

FIRST DRAFT
12/12/77

ONE DAY AT A TIME

"The New Owner"

Executive Producers

Jack Elinson

&

Norman Paul

Producers

Dick Bensfield

&

Perry Grant

Directed by

Herbert Kenwith

Written by

Perry Grant

&

Dick Bensfield

A
T.A.T. COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
AND
ALLWHIT INC. PRODUCTION

EPISODE: #0317

TAPE : 12/16/77

ONE DAY AT A TIME

TENTATIVE REHEARSAL & TAPE SCHEDULE

#0317

MONDAY 12/12

READ SCRIPT
LUNCH SERVED
BLOCK SCRIPT

REHEARSAL HALL "F"

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
2:00 PM -

TUESDAY, 12/13

REHEARSAL
LUNCH
REHEARSAL

REHEARSAL HALL "F"

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
2:00 PM -

WEDNESDAY, 12/14

REHEARSAL W/PROPS
LUNCH
REHEARSAL
RUN THRU
NOTES W/CAST

REHEARSAL HALL "F"

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM
3:00 PM -

THURSDAY, 12/15

E.S.U.
FAX
LUNCH
FAX
RUN THRU W/COMPLETE WARDROBE
NOTES W/CAST

STAGE #1

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
5:00 PM -

FRIDAY, 12/16

DIRECTOR'S NOTES
E.S.U.
FAX
RUN THRU
CAST NOTES, MAKEUP, AUDIENCE
VTR/FAX (DRESS W/AUDIENCE)
MEAL BREAK & NOTES
VT CHECK IN
VTR/FAX (AIR W/AUDIENCE)
PICKUPS

STAGE #1

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
2:30 PM - 3:45 PM
3:45 PM - 4:30 PM
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
7:30 PM - 8:00 PM
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
9:00 PM -

ONE DAY AT A TIME"The New Owner"ACT ONEFADE IN:INT. ANN'S LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

(BARBARA, IN HER ROBE, IS DANCING AS SHE WEARS A SET OF STEREO EARPHONES -- THE BIG PADDED KIND THAT CUT OUT OUTSIDE NOISE. A LONG CORD LEADS FROM THE EARPHONES TO THE STEREO SET. SHE IS NODDING HER HEAD AND MOVING HER BODY...ENJOYING MUSIC WHICH NONE OF US CAN HEAR.)

SFX: DOORBELL

(NO REACTION FROM BARBARA WHO CAN ONLY HEAR THE MUSIC)

SFX: DOORBELL AGAIN

ANN (O.S.)

Barbara...get the door!

SFX: DOORBELL

(BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF IT ALL, BARBARA NOW SITS DOWN ON SOFA AND CONTINUES TO BOB TO MUSIC)

ANN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Barbara, I'm not dressed! Get the door!

(A BEAT. ANN COMES OUT IN A PLAIN FLANNEL NIGHTGOWN, NO ROBE. BARBARA DOESN'T SEE HER)

ANN (CONT'D)

Barbara...

(SEES HER IN EARPHONES, GOES TO STEREO SET
BEHIND BARBARA, PICKS UP MICROPHONE, TURNS
A SWITCH AND SPEAKS INTO MICROPHONE)

ANN (CONT'D)

Move your butt.

BARBARA

(JUMPS)

Ahhhhh.....!

(TAKES OFF EARPHONES)

Mom! Do you have to shout "move
your butt", just as Elvis is saying
"Love Me Tender".

ANN

Somebody's at the door, would
you get it?

BARBARA

Why me?

ANN

It might be Christian Dior and I
don't want him to see me like this.

BARBARA

Okay, okay...

(BARBARA SETS DOWN EARPHONES AS ANN GOES BACK INTO BEDROOM. BARBARA OPENS DOOR... TO FIND SCHNEIDER WORKING ON THE DOORBELL BUTTON WITH A SCREWDIVER...BUTTON IS LOOSE FROM WALL AND HANGING ON ITS WIRES.)

SCHNEIDER

Oh, hi, kid. Didn't you hear the doorbell?

BARBARA

No.

SCHNEIDER

Darn, I thought I had it fixed.

(PUSHES BUTTON)

SFX: DOORBELL

Naw, it's working...see...

