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Abe and Mawruss

Founders Staff

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ABE & MAWRUSS

A. H. Woods
ABE & MAWRUSS

(Continuing the Story of "POTASH & PERLMUTTER)

A Comedy in Three Acts and a Happy Ending

By

MONTAGUE GLASS & ROI COOPER MEGRUE

ACT I.

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

(In the Order of their First Appearance)

ABE POTA Ш.............................. BARNEY BERNARD
MAHWUSS PERLMUTTER.................. JULIUS TANNEN
MARKS PASINSKY........................ LEE KOHLMAR
ROSIЕ POTA Ш............................ MADAME COTRELLEY
IRMA ANDRIEFF........................... CLAIBORNE FOSTER
RUTH PERLMUTTER...................... LOUISE DRESSER
A W AITE R............................. ROBERT GIBSON
KATIE.................................. AMY SUMERS
MOZART RABINER.......................... LEO DONELLEY
BORIS ANDRIEFF........................ FRED H. SPEARE
HENRY S. WOLF........................... JAMES SPOFFORD
MRS. B. GANS............................ CORINNE REILY BARKER
MR. B. GANS................................ WALTER HORTON
SOL KLINGER............................ CARL HARTBERG
MRS. SOL KLINGER........................ KATHERINE DE BARRY
MISS KLINGER............................ MICHON HOOD
LEON SAMMET............................ JOSEPH REDMAN
MRS. SAMMET.............................. FERIKE BOROS
MR. K AYE................................ W. S. ELY
MRS. KAYE................................ ALICE ENDRES
MISS KAYE................................. JEANETTE MARSHALL
MR. GEIGERMAN............................ DORIE ROGERS
MRS. GEIGERMAN.......................... MONA MORGAN
DR. EICHENDORFER................... STANLEY JESSUP
MR. FLEXBERG............................ EDWIN MAXWELL
SENATOR MURPHY........................ ROBERT E. HOMANS
MISS COHEN.............................. GRACE FIELDING
SIDNEY.................................. JACK KENNEDY
A. J. REDMOND............................ ARTHUR HURLEY
ACT 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 PABINSKY playing pinochle, centre - Mawruss
facing audience - Pasinsky chair L.
Rosie R. ABE is looking on, over Rosie's shoulder.

IEMA 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-eo 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.

(Leaves 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
Co-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.)

Rosie

Abe!

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

Abe
Did I say something?
(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.

(Pingering 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.

Rosi e
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!

Rosi e
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
Schmooes, 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 --

#WARNING
TELEPHONE#

Rosie

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

(With reference to 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 Pasha 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?

(Pasinsky goes to telephone on table in hall L.U.)

Irma

But, Boris dear, have you forgotten what night this is?

Abe

It's Boris --
Calling up his wife, to say he has a date at the lodge, eh, Abe?

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

Not one night out since they married --

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

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

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 --

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

Henry S. Wolf --

Mr. Stauerman's nephew --

Mr. Stauerman's nephew?

Tell him to bring him right away up -

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

Soh, 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?

(Rising)

Mawruss

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

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

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 --

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

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

MaxGubin's house?

four families to a floor, basement stores and --

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

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

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

It pays 8% --

Tell me about it --

(Abe sits)
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.

And what about me --

Pasinsky
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.

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 smegge)

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. Mrs. 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 dis-
cuss 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!
(Horrified 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?

(Abe rises)

Abe

No. For dead men pay no premiums.

(Mawruss rises)

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

(Angrily)
Enough of talking, Mawruass -- 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
(Conversing)
And why not?

Mawruss
(Brightly)
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 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 curacoa --
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

Ch, 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, good-bye.

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)

Come.

(Abe picks up cut glass bowl.)

Must have cost 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.
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
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 Heaven's 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 nushes 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.I.)
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 Perlmutt-
er's wife.

Abe
And this is my wife, Mr. Wolf.
(Shake hands with the gentleman)

Rosie

Pleased to meet you.

