe's chair L.)

Good afternoon, Mr. Potash.

Mawruss

Say, Rābiner, please don't bother Mr. Potash now. He's not feeling well.

Abe

Never mind? I'll see him anyway. I asked him to call.



Rabiner

And I have everything ready, Mr. Potash.

(Gives Abe the application to look over)

Mawruss

What's all this mean, Abe?

Abe

It means I ain't so short-sighted like some people, Mawruss, I believe in providing for my wife and family.

Mawruss

(R.C.)

But Abe, you ain't so sick as all that.

Abe

(In chair L.)

Suppose I ain't, Mawruss? When a man gets to be my age, Mawruss, he wants to look matters in the face. It's time he should be honest with himself. He's got to face the future. It don't make no difference how strong he is. Oak trees get rotten after a while. Buildings go to pieces, and -- what was the rest of that Megillah you got off, Rabiner? I've forgotten it.

Rabiner

(Centre)

Mr. Potash is right, Mr. Perlmutter. Take yourself, for example.

Mawruss

I ain't got no time to talk life insurance now -  
(X's R. and sits chair L. of table R.C. Looks at album during the following speech)

Rabiner

Mr. Perlmutter, old ladies' homes are run for widows whose husbands didn't have time to talk life insurance now. Trolley cars and automobiles are laying to knock down men who don't have time to talk life insurance now. Coal holes are open for them and safes are hoisted to drop on them. Ferry-boats sink and trains are wrecked and every time they're filled with men who didn't have time to talk life insurance now.

Mawruss

Say Rabiner, speak all this into a phonograph and mail the record by parcels post.

Abe

Joke, Mawruss -- go ahead, laugh now while you've got your health . . . Oo -- ee! Where do I sign, Rabiner?

Rabiner

Right here, Mr. Potash, on the dotted line.

(Gives Abe a fountain pen - Abe signs the application and hands it to Rabiner)

And now your check for three hundred and seventy-five dollars, Mr. Potash.

Abe

Oo--ee!

(Holds hand to back)

Mawruss

This is the part that hurts.

Rabiner

Do you know what he's getting for his check, Mr. Perlmutter?

(X's R.)

Mawruss

A receipt, I hope.

Rabiner

He's getting a policy for ten thousand dollars and any time he goes broke, he can raise a loan on it.

Mawruss

Not from me, he couldn't.

Abe

From you I don't expect, Mawruss, because if I go broke, you'll go broke with me.

Rabiner

Oh, you'll live for thirty years yet.

Abe

Rabiner, here is your check. I had it already for you.

(X'es to Abe)

Rabiner

Much obliged. And now, boys, I have something else to tell you.

Mawruss

Make me no bluffs, Rabiner!

(Rises X R.C.)

Rabiner

So far as you are concerned, Mr. Perlmutter, I'm through with you.

Mawruss

I hope so --

Rabiner

But you, Mr. Potash, you're different. I came here to do you a favor. It's about B. Gans.

Abe

What about B. Gans --

Rabiner

Of course you know that I worked for him?

Abe

That's his misfortune.

Mawruss

Yes, you worked for us, also, Rabiner.  
(Sits chair L. of table R.C.)

Abe

In fact, off and on, I guess you worked for a whole lot of people.

(Enter Ruth and Rosie) (R. upper)

Rosie

I thought the doctor was here.

(Xing over L. and sits in chair L. of arm chair L. near Abe)

Ruth

Why it's Mr. Rabiner

(Sits at right of table R.)

Rabiner

(R.C.)

How do you do Mrs. Perlmutter?

(Enter PASINSKY from hall L.U.)

Pasinsky

Hello Abe.

(At door)

I hear you was sick so I - Rabiner here? I guess I'll wait outside.

(Starts to exit L.U.)

Mawruss

Don't go Markie, Rabiner ain't going to stay here very long.  
(Mawruss takes Rabiner by arm. Rabiner x's to C.)

Abe  
Wait a minute, Mawruss, he was going to tell us something about B. Gans.

Pasinsky  
(L.C.)  
What could he tell you about B. Gans?

Rabiner  
(C.)  
Something they don't know, Pasinsky, a woman can't hold a job in B. Gans' place.

Abe  
What of it? I'm that way too. Lady models and lady book-keepers make a kaffee klatsch out of your business.

Rabiner  
You are too innocent, Mr. Potash --  
(Rabiner X's to Abe L.)

Mawruss  
That will do Rabiner, you've said enough.

Rosie  
It's better we hear it than imagine it. What I'm thinking is terrible.

Ruth  
You mean that Mr. Gans has done something Rosie and I ought not to hear?

Pasinsky  
Why should you hear it? When you go into business with a man you get a rating from R. G. Dun or Bradstreet, not from the Natural Purity League.

Rosie  
Poor Mrs. Gans!

Abe  
Why poor Mrs. Gans? Maybe she don't know about it.

Pasinsky  
(Centre)  
She probably don't. It was hushed up.

Rabiner  
Trust Gans for that.

Rosie  
Tcht! Tcht! Tcht! Tcht! Ain't that terrible!

Mawruss

Maybe it is, if we knew what it was that Gans did.  
(Rabiner is standing behind Abe's chair L.)

Ruth

(Significantly)  
Yes, what was it?

Markie

It wasn't what he did, Mawruss, it was what he didn't -- because when the girl found out he wouldn't marry her, some say she didn't care what became of her and others say that she got a job in Toledo in a millinery store.

Abe

Ai gewalt! And why didn't he marry her?

Rabiner

Because he was already married to Mrs. Gans.  
(Pasinsky X's to table R.C. and sits C.)

Rosie

You see Abe, how careful a successful business man should be!  
I hope this will be a lesson to you.

Ruth

Don't worry about Abe, Rosie. He's very different from B. Gans.

Mawruss

To my sorrow -- yes.

Ruth

You ought to be glad, Mawruss.

Mawruss

You don't mean that you believe this story?

Ruth

Why not?

(Sitting chair R. of table R.C.)

The best business man in the world can be fooled by a pretty woman, as perhaps some day you'll learn.

Rosie

(In chair L.)

Oo--ee!

(Combination of groan and sigh)

I tell you, -- you can be married to a man for twenty-five years, and if you ever find out what kind of a husband you've got -- it's only by accident.

Mawruss

(Rising goes C.)

Say, what's the use of all this fuss? We ain't going to marry Gans -- we're going into business with him.

Pasinsky

And besides, Rosie, you and Mrs. Perlmutter are now warned about Gans. He ain't dangerous no more.

Abe

Warning a woman against a man is like putting up a wet paint sign. Everybody touches the paint to see if it really would be wet yet.

Rabiner

Good day, ladies, Good day, Mr. Potash. Our medical examiner will call on you in a couple of days.

(Rabiner goes up L. Always in a hurry. Grabs his hat from hat tree - Abe has closed bathroom door on his entrance - Rabiner mistakes it for front door and opens bath room door. Abe hollers)

Abe

Look out it's the bath room.

Rabiner

Oh yes, I should have known better. Good day everybody, good day.

(Exits through hall L.U.)

Pasinsky

What was that Macher doing here?

(Rising & Xing to L.C.)

Mawruss

(R.C.)

Ask Abe, not me. He falls for everything -- life insurance, real estate -- everything. If there's a sucker born every minute, Markie, Abe is twins.

Abe

Never mind, Mawruss, if you was sick like me, you'd take out life insurance too. I don't feel as if I was going to live long.

Rosie

Abe! Don't talk like that.

(Rising X's to L.C.)

He's taken out life insurance, Ruth, and in Waco, Texas.

(Weeps comforted by Ruth)

Ruth

(Centre)

Don't be upset, Rosie. I'm sure Abe isn't very sick.

Abe

Oo--ee -- yes I am!

Mawruss

(R)

Suppose he did take out life insurance, Rosie. I've carried accident insurance for twenty years, and I never had so much as a cinder in my eyes.

Pasinsky

Some people is very unlucky that way --

(Walks R.l. - around table then up R.)

Abe

Just the same, Mawruss, I'm a very sick man --

(Enter DR. EICHENDORFER from hall L.U. followed by Irma)

Dr. Eichendorfer

Your daughter said to come right in.

Rosie

Oh doctor, I'm so glad you came.

Dr. Eichendorfer

Thank you!

Abe

Oo--ee --

Mawruss

How do you do, doctor --

Dr. Eichendorfer

How do you -- how are you, Mrs. Perlmutter?

Irma

Is father very ill?

(Standing behind Abe's chair L.)

Dr. E.

That my dear young lady, we'll soon see --

Abe

Oo--ee - I'm a sick man --

Dr. E.  
Yes, he looks feverish. Perhaps you will all be kind enough to leave now. I had best examine the patient alone --

Rosie  
But doctor --

Ruth  
Come Rosie, we mustn't interfere --

Dr. E.  
I'll ring for you if there should be any change for the worse.

Abe  
Co---ee--  
(All exchange glances)

Irma  
(Crying)  
Oh papa --

Dr. E.  
There, there, there's probably no cause for alarm -- as yet.

Ruth  
Come, both of you.

Rosie  
We'll be in the kitchen --  
(Irma and Rosie crying, exit, followed by Ruth)  
(Pasinsky comforts them as they exit R.U.)

Ruth  
Good luck, Abe --

Abe  
Co---ee --

Mawruss  
(Xing to Abe -  
(With much feeling)  
We been partners a long time, Abe. I feel for you. Good bye Abe.

(He exits slowly R.U. Pasinsky comes forward with a characteristic movement of his hands)

(The doctor is standing L. of Abe, watching Mawruss  
After the exit of Mawruss - he feels in his pockets for **clinical** thermometer - not finding it - he opens his bag on chair down L. and moving slowly brings out surgical instruments in the order named 1. Stethoscope - 2



Small doctor's mallet. (3) Bandage scissors (4) Syringe  
 (5) Large sound - Abe is watching with a frightened  
 expression. The doctor finds his thermometer in the  
 bottom of bag - Puts instruments back in bag, then  
 shakes the thermometer and looks at Abe in a very stern  
 manner. He X's back of chair to Abe's R. When he looks  
 at Abe's right eye - Abe sticks out his tongue for the  
 doctor)

Dr. E.

Place this under the tongue -- so -

(Placing thermometer in Abe's mouth)

keep the lips tightly closed -- so -- don't bite it -- yes --  
 so --

(Takes out watch and takes pulse)

(Pasinsky now comes over slowly and with a sad expression  
 timidly)

Pasinsky

Good bye, Abe.

(Abe mumbles inarticulately)

Dr. E.

(Sternly)

What are you doing here?

Pasinsky

(Frightened)

I wanted to say good bye, if it's serious like this. I'm just  
 an old business friend.

Dr. E.

(Sharply)

Business friend!

Pasinsky

(Hurriedly explaining)

I only called to see him about a real estate deal --

Dr. E.

Real estate? Improved property or vacant lots?

Pasinsky

(Stupidly)

Eh?

Doctor

Improved property or vacant lots?

(Abe is trying to talk with thermometer in his mouth)

Pasinsky  
A new law house owned by Max Gubin on East 5th Street maybe you know him?

Dr. E.  
(Still holding pulse)  
Would Max Gubin consider a swap?

Pasinsky  
He might -- what for?

Dr. E.  
I've got three vacant lots in Browsville, a cold water flat on 124th Street and a chicken farm near Calicoon, Sullivan County, New York.

Pasinsky  
A chicken farm? Is the property all free and clear?

Doctor  
All but unpaid taxes since 1885.