(PUSHES BUTTON A NUMBER OF TIMES TO PROVE THIS)

SFX: BING BONG, BING BONG, BING BONG!

(ANN COMES STORMING OUT IN HER ROBE NOW)

ANN

What the devil's going on out here?!

SCHNEIDER

(COMING IN)

Oh, good, you're awake. I was afraid you might be asleep.

ANN

Who me? At the crack of dawn on
Saturday morning...When I don't have
to work. Why didn't you just blow
reveille on a bugle?

SCHNEIDER

Oh, hey, sorry. I didn't know you
were one of those people who wakes
up grumpy.

BARBARA

He's fixing the doorbell.

SCHNEIDER

You asked me to fix it.

ANN

Only three weeks ago. What's the
hurry?

SCHNEIDER

Ms. Romano...please...hold your
temper.

(TAKES LIST FROM TOOL BELT)

I got a lot of things to fix. Let's
see, you wanted me to fix the
thermometer in your thermostat....

(LOOKS AT THERMOSTAT, BANGS LOUDLY ON WALL
NEXT TO IT)

There...it's okay.

ANN

Schneider...

SCHNEIDER

Oh, yeah...and this loose molding.

(TAKES HAMMER FROM TOOLBELT AND BANGS IN LOOSE
NAIL ON MOLDING NEAR FLOOR)

ANN

Schneider!!!

SCHNEIDER

Ms. Romano...not so loud...we got
tenants trying to sleep. Hope you
didn't wake up Julie.

ANN

She's visiting her father.

SCHNEIDER

Oh...

(CONSULTS LIST)

Let's see...next...you said these
shutters were sticking....

(GOES TO SHUTTERS OVER KITCHEN COUNTER...TAKES
CAN OF SILICONE SPRAY FROM TOOL BELT...AND
GIVES THE CEILING TRACK ONE QUICK ZIP WITH
SPRAY)

...That takes care of that.

BARBARA

We waited three months for one..."Pssst!"?

SCHNEIDER

It always looks easy when a pro
does it.

ANN

Schneider, at the risk of sounding
grumpy again...why the big rush
to get things fixed?

SCHNEIDER

Just getting everything shipshape for
the new owner.

BARBARA

New owner? The building's been sold?

SCHNEIDER

Yeah. Came as a surprise to me, too.
I called the old owner yesterday and
told him I needed a raise. Guy said
okay. Right then I knew something
was wrong.

ANN

Who's the new owner?

SCHNEIDER

Some dame. I haven't met her.

BARBARA

A woman?

SCHNEIDER

Yeah...Mrs. Stegemuller. Hope she
ain't as tough as her name.

ANN

Hey, maybe she'll let us have a new refrigerator.

BARBARA

What we really need is a new shower head.

SCHNEIDER

Hold it...let's not start asking for stuff right off. Let me lay a little ground work. Let me spread a little butter upon the water...a little...

ANN

...polish upon the apple.

BARBARA

So that's why the sudden rush to get everything fixed up...to score points.

SCHNEIDER

Hey, I'm not worried, I mean, I been the Super here for fourteen years. I know this building like a lover knows a lovee. I'm not gonna be replaced. I mean, she could hire one of them building maintenance outfits, but the cheapest one wouldn't save her five percent from what I get...and that doesn't include personalized, round the clock, instant service like you get.

ANN

Uh...right.

SCHNEIDER

This dame wouldn't be crazy enough
to fire me...would she?

BARBARA

Don't worry, Schneider, we'll
put in a good word for you.

SCHNEIDER

Oh, hey, not to worry. I got it
locked. No problem. When you're
on the ball, you're on the ball.
Well, I gotta get going. I'm
supposed to meet her down at my
place...

(GLANCES AT WATCH...PANICS)

Ten minutes ago! I gotta get
down there!

(STARTS, STOPS FLUSTERED)

Where's my hammer?

(BARBARA PICKS IT UP WHERE HE LEFT IT NEAR
BASEBOARD)

BARBARA

Here.

SCHNEIDER

Thanks. Where's my screwdriver?

(SEES IT IN TOOLBELT)

(MORE)

SCHNEIDER (CONT'D)

Oh, here it is. Where's my...

oh, yeah, don't worry, I didn't
bring it.