(Rosie rises 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 Rosie's L.)

Wolf

(R.L.)

We want to incorporate Potash and Perlmutter ---

Ruth

(C)

Who wants to --

Wolf

Mr. Steuerman and I --

Ruth

Ch! ---

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 oittomobile 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.

Then it's all settled.

Mawruss

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

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? Gain 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 --

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.

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#

(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 --
Just woman's tuition --

And that ain't never right ---

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

Don't I know that?

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

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

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

Sure, we promise anything on a wedding anniversary --

(Winking back)

Sure, we do.

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

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

Say, ain't that feller Rabiner gone yet?

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

Now, my evening's ruined --
(L)

Mawruss

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

Ruth

(Smiling)

Ask Rosie --

Roscie 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.

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.")
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

(asyarakat 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

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)

(Schmeiel 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. Gan'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.L.)

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.1.)
(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.1. 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 gail - 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.1. 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, 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.O.)
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.  
(Ring 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.l.)
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.l.)
the Geigerman Dry Goods Company from Rochester is here.  
(Exits library R.l.)

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 of 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.l.)

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.
What's she doing here?

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

Introduce me to her.

Is it necessary? She's a model, you know.

(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)

Good evening, fair one.

I beg your pardon ---

That's a very successful garment you have on.

Oh, you like it?

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

Do I really?

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

I'm B. Gans.

Of New York?

Of New York,

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

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

Oh, I'd hate to tell you —

(Turning away)

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

Perhaps — but do you know who I am?

Does that matter? Lunch Monday?

You'll have to ask Mr. Perlmutter —

Oh, I'll get you a day off —

Will you really? Perhaps you can't.

You work for Perlmutter, don't you?

Yes, all the time —
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 New York 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)

Ain't it great?

Boris

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

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

All

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 —

CURTAIN

(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 is alone, covering her face with her hands)
ABE & MAWRUSS

ACT II.
ACT II.

SCENE:

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 fashion ed sink and bath-tub. Gas bracket lighted on wall. Medicine cabinet on wall - Toilet articles on shelf. Razor strap 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 incorporation.

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?

(Axing 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.

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

What company is it?

Rosie
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.

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 bathroom door)

Mawruss

Hello Rosie -- hello Irma --

(They answer his greeting)

(L.C.)

How are you, Rosie --

(Kisses Rosie R.C.)

Mawruss

(In angry tones)

Nu, Abe, is this a time to be sick?

Abe

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 dog's life.

Abe
(Groans)
Oh, oh! I'm sick.

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

Abe
I couldn't eat a thing I tell you.

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

But what?

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.
And besides, we thought you'd object.

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

Then they'll have to wait.

(Centre)

To wait? Who for?

Senator Murphy.

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

I did. I saw him yesterday.

But we already got lawyers, Ruth --

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

But they're Gans' lawyers.

They're Wolf's lawyers too.

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

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

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

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#

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.)

(Off stage)

Rabiner

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, Rabiner, 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 . . I Co -- 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

Coo—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.)

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

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.

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

Pasinsky

What could he tell you about B. Gans?

Rabiner

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 bookkeepers make a kaffee klatsch out of your business.

Rabiner

You are too innocent, Mr. Potash —

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

She probably don't. It was hushed up.

Rabiner

Trust Gans for that.

Rosie

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.)
Co--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 Imwas going to live long.

Rosie
Abe! Don't talk like that.

(Mawruss & Xing 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

Coo-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

Coo-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

Coo-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?

(Frightened)
Pasinsky
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**
(Eh?)
Real estate? 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
Co -- 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, Mawrus is center)

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.C. walking up and down excitedly)

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

Abe
#WARNING

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 Gubin's house yet --

Pasinsky
Well Max Gubin says he would never see his life 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.)

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 --

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?
Why not?

Ruth

But Mr. Perlmutter --

Gans

Ruth

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

Gans

Ruth

Shall we say Tuesday?

Gans

At the Waldorf at one --

Ruth

A bit conspicuous - the Astor.