Pasinsky  
Couldn't you give me more particulars?  
(Abe mumbles again and moves)

Dr. E.  
Now what's your temperature --  
(Removes thermometer)

Abe  
Oo -- ee --  
(He wiggles)  
Say Markie you're a fine friend when my mouth is so full so I can't talk, you try to sell Max Gubin's house on me --

Pasinsky  
Well, why should I lose my commission maybe you ain't going to get well --

Abe  
Well couldn't you take a chance?

Pasinsky  
I wouldn't argue with you Abe, you're a very sick man.

Dr. E.  
(Shuts watch and lets go pulse)  
And he's never going to be any better.

Abe

What?

Dr. E.  
Not if he lives to be a hundred.

Pasinsky  
What's the matter with him, Doctor?

Dr. E.  
Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Abe  
What do you mean -- nothing. I got a terrible pain in my back. Ain't it appendicitis?

Dr. E.  
If it's appendicitis you got it where nobody else ever got it before.

Abe  
Then what is it? I must have something.

Dr. E.  
A little lumbago. Put a plaster on it.

Abe  
Ain't I even got no blood pressure?

Dr. E.  
Blood pressure, that's only a rich man's disease.

Abe  
Rich man's disease.  
(Rises quickly and rushes to telephone on table R.C.)  
(Sits chair C.)  
Wait till I get hold of that feller, Rabiner. Maybe it ain't too late yet.

Pasinsky  
Here Doctor is my card. Send me the particulars from the lots.  
(Doctor exits L.U.)

Abe  
(In telephone)  
Hello, give me 10140 Madison.

Pasinsky  
(Goes to door R.U. excitedly)  
Rosie, Mawruss.

(Enter ROSIE followed by MAWRUSS, RUTH, and IRMA)

(Ruth goes down R. Rosie L. of Abe, Mawruss is centre)

Rosie

What is it? What is it? Abe, you're still alive --

Irma

Oh Father, I'm so happy.  
(Puts her arm around Abe's neck)

Ruth

Is it anything serious?

Pasinsky

There's nothing the matter with him at all!

Mawruss

Didn't I say so -- A doctor he must get it!

Abe

Hallo, hallo.  
(To Rosie)  
That's your idea, Rosie. Putting me up that I got appendicitis.

Ruth

(Sitting R. of table R C.)

Now Abe! Rosie was quite right to send for the doctor.

Abe

Doctor? He ain't a doctor. He's a real estater. Hallo, hallo. Is this the bank? Give me the paying teller - quick! Hallo, Well, I want to stop a check. I say I want to stop a check to the order of the Crescent Insurance Company of Waco, Texas -- what! They certified it ten minutes ago?  
(Hangs up receiver with a bang. X's in front of table to R.l. walking up and down excitedly)

Rosie

Well, you needn't break the telephone, Abe, just because you're feeling good.

#WARNING  
DOOR BELL#

Abe

Feeling good! And to think now I'm insured -- and I ain't sick at all.

Rosie

Could you eat maybe a trifle, just a little?

Abe  
A little! Why d'ye mean a little! I ain't eat nothing all day -- A little she says --

Rosie  
All right. I'll fix you a nice cup coffee --  
(Starts up R. slowly)

Abe  
Hurry then go get it. I'm as empty as a drum - Go get it, don't stand there talking -  
(Abe sits chair L. of table R.C.)

Rosie  
He's better -- he's better.  
(Irma and Rosie exit R.U.)

Mawruss  
(Xing to Abe)  
Abe, you can't see them big lawyers like that. Get dressed. They will think my partner is a sick old man.

Pasinsky  
Well I got to go -  
(Goes up L. for hat)

Abe  
(Rising xing L.)  
Markie you haven't told me all about Max Gubins house yet --

Pasinsky  
Well Max Gubin says he should never see his wife alive if he took a cent less than \$100,000 -

Abe  
Well maybe he don't care for -- his wife.  
(They exit door L.2.)

#DOOR BELL#

Ruth  
(Xing to centre)  
There's the bell -- it's Senator Murphy. He said he's be here at three sharp. I want to see him alone first --

Mawruss  
Why?

Ruth  
Don't you trust me Mawruss?

Mawruss  
Yes of course -

Ruth  
Now don't ask me to explain, just believe in me --

Mawruss  
(R.C.)  
All right -- but I wish you didn't feel against us in this business Ruth.

Ruth  
(Centre)  
I wish I didn't -- with all my heart -- but I do --

(Mawruss exits R.U.)

(Pause - GANS enters L.U.)

(Gans starts as he sees Ruth and stops. There is an awkward pause)

Ruth  
(Coming forward gaily)  
WHY, how do you do, Mr. Gans?

Gans  
How do you do - really -- I --

Ruth  
I haven't seen you since the other night at our party --

Gans  
You must forgive my very stupid mistake. You know I --

Ruth  
Oh, not at all. I don't in the least mind --

Gans  
(Coming forward)  
You weren't offended?  
(Down L.C.)

Ruth  
(R.C. near table)  
I was flattered. Even a married woman likes to realize once in a while that she hasn't lost her power to attract your wicked sex.

Gans  
How charming of you, and I hope therefore you'll accept my very earnest apology.

Ruth  
Not I --

Now really --

Gans

Ruth

There's nothing to apologize for. If you'd known I was Mrs. Perlmutter you'd have been merely politely distant -- as it is I realize you're inclined to like me --

Gans

Very much --

Ruth

So there we are --

Gans

Curious. You let me flounder on the other night, and yet need --

Ruth

Oh, I wanted then to put you at a disadvantage that later I might --

Gans

Forgive me?

Ruth

Exactly!

Gans

And we're friends?

Ruth

Why not?

Gans

By Jove. I was right when I decided the minute I saw you that you were a corker.

Ruth

Thank you!

(Turns away and leans against table R.C.)

Gans

What a pity my little invitation to lunch can't come true.

Ruth

Can't it?

Gans

You mean?

Ruth

Why not?

Gans

But Mr. Perlmutter --

Ruth

Need he know about so very innocent a thing as a lunch, even if it's only for two?

Gans

Shall we say Tuesday?

Ruth

At the Waldorf at one --

Gans

A bit conspicuous - the Astor.

Ruth

Oh, dear --

Gans

What is it?

Ruth

I was quite forgetting Mrs. Gans -- she wouldn't mind?

Gans

Not at all -- particularly as she won't know.

Ruth

She'd misunderstand -- wouldn't she?

Gans

Possibly --

Ruth

Isn't it a pity when wives or husbands are like that -- Mrs. Gans doesn't understand you, does she?

Gans

No, but I think you do.

Ruth

Yes, I think I do --

Mawruss

(Entering and pausing down centre)

Gans

(Seeing him)

Hello, Mawruss, hello old man!



(Goes over L.)

Mawruss

Hello.

(To Ruth)

I thought you said it was the Senator?

Ruth

(R.C.)

Yes, I thought it was, but I was wrong. It's Mr. Gans.

Mawruss

(C)

So I see --

Gans

(L C.)

We've been having a little business chat.

Ruth

(To Gans)

Very interesting business.

Mawruss

And has Mr. Gans convinced you?

Ruth

Oh some thing, yes --

(FIXBERG enters hall L.U. hangs hat on hat tree)

Gans

Here's Mr. Fixberg our lawyer, at last.

Fixberg

How do you do, Gans -- hello Perlmutter.

(Shakes hands)

Mawruss

Ruth, this is Mr. Fixberg.

Ruth

(R, near table)

How do you do, Mr. Fixberg?

Fixberg

Charmed to meet you, Mrs. Perlmutter.

(Goes to her shakes hands)

I feel that this is almost an historic occasion.

Gans

(Down L.)

The discovery of the cloak and suit business by Wall Street.

Ruth

Or perhaps the slaughter of the innocents.

(Rosie enters from R.U. Abe and Pasinky talking about Max Gubin's house enter from L.2. Abe is now fully dressed. Ruth takes fern dish and album from table R.C. Places them on table up R. Rosie is standing near chair L. of table R.C. Ruth sits chair R. of table R.C. Gans sits chair down L. Pasinsky sits in Abe's arm chair L.)

Abe

Why hallo, Mr. Gans -- How do you do, Mr. Fixberg? Rosie this is Mr. Fixberg of Fixberg Brothers.

Rosie

(Shakes hands)  
Pleased to meet you, Mr. Fixberg. I heard often of Fixberg Brothers, the big lawyers --

Fixberg

Not <sup>brothers</sup> Fixberg and Fixberg, the firm is.  
(Xing to chair C. of table R.C.)

Abe

(Xing to Rosie)  
The law business is funny that way. In the pants business I once knew five brothers of the name of Dannewitz, and if they would call themselves Dannewitz, Dannewitz, Dannewitz Dannewitz and Dannewitz, it would of cost 'em a fortune for letter-heads alone.

(Rosie sits chair L. of table R.C.)

Mawruss

(L.C.)

Abe, no one asks you to deliver a lecture here.

Pasinsky

(Rising and going towards door L.)

Well, boys, I'll say goodbye, I wish you luck in your new business.

Mawruss

Good bye Markie.

Fixberg

One moment Mr. Perlmutter - why wouldn't Mr. Pasinsky do for one fourth incorporator.

Good idea Fixberg.

Mawruss

(Puzzled)  
Fourth incorporator!

Abe

Yes. The statute requires we have that number of incorporators.

Fixberg

Say, if I had enough money to be an incorporator would I be holding down a job as a buyer.

Pasinsky

It's merely a formality - there's no money required from you.

Fixberg

That's something else again - and maybe I might even make a coupld of dollars who knows.

Pasinsky

(He goes and sits left in arm chair L.)

Good. Now we can proceed if the ladies will excuse us.

Fixberg

(Anxiously)  
Mawruss, aren't you going to wait for the Senator.  
(Xing to R.C. in front of table)

Ruth

The Senator - who's he?

Fixberg

Just an old friend of my wifes.

Mawruss

She asked him to look in here today.  
(Xing to chair R. of table R. and sits)

Abe

He's a grand lawyer - why that time when Boris --

Rosie

Pardon me, another lawyer?

Fixberg

Oh, but we don't bother about him.  
(Xing to Fixberg)

Mawruss

You are our lawyer Mr. Fixberg, and anything you say goes.  
(X's to R.C.)

Senator or no Senator.  
(Pause)

Ruth

Oh then perhaps I'd better join Irma downstairs.

Rosie

(Going with her)

That's right, Ruth,

(Rising)

if the men let us run the house up town, for my part they can run the business downtown.

(They exit R. U.)

(Mawruss sits chair L. of table R.C.)

Gans

Now gentlemen that the ladies are gone let's get to business.

(Xing R. sits on sofa near fire-place R.)

Abe

Shouldn't we wait for Boris and Wolf.

Gans

That's unnecessary - they're only the brokers and their work comes later.

Fixberg

Exactly. I will take the head of the table - kindly be seated everybody where you can pay close attention.

Mawruss

Come Markie.

Pasinsky

(Reclining luxuriously in big chair)

I can hear all right where I am.

Abe

(As he gets a chair)

Have a cigar, gentlemen.

(Pasinsky rises and starts for a cigar - Mawruss motions him to sit and Pasinsky returns to arm chair L.C.)

Mawruss

Please Abe, we are here for business.

Fixberg

(Rising)

Now, gentlemen, what is the first step in the formation of any corporation?

(He pauses impressively)

Abe

How should we know, Fixberg? That's what we are paying you to find out, and he asks me.

Everybody

Ss-sh!

Fixberg

That was a rhetorical question, Potash, and calls for no reply from you.