(STARTS OUT, STOPS, TAKES WHISK BROOM FROM
TOOL BELT AND WHISKS OFF HIS "T" SHIRT.
THEN HEADS QUICKLY FOR DOOR, STOPS)

Hey, look, if she's mad 'cause I'm
late, I'll tell her you had an
emergency and I was up here giving
you artificial insemination.

(RUSHES OUT, A BEAT, HE COMES BACK IN,
EMBARRASSED. HE LEAVES DOOR OPEN)

...respiration! I mean, respiration.

BARBARA

Schneider, I've never seen you so
uptight.

SCHNEIDER

(THIS STRIKES A NERVE)

Uptight? You got that I'm uptight?

(SALVAGING HIS COOL)

Hey...hey...don't get the idea I'm
rushing down there to kow-tow to
the new owner.

(BEHIND SCHNEIDER, ROSE STEGEMULLER APPEARS IN
DOORWAY, A LARGE BONED, TOUGH, NO NONSENSE TYPE.
SCHNEIDER IS UNAWARE)

(MORE)

SCHNEIDER (CONT'D)

If I gave any impression at all that I was uptight, it's because I'll be working for a dame. I'm a guy used to dealing in logic.

(ROSE JUST STANDS THERE LETTING HIM HANG HIMSELF)

ANN

Uh...Schneider.

SCHNEIDER

Now all I'm going to get is a bunch of yackin'. I heard she's a widow. Probably drove her husband to his grave with her flapping mouth.

BARBARA

(POINTING TOWARD HIM)

Schneider...

ROSE

So you're Schneider, huh?

SCHNEIDER

(FREEZES...NOT LOOKING BACK...SPEAKS TO ANN AND BARBARA, HOPEFULLY)

Is one of you a ventriloquist?

ROSE

I gather you were the super.

SCHNEIDER

(TURNS AND LOOKS AT HER)

Say...love your dress. Bonwit Teller?

ROSE

(ENTERS)

Can it, Buster.

ANN

(COMING UP TO TRY TO EASE THE SITUATION)

You must be Mrs. Stegemuller.

ROSE

Rose Stegemuller. Better known
as "Flapping Mouth".

SCHNEIDER

You thought I was talking about you?
That's ridiculous. I was telling
them about this fish I caught last
week...a large flapping mouth bass.

ANN

Uh...I'm Ann Romano...this is my
daughter, Barbara.

(THEY EXCHANGE GREETINGS)

SCHNEIDER

Also...it's a term of endearment
in my family. My father always
called my mother "Little Flapping Mouth"
...she was part Cherokee.

ANN

(ASIDE TO BARBARA)

That makes him the son of Flapping Mouth...
better known as "Foot in the Mouth".

BARBARA

Mrs. Stegemuller, Schneider is a wonderful superintendant.

ANN

Right, we wouldn't know what to do without him.

SCHNEIDER

Hold it, girls...

(TO ROSE)

Okay, I apologize. Sometimes I say things I don't mean. I had no way of knowing you were such an attractive, charming person. Beautiful hair.

ROSE

That's from Bonwit Teller...

ANN

Uh...Could I get you some coffee?

ROSE

No, thanks...I want to talk to Mr. Schneider.

BARBARA

How about some orange juice? From our old worn-out refrigerator.

ANN

Barbara...

ROSE

(TAKING LIST FROM PURSE...SITS ON SOFA)

The previous owner mentioned some complaints. Some problem with the furnace...something about a pass key...

SCHNEIDER

Uh...well...occasionally I have to get into a tenant's room...part of my security check...you see...that is... uh...excuse me, mind if I don't stand so close? That perfume is very distracting.

ROSE

(CAN'T HELP SOFTENING A BIT)

Really?...Uh...About the furnace.

BARBARA

It's been working fine. Everything's fine. He just fixed everything this morning.

ANN

Barbara...

(BEHIND HIS BACK, SCHNEIDER MOTIONS FOR THEM TO SHOVE OFF)

Uh...would you excuse us? We have to get dressed.

BARBARA

Right...

(TO ANN)

Let's let the man go to work...so
to speak.

(THEY EXIT)

ROSE

(CONSULTING LIST)

Also...the tenant in 212 is complaining
that....

SCHNEIDER

I'll bet your boyfriend bought it
for you.

ROSE

What?

SCHNEIDER

The perfume.