Gans

Ruth

Oh, dear God-

Gans

What is it?

Ruth

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

Gans

Ruth

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

Gans

Ruth

She'd misunderstand -- wouldn't she?

Gans

Ruth

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

Gans

Ruth

No, but I think you do.

Gans

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

(To Gans)
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 Cubin's house enter from L.C. 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 Fixberg and Fixberg; the firm is.

(Abe going to chair C. of table R.C.)

Abe

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

(Abe sitting)

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

Abe

(Puzzled)

Fourth incorporator!

Fixberg

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

Pasinsky

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

Fixberg

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

Pasinsky

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

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

Fixberg

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

Ruth

(Anxiously)

Mawruss, aren't you going to wait for the Senator.

(Xing to R.C. in front of table)

Fixberg

The Senator - who's he?

Mawruss

Just an old friend of my wife's.

Abe

She asked him to look in here today.

(Xing to chair R. of table R. and sits)

Rosie

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

Fixberg

Pardon me, another lawyer?

Mawruss

Oh, but we don't bother about him.

(Xing to Fixberg)

You are our lawyer Mr. Fixberg, and anything you say goes.

(X's to R.C.)

Senator or no Senator.

(Pause)
Ruth

Ch 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.

(Abing 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.

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 a 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 full age, 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 kinds 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-
(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
Could'nt 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?

Guns
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 end stands near Fixberg)
This is a legitimate scheme.

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

(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
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.l.)

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

How do you do --
(Gans bows coldly)

(Ruth)

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 --

(R.C.)

Then you approve of the proposition?

Senator

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?
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.

(R.C.)

Oh do stay please, till it's absolutely settled.

Mawruss

Certainly, if no one objects -

(Ruth goes R. Sits on sofa)

Mawruss

Of course not.

Gans

(Sarcastically)

Delighted.

Boris, get a chair, for the Senator

(Boris does so, goes in dining room. The Senator sits on Pasinsky's R.)

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

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.

Fifty thousand dollars a year salary for him!

(S' enough, Mawruss,)

(Rise X L.)

I heard enough! I'm through this time for good.

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, (xung 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 swindler.

#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!
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.

Wolf

What the devil --

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

(L)
Abe
What are you for -- Heaven's taking about? You yourself said so.

(R)
Pasinsky
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
I told you about a girl in Cleveland -- why Abe, you must be crazy. I told you about a girl in Cleveland -- 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.

(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.

(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.r.)
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.

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 partner, Boris, and he don't give a damn!

Mawruss

Abe!

Mawruss

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)

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.

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
(I'B 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. Chif
Mawruss 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.

Abe
Nu, Rosie, don't take on so.

Ruth
(Giving to Rosie)

Abe
(Exit L.U.)

Rosie
Gott sei dank, we've got our health --

Abe
—and we got Irma -- and seventy-five thousand dollars --

Rosie
(Still sobs)

Abe
And I even got for ten thousand dollars life insurance.

Rosie
Come, Rosie, you get us a nice cup coffee. Maybe we feel
better.

Rosie
Coffee! You can talk of coffee now when --

Rosie
(Weeping)

Abe
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.

Abe (Rising L.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 the trouble
(Xing L.L.)
-- 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)

CURTAIN
ABE AND MAWRUBS

ACT III.
ACT 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. MAHWUS behind desk L.C. looking over some dress sketches. GANS busy going over some accounts, sitting
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

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.
Oh, all right.

(Entering R.U.)

A gentlemen outside.

What name?

Gave me this card~

It's a Live Wire.

A live wire, what's that?

It's a man who answered our ad for an advertising manager.

Oh yes, I recall. His letter sounded very promising -

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.

Let's look him over.

Show him in, Sidney --

Step inside, Mr. Wire.

(Exit)

(Entering R.U.)

Ah gentlemen, good morning.

Robiner,

(Rising and X's to Rabiner C.)

What do you want from us now?
I called in answer to your advertisement.

You are the live wire?