(Sits chair C. of table R.C. Abe starts to speak)

Mawruss

Abe, for Heaven's sake!

Fixberg

The first step, as I was saying, is the execution of the certificate of incorporation which I have here with me. I trust I may read it without interruption.

(He looks sternly at Abe, and opens document)

"We, the undersigned, all being persons of fullage, all of us citizens of the United States and all of us residents of the State of New York, desiring to become a corporation pursuant to the provisions of the Business Corporation Law of the State of New York, do hereby make, sign, acknowledge and file this certificate for that purpose, to wit --"

Abe

To wit? What's Witt got to do with it?

Fixberg

To wit -- namely -- namely.

Abe

I thought you meant Elias Witt -- the second hand store fixture man. You know him, Mawruss?

Gans

Potash, if we're ever going to get through with this thing --- you'll have to keep quiet.

Fixberg

First, the name of the corporation is Potash and Perlmutter Incorporated.

(Abe and Mawruss nod approval)

Second, the purposes for which the corporation is to be formed are the following:

To design, manufacture, sell, exchange, trade in any and all kind of garments and for that purpose to acquire by purchase, exchange or otherwise, and to hold own, develop improve, manage, sell, convey, exchange, mortgage, rent and lease or otherwise deal and trade in and dispose of any and all mer-

chandise --  
 (Turns over leaf. During this speech Pasinsky slowly rises)

Pasinsky  
 Excuse me, but I don't think I want to go into this thing at all.

Fixberg  
 Why not?

Pasinsky  
 Well, up to now, I always succeeded in keeping out of trouble and this here paper don't sound kosher to me.

Gans  
 Gentlemen -- gentlemen -- let's get through! What is the next clause?

Fixberg  
 The capital stock. Its amount is to be one million five hundred thousand dollars.

Pasinsky  
 (Rising)  
 Say, Abe? I think I'd better go. I didn't think I was in for anything as big as this.  
 (Mawruss motions him to sit)

Abe  
 Me neither, Markie.

Fixberg  
 Big? Do you call a million and a half corporation big?

Abe  
 Well what do you call it, chicken feed?

Fixberg  
 Don't you know anything about the formation of big corporations, the merging of big interests?

Abe  
 I've only read of such things in the papers -- and in every case the jury wasn't out ten minutes.  
 (Fixberg rises)

Fixberg  
 Do you mean to insinuate that there's something crooked about this?  
 (Gans rises goes down R.l.)

Mawruss

You're treating these people like dawgs?  
(Rising)

Abe

Couldn't I open my mouth in my own house?  
(Rising)  
(Fighting opposite sides of table)

Mawruss

The time to do that is gone by.

Abe

No, it ain't. I am entitled to my opinion.

(Enter BORIS and WOLF)

(Together)

Hello, hello -

(Wolf R.C. Boris L.C.)

Mawruss

You ain't got opinions -- you got nothing but abuse --

Abe

Abuse! -- What do you mean, abuse? The abuse is on the other foot!

Wolf

What's the trouble?

Mawruss

Abe, as usual is raising trouble.  
(Sits)

Abe

I raise trouble?

Mawruss

You're arguing all over the place.

Abe

No trouble at all. I -- I'm discussing the whole thing in a nice, friendly way.  
(Sits)

Boris

What's the hitch about?

Gans

The capital stock. Potash thinks a million and a half is too much.

Wolf  
What do you suppose I get out of it?

Abe  
I don't know - Twenty years maybe!

Fixberg  
We've heard enough of that, Potash.  
(Boris X's and stands near Fixberg)  
This is a legitimate scheme.

Wolf  
Of course it is -- Think of Bethlehem Steel, DuPont Powder  
Grucible Steel --

Abe  
I don't know nothing of -- Those war babies --

Wolf  
Then take the American Woolen Company, the Harvester Trust,  
the Steel Trust, all great big thriving concerns, making  
money for their stockholders. Look where these stocks stand  
today! There's the paper.  
(Puts it on table)

Abe  
What's that got to do with claiming our business is worth  
a million and a half?

Boris  
But these figures make a large allowance for good will.

Abe  
Good will! What is good will? Orders we ain't taken yet.  
Garments we expect to sell. Customers we have still to get.  
Good will is futures, Mawruss.

Fixberg  
In business, Potash, good will is considered an asset.

Abe  
Good will don't mean any more to a merchant than if he had  
blonde hair or a good strong tenor voice.

Wolf  
Then the twenty years that you and Mawruss Perlmutter spent  
in building up your business don't mean anything to you?

Abe  
They mean a whole lot to me. That's why I have the picture  
of the old place hanging up there.



Gans  
It's a fine work of art, I must say!

Abe  
It suits me.  
(Rises and goes over to mantel where picture is hanging)

We made a good living there for eighteen years. Mawruss and I sat at the desks there -- maybe we had an argument once in a while -- but we got along all right. And Boris sat there -- and when Ruth came to our place as a designer, she was in there -- The old place makes me homesick --  
(Sits chair R. of table R.C.)

Wolf  
But you've progressed away from all that, Mr. Potash.

Boris  
You're forgetting what is represented by the brains of this concern - you're brains, Dad, Mr. Gans brains --

Mawruss  
(Rising)  
And me - ain't I got brains?

Wolf  
Sure you have -- all of you have.  
(Pushes Mawruss into chair)

Gans  
(Down R.)  
That's what's worth a million and a half - Brains, good will experience, knowledge, call it what you want to.

Abe  
I call it water - - and dirty water.  
(Rising excitedly)

Gans  
Water! Mr. Steuerman approves all this. Did you know that, Potash?

Abe  
I don't know anything, only what you tell me -- and that I ain't so sure of --

Boris  
But Dad, you don't doubt what Mr. Gans tells you?

(SENATOR MURPHY enters L. U.)

Senator

(Centre)

Ah good afternoon, the girl said I'd find you up here -

Mawruss

Hello Senator.

(All rise. After greeting all sit. Gans is standing R.1.)

Abe

Glad to see you. Mr. Fixberg, this is Senator Murphy.

Murphy

How do you do -

(Fixberg nods)

I expected to find Mrs. Perlmutter with you --

Abe

Boris, tell Ruth the Senator is here --

(Abe sits)

Boris

Yes, father.

(He exits)

Pasinsky

(Comes over)

How do you do Senator - you remember I met you down at the old place in East Broadway.

Murphy

Oh yes, how are you, Mr --

Pasinsky

Pasinsky - Mark Pasinsky

(Senator is introduced to Wolf L. by Pasinsky. After introduction Wolf sits L. Pasinsky arm chair L. Senator is C.)

Gans

When this reunion is over. Might I ask who the gentleman represents.

Mawruss

He's just a lawyer, a friend of my wife's.

Gans

How many lawyers do we need in this thing.

Abe

I don't know we ain't through yet.

Mawruss

Don't pay no attention to him - Senator, this is our future partner, Mr. Gans.

Senator

How do you do --  
(Gans bows coldly)

Ruth

(Enters R.U. with Boris)  
(Over to Senator C.)

Oh Senator, I'm so glad you're here - tell me did you see Mr. Steuerman about this scheme?

Senator

Just left him. He facilitated me in every way. Mr. Wolf had furnished me with his copies of all the papers, and everything is in regular form --

Ruth

(R.C.)

Then you approve of the proposition?

Senator

(L.C.)

My dear Mrs. Perlmutter there's nothing else to do - it's a very proper incorporation.

Mawruss

You see Ruth -  
(Sits)

Boris

Didn't I say so Dad -

Wolf

Now, Mr. Potash, are you convinced?

Gans

When your own lawyer tells you --

Abe

You mean it's all right I should go ahead?

Senator

I see no reason why you shouldn't -

Mawruss

Nu, Abe?

Abe  
Well then perhaps it's all right maybe; I don't know, but go ahead anyhow.

Senator  
(L.C.)  
Then, Mrs. Perlmutter, I don't think you need me any longer.

Ruth  
(R.C.)  
Oh do stay please, till it's absolutely settled -

Murphy  
Certainly, if no one objects -  
(Ruth goes R. Sits on sofa)

Mawruss  
Of course not.

Gans  
(Sarcastically)  
Delighted.

Pasinsky  
I don't mind.

Abe  
Boris, get a chair, for the Senator  
(Boris does so, goes in dining room. The Senator sits on Pasinsky's R.)

Gans  
Now if the interruptions are over, perhaps we can proceed.

Fixberg  
Now gentlemen the next question is that of salary to the officers of this company. As you know Mr. B. Gans is to be president, the papers provide that his yearly salary shall be \$50,000.

Abe  
Fifty thousand dollars a year salary for him!  
(Pointing at Gans who is standing R.l.)

'S' enough, Mawruss,  
(Rise X L.)  
I heard enough! I'm through this time for good.

Mawruss  
Listen, Abe,  
(Rising)  
are you a piker or are you a business man?

Abe

You mean am I an honest man or am I a thief?

Mawruss

(R)  
A thief?

Abe

Why should he get Fifty thousand a year when our whole business is worth only \$150,000 at the outside.

Mawruss

Who says it's only worth \$150,000

Abe

I do.

Mawruss

All right, sell me your half for \$75,000 and you can have it whenever you want it.

Ruth

Mawruss,

(Xing to Mawruss)

don't talk about breaking with Abe, even in fun.

Gans

Well, if he's in fun, I'm serious--I'll give you \$80,000 for your share, Potash, and you get out. I don't want to have any dealings with a piker.

#WARNING  
LIGHTS#

Abe

And I don't want to have any dealings with a swindler.

Wolf

Mr. Potash!

Fixberg

A swindler! This is actionable!

Senator

Potash, Potash, calm yourself.

(During this scene Abe is greatly excited walking back and forth trying to control himself)

Abe

I said a swindler. I mean it. First he wants me to put his business into the corporation at a million dollars and now he wants fifty thousand dollars salary. Faker!

Wolf

Don't get excited.

Abe

I got reason to get excited. Robber! Throws bluffs that he is a successful business man and all the time he's running around the streets with women yet.

Gans

What the devil ---

Pasinsky

Abe! ( For Heaven's sake!  
(Rises goes to Abe)

Abe

(L)

What are you for - Heaven's saking about? You yourself said so.

Pasinsky

(R)

I said so. Why Abe! How can you say such a thing!

Abe

Didn't you tell me about a girl in Cleveland he got mixed up with?

Pasinsky

#WARNING  
LIGHTS#

I told you about a girl in Cleveland -- why Abe, you must be crazy. I told you about a girl in Cleveland - Why, she ain't in Cleveland -- she's in Toledo.

Gans

I'm not going to worry about the vaporings of a crazy man and his old maid friend.

Pasinsky

Old maid friend! You mean me? Do you hear that, Senator Murphy? Never mind. You can do what you please about signing, but I shall --

(Wolf leads him away, protesting up stage L.)

(Enter ROSIE R.U. Ruth is R. of table R.C.)

Rosie

Abe -- the coffee's ready.  
(Down C.)

Mawruss

Rosie, keep out of this.

Rosie

What's the matter?

Senator

(R. of Abe)

Now, let's take it easy. Potash, as a lawyer, let me advise you that all this is perfectly regular.

(Xing L. of arm chair L.)

Mawruss

(R.C.)

Now you hear, you madman you!

Abe

I hear, Mawruss

(Over C.)

and I got all the respect in the world for Senator Murphy, but when a business man has a deal put up to him which he wouldn't tell whether it's right or wrong without consulting a lawyer first, Mawruss, you can bet your sweet life, it's wrong.

(X's L.)

Mawruss

Mr. Steuerman, Wolf, Boris, Senator Murphy, all of us, think it's right.