ROSE

Oh, I don't have a boyfriend.

SCHNEIDER

Really?

(SNIFFS)

It has a certain...earthy quality.

ROSE

That's the musk. They say it varies
with each woman's chemistry.

SCHNEIDER

I think you've locked up the Nobel
prize.

ROSE

(SHE REACTS, THEN...)

My late husband would never let me
wear it.

SCHNEIDER

He was probably an insanely jealous
man.

ROSE

(LOOKING AT HIM)

I always wanted him to grow a mustache.

(SNAPS OUT OF IT)

Uh...Mr. Schneider.

SCHNEIDER

Dwayne...

ROSE

Now look, if you have any idea that
personal charm can overshadow the
economic realities of running an
apartment building, you're sadly
mistaken....

(SCHNEIDER SMOOTHES HIS MUSTACHE)

....Dwayne.

(MORE)

ROSE (CONT'D)

(A BEAT)

It's only fair for you to know that
I'm planning to hire a professional
maintenance service for the building...

(HE GIVES HER A SEDUCTIVE LOOK)

....probably.

SCHNEIDER

Well, that's up to you. A woman of
your obvious intelligence shouldn't
allow herself to be ruled by her
warm, feminine heart, Mrs. Stegemuller.

ROSE

Rose....

SCHNEIDER

Rose....Of course, if I were to stay
and give my personalized around the
clock service to the tenants, it's
only fair to tell you that I'd need
a fifty dollar a month raise.

ROSE

Fifty dollars!

SCHNEIDER

On the other hand, I wouldn't want to
be pushed into a higher tax bracket.
Well, shall we take a tour de building,
my dear?

(HE LEADS HER TOWARDS DOOR)

ROSE

You speak French?

SCHNEIDER

Unpocito.

(THEY EXIT. ANN AND BARBARA COME RIGHT OUT
OF THE HALL DOOR, OBVIOUSLY THEY HAVE BEEN
LISTENING)

ANN

I think I'm getting sick. Can you
believe a line like that?

BARBARA

I think it was very romantic.

(WALKING INTO THE ROOM WITH WIDELY SPACED STEPS)

Just be careful where you step in here.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

(ANN ENTERS, HOME FROM WORK. BARBARA IS THERE.)

ANN

Hi.

BARBARA

Hi, Mom. How was work?

ANN

One of those days. I'm bushed.

BARBARA

Perfect. I have just the answer.

ANN

Huh?

BARBARA

How would you like to relieve your tension with a hot, exciting massage... caressing every inch of your body, until it glows and tingles with warm satisfaction.

ANN

What are you talking about?

(SCHNEIDER COMES OUT OF BATHROOM)

SCHNEIDER

Hi, Ms. Romano. Guess what I got for you?

(ANN LOOKS APPREHENSIVE)

Just installed your new multi-function shower head.

ANN

Ohh...shower head.

BARBARA

(HOLDS UP A BROCHURE)

I feel sexy just reading about it.

ANN

Hey...we got a new shower head?

SCHNEIDER

That ain't all. Rose and I've been looking at new refrigerators for some of the tenants. I got you right on top of the list.

ANN

You're kidding? How much is my rent going up?

SCHNEIDER

Oh, I wouldn't be too worried about that. You got a lease. Anyway, Rosie is kind of leaving those decisions up to me, now.

ANN

The old Schneider charm must really be scoring points.

BARBARA

A loaf of bread, a mug of beer and thou.

SCHNEIDER

(GIVES HER A LOOK, THEN...)

Incidentally, if you need anything on Sundays, it'll have to wait. I'm taking Sundays off from now on.

ANN

(POINTEDLY)

Uhhh, huh.

SCHNEIDER

Hey, don't get the wrong idea. There ain't no uhh huhs going on. Rosie and me are just good friends.

BARBARA

Don't you feel a little guilty?

SCHNEIDER

About what?

BARBARA

About...using her like that.

SCHNEIDER

Button your tongue, kid. I'm not one of your gigolos. It's a two way street. The woman needs a little conversation and attention. It's the least I can do. Believe me, she understands...strictly a platonic relationship.

SFX: DOORBELL

(ANN OPENS DOOR. ROSE IS THERE, CARRYING A GIFT-WRAPPED BOX)

ROSE

Hello, Ms. Romano. Is Dway....I mean,
Mr. Schneider here?