Yes, I am here at your invitation and I can deliver the goods.

You a live wire. The only shock we could get out of you would be your expense account.

Pardon me, Mr. Perlmutter. As advertising manager, I would have no expense account.

Since when are you an advertising manager --

Well I suppose you boys knew I've had some experience in the advertising business.

We suspected it, Rabiner --

I thought you were a life insurance agent.

Only as a side line. I'm now in the advertising game. Advertising - that's the great thing, the pulling power of publicity.

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.

Make me no more speeches, Rabiner.

I take it you don't want me here.

Well we ain't crazy about it Rabiner.
Rabiner
Well, gentlemen, I accept your terms. Let's 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
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 so 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, n 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?

Ma'vrusso
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?

Ma'vrussso
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.)

Ma'vrussso
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.

Ma'vrussso
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!

Ma'vrussso
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.)

Ma'vrussso
You are to use mine.
(Takes Ruth by arm.)

Ruth
I'd rather use Gans!
(Xing to door R.l.)
Please, Ruth --

Oh run along, green eyed monster.

 Didn't you say you were to see Stern Brothers to-day.

You made me forget all about it -

Well, don't be too nice to Gans.

You leave Gans to me.

Now off with you for a big order --

Miss Cohen, I'm going over to Stern Brothers, and I'll be back when I get here.

PHONE RINGS.

Hello. Yes this is the Cloak & Suit Co. of North America. Mr. Gans. Wait a minute... No I can't find him.

Abe

(Entering R.U. Walks down stage C. looking all around without a word)

Looks like Murray's. Is my partner in?

Your partner!

I mean Mr. Perlmutter.

No he's out.

Thinks he's a night shift.

I think Mr. Gans is in.

T'phone! 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.U.)
There's a fresh thing.

Pasinsky
Oh here you are Abe!
(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—middle 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, ooee—such a girl.

Abe

To who—to whom—

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 not 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. l. Abe looks around and X's R. l.)

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.
At the corner table but Abe—

I don't blame you. Maybe, it was the only table you could get.

But you don't think there's anything wrong about lunching alone with my husband's partner.

On 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.

But why don't you tell Mawruss.

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.

If I took a lady out to lunch to prove something to Rosie, believe me then I would need Rabiner's insurance.

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.

Me help you— that fellow could keep a detective bureau busy working nights alone. How could I help you?

Take job here as head salesman.

Me work for Mawruss Perlmutter.

The best I could get from such a job would be nervous prostration.

Well Abe, you haven't forgotten how to sell goods, have you?

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 do Mrs. Perlmutter, charmed to see you.

How do you do.

Ruth
Oh Potash -

Gans
(Up centre)

Abe
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.
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 dayafter 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
Prlmutter, 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.

WARNING TELEPHONE

Gans
I'll get the tickets. You'd best get on the train alone, so nobody could suspect. Will you wait here.

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. l.)

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.l)

Ruth

(In phone)

Hello, Senator Murphy please...Mrs. Perlmutter. Senator, I 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 absurded -

Ruth

Perhaps he's sold to some outsider?
Impossible. He has to offer the stock to us first.

Wolf

(Pushing him out)

Ruth

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.

Abe

Mr. Perlmutter's out - have him wait.

Sidney

Geigerman here. Show him in.

Abe

He wants to see Mr. Perlmutter.

Sidney

Ain't their anybody here to show him the goods.

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
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

(Re.)
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

Honestly, Mr. Geiger, if a merchant displays this gown in his window right away he gets a summons for blocking the sidewalk.

Geiger

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 stains.

Geiger

But I can't pay $125.

Abe

But Mr. Geiger, 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.

Geiger

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.

Geiger

Well what's your lowest price?

Abe

I'll tell you Mr. Geiger, to a good customer like you, if you'll take ten of that style, I will say one hundred dollars.

Geiger

Ten of them -- well I will take twenty of them.

Abe

(Walking R)

Something must be wrong.

(Starts to figure aloud his commissions on the sale)

100 times twenty $2,000.