Abe

Maybe you do -- maybe it is. Maybe other people do it, maybe it's great in Wall Street, but for 20 years I have been doing business Mawruss in a certain way -- I ain't never stuck you, Mawruss, or the public, or anybody else, and now that it's come to this -- I only know what I think, and I think it's all wrong.

Mawruss

(R.C.)

Then you ain't going into this thing?

Abe

No -- are you?

Mawruss

Yes!

Abe

(L.C.)

And you -- after eighteen years there together ---

(Point at picture over fire-place R.)

you're going to -- to break with me, Mawruss?

Gans

(R.l.)

It's your own fault, Potash. You can have that eighty thousand whenever you want it.

Abe

To hell with your eighty thousand. I'll take seventy five thousand from my partner -- from Mawruss Perlmutter.

#DIM  
FOOTS#

Gans

(Going up R.)

Come on, Fixberg, I'm through.  
(Fixberg gathering up papers)

Rosie

Abe, for Gawd's sake, what's the matter with you?

Boris

(Down to Abe)

Dad, do you know what you are doing?

Abe

(Nods)

I'm breaking with my parter, Boris, and he don't give a damn!

Mawruss

Abe!

Gans

Come Perlmutter -- We close this deal this afternoon, or not at all.

Mawruss

Give me a day to think it over.

Gans

To-day or not at all. Are you going through with it.

Ruth

(A few steps R.)

Mawruss!

Mawruss

(Pause)

Yes--I'm going through with it.

Ruth

(Near table R.C.)

Senator, can't you do something?

Senator

I'm sorry, but I'm afraid not.



Gans

Come on Fixberg. We'll finish our business at your office.  
(X's L.U.)

Senator

Good bye, Potash I wish you luck, whatever you intend to do.

Abe

Thank you, Senator, thank you.  
(Boris and Wolf exit L.U.)

Gans

(Up L.U.)

Can I give you a lift in my car?

Senator

No - I think I'd rather take the subway.

(Up stage exits after Gans and Fixberg)

Gans

Come on Fixberg  
(Exit)

#DIM  
LIGHTS#

Mawruss

Goodbye, Abe.  
(Abe nods slowly. Pats Abe on shoulder. Exit Mawruss  
L.U.)

Rosie

Oh Abe, why did you do it!  
(Weeps on chair L. of table R. comforted by Ruth)

Pasinsky

Well, Abe, cheer up. I come round and see you in a couple  
days and maybe I'll have something good to report about  
Max Gubin's house. - Good-bye, Abe?

Abe

Good-bye, Markie.

#WARN  
CURTAIN#

Pasinsky

Good-bye, Rosie. Good-bye, Ruth.  
(X's over to them comforts them and exits L.U.)

Ruth

Walk with me to the subway, Mr. Pasinsky. Good-bye, Abe  
(X'S to Abe L.)

This doesn't mean that Mawruss and you and Rosie and I shall  
not be as good friends as we've always been.

Abe

That's right -- that's right --

Ruth

You know, Abe, how I feel, how I've always felt. My whole instinct is against this scheme. I can't - I won't believe in B. Gans. And I am going to find out for myself in my own way just what he is and just what he's trying to do. Oh if Mavruss only saw it the way we do --

Abe

I wish he did!

Ruth

But he's my husband, Abe, and I'm going to stick to him.

Abe

Sure, Ruth. That's right.

Ruth

Be good to him, Rosie.  
(Xing to Rosie)  
(Exit L.U.)

Abe

Nu, Rosie, don't take on so.  
(Abe X's to Rosie who is sitting chair L. of table R.C.  
She is crying. Her head is resting on arm on table R.C.)  
Gott sei dank, we've got our health --  
(Pats her shoulder)  
--and we got Irma -- and seventy-five thousand dollars --  
(She still sobs)

And I even got for ten thousand dollars life insurance.  
Come, Rosie, you get us a nice cup coffee. Maybe we feel better.

Rosie

Coffee! You can talk of coffee now when --  
(Weeping)  
It's all over -- we are back again where we started. It's my own fault, I suppose. I've been too easy with you. If I would have been extravagant, I might have had something out of life. Now I'm just an old woman, and it's all over for me!

Abe

Aber Rosie -- leben! The scheme wasn't right -- it ain't right.

Rosie

Right? Of course it's right.  
(Rising X's R.C. Abe is walking up and down stage L.)  
You think you are smarter as Morgan, or Rockefeller, or Carnegie? You are going to say that they are all wrong, that you are the only honest man in the cloak and suit business!

You make me sick -- You're out of it all -- that's <sup>the</sup> trouble  
 (Xing L.I.)  
 -- you're a back number!

Abe

A back number! Me! Well, perhaps I am. I guess I must  
 be. I'm -- I'm getting old.  
 (Sits chair L. of table R.C.)

Rosie

Abe!

Abe

A back number -- old -- an old man --  
 (Rosie exits R.U.)

(After her exit he picks up paper on table R.C.)  
 (Sighs aloud -- looks at paper)  
 Financial news --  
 (Turns pages)  
 Real Estate notes -- real estate --  
 (Turns leaf)  
 Arrival of Buyers -- Business trouble -- business troubles --  
 (Paper drops to floor)  
 (Enter Rosie, touches Abe on shoulder)

Rosie

Abe, Abe, here's a nice hot cup of coffee for you.  
 (Abe pats her hand and cuddles his head on her arm)

C U R T A I N

NOV 13 1915

A B E            A N D            M A W R U B S

A C T            I I I .

A C T III.

CLOAK AND SUIT CO. OF NORTH AMERICA

WALL STREET.

SCENE:

Office set - walls decorated - furniture is mahogany with same designs. Everything in this scene is first class.

Doors Right 1 - 2 - and 3.

"Centre Arch with blue plush curtains."

Doors Left 1 - 2- and 3. All doors with glass effect, with names of different departments.

Door R. 1 - Vice President.

Door R. 2 - Financial Department

Door R. 3 - Cloak & Suit Company of North America.

Door L.1. - Stock Department

Door L. 2 - Foreign Department

Door L. 3 - President.

Electric fixtures on walls, ground cloth (parquet effect)

Stenographer's desk R.U.

Swivel chair at Desk R.U.

Up center R. of arch - a folding hanger for garments. On stenographers

desk R.U. - the following:

Typewriter, telephone, pen and ink, and button buzzer. Bench in front of Desk R. Library table L.C.

with arm chairs R. & L. A swivel chair is C. On table L.C. the

following: Telephone, office check book, account books, writing pad and desk outfit, dress-makers

designs. Papers on desk to give appearance of a very busy office.

Single chairs at each door. Metal garment rack with 24 gowns L. Hat tree R.U.

DISCOVERED:

As curtain rises MISS COHEN, typing R.U. MAWRUSS behind desk L.C. looking over some dress sketches. GANS busy going over some accounts, sitting

left of desk. BORIS right of desk. and WOLF is answering phone.

Wolf

(At telephone)

Hello, hello, yes, yes, Cloak and Suit Company of North America. What is the nature of your business? Oh, purchase of stock? Oh, yes! We'll be very glad to see you. I'll make an appointment. What name please? A. J. Redmond-

(Boris writes appointment in book.)

Very well, Mr. Redmond. When will you be over? In about 20 minutes? All right, Good-bye, Mr. Redmond.

Boris

(Miss Cohen exits R. U.)

Well we're a great success.

Gans

Nearly 90,000 from stock sales already.

Boris

And here's two thousand more in this morning's mail.

Gans

Better go right over and deposit the checks.

Boris

Yes, Mr. Gans.

(He exits R.U.)

Wolf

It's wonderful, Gans, the way you and I are handling the business.

Mawruss

Do me a favor, Wolf.

Wolf

Sure.

Mawruss

Don't be so happy all the time --

Wolf

Can't help it -- money's comin' in so fast --  
(Over to desk R.U. looking at papers.)

Gans

Oh, Perlmutter, fill this check out for \$1,000 and sign it --

Mawruss

What for --

Gans

My salary -- one week -- due to-day.

Mawruss

Oh, all right.

Sidney

(Entering R.U.)

A gentlemen outside.

Wolf

What name?

Sidney

Gave me this card -

Wolf

It's a Live Wire.

Mawruss

A live wire, what's that?

Wolf

It's a man who answered our ad for an advertising manager.

Gans

Oh yes, I recall. His letter sounded very promising -

Wolf

Yes, didn't it? He said he could sell a pianola to a one legged deaf mute and moving pictures to a home for the blind.

Mawruss

Lets look him over.

Wolf

Show him in, Sidney --

Sidney

Step inside, Mr. Wire.  
(Exit)

Rabiner

(Entering R.U.)

Ah gentlemen, good morning.

Morris

Robiner,

(Rising and X's to Rabiner C.)

What do you want from us now?

Rabiner

I called in answer to your advertisement.

Gans

You are the live wire?

Rabiner

Yes, I am here at your invitation and I can deliver the goods.

Morris

You a live wire. The only shock we could get out of you would be your expense account.

Rabiner

Pardon me, Mr. Perlmutter. As advertising manager, I would have no expense account.

Gans

Since when are you an advertising manager --

Rabiner

Well I suppose you boys knew I've had some experience in the advertising business.

Morris

We suspected it, Rabiner --

Wolf

I thought you were a life insurance agent.

Rabiner

Only as a side line. I'm now in the advertising game. Advertising - that's the great thing, the pulling power of publicity.

(Gans exits L. 3)

The bulwark of big business - the crashing chorus in the symphony of satisfied customers, the mainstay of marvellous modern methods - the prime principle of prosperity.

Mawruss

Make me no more speeches, Rabiner.

Rabiner

I take it you don't want me here.

Mawruss

Well we ain't crazy about it Rabiner.



Rabiner

Well, gentlemen, I accept your terms. Lets go over  
the space and rates together.

Mawruss

Say Rabiner, before we'd let you work for us, you could  
make enough salad dressing to polish all the tan shoes  
in America.

(Sits chair C.).

Rabiner

(C.)

By jove, young fellow, that's a great idea.

Wolf

(R.)

What?

Rabiner

To polish all the tan shoes in America. Have you got a  
\$1,000.00 to invest?

Wolf

What for?

Rabiner

Turn my salad dressing into a shoe polish. There's a  
100,000,000 people in this country. 200,000,000 feet,  
3 shoes to a foot, 600,000,000 shoes and they've all got to  
be polished.

(Takes Wolf by the arm and is talking as he exits R.U.)

Young man I'm letting you in on the ground floor for a  
\$1000.00. It's an opportunity of a life time. If you  
don't accept you should have your skull examined.

(Both exit R.U.)

Ruth

(Entering from Curtains C. Xs to desk L.C. where  
Mawruss is looking at designs)

Hello Morris, do you like my new sketches?

Mawruss

Hello Ruth dear -

(Rising)

They're beautiful designs, nearly as beautiful as you are --

Ruth

Thank you.

Mawruss  
But I don't like the idea of your working down here.

Ruth  
But I've just got to. Keeping house isn't enough to keep me out of mischief. I've been a business woman too long to quit all of a sudden. I'm like Abe., I'm sure he must be wretched doing nothing.

Mawruss  
Abe, have you seen him?

Ruth  
No, have you?

Mawruss  
Not since the day we split -

Ruth  
You miss him, don't you?

Mawruss  
Sure I miss him. Here nobody kicks, nobody argues, everything goes soo smooth I might just as well not be in business at all.

Ruth  
And I'm sure he feels the same, Morris dea, will you do something for me?

Mawruss  
Anything in the world.