ANN

Oh, yes. Come in, Mrs. Stegemuller.

(SHE ENTERS)

SCHNEIDER

Hi, Rosie.

ROSE

Hello, Dwayne.

(LOOKING AT ANN)

I thought I'd find you here.

(HANDS SCHNEIDER THE BOX)

I brought you a little present.

SCHNEIDER

Oh, you shouldn't have done that.

ROSE

Nonsense...it's just a little
something for your work.

BARBARA

Open it, Schneider.

(SCHNEIDER OPENS BOX AND TAKES OUT A WHITE LEATHER,
FAKE GEM-STUDED TOOL BELT...COMPLETE WITH CHROME-
PLATED TOOLS...OBVIOUSLY HE ISN'T OVERJOYED, BUT...)

SCHNEIDER

Ohh...hey...how about this...new
tool belt.

BARBARA

That's really something. Chrome
plated tools.

SCHNEIDER

Uh, yeah...

ROSE

Aren't you going to put it on?

SCHNEIDER

Uh...well, I wouldn't want to get it
all dirty. Been working on the
showerhead.

ROSE

Then I'll settle for a kiss.

SCHNEIDER

Oh...uh....

(EMBARRASSED, HE GIVES HER A LITTLE KISS ON
THE HAND. ANN AND BARBARA EXCHANGE GLANCES)

Well, I gotta get down to the laundry
room. Pipes are acting up again.

(HE STARTS OUT, ROSE FOLLOWS)

ROSE

I'll go with you.

SCHNEIDER

Uh...okay...

(HE OPENS DOOR FOR HER)

Aprez vous...Rose.

(SHE WAVES TO THE FAMILY AND EXITS. SCHNEIDER
GIVES ANN A KIND OF A SICK LOOK)

ANN

When you play with fire.

SCHNEIDER

No problem...no problem...

ROSE (O.S.)

Dwayne!

SCHNEIDER

Coming.

(HE EXITS)

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

(SCHNEIDER COMES OUT. ROSE IS WAITING FOR HIM)

ROSE

You know, I've been thinking. You could use a little time off...Say a long weekend at my cabin.

SCHNEIDER

Cabin?

ROSE

Just a little place at the lake. Big fireplace...cozy sofa.

(LOOKS AT HIM WARMLY)

I haven't been up there since Percy died. Our last night up there may have caused it.

(SCHNEIDER REACTS WITH A TRAPPED SMILE... THEN SUDDENLY PUTS HIS HAND TO HIS BACK)

SCHNEIDER

Ooooooooooh!

ROSE

What's the matter?

SCHNEIDER

Oh, nothing. Just a little back problem. Acts up at the darndest times.

ROSE

Ahh, poor baby. Don't worry, Rosie
will take care of it.

(STEPS BEHIND HIM, PUTS HER ARMS AROUND HIS
CHEST...LIFTS HIM UP AND GIVES HIM A JERK
AND SETS HIM BACK DOWN ON HIS FEET...LIKE
A TRAINER MIGHT DO)

There....

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOFADE IN:INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

(IT'S THE NEXT DAY. BARBARA HAS THE IRONING BOARD SET UP, DOING SOME IRONING. SCHNEIDER LETS HIMSELF IN WITH HIS PASS KEY. HE HAS A CANE AND IS LIMPING A BIT)

SCHNEIDER

Hi...hey...anybody home?

BARBARA

Oh, hi, Schneider.

SCHNEIDER

(LOOKING AROUND)

Rosie doesn't happen to be here, does she? I heard she was in the building.

BARBARA

No.

SCHNEIDER

Oh...uh, too bad.

(CLOSES DOOR BEHIND HIM)

Heard she was looking for me.

BARBARA

(SEES CANE)

What happened?

SCHNEIDER

Huh? Oh, nothing.

(MORE)

SCHNEIDER (CONT'D)

(TOSSES CANE ON SOFA, WALKS NIMBLY OVER
TO IT. BARBARA LOOKS CONFUSED)

Mind if I stick around a while.

BARBARA

Feel free. Have a beer...read the paper
...hide in the closet.

SCHNEIDER

What do you mean?

BARBARA

I never thought I'd see the day when
Schneider would hide from a woman.