Geiger

"Well what do you say"?

Abe

Just a minute -- 10% of $2000 would be $200.00. Alright Mr. Geiger, 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)

(Goes L)

Alright Potash, I'll call again --

Abe

(Immediately at door L. 2)

And remember Mr. Geigermann, I want you to take lunch with
me next time you come to town.

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 spon-
gers. 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
I'll be glad to see you, 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
I 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 N'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!
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

(Yo) really would take a job here?

Abe

We 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 couldn'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 the 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 --

Ruth

Yo promised Ruth?

Mawruss

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.

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

(Entering R. U.)
(R. U. comes between them)
Boys, boys, what is it ---
Ruth

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.

(L. C.)
Mawruss
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
Shh -- 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 lunch, 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.

You're sold out?

Gans

(L. C)

Everything.

(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, Perlmutt! You 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, Perlmutt, 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!

(L. C.)

Ruth

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 to C)

**Abe**

And so you could--and so you can!

**Mawruss**

You believe that story of hers?
Of course I believe her.

Abe

Mawruss

(L. C.)

But she ain't your wife, Abe.

Mawruss

(R. C.)

Listen, Morris. Do you suppose if someone tells me he is going to elope with my wife, that I would believe it?

Abe

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


Mawruss

But I sign the checks. Gans can't rob me. He can't.

(Enters R.U.)

Miss Cohen

Mr. A. J. Redmond is here; he had an appointment——

(Morris crosses over L.)
What does he want?
Miss Cohen
He wants to buy some stock.
Mawruss
I can't see him now.
Abe
Say, Morris, be so jealous as you want but don't let it interfere with business. Show him in.
Mawruss
I tell you I won't see him.
Abe
Then I will.
Step inside, please.
(Enter A. J. REDMOND)
(R. U.)
Redmond
Good morning.
Abe
Good morning.
Redmond
Is this Mr. Perlmutter?
Abe
That's Mr. Perlmutter.
Redmond
Mr. Perlmutter, my name is Redmond. I called to see about buying some stock.
Perlmutter
Well, that's not my department.
Abe
(Apologetically)
"Take a seat. Mr. Perlmutter ain't very well. I'll get a good sales man to wait on you."
(Over R)
(REDMOND sits chair R. of table L. C.)
(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.

(The man)
What's the matter with you. Talk up to the man.

Schlemiel!

Mawrus
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

nd all from stock sales?

Boris

very dollar.

( Redmond crosses R. and places hand on Mawruss's shoulder, then speaks)

Redmond

When, 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 flimflamming 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, Kes 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.
(R. C.)

Abe

Ell, it is there ——

Redmond

(L. C.)

Yes, 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

(o)

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. L)

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.

Yes.

Murphy

Say, what has he done?

Abe

Don't say that again, Morris.

Ruth

Oh, why didn't you trust me, Morris?

Morris

I do, I do!

[Abe up C. around desk R. U. then Down R. L.]

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, Mawruse, you shouldn't make out the checks.  What is a book-keeper for?

(Goes up stage then down L. to desk L. C.)

Murphy

Well, Perlmutter, I'm mighty sorry for you.  You're crimi-nally 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.
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.)

Pasinisky

Well, Abe, we got it.

Abe

Got what?

Pasinisky

The house.

Abe

The house! What house?

Pasinisky

What house. I bought Max Cubin'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.)

CURTAIN

NOTE: (CHANGE TO NEXT SCENE MUST BE MADE INSIDE OF TWO (2) MINUTES.)
ACT III

SCENE II

This scene is the old Potash and Perlmutter first act. Old pressman 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.

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.

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 us 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
Marianettes. 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 wedding 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.

Me neither.

Abe

You ain't sorry, are you?

Mawruss

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, Gottsel 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 gone -

((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. l. 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. l.)

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.
And in 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.

And you'll work hard boys, at your own game.

A four handed game, Ruth. You and me and Rosie and Abe.

All friends and partners together.


(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.)