Ruth  
Give Abe a position here.

Mawruss  
Abe ain't built for a job. If Abe was a private in the Russian army he would call down the Grand Dukes because the uniforms wasn't made up right. Abe wouldn't take a job here.

WARNING TELEPHONE

Ruth  
I think he would - and after all perhaps he was right about this scheme --

Mawruss  
Please don't let's go back to that.  
(Xing R. 1.)

Ruth  
All right, but what about Abe?

Mawruss  
You couldn't expect me to send for him.

Ruth  
I've sort of a funny feeling he'll drop in here some day soon, and if he does - will you do it just for me?

Mawruss  
Well if he comes in I'll offer him a job, and if he takes it you won't know who's the office boy around here, me or Sidney.

Ruth  
Thank you.  
(Over to desk L.C.)

Mawruss  
And now will you do something for me.  
(Xing to Ruth.)  
Go home like a good girl and don't work here.

Ruth  
You want to discharge me on my first day. Well you can't do it. We're partners,  
(Sits chair R. of table L.C.)  
and anyhow it isn't only the work, I want to keep an eye on B. Gans.

Mawruss  
It's funny how when you don't like him, everytime you see him you're so nice to him.

Ruth  
Perhaps that's the woman of it. Are you jealous!

Mawruss  
Why shouldn't I be jealous of you?

Ruth  
Some day I'll give you a surprise about B. Gans. Now where's my office -  
(Rising and X's R.)

Mawruss  
You are to use mine.  
(Takes Ruth by arm.)

Ruth  
I'd rather use Gans!  
(Xing to door R.l.)

Please, Ruth --

Mawruss

Ruth

Oh run along, green eyed monster.  
(MISS COHEN enters and sits at desk.)

Didn't you say you were to see Stern Brothers to-day.

Mawruss

You made me forget all about it -

(Going)  
Well, don't be too nice to Gans.

Ruth

You leave Gans to me.

(Kisses him)

Now off with you for a big order --

(Goes right - and exit R.1)

Mawruss

Miss Cohen, I'm going over to Stern Brothers, and I'll be back when I get here.

(Exit R.U.)

PHONE RINGS.

Miss Cohen

Hello. Yes this is the Cloak & Suit Co. of North America.

Mr. Gans. Wait a minute... No I can't find him.

(Rings Off)

Abe

(Entering R.U. Walks down stage C. looking all around without a word )

Looks like Murray's. Is my partner in?

Miss Cohen

Your partner!

Abe

I mean Mr. Perlmutter.

Miss Cohen

No he's out.

Abe

Thinks he's a night shift.

Miss Cohen

I think Mr. Gans is in.

Abe.

T'phoeel Gans. Is Mrs. Perlmutter in?

Miss Cohen  
I guess she's around somewhere.

Abe

(Sarcastically)  
If it ain't putting you out too much Miss Cohen, will you say I'd like to see her.

Miss Cohen

Oh, very well.

Abe

(Calling after her)  
You don't mind if I sit down and wait.  
(Sits on bench R. in front of Desk R.U.)  
(Miss Cohen exits R?l.)  
There's a fresh thing.

Pasinsky

Oh here you are Abel!  
(Enters R.U.)

Abe

Hello Markie.  
(Rising)

Pasinsky

(L.C.)  
I been looking for you at Wasserbauer's. I been looking for you uptown. Rosie said you was down here. Don't you know we are liable to clear the title to Max Gubin's House today.

Abe

I thought you said it was off.  
(R.C.)

Pasinsky

There's a chance. Gubin may go through with it, so I've made out a check on the Kosciusko Bank for \$75,000 to the order of Max Gubin for you to sign it. Go ahead and sign it. If the deal goes through I'll use it, if it don't I won't.

Abe

I don't know -  
(Goes to desk R.U. and signs check.)  
If it's all right I should put all my eggs in one basket, Markie.

Pasinsky

Ain't I putting mine in the same basket?

Abe

Sure you are, and if we drop the basket we're liable to

have a hell of a messy omelet-~~o~~-with shells in it.

(Rising)

Here's your check.

Pasinsky  
Thanks, Abe. I hope the deal goes through. I need the commission for Abe, I've come to it at last. I'm going to be married.

Abe

(R.)

You married!

Pasinsky

(L.)

To the finest girl in the world, oooo - such a girl.

Abe

To who - to who --

Pasinsky

The name doesn't mean anything to you, but the girl, beautiful, beautiful, Oi, oi, oi, such a fine girl.

Abe

Is it a good match, Markie?

Pasinsky

Well, I tell you Abe, with me it's like this, if I would marry I only would marry for love and it makes no difference to me if the girl would have for example only \$5,000.00 I would marry her anyway.

Abe

Well, who is it? Miss O'Brien?

Pasinsky

Miss O'Brien, Miss O'Brien nothing. Twice she makes me take her home to Flatbush. Say I'm a business man, not an explorer.

(He exits R.E. closing door.)

Ruth

(Entering, followed by MISS COHEN, who goes to her desk R.U.)

Hello Abe!

Abe

Hello Ruth.

(L.C.)

Ruth

(R.C.)

I'm awfully glad to see you. You've come to look over the new place at last. Isn't it splendid?

Abe

All it needs is a head waiter.

Ruth

Mawruss will be in presently. You'll wait, Abe?

Abe

Could I maybe see you alone first.

Ruth

Why of course - that'll do Miss Cohen.

Miss Cohen

Oh very well.

(She exits R.1. Abe looks around and X's R. 1.)

Ruth

Now what is it?

Abe

I thought I ought to see you and I didn't like to butt in at your home, so I came down here to tell you something which I would rather telephone than say it to your face - something about B. Gans.

Ruth

That's funny because I wrote you a note this morning asking you to see me here about the very same thing.

Abe

I didn't get no note. I ain't been home since morning.

Ruth

Then you must be telepathic.

Abe

I don't think I am. I ain't been sick a day since Rabiner insured me.

Ruth

Well, what is it you've found out about Gans?

Abe

Me, I ain't found out nothing. Rosie does the finding out in my family. She and Irma seen you three times lunching alone with Gans in the Waldorf at the corner table.

Ruth  
At the corner table but Abe -

Abe  
I don't blame you. Maybe, it was the only table you could get.

Ruth  
But you don't think there's anything wrong about lunching alone with my husband's partner.

Abe  
Oh I think it's all right, but Rosie thinks it's terrible, and when Rosie thinks something is terrible, she ain't got no secrets from nobody.

(X's L.)  
But why don't you tell Mawruss.

Ruth  
I can't, he's so stubborn that he won't believe anything I say about Gans. I've got to prove it, and I will prove it.

Abe  
If I took a lady out to lunch to prove something to Rosie, believe me then I would need Rabiner's insurance.

Ruth  
But Gans is up to some crooked scheme. I'm not business woman enough to understand it all, but you do, and I wan't you to help me.

Abe  
Me help you - that fellow could keep a detective bureau busy working nights alone. How could I help you?

Ruth  
Take job here as head salesman.

Abe  
Me work for Mawruss Perlmutter.

(Xing R.)  
The best I could get from such a job would be nervous prostration.

Ruth  
Well Abe, you haven't forgotten how to sell goods, have you?

Abe  
Forgotten? Last night I dream't I sold a big bill of goods to B. Altman & Co. and I laughed so hard I woke myself up. Anyway Mawruss wouldn't have me.



Ruth  
Yes ~~he~~ would. He'd like to have you. He said so this morning.

Abe  
You don't say! Well I miss him too, Ruth. Arguing with Rosie is like playing pinochle with her. There's no time limit.

Ruth  
Oh Abe say you'll do it, for my sake. Just try it for a week, ten days, till we can show up Gans. Please Abe.

Abe  
All right, Ruth,  
(Xing L.)  
but remember I wouldn't take no back talk from Morris.

Ruth  
Oh thank you, Abe, - I'm sure Mawruss will be perfectly fair about salary and commission.

Abe  
Oh, well, we won't bother about that now.

Ruth  
Ssh, here's B. Gans now, leave us alone.

Gans  
(Entering from L.U. and X's down L. in front of desk.)  
Ah, how do you kdo Mrs. Perlmutter, charmed to see you.

Ruth  
How do you do.

Gans  
Oh Potash -

Abe  
(Up centre)  
How do you do.

Ruth  
Go into the stock room, Abe, look things over and see how we do business here.

Abe  
So far to me it looks like between seasons.  
(He exits through curtains up C.)

Gans  
(L.C.)  
Ruth, my dear.

Ruth

(R.C.)

Well.

Gans

It's been two days since you've let me see you alone like this.

Ruth

It's just as well. People are beginning to talk. We were seen together at the Waldorf at lunch.

Gans

(Alarmed)

You don't mean Mawruss saw us.

Ruth

No no, but even if he did?

Gans

(Embarrassed)

Well, we want to avoid a scandal don't we?

Ruth

Yes, of course, but what's going to be the end of it all. We can't go on like this.

Gans

No we can't, and I've good news for you.

Ruth

Good news! About the business.

Gans

No, about you and me. My wife wants to divorce me, and I'm going to give her her divorce if --

Ruth

If what -

Gans

If you'll marry me.

Ruth

You seem to forget I have a husband already.

Gans

Oh we can get rid of him easily enough. Canada, Europe, South America, if we go there, after he gets his divorce, we can marry.

Ruth

What a charmingly frank proposal.

(Sits bench R.)

Gans  
Oh I can't talk love, but I want you. And I think you've grown to like me. Think how much more I can do for you than Morris. What does he know of love.

Ruth  
And you?

Gans  
I can, make you happy. I will make you happy. If you'll just give me the chance. I'll prove myself. Say that you'll come with me now, to-day.

Ruth  
Now?

Gans  
Yes this afternoon. I can't go on day after day thinking of you wanting you. There's a six o'clock train to Montreal.

Ruth  
But how can you leave the business like that.

Gans  
Oh hang the business,  
(Rising goes L.)  
We'll get along all right.

Ruth  
Will we? I'm afraid I'd rather have platonic affection at the Ritz-Carlton than live in a cottage in Montreal. To be quite frank, what would we live on.

Gans  
Don't worry about that. I've made them a proposition.

Ruth  
You have? What proposition?

Gans  
(Nervously)  
Why to buy me out for \$90,000 cash.

Ruth  
(Rising)  
But they won't give you that much money, will they?

Gans  
(L.C.)  
Yes, they've already agreed.

Ruth  
(R.C.)  
Who's agreed.

Gans  
Parlmutter, Wolf, all of them.

Ruth  
And when do you get the ninety thousand.

Gans  
This afternoon, but don't mention it to any of them. It might  
make them suspicious.

Ruth  
Yes, it might.

Gans  
With ninety thousand we can cut it all here, and start fresh.  
Ruth say you'll come with me tonight, say that you'll go.

Ruth  
I'll be at the Grand Central at six.

Gans  
(Starting for her.)  
Ruth dear.

Ruth  
(Stopping him)  
Not now.

Gans  
You mean all this -you're not playing some game.

Ruth  
I mean it. I'll be there at six.

*Xing up R.* WARNING TELEPHONE  
Gans  
I'll get the tickets. You'd best get on the train alone,  
so nobody could suspect. Will you wait here.

*(Xing to Desk L.C.)* Ruth  
Yes, I'll leave a note for Mawruss that I'm going out of town  
for the day --

Gans  
Ruth dear -  
(Starts for her - she stops him)  
In half an hour.  
(He exits R.U.)

Ruth  
(Gathering herself together, pushes buzzer on desk R.  
and starts for telephone, centre table L.C.)  
Hello, 2974 Bryant, please.