SCHNEIDER

Who's hiding? What gave you that idea?

BARBARA

I ran into Mrs. Stegemuller downtown.
She was buying a black baby doll nightie
for her little hideaway at the lake.

SCHNEIDER

(COVERS HIS EYES)

Rosie in a ...Ohhh! She told you about
the lake?

BARBARA

Shack up or shut up, huh, Schneid?

SCHNEIDER

Hey, don't get smart with me, kid.

BARBARA

You know, if you play your cards right you could end up with a new camper on the Riviera.

SCHNEIDER

How long since you've been spanked with a calloused hand?

BARBARA

Schneider, I'm on your side. I understand. Any man as attractive to women as you are is bound to run into problems.

SCHNEIDER

I know. I could tell you stories that would...well, not you, but I could tell the guys at the lodge. It's in my blood. I'd give to the Red Cross, but I'm afraid of starting a love epidemic in intensive care wards.

BARBARA

(IRONING A SHIRT)

Maybe they can invent an anti-Schneider serum...or just shoot you.

SCHNEIDER

Ironing makes you tense, doesn't it?

BARBARA

(LAUGHS)

Especially shirts. Schneider, I'm sorry.

(MORE)

BARBARA (CONT'D)

But you really aren't being fair with
Mrs. Stegemuller.

SCHNEIDER

Okay...I know...I just got myself in
a spot.

(WATCHES HER IRON FOR A SECOND)

You're doing it all wrong! Let me
show you.

(TAKES IRON)

You're supposed to let the iron do
the work for you.

(PUTS WET FINGER TO IRON)

Got it too hot, too.

(HE STARTS TO IRON. BARBARA SITS DOWN AND
RELAXES. SCHNEIDER GETS PENSIVE)

Trouble is, I overplayed my hand. A
woman's like a bathtub full of water.
Once you get it hot it doesn't cool
off very fast.

BARBARA

And by the time it does it's got a ring.

SCHNEIDER

(STILL IRONING)

Why did God have to give me all this
sex appeal? It's so cruel.

(MORE)

SCHNEIDER (CONT'D)

Once a woman's been exposed to it, there's no way out. I've kindled the fire. How can I turn it off without breaking her heart?

BARBARA

Or losing your job.

SCHNEIDER

Well...that, too.

(A BEAT)

Maybe I oughta shave off my mustache.

(INDICATES SHIRT)

Got a clothes hanger?

BARBARA

I'll get you some.

SCHNEIDER

Oh, thanks. Appreciate that.

(SHE EXITS TO BEDROOM. SCHNEIDER KEEPS IRONING. ANN ENTERS)

Hi, Ms. Romano.

ANN

Hi, Schneider, how...

(DOES A TAKE AS SHE SEES HIM IRONING)

Why are you doing our ironing?

SCHNEIDER

(THE TIRED HOUSEWIFE)

Well, somebody has to take care of the
house while you're out playing poker
with girls.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHNEIDER'S ROOM - DAY

(SCHNEIDER IS PACING)

SCHNEIDER

(TO SELF, WORRIED)

I gotta do it. I gotta do it. No,

I can't do it. I gotta do it.

(WITH DETERMINED LOOK, HE GOES TO COUNTER.
A SHAVING MIRROR IS SET UP ON IT. NEAR IT
IS A SHAVING MUG AND LATHER BRUSH AND RAZOR.
HE PICKS UP MUG, WORKS UP A LATHER WITH
BRUSH, HOLDS BRUSH UP NEAR HIS MUSTACHE
AND LOOKS INTO THE MIRROR, WORKS UP COURAGE,
STARTS TO APPLY LATHER TO MUSTACHE...STOPS.
SINGING "TAPS" TO SELF IN MIRROR...SALUTES)

Da, da, dahhhh. Da, dah, dahhhh.

Da, da, daahhhh.

(STARTS TO LATHER MUSTACHE ONCE MORE...STOPS)

I can't do it.

(PUTS BRUSH BACK INTO MUG, LOOKS WORRIED)

SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

Who is it?

ROSE (O.S.)

Rosie.

SCHNEIDER

Just a minute.

(REACHES UNDER HIS DAY BED AND PULLS OUT THE
WHITE LEATHER TOOL BELT FROM WHERE HE HAS HIDDEN
IT, PUTS IT ON, OPENS DOOR. ROSE ENTERS)

ROSE

Where have you been? I've been looking
all over the building for you.

SCHNEIDER

Oh, sorry. Wish I'd known.

ROSE

(SEES TOOL BELT)

Ohh...you're wearing it. I was
afraid you didn't like it.

SCHNEIDER

Like it? I've never been so surprised.
You were so sweet to give it to me.
In fact, Rosie, I've been thinking about
how nice you are and..well...it's too
bad about this weekend.

ROSE

(A LITTLE WARY)

What do you mean?

SCHNEIDER

Uh...well...you see...it might snow.

ROSE

Oh, I hope so.

SCHNEIDER

Yeah...well...look sit down. I gotta
talk to you.

(SHE DOES)

There's something about me you don't know.

(MORE)

SCHNEIDER (CONT'D)

I mean, I've been around. There are circumstances in my past that have caused a certain amount of notoriousness. Word might get around that you and me...well, I just couldn't bring myself to blemish your reputation.

ROSE

Blemish it.

SCHNEIDER

Rosie, I'm not good enough for you.

ROSE

I'll teach you.

SCHNEIDER

What I'm trying to tell you is...

(HURT)

...teach me?

ROSE

Dwayne...you do want to go,

(POINTEDLY)

don't you?

SCHNEIDER

Want to go? Want to go? Did Romeo want Juliet? Did Napoleon want Josephine? Did Cyrano want Bergerac?

ROSE

Did Dwayne answer my question?

SCHNEIDER

All right...I'll level with you. I'm just not the deceptive type. I just can't go to the lake with you.

ROSE

(SWEETLY)

You're fired.

SCHNEIDER

(QUICKLY)

...unless you let me bring the champagne.

ROSE

Oh, Dwayne, you rascal.

(STARTS MOVING TOWARDS HIM)

I don't need stimulants.

SCHNEIDER

(BACKING AWAY)

Uh...Rosie...

ROSE

Why wait till the weekend?

SCHNEIDER

Rose, I'm on duty.

(SHE IS STILL MOVING TOWARDS HIM, HE IS BACKING AWAY, TOWARDS THE BED)

ROSE

Take the afternoon off...collect a little workman's compensation.

(SHE MOVES CLOSER. SCHNEIDER FALLS BACK ONTO THE BED, HE QUICKLY LEAPS BACK UP)

SCHNEIDER

Uh...how about a snack?

(BACKING TOWARDS KITCHEN...OPEN CAN ON COUNTER)

Some mixed nuts?

(OPEN CUPBOARD)

...some refried beans...twinkies...

(OPENS REFRIGERATOR)

pigs knuckles...

(SNAPS FINGERS)

...out of pigs knuckles...I'll run
down and get some.

(STARTS FOR DOOR, SHE BLOCKS IT)

ROSE

(MAKING A FIST)

Try to get through this door and
you'll get all the knuckles you want.

SCHNEIDER

Love that fire.

(SHE STARES AT HIM, NOT BUYING IT NOW)

Okay...you deserve the truth, so let
me get right to the point. No more
beating around the bush...right to
the point.

(A BEAT)

When I was in junior high, they had a
Sadie Hawkins dance, and this girl, Linda,
a lovely thing just like yourself, asked
me to go.

(MORE)

SCHNEIDER (CONT'D)

Only, I had already accepted another girl, Lardo Laury. But, I wanted to go with Linda so much that I lied to Lardo. I told her I had a cold and I went to the dance with Linda...and Lardo found out...and it broke her poor heart. Her family moved away to Natchez or Mobile...or wherever the four winds blow. Last I saw was her tear-stained face in the train window.

ROSE

There's another woman.

SCHNEIDER

Not in my heart, not since I've met you. But I can't hurt her, like I did that other poor girl. I have to let her down easily.

ROSE

Why do I always get involved with the sweet, sensitive men?

SCHNEIDER

Rose, I just need time to do it gently... a few days...a week...a year at the most.

ROSE

A year!

SCHNEIDER

Six months?

ROSE

I've been snowed...by a chrome-plated
plumber!

SCHNEIDER

Rosey...don't you believe me? This
sweet, sensitive man?

ROSE

What's her name?

SCHNEIDER

Name? Oh...uh...it's...uh...I
couldn't tell you.