Miss Cohen

(Entering R. 1.)  
Yes, Mrs. Perlmutter.

Ruth  
Ask Mr. Wolf to speak to me.

Miss Cohen

That's Sidney's job, he's out so I'll do it.  
(Exits R. 1)

Ruth

(In phone)  
Hello, Senator Murphy please...Mrs. Perlmutter. Senator  
must see you at once. No, not here, at your office...  
Thank you. I'll be right over.  
(Rings off as Wolf enters, followed by Miss Cohen  
who sits at desk.)

Wolf

You wanted me my dear lady.

Ruth

(Excited)  
Mr. Wolf, I've three questions to ask - and I can't give  
you any explanation.

Wolf

I am yours in confidence and yours --

Ruth

(Interrupting)  
Never mind, that, who signs the checks for this firm.

Wolf

Why, Mr. Perlmutter.

Ruth

Nobody else?

Wolf

Nobody else.

Ruth

Has Mr. Gans sold out his interest in the company to you  
people.

Wolf

Certainly not. Whatever put such an absurd -

Ruth

Perhaps he's sold to some outsider?

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Wolf  
Impossible. He has to offer the stock to us first.

Ruth  
(Pushing him out)  
Thank you so much, that's all I wanted to know.

Wolf  
But I don't understand.

Ruth  
No of course you don't, but I do - Thank you so much.  
(He is out. Ruth turns to Miss Cohen)  
Tell Mr. Perlmutter, I'll be back in half an hour.  
(Pushes Wolf off R. l. then exits R.U.)

TELEPHONE

PHONE RINGS

Miss Cohen  
Oh hello, oh hello! Sure I knew you at once. Coney  
Island? Won't the boss kick if you take his car -  
Oh all right, I should worry if you don't.  
(Abe enters through curtains with dresses,  
hangs them on hooks up C.)  
Good-bye dearie.

Abe  
Miss Cohen in future please do your love conversations at  
a public pay station.

Sidney  
(Entering R.U.)  
Mr. Geigerman of Rochester is here.

Miss Cohen  
Mr. Perlmutter's out - have him wait.

Abe  
Geigerman here. Show him in.

Sidney  
He wants to see Mr. Perlmutter.

Abe  
Ain't their anybody here to show him the goods.

Sidney  
Naw, they're all out.

Abe  
Well you bring him in. I'll show them to him. I'm going  
to be the head salesman here.  
(X's to door L.U. As Geigerman enters - pretending

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he doesn't see Geigerman, he says:  
 Tell B. Altman & Co. we couldn't let him have those blue dresses at that price.

(Starts R. with a surprised look, he greets Geigerman.)  
 Hello, Mr. Geigerman.

Geigerman  
 Hello Potash!

Abe  
 And how is the Geigerman Dry Goods Co. of Rochester?

Geigerman  
 (R.)  
 Surprised to see you here, Potash. I thought you and Perlmutter had quarrelled -

Abe  
 (L.)  
 How can I quarrel with him when we ain't partners no more. Now look at this blue dinner dress Mr. Geigerman, Ain't it wonderful? The trade are all fighting for this garment.

Geigerman  
 What's the price?

Abe  
 The price? Just a minute Mr. Geigerman. Look at the models over there on the rack. I'll find out the price from the girl.

Miss Cohen  
 The girl!

Abe  
 Well, what are you; a grandmother?  
 (Xing to Miss Cohen.)  
 (Mr. Geigerman goes L. and looks at garments)  
 What's the price of this garment?

Miss Cohen  
 O.N.S. One hundred dollars.

Abe  
 (Abe Xs to Geigerman L.)  
 Well to you Mr. Geigerman I could make this \$125.

Geigerman  
 \$125.  
 (Xing L.C.)  
 You have got a nerve.

Abe

Abe

onestly, Mr. Geiger, if a merchant displays this gown in his window right away he gets a summons for blocking the sidewalk.

Geigermann

What colors do you carry it in?

Abe

Any color you want. This here is an elegant shade for a dinner gown - won't show the soap.

Geigermann

but I can't pay \$125.

Abe

but Mr. Geigermann this here is a wonderful garment. It will look just as well on Hettie Green as on Lillian Russell. Ain't them elegant trimmings, - all genuine fur from an animal.

Geigerman

Wonderful color, wonderful black fox, eh? Dyed in Germany or in this country?

Abe

It was dead when I first seen it. I should know where it died.

Geigermann

Well what's your lowest price?

Abe

I'll tell you Mr. Geigerman, to a good customer like you, if you'll take ten of that style, I will say one hundred dollars.

Geigermann

Ten of them -- well I will take twenty or them.

Abe

(Walking R)

Something must be wrong.

(Starts to figure aloud his commissions on the sale)  
100 times twenty \$2,000.

Geigermann

"Well what do you say"?

Abe

Just a minute - 10% of \$2000 would be \$200.00. Alright Mr. Geigermann, to a good customer like you, you can have them.



Mr. Geigermann  
 Now wrap it up for me. I want to take it back to Rochester for the fashion show.

Abe  
 Certainly Mr. Geigermann, the boy will wrap it up for you in that room on your way out  
 (Indicates room L. 2)

Geigermann  
 (Goes L)  
 Alright Potash, I'll call again --

Abe  
 (Geigermann is at door L. 2)  
 And remember Mr. Geigermann, I want you to take lunch with me next time you come to town.

Geigermann  
 Thanks Potash.  
 (Exits L. 2)

Abe  
 Don't forget the lunch!  
 (Comes centre- takes out a memorandum book from pocket)  
 Entertaining Geigermann at lunch - fifteen dollars.

Sydney  
 (Enters R. U. with goods on his arm)  
 Here's the goods from the spongers, Miss Cohen---

Miss Cohen  
 Put it down there --  
 (Sydney puts goods on bench R. - and exits R. U)

Abe  
 Miss Cohen, take hold of this end.  
 (Picks up goods from bench)  
 (Miss Cohen takes hold and stands L. C. Abe measures yard (arms length to his nose)  
 I always like to measure goods when they come back from the spongers. They generally shrink four yards out of every three- hold it tight -  
 (MAWRUSS enters C and takes hold of goods)  
 (Miss Cohen exits R. U.)  
 (Abe is very busy folding, and has not seen Mawruss, after the 4th fold, he turns and finds himself face to face with Mawruss)

Abe  
 Morris!

Mawruss  
 Abe! I'm glad to see you.

Abe  
I'm glad to see you, Mawruss. You don't mind that I am butting  
in?

Mawruss  
Abe. You're welcome to come in any time.  
(Over to chair C, table L. C.)

Abe  
Thank you, Mawruss, you got an elegant place here.

Mawruss  
We bought the best office fixtures we could get.  
(Sits)

Abe  
Office fixtures! They look like bar fixtures.

Mawruss  
What are you doing now, Abe?

Abe  
Nothing; nothing at all. You're a lucky man, Morris, to be  
busy. After 25 years of hard work, Morris, I think doing  
nothing is the hardest kind of work.

Mawruss  
Well, why don't you do something? You got that \$75,000 from  
me.

Abe  
Yes, Morris, I got that \$75,000 from you, and I'm going to  
hold on to it. I'm too old to take chances.

Mawruss  
Well, Abe, if there is anything I can do --

Abe  
No, Morris. I guess there ain't nothing you can do. Is there,  
Morris?  
(A few steps)

Mawruss  
(Rising X's to Abe R. C)  
Well, of course, Abe, I don't suppose you would care about it,  
but if you're looking for something to keep you busy --

Abe  
(Eagerly)  
Go on, Morris; go on!

Mawruss  
 Well, Ruth thought that maybe you would like to sell goods here. Of course I know you wouldn't, but Ruth said ---

Abe  
 Sure I would like to, Morris.

Mawruss  
 (Happily)  
 You really would take a job here?

Abe  
 Why not? We been partners for 18 years and we never had no arguments or quarrels ---

Mawruss  
 No, of course we didn't but how about Gans?

Abe  
 Couldn't I deal just with you?

Mawruss  
 Sure you could, but still, Abe, Gans is all right, and you mustn't insult him.

Abe  
 Me insult him? I never insulted anyone in my life. And how Gans is your partner, Morris, and I wouldn't knock lowlife even if he would be a robber.

Mawruss  
 All right, Abe. Now, how about salary?

Abe  
 Or it ain't the money, Morris; it's just that I promised Ruth ---

Mawruss  
 You promised Ruth?

Abe  
 Well, she spoke to me to ---

Mawruss  
 By golly, she's a smart woman. Abe, putting up a job on us like that -- just to bring us together again the same, I'm glad she did, Abe. *just*

Abe  
 Me too, Mawruss.

Mawruss  
 Well, about salary ---

Anything you say. Abe

Well, to you, Abe, \$50 a week and commissions. Mawruss

Fifty dollars a week and commissions to me? Abe

Well, who are you? Mawruss

Fifty dollars a week and commissions - are you crazy? Abe

Didn't you say it wasn't the money; that you wanted to be busy?--- Mawruss

I didn't say no such a thing -- me work for fifty dollars with my trade! Abe

Your trade! If it wouldn't been for me, we would never had no trade. Mawruss

Is that so! You insulted every customer that came into our store. Abe

I insulted 'em? Mawruss

You treated them like dogs, the same as you're treating me now. Abe

I could treat you as I please -- you're not a salesman-- not a partner. Mawruss

Then don't treat me like a partner -- treat me polite like a stranger --- Abe

Boys, boys, what is it --- Ruth  
(Entering R. U.)  
(Comes between them)

This was your idea, Ruth, I should give him a job -- and see how he treats me, like a step-brother. Mawruss

Ruth  
You're working for us now, Abe -- I'm so glad.  
(Over to Abe R)

Abe  
And he acts like he would be doing me a charity.

Mawruss  
(L. C.)  
Fifty dollars a week to you ain't no charity -- it's big money.

Abe  
Is that so? ---

Ruth  
Now, now, stop it, both of you. You don't mean a word you're saying.

Mawruss  
Yes, I do!

Abe  
Sure he does! Instead of an ex-partner, you would think I was an ex-convict.

Ruth  
Ssh -- I tell you it's all settled -- welcome to our new head salesman.

Mawruss  
If he ever sells anything---

Abe  
What do you mean if I sell anything? I already sold a big bill of goods to Geigermann while you was out.

Ruth  
You see, Morris ---

Abe  
On that order I'll only charge you 10% Commission.

Mawruss  
Commission! Commission on Geigerman! I should say not! Geigermann is a personal friend of mine. You got no right to sell to Geigermann. Who told you you could sell Geigermann? How much did you sell him; five hundred dollars?

Abe  
Over two thousand dollars!

Mawruss  
Well, maybe it's all right.

Abe

Sure it's all right -- two thousand dollars - when he thought it was five hundred he wouldn't let me even open my mouth at all.

Mawruss

Well, say something sensible once in a while.

Abe

You wouldn't appreciate it if I did.

Ruth

(Laughing)

It's quite like old times, isn't it?

Mawruss

Ruth, will you come and have lunch with me?

Ruth

No Morris, I've had lunch. But you run along. I'll show Abe the new designs

(Over to desk L. C)

Sydney

(Entering)

Here's a letter for you, Mr. Perlmutter - the messengersaid to give it to nobody but you.

(Exit R. U)

Mawruss

(Looking it over)

Thank you. I wonder who it's from ---

Abe

Why don't you open it and see?

Mawruss

I'll open it when I'm good and ready - he wants to read my mail already.

(Kissing Ruth)

I'm going to lunc, I'll be back in half an hour.

Abe

Don't I get time to eat too?

Mawruss

The boss eats first - then the salesman.

(He exits, through curtains C)

Abe

Anyhow, I already had my lunch.

Ruth  
Now, Abe, I've just left Senator Murphy, and I want to explain  
to you ---

(GANS enters R. U)

Oh, hello Mr. Gans!

(Xing L. around desk L. C)

Gans  
Hello, hello! Oh, Potash, you're still here.

Abe  
Yes, but I'm going - faker, you!  
(Exits behind curtain)  
(Up C)

Gans  
Grouchy old man; but soon we'll be rid of people like that,  
thank heaven.

Ruth  
You're sold out?

Gans  
(L. C)  
Everything.

Ruth  
(R. C)  
And the money?

Gans  
This afternoon - ninety thousand for you and me.

Ruth  
(Crossing R)  
But I can't understand why they should make the deal.

Gans  
Why are you asking all these questions?

Ruth  
After all, I'm a business woman.

Gans  
I tell you everything is all right. Now here's your ticket  
to Montreal. You'd best leave now. I'll meet you at six-  
until tonight--  
(He leans over to kiss her hand)  
(MAWRUSS and ABE enter)

Mawruss

Well, by God!

Ruth

(Happily)

You heard, Morris, you heard. Now you know at last what kind of man he is.

Mawruss

Yes, and I know what kind of a woman you are! So it's true what Rosie Potash writes me.

(Pointing to letter in his hand)

You've been going around to dinners and lunches behind my back -- you --

Ruth

But, Morris, dear, don't you understand?----

Mawruss

Yes, I understand when you've got that railroad ticket in your hand. I heard just now. You were going away with him.

Ruth

I wasn't! I wasn't!

Abe

Now, Morris ---

Mawruss

Keep out of this, Abe---

Gans

There, there, Ruth!

Ruth

Don't you speak to me! I tell you, Morris, you're wrong, all wrong. I see what you think, but it isn't true. It isn't! Oh, Morris, you don't understand!

Gans

No, you don't, and you never could. This woman loves me.

Ruth

Love you? Love you --

(Xing L. - faces Gans)

You! Listen to me, Morris.

(Over to him)

You must believe me; you must! I led this man on -- it's true, because I never trusted him. I never wanted you to go in business with him, but you would, you would! I said I'd find out about him for your sake, and I have. He's trying to rob you somehow. I don't know how -- he says

he's got



he's to get ninety thousand dollars from you this afternoon. It's some trick -- I've only been doing it all to help you -- to ---

Gans  
Nonsense, Perlmutter! Your money's safe in the bank. You know that. You sign the checks.. I can't rob you.

Mawruss  
Yes, I sign the checks. He can't rob me of money?

Ruth  
Listen, Morris. I've just left Senator Murphy. He's investigating for me--he'll be here directly. He'll prove what I say. I told Abe a little--that I wanted him here to watch Gans.

Abe  
That's true, Morris.

Ruth  
You hear, Morris! Can't you trust me?

Mawruss  
No, I can't. Why, I've seen what I've seen with my own eyes! I'm through. Go -- go with him -- go anywhere--leave me alone!

Gans  
Since this makes future business relations between us rather difficult, Perlmutter, I'll be in tomorrow to wind up my interests.

(Up stage R. U. going around table L. C. to make the exit R. U.)

Mawruss  
(C)  
Get out!

Ruth  
(L. C.)  
Abe, don't let him go. Senator Murphy is coming -- I swear it. If he goes now, we're finished.

Gans  
Good afternoon!  
(Exit Gans, slams door after him)

Ruth  
Oh, why didn't you stop him?---  
(Sits seat R)

Mawruss  
 Pah! What a damn fool I've been!  
 (Drops in chair R. of table C.)

Abe  
 (C)  
 What a damn fool you are! Come Ruth, don't worry. Go home, like a good girl.

Ruth  
 (R. C. drying her eyes)  
 I shan't go home---  
 (Rises)  
 I'll stay right here. I'll be inside, Morris, waiting till the Senator comes. Do you hear me?  
 (Morris with back to all standing L. C.)  
 Morris?  
 (Morris makes no sign)  
 Call me, Abe, when the Senator comes.

Abe  
 (C)  
 I will; I will. And this madman will come to his senses after a while.

Ruth  
 (R. C)  
 Oh, Abe, you do understand ---

Abe  
 Sure, but then, I ain't your husband.

Ruth  
 Perhaps I was foolish, silly -- I can understand how everything looks against me, but I did it for Morris-- I love him--and I think he might believe in me.  
 (Exit Ruth R)

Abe  
 (To Morris)  
 Nu?

Mawruss  
 I--I could have trusted that woman with my life.  
 (Sits chair R. of table C)

Abe  
 And so you could--and so you can!

Mawruss  
 You believe that story of hers?

Abe

Of course I believe her.

Mawruss

(L. C.)

But she ain't your wife, Abe.

Abe

(R. C.)

Listen, Morris. Do you suppose if someone tells me he is going to elope with my wife, that I would believe it?

Mawruss

Certainly you wouldn't. Who is going to elope with your wife?

Abe

Never mind. Plenty people would be glad to elope with my wife. If you got an idea my Rosie ain't so good looking no more, let me tell you, Morris, you are making a big mistake.

Mawruss

But, Abe!----

Abe

That's all right. My Rosie is just so attractive as any woman half her age, and when it comes right down to looks I got just so much reason to be jealous as you have.

Mawruss

Did I say you hadn't?

Abe

I don't care what you say, Morris, because I ain't jealous and you shouldn't be neither.

Mawruss

But Gans says ---

Abe

Who gives a dman what Gans says? It's Gans' word against Ruth's.

Mawruss

But I sign the checks. Gans can't rob me. He can't.

Miss Cohen

(Enters R.U.)  
Mr. A. J. Redmond is here; he had an appointment----

(Morris crosses over L.)

That does he want?

Mawruss

He wants to buy some stock.

Miss Cohen

I can't see him now.

Mawruss

Say, Morris, be so jealous as you want but don't let it interfere with business. Show him in.

Abe

I tell you I won't see him.

Mawruss

Then I will.

Abe

Step inside, please.

Miss Cohen

(Enter A. J. REDMOND)  
(R. U.)

Good morning.

Redmond

Good morning.

Abe

Is this Mr. Perlmutter?

Redmond

That's Mr. Perlmutter.

Abe

(Over R)  
Mr. Perlmutter, my name is Redmond. I called to see about buying some stock.

Redmond

Well, that's not my department.

Perlmutter

(Apologetically)  
"Take a seat. Mr. Perlmutter ain't very well. I'll get a good sales man to wait on you.

Abe

(Redmond sits chair R. of table L. C.)

(Abe Takes up receiver ~~over~~ table L. C)

Ask Mr. Wolf or Boris to drop in here for a minute.

Redmond

You have sold a great deal of stock, haven't you, Mr. Perlmutter?

Abe

Well, even if he ain't he could try.  
(To Morris)

What's the matter with you. Talk up to the man.  
Schlemiel!

Mawruss

How much stock did you wish to buy?

Redmond

That depends.

(Enter BORIS and WOLF L. U.)

Abe

Mr. Redmond, this is Mr. Wolf and Mr. Andrieff.

(Redmond rises)

Mr. Redmond wishes to buy some stocks.

Wolf

We shall be happy to be of service to you, Mr. Redmond.

Redmond

Before I buy any stock I should like to convince myself of the condition of your business.

Wolf

Certainly.

Redmond

Well, may I ask what is your bank balance?

Wolf

We can't disclose our accounts to you.

Redmond

(Starts to exit R. U. Abe stops him)

I'm sorry then, but the matter is off.

Abe

Mr. Wolf, if he's buying stocks, he's got a right to know. Honest! I could sell you better myself.

(Business of forcing Redmond back into chair R of table L. C.)

Hurry up, tell him.

Wolf

\$91,856 (consulting books)

Redmond  
and all from stock sales?

Boris  
every dollar.  
(Redmond crosses R. and places hand on Mawruss's shoulder, then speaks)

Redmond  
Then, Mr. Perlmutter, you're under arrest.

Abe  
What?

Mawruss  
What do you say?

Boris  
Who are you?

Redmond  
I'm a United States Post Office inspector. We've been watching you fellows for a month. You've been defrauding the public through the mails. And now, I've got you with the goods.  
(Crosses L. give way to Abe; over to desk, L. C. stands facing Boris and Wolf)

Abe  
With the goods - what have you done, Morris?

Wolf  
We've deposited every dollar -- we've taken out only legitimate operating expenses.

Redmond  
And you said the balance was?----  
(Standing R. of table L. C.)

Wolf  
\$91,850.

Redmond  
You're right about the \$850. But the 91,000 isn't there.  
(Going C. over to Abe)

Boris  
Of course it's there---

Wolf  
Certainly! The man's crazy!

Redmond  
Yes, I am.

(Over to desk L. C. facing Boris and Wolf)  
 I just left the President of the Kosciusko Bank. Your balance isn't a thousand dollars; you've been flimflaming the public with phoney circulars. You haven't manufactured a garment and you've split \$90,000 between you. So come on, boys, with me.

(Starts for door R. U.)

Murphy

(Enters, Xes down C)  
 Hello, Perlmutter; hello, Potash -- I'm afraid I've bad news for you.

Abe

We got bad news right here ourselves.

Boris

Senator Murphy, this is Mr. Redmond of the Post Office Department---

Senator

How are you?

Redmond

How do you do, sir? Come on, boys.  
 (Starts for door R.U)

Wolf

He wants to arrest us for fraudulent stock sales---

Redmond

(Down stage)  
 This firm claims a balance of over \$91,000. As a matter of fact, they're less than a thousand.

Murphy

How about that, Perlmutter?

Redmond

We ain't holding court here. Come on, the wagon is down stairs --  
 (Up stage)

Abe

Wait a minute. Senator, if the money, say most of it, is there, this here fresh young feller couldn't do nothing--

Murphy

Nothing but apologize.

Abe

(R. C.)

Well, it is there ---

Redmond

(L. C.)

That don't go with me.

(Glaring at Abe with Senator between)

Abe

It's just a mistake in the books - he didn't look at the special account, did you, Mr. Inspector?

Redmond

I did not.

Abe

Well, there's at least \$80,000 in the special account.

Boris

Dad, what special account?

Mawruss

Yes, Abe; what are you raving about?

Abe

Say, Morris, have you forgotten, Morris? Why, yesterday I said we should transfer to the special account, and you said yes, and we did.

Mawruss

But Abe?---

Murphy

(C)

You mean your special account---

Abe

Yes, Senator---

Murphy

Then, that settles it. All the money's there to meet the claims of the stockholders. I'll guarantee the matter in writing, Inspector, if you think that's necessary.

Redmond

It ain't necessary -- I've got these guys -- and that settles it.

(Makes a movement to arrest Perlmutter- Senator interferes)

Senator

Inspector, you know me. There'll be no attempt to evade the law. I'm this firm's counsel. I want five minutes



to talk things over. Will you wait outside, please?

Redmond

Well, Senator, to oblige you -- but don't let 'em put anything over on you. They're a pretty slick bunch ---  
(Exits R. U.)

Abe

Slick bunch!

(Senator follows Redmond up stage after Redmond's exit, Senator down stage excitedly)

Murphy

Now, where is he?

Abe

Where's who?

Murphy

Gans.

Boris

He left here half an hour ago.

Murphy

You don't mean to say he's got away! I've an officer outside.

Abe

But say, what's he done?

Murphy

Why don't you know--

Abe

No, that's why we're asking--

Murphy

Ruth came and told me of her suspicions about Gans, of her promise to elope with him tonight. She said she wanted to bring whatever crooked scheme he had in mind to immediate action. She couldn't figure out just what it was, so she came to me to help her. I got busy, went to the bank and--

Ruth

(Entering R. 1)

Senator Murphy--

Morris

Oh, Ruth, forgive me!

Ruth

Oh what does it matter--Senator, were you in time?  
(Xing R. C. to the Senator)

Murphy

Missed him at the bank by five minutes. I hoped I might catch him here.

Ruth

And we were right about him.

Murphy

Yes.

Abe

Say, what has he done?

Murphy

Cashed your check, Perlmutter for \$91,000.

Ruth

Then we're done for--

Morris

But how can he draw any money? I sign the checks.

Abe

Don't say that again, Morris.

WARNING

Ruth

Oh, why didn't you trust me, Morris?

Morris

I do, I do!

(Ruth up C. around desk R. U. then down  
R. 1.)

Abe

Now you do, you chommer, you!

Morris

But it must be a forgery.

Murphy

No, it seems to be your signature--President Feder; he's an old friend of mine--lent me the check to show you----

(Shows Abe the check)

Abe

(Grabbing it)

Yes, Mawruss, that is your signature.

Mawruss

Let me see. "Pay to the order of B. Gans, ninety-one thousand dollars. Ninety-one! Why, I drew the check

myself this morning, for one thousand dollars -- one week's salary.

Abe  
By golly, it's been raised.  
(X's L.)

Wolf  
(L. of desk L. C.)  
Then the bank is liable.

Murphy  
(C.)  
No it isn't, he should have punched it. Why did he draw it so carelessly?

Abe  
(Over to Morris R)  
Why? Why? Because he's a schlemiel -- that's why. How many hundred times did I tell you, Mawruss, you shouldn't make out the checks. What is a book-keeper for?  
(Goves up stage then down L. to desk L. C.)

Murphy  
Well, Perlmutter, I'm mighty sorry for you. You're criminally liable. It may mean prison.

Abe  
Prison?

Murphy  
And while we've bluffed that inspector, we can't do it again.

Abe  
Bluffed?  
(Xing R)  
What do you mean bluffed?

Senator  
Well, that's what it was, that special account, wasn't it?

Abe  
(C. to desk L. C.)  
Maybe with you, but not with me. Here is my bank-book. See, \$81,000 balance on my own bank account. Let the book-keeper fill out the check for me for the full amount and I'll sign it.

Abe, you mustn't do this. Ruth

Abe Abe  
Why not? Mawruss and me are partners -- ain't we?

Mawruss  
We were partners, we dissolved.

Abe  
Dissolved nothing! What's a dissolution agreement amount to, a scrap of paper!

Senator  
Potash, this is wonderful of you -- it's, it's positively noble.

Abe  
You noble! \$75,000 came out of the business. Why shouldn't it go back where it belongs? Mawruss and me should never have split.--

Boris  
Here's the check--

Senator  
Come, Andrieff, Mr. Wolf - bring your books we'll take the inspector down to the bank and try to straighten things out.

Abe  
Fix it up Senator. Come Ruth, what are you crying about? We'll start all over again. It may be small at first, but we'll soon be on our feet again and when we are, we'll make the Cloak and Suit Company of North America look like a peddler's supply store.

(Enter PASINSKY R. U.)

Pasinsky  
Well, Abe, we got it.

Abe  
Gott what?

Pasinsky  
The house.

Abe  
The house! What house?

Pasinsky  
What house. I bought Max Gubin's house for you and I cashed your check for \$75,000.

(Abe sinks down chair R. of table L. C.)

(Morris speechless on bench R. Ruth sinks  
bench R.)

C U R T A I N

NOTE: (CHANGE TO NEXT SCENE MUST BE MADE INSIDE OF  
TWO ( 2 ) MINUTES.)

## ACT III

## SCENE II

## SCENE

This scene is the old Potash and Perlmutter first act. Old press-man is seen working in shop through window on platform up Centre.

## DISCOVERED

MISS COHEN, Typewriting at desk  
R. U.

Sidney, dusting desks C. Smoking  
a cigarette.

Boris at desk in the rear C.

Miss Cohen  
How do you spell Emporium?

Sidney  
If I knew how to spell such high-grade words, I would be  
a book-keeper, not an office boy.

Boris  
Is it such an honor to be a book-keeper?

Miss Cohen  
Well, it's a whole lot better than a promoter, Mr. Andrieff.

Boris  
Yes it is. It's good to be back in the old place where  
I started.  
(Boris exits L. U.)

Miss Cohen  
They were lucky to find it vacant.

Sidney  
Yes, but who'd want to rent a dump like this?  
(Enter ABE R. U.)  
(Hangs hat & coat on tree up R.)

Miss Cohen  
Good morning, Mr. Potash.

Sidney  
Good morning, Mr. Potash.  
(Abe sees Sidney smoking, who tries to hide the cigarette)

Abe  
Smoking cigarettes during office business. Put it out.  
(Sidney is frightened and exits hastily L. U.)

Abe  
Good morning, good morning. Ain't Mr. Perlmutter here yet?  
No? Tcht, tcht, tcht!  
(Xes to desk L. C. and sits looking at papers)

Miss Cohen  
Oh, Mr. Potash, Schenkmann telephoned.

Abe  
What did he say?

Miss Cohen  
He says if he doesn't get his money today he will sue.

Abe  
Telephone him the boy is on the way over there now with the check. I told him the same thing last week and still he bothers me. Any letters?

Miss Cohen  
A couple.  
(Xes to Abe gives him two letters)

Abe  
What's this -- an advertisement?

Miss Cohen  
Looks like a wedding invitation.

Abe  
Wedding invitation? Das fehlt nur noch!  
(Enter MAWRUSS)  
(R. U. takes off hat and coat)

Miss Cohen  
Good morning, Mr. Perlmutter.

Mawruss  
Good morning.  
(Miss Cohen exits R. U.)

Abe  
Oh, Mawruss!

Mawruss  
It's trouble -- I can see it in your face  
(Down to desk R. C.)

Abe

We got a wedding invitation!

Mawruss

Who from?  
(Sits at desk)

Abe

What's the difference! He wouldn't send it, unless he expected to sting us for something.

Mawruss

Nu, read it.

Abe

Mr. and Mrs. I. Seiden  
request the pleasure of  
Potash and Perlmutter's presence  
at the marriage of their daughter,

Leah

to Mr. Marks Pasinsky.

On Sunday, October twenty-sixth,

at New Riga Hall.

2953 Windover Avenue, Bronx.

R. S. V. P. to  
The Non-Pareil Waist Company,

I Seiden, Proprietor.

: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :

Waists in Silks, Voiles and

Marquissettes. A large stock  
of lace and Embroidered Waists

constantly on hand.

301 Green St. New York.

: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :

Telephone 8594 Spring.

Ring us up and a Salesman will call.



Mawruss

What does that mean -- "R. S. V. P."?

Abe

R. S. V. P. Remember send vedding present.

Mawruss

When I went to night school, wedding was spelled with a W.

Abe

A greenhorn like Pasinsky don't know no better.

Mawruss

He knew enough to get your money back out of that real estate deal.

Abe

Less ten percent., them robbers held out on me. Over seven thousand dollars it cost me make to them low-lifes take back their house.

Mawruss

If it hadn't been you got \$75,000 from them where would I be today?

Abe

In the tombs.

Mawruss

And I'll never forget what you done for me.

Abe

Me neither.

Mawruss

You ain't sorry, are you?

Abe

Sorry? Certainly I ain't sorry. It was worth \$75,000. The stock holders is paid -- we come out with clean shirts-- Gans is gone, Gott sei dank -- Wolf is back in Wall Street --- and Boris is there -- and we are here ---

Mawruss

And what more could you want?

Abe

That \$375 from the Insurance Company.

Mawruss

It would come in handy. Did you write them?

Abe

I did. And here is the answer I got.  
(Takes letter from pocket and reads)

Waco, Texas.

Mr. Abraham Potash,

Dear Sir:-

Your favor received in which you request return of \$375, and in reply would say we are a life insurance company and not a savings bank. You will be entitled to a loan after fifteen years.

The cash surrender value is now \$3.25.

Faithfully yours,

THE CRESCENT LIFE INSURANCE CO.

Mawruss

\$3.25 ain't to be sneezed at neither. For \$3.25 we can buy Marks Pasinsky an elegant cut glass wedding present.

Abe

Cut glass nothing! We'll give him back his nut picks!

Mawruss

My nut picks?

Abe

Why not? What use have you got for nut picks? If you eat nuts once a year, Mawruss, that's tremendous.

Mawruss

Even so, Abe, with a good customer like Mark Pasinsky, you can't be so small as all that. We'll give him them after dinner coffee spoons Rashkind sent us.

(Miss Cohen enters R.U. with telegram)

Miss Cohen

Here's a telegram Mr. Perlmutter.

just came -  
 ((She X's to her desk R.U.)

Mawruss

((Mawruss read telegram))

Wish you as much luck as you had on Fifth Avenue.  
 Glad to see you back on East Broadway."  
 Klinger & Kaye.

Abe

Miss Cohen send a telegram to Klinger and Kaye and thank them for their telegram.

Mawruss

And Miss Cohen, add this to the telegram. P. S. And put it in the beginning - We wish you the same as you wish us, and many Happy Returns --

Abe

And send it collect -  
 (Miss Cohen exits)

(Enter Rosie and Ruth R.U. - Rosie Xes down L. 1.  
 Mawruss assists Ruth with her hat and coat. Ruth sits at desk R.U and starts to work, designing)

Abe

(L.C.)

Well, well, well, so you got here, did you? Welcome back to East Broadway!

Rosie

My, my! How elegant the old place looks.  
(Xes down L. 1.)

Mawruss

(R. C.)

Elegant.

Ruth

Cheer up Mawruss, we've found two beautiful apartments,  
haven't we, Rosie?

Rosie

On Westchester Avenue corner of 264th Street.

Ruth

Only \$32 a month.

Rosie

And such swell entrances, from the opposite side of the  
street half way up the block you would think they were  
elevator apartments.

Abe

I wish they was, Rosie, for your sake.

Rosie

Never mind, Abe. A little exercise walking up and down  
stairs will do me good.

Abe

You'll look like your own daughter Rosie, by the time we're  
all back on Riverside Drive.

Mawruss

We would never moved from there if we'd listened only to  
Ruth.

Abe

And to me. She said we were not smart enough to go down  
into Wall Street and she was right.

Ruth

But that's all over now. A couple of good seasons and  
we'll be moving back to Fifth Avenue.

Mawruss

Do we want to? It's like you said, Ruth. Here we are big  
frogs in a small puddle but in Fifth Avenue we are small  
frogs in a big puddle.

Abe

And im Wall Street, we are frogs legs on toast -- free lunch for a lot of sharpers. We'll stay where we are for the present anyway.

Ruth

And you'll work hard boys, at your own game.

Mawruss

A four handed game, Ruth. You and me and Rosie and Abe.

Rosie

All firields and partners together.

Mawruss

Yes, I Rosie, no more cloak and suit Company of North America. No more Potash and Perlmutter Incorporated. Just plain Potash and Perlmutter -- Abe -- and Mawruss.

Abe

(Goes to desk R. C., Mawruss' desk, gets box of cigars)

Have a cigar, Mawruss.

(They are arguing at the Curtain and for the second curtain Picture .)

C U R T A I N