ROSE

You got ten seconds.

SCHNEIDER

Okay...her name...It's...uh...

SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

...who is it?

ANN (O.S.)

Ann.

SCHNEIDER

Ann!

(HE OPENS DOOR)

Come in...

(ANN ENTERS, HOLDING OUT THE CANE)

ANN

Schneider, you left this...

(SCHNEIDER QUICKLY GRABS HER AND BENDS
HER BACKWARDS)

SCHNEIDER

Annie...!

(HE GIVES HER A BIG KISS...HOLDING HIS LIPS
TO HERS)

ANN

(TALKING THROUGH THE KISS)

What the hell do you think you're doing?

SCHNEIDER

Don't fight it, my love...just come back
later when we're alone.

(SHOVES HER OUT DOOR, CLOSING IT. TO ROSE)

There...see...

(ANN COMES STORMING BACK IN)

ANN

Schneider!!

SCHNEIDER

Annie...

(MOVES TOWARDS HER. SHE HOLDS HIM OFF WITH CANE)

ANN

Don't you come near me!

SCHNEIDER

I get it. You found out about Rosie
and me. Okay, I'm sorry I broke your
heart.

(USHERING HER TO DOOR)

Goodbye...we're through.

ROSE

So are you, Buster.

(TO ANN)

You can have him!

ANN

I don't want him.

SCHNEIDER

(TO ANN)

Would you butt out. You've done
enough damage already.

ANN

(TO ROSE)

What is going on here?

ROSE

I'm firing him. For breach of promise.

ANN

Look, if you think there is anything
between Schneider and me...believe me,
there isn't.

ROSE

That's why I'm firing him.

ANN

Because there isn't? Okay, I confess...
I'm confused. Besides his sudden romantic
hot flashes, I think you're making a big
mistake firing Schneider. He's a good
superintendent...and, uh...uh...a sweet,
sensitive man.

SCHNEIDER

Ms. Romano, you ain't helping.

ROSE

Look, Red...unquote...I own this place.
And if I say he goes, he goes!

ANN

But that's dumb.

ROSE

Dumb? How would you like your rent
doubled?

SCHNEIDER

Rosey...

ANN

Now wait a minute, I've got a lease.

ROSE

I'll break it!

ANN

And I'll call my lawyer!

SCHNEIDER

Ms. Romano...

ROSE

Call the moving company first.

SCHNEIDER

Hold it...both of you...

ANN

You keep out of this!

SCHNEIDER

I won't keep out of it. I've had enough of this yakking.

ROSE

Look, Buster...

SCHNEIDER

I ain't Buster. I'm Schneider. Dwayne Schneider...

(TO ANN)

And I don't need to hide behind your skirts.

(BACK TO ROSE)

Maybe I did make a play for you. I'm sorry about that, but I got my heart and soul in this job. I not only want to keep it, I need to keep it... but I ain't begging nobody. You come in here, with your statistics and your maintenance services and you don't stop to see what a good deal you've got already. You don't know how many times I oiled Mr. Peabody's wheelchair to keep it from squeaking in the halls, and when we had that rape scare, you don't know who it was patrolled the lobby in drag to protect our tenants.

ROSE

He didn't.

ANN

He did.

SCHNEIDER

And that ain't counting fixing the
plumbing...and the wiring...and the
heating...like it was my own baby.
And if that ain't good enough for you,
go get your crummy maintenance
service...because I just quit!

(HE FLINGS THE TOOLBELT ON THE BED AND
EXITS)

ROSE

(TO ANN)

He takes a little getting used to,
doesn't he?

ANN

Yeah. At first he's impossible, then he
just grates on you...and then you start
to love him. And I don't mean that
personally.

(A BEAT)

Are you really going to fire him?

ROSE

(REALIZING SHE HAS A SUPER SUPER)

How could I?

(SCHNEIDER COMES BACK IN)

SCHNEIDER

Well, now that's settled, clear out...
I gotta get some work done.

ROSE

You were listening.

ANN

(IMITATING SCHNEIDER)

Well...that's part of the tenant
protective service...you know, checking
for your sneak thieves, your jewel
robbers, your cat burglars, your rum-
runners...

(SCHNEIDER LOOKS AT HER...THEN LAUGHS)

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO