

Ev'rybody's *J*ump*iN'*

(A suicidal musical in One Act)



Book and lyrics by Sidney Goldberg

Music by

H

E

L

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Cast

ERNIE.....65, Ex-puppeteer, guilt ridden,
 very rich, drinks to run away. Won't
 admit to Walter Wego, who knows that he
 has come to the Brooklyn Bridge to jump.

WALTER WEGO.....Ernie's puppet, that has his identical
 face and is his alter ego.

HOLLY.....23, Pretty, not bright, Christian.
 Won't admit that she has come to commit
 suicide, because she regrets her three
 abortions.

TIPPY.....65, bum, sense of humor, lives in guilt,
 has come to commit suicide, but won't
 admit it.

LEO.....45, Ex-Viet Nam vet, is still fighting the
 War. Doesn't admit that he came to
 jump .

HELEN.....50ish, Black, dramatic.

When **WALTER** suddenly challenges **ERNIE** about Roebing, when he asks a question and
 when **ERNIE** finally responds it will be underlined and they stare at each other, response
 should be almost sarcastic. **ALL** don't know what it's about.

Ev'rybody's *Jumpin'*

Songs

LAMENT (Ernie).....	1-1-5
WITHOUT a CRYSTAL BALL (Walter).....	1-1-10
LOOK in the MIRROR (Walter).....	1-1-14
THEY CALL ME LUCKY (Holly).....	1-1-17
LAMENT (Refrain).....	1-1-18
RUNNING into TIME (Ernie).....	1-1-20
IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER (Tippy).....	1-1-22
LOSERS (Ernie, Walter, Holly, Tippy).....	1-1-27
RUNNING into TIME (Refrain).....	1-1-29
I CAN'T WAIT (Ernie, Walter, Holly, Tippy.....	1-1-31
IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER (Refrain).....	1-1-34
PRAY in the RAIN (Leo).....	1-1-38
FOOLS (Holly).....	1-1-42
COULD'VE BEEN A STAR (Walter).....	1-1-45
ONCE in AWHILE (Helen).....	1-1-48
THEY AIN'T HERE (Tippy).....	1-1-50
ONCE in AWHILE (Helen, refrain).....	1-1-55
IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER (Tippy, refrain).....	1-1-56
THEY CALL ME LUCKY (Holly, refrain).....	1-1-59
PRAY in the RAIN)Leo, refrain).....	1-1-63

EV'RYBODY'S JUMPIN'

ACT I

Scene 1

Yesterday.

3 A.M.

Arriving at top of the Brooklyn Bridge half drunk, wearing a tuxedo, Ernie drinks from bottle, puts down a straw basket, drinks again and talks to His puppet, which has his identical face. The skyline of New York City is evident. Car horns and flashing lights will be seen and heard throughout.

WALTER

With all that drinking, your breath smells worse than the Fulton Fish Market.

ERNIE

You don't say?

WALTER

Want to tell me why we're really here, smelly?

ERNIE

From this spot, just look at this view.

WALTER

View, *shmew*, cut the shit; I know why you came here, so jump and get it over with, smelly.

ERNIE

Stop calling me smelly and how do you know I came to jump?

WALTER

Because, I know everything that goes on in that warped mind of yours and I don't blame you Ernie. Just look at your life, besides being miserable, a bomb, a total fiasco, what's it become, one big *floppereenio*?

ERNIE

How can you say, one big *floppereenio*? There was a time I used to be famous.

WALTER

Used to be is right, which is past tense, that's why you're jumping, 'cause you're past tense. The water must be really cold, Ernie, brrr, and we know how you hate cold water, especially if it's cold and yucky, and you should only know the 'drek,' all the crap they throw in there. Pampers with doody, and if I was you I'd think about how it's gonna feel when the doody fills your lungs. Disgusting, probably get dizzy from the smell, lose consciousness and then it will finally be all over and thank God, because bad enough we haven't worked the past 30 years. Living alone with you, I can't take it, and I don't want to. And how how can you embarrass John A. Roebling who was born in the town of Mühlhausen, Germany. Don't you know he was the greatest bulder of bridges in the world. He built this Brooklyn Bridge, remember? Don't defame him.

ERNIE

How do you know that? Don't tell me I know. Without Anna, my dear wife, neither can I, I can't take it either.

WALTER

Don't I know, and please and I mean pretty please, do not think of taking me with you. I unequivocally refuse to kick the bucket.

ERNIE

And where do you think I am going? Look at the view of the city. As always, it's beautiful, spectacular.

WALTER

You want me to believe that you 'schlepped' me out of bed at three in the morning to look at this view? And I know what you're thinking; *Let's just hug each other as tight as we can, then arm in arm we'll close our eyes and float down the river together.* Well forget it Buster, I'm not floating.

ERNIE

I have no intention of committing suicide, and where did you ever get that idea?

WALTER

Because, as always I know what you're thinking, that's why it's easy to predict your future. And I'm warning you Ernie, this is premeditated murder, first degree, MURDERER, MURDERER...! Hey, wait a minute; you're a chicken shit, not a murderer... Go on, you can't fool me, you're not gonna do it, you're all talk, remember? You were a big deal in the 50's and 60's, but, by the time the 70's came around, ventriloquists, like Paul Winchell and you, were about as much in demand as yesterday's newspaper. Luckily, you listened to me and invested the money you made in I.B.M., A.T.T. and Xerox and a few nice oils. Becoming rich is probably the only smart thing you did, now committing suicide, typical 'putz, PUTZ!'

ERNIE

Look at that, the student calls the teacher a 'putz.'

WALTER

Make that a double 'putz, PUTZO!'

ERNIE

Well, you can predict all you want, I have no intention of saying goodbye, not yet, not yet.

WALTER

You were ready to say goodbye last night, weren't you? I heard you thinking. "I'm gonna do it, I'm gonna jump. I'm gonna do it, I'm gonna jump." Well, you're here, so do it, jump and get it over with, Goddamnit. Just leave me out of it, because I still have a few predictions to make.

ERNIE

That's impossible. You have nothing to predict, unless I say so, because you are nothing without me... That's why I named you Walter Wego, instead of *alter ego, shmego*, Walter Wego.

WALTER

Ego shmego, you think I'm just your alter ego, *shmego*? Not only am I your heart and soul, I know everything about you, and I hate to say this, but thank God you, not me, no not me, you, you're the one that belongs on the funny farm, going around threatening to kill yourself, so, go ahead, kill yourself, jump you lonely bastard, and see if I care... Don't you understand, I'm perfectly content right here, here's fine, here's '*perfecto mundo*.' So jump, be my guest, see if care, Goldie?

ERNIE

You want me to actually jump by myself, all by my lonesome? I
(Drinks and laughs.)
thought we were friends? Best friends jump together, don't
(Looks up.)
they? Always... Trust me and I'm not going to drink any more
Anna, I promise, not a drop and I told you about calling me
Goldie; it's not my professional name.

WALTER

I know why you're jumping and it's not because your poor wife died a couple of months ago. You've been feeling sorry for yourself since you stopped performing and why, because suddenly no one wanted ventriloquists anymore? Big deal, stop feeling sorry for yourself, and get on with it. Aw, poor '*buhby*' doesn't have an audience, but more important, what happened to your friends, and do you know why? You stopped taking their calls, you even stopped going to the Friars Club. You've become a hermit, 'putz' and if it wasn't for me, you'd have nobody. I was wrong, you're not a 'putz' you're a '*schmuck*,' with capital

letters, that's S-C-H-M-U-C-K, *SCHMUCK!*' And personally, I never thought you were funny, even when we opened for Sinatra at the Sahara, because as always, I got all the laughs, remember?

ERNIE

(Sings ♪ - drinks.)

...*"It was a very good year..."* 1959, we did Berle twice,
(Ala Ed Sullivan.)

Sullivan and Steve Allen, three times that year. *"And now ladies and gentlemen, one of America's truly funny men, Ernie Taylor and his best friend, Walter Wego."* And when you'd impersonate Gary Cooper and Eddie Cantor, they peed. For our closing, as always I'd eat two-dozen clams while you sang, *"Home on the Range"* and they peed even more, and when Anna had a heart attack, whose fault was it? It was mine, I know it was my fault and I'm sorry.

WALTER

If you ask me, guilt's the perfect reason to kill yourself; it always is, isn't it? And I hate to remind you Goldie, but you don't have a will. Kovacs had a will, Jessle had a will, Benny had two wills and you have more money than all of them put together. Even Lenny Bruce, my favorite had a will.

ERNIE

What do I need a will for?

WALTER

I've lived with you for 40 years and you say what do I need a will for? How am I supposed to buy Yankee Doodles? Don't I count?

ERNIE

(Sad.)

Of course you count; you're my best friend, my only friend.

WALTER

If I'm your best and only friend, why don't you leave it all to me? I sure could use it Ern. Who's going to want to pull my strings at my age?

ERNIE

You mean you would spend all my hard earned money without me? I suppose you want the co-op too.

WALTER

And the stocks and bonds, your Matisse, all the oils, I mean everything.

ERNIE

Why I would never part with my Matisse. 35 years ago I bought it for \$60,000, now; it must be worth millions...

WALTER

...And who told you to buy that and the Picasso, Ernie? No one in their right mind jumps and commits suicide with a Matisse and a Picasso. In your tux, all right, but with masters? Out of the question. Besides, you're jumping in that slop; Fishes don't give a damn about art, they're into worms, fig Newtons, Oreos, and Malomars, so, be a sport, make me your beneficiary. If anyone deserves it, it's me. You wouldn't have become a zillionaire, if I didn't tell you to make all those investments, remember? Admit it, without me you'd still be a nothing.

(ERNIE nods in agreement.)

WALTER (cont'd)

You wouldn't happen to have a sheet of paper and a pen on you? I'll do a quick little will. It's the right thing, Ernie.

(ERNIE checks pocket and nods no.)

WALTER (cont'd)

And John A. had a son Washington who helped him build this *fahcockte* bridge, remember, and maybe some Good Samaritan will pass by. I'll ask him. The whole thing won't take more than five minutes. "*I, being of sound mind bequeath everything to my best friend, Walter Wego.*" You sign it and I'll ask a passerby to witness it and then you can *kerplooy*, *kerplunk*, *floppereenio* all you want, just leave me out of it.

ERNIE

You actually don't care if I *kerplooy*, *kerplunk*, do you? I should have known. What do you, what does anyone care that I studied with Strassberg, and how many singing lessons did I take?

(Sings  opera.)

"*Vidi Pag-liacho.*" Dressed in my tux, Ernie Taylor did T.V., the Copa, Vegas, and for 30 years, I opened for Como, Tony Bennet, Nat King Cole and I closed for Bobby Darin eating clams... and then, just like that, they didn't want me anymore... Then, even

(Sobs. -  sings.)
my Anna, my sweet Anna left me.

LAMENT

Turned my tears into sighs.
You should have heard her sing.
She had these laughing eyes, that made me dance.
She was the breath of spring.

Why did she go away?
Why do I drink so much?
I'm tortured night and day without romance.
Always, yearning for her touch.

There's no love left to give.
That's why I always cry.
And I don't want to live.
Without her touch I would die.

There was a time she said I was so funny.
There was a time when all we did was laugh.
Now, nothing seems so funny.
No one wants my autograph.

She was the reason why.
My life was oh so fine.
A little butterfly that always knew.
What day the sun would shine.

She'd smile and I'd awake.
Made me feel so high.
Gave more than she'd take, she was true blue.
She was the reason why.

It's time that I retire.
This life's just too tough.
This man has lost his fire.
I had more than enough.

There was a time she said I was so funny.
There was a time when all we did was laugh.
Now, nothing seems so funny.
No one wants my autograph.

WALTER

Enough with the pity, enough with feeling sorry for yourself.
Either do it or forget it. No, don't do it, not until you make a
will, then...

ERNIE

You really are selfish, aren't you? All you're concerned about
is my money, damn it!

WALTER

I don't want your money. Have I ever asked you for a dime, well,
have I? I just feel, if you're going to do it, why should I
suffer in poverty? There's enough poor *schmucks* without me.

ERNIE

You really think I came to commit suicide, don't you? I may have
thought about it, but, we all think about it sometime, don't we?

WALTER

And what about the fair-well show you said you were going to do
last night, tonight.

ERNIE

I was desperate last night... It was only talk.

WALTER

...And the night before you were happy? What about the clams, Ernie? Can we let these perfectly gorgeous clams that you 'schlepped,' go to waste, when there are nine million people in the Bronx looking for a taste? *Nu*, can we...?

(HOLLY enters and watches from afar.)

WALTER

(Announcing ala Sullivan.)

Ta raaa! "And now ladies and gentlemen, back by popular demand, Ernie Taylor and his only friend, Walter Wego."

(Sound of fly - looks around.)

Bzzzzzz... Bzzzzzz... Is that you Gerty...? Bzzzzzz...

ERNIE

Did you hear that? I think Gerty's back... Here Gerty, Gerty. Come here girl, come to Papa.

WALTER

Since when did you adopt her?

ERNIE

(Fly lands on His ear, so he touches it.)

Now Gerty, don't do that. *Bzzzzzz...* You know it tickles.

WALTER

Do it Gerty! Give it to him!

ERNIE

No! *Bzzzzzz...* Gerty, you're going too far, you'll get

(Hits head trying to get fly out)

stuck. Gerty, please stop, Bzzzzzz, I can't hear, Walter, I can't hear.

WALTER

(Looks in Ernie's ear.)

Let me take a look. Sure is dark in there.

ERNIE

Never mind how dark it is, take her out, dummy. What are you waiting for? And do you know when John Augustus Roebling died?

WALTER

(Sad.)

Dummy, huh? Thursday, July 22, 1869. You know sometimes you can

(Looks in Ernie's ear.)

really hurt a guy. I'm sorry to tell you this but, Gerty's not moving, Ernie. I think she's... gone to meet her maker.

ERNIE

She's nothing of the sort, because I can still feel her! Now,
(Hits ear and fly falls out.)
will you please take her out of my ear, she's driving me crazy.

WALTER

(Walter looks at fly on floor.)

Even though I always liked her, tell you the truth, I still have
this thing about touching *skwooshed* flies.

ERNIE

(Bends down and examines fly.)

It isn't Gerty.

WALTER

It's not? Maybe it's her brother Lionel, or maybe it's her
sister Sadie. She said they were coming over.

ERNIE

I could never tell which one was Lionel and which one was Sadie.

WALTER

To me, they all look a like and they ain't got no rhythm.

ERNIE

(Picks up fly.)

Bzzzzz. Gerty, you're alive, you're okay. How wonderful.
Bzzzzz...

WALTER

Gerty where are you going? Don't leave me; don't leave me alone
with Ernie...

(HOLLY laughs. ERNIE will cover mouth with red
handkerchief when WALTER speaks, to cover his moving
lips.)

WALTER

Uh oh, looks like we got an audience. My prayers have finally
been answered, she's laughing, can, you believe it, someone's
finally laughing at me again.

ERNIE

May I ask what you are doing young lady?

HOLLY

Watching you.

ERNIE

And for how long may I ask?

HOLLY

(Ala Ernie.)

"And now ladies and gentlemen, back by popular demand, Ernie Taylor..."

ERNIE

...That long, huh...?

WALTER

...Let her finish, let her finish...

HOLLY

"...And his best friend, Walter Wego."

WALTER

And what's your name good lookin'?

HOLLY

Holly.

WALTER

Like Holly want a cracker.

HOLLY

That's Polly want a cracker, silly.

ERNIE

I'm sorry for interrupting this little *tête-à-tête* you have going young lady, but I'm afraid you'll have to leave immediately.

HOLLY

Really? I wasn't bothering you, was I? I thought you were very funny.

WALTER

You hear that, Ernie? Even she thinks I'm funnier.

HOLLY

(Laughs.)

I think the both of you were very funny and I loved *bzzzz, bzzzz*.

ERNIE

There was a time my Anna loved *bzzzz, too*.

WALTER

I think I just found my replacement, Ernie. She's just as desperate as you, that's why she wants to jump too. Go ahead; ask her what's she doing here?

ERNIE

May I ask what you are doing on this bridge at this unGodly hour, young lady?

HOLLY

I was taking a walk. I came to this spot to look at the view of the city. Isn't it beautiful? Don'tcha just love it from this spot?

WALTER

Cut the baloney, sister. We know why you came to this spot, you came to jump. Everybody jumps from this spot...

ERNIE

...Aren't you afraid something might happen to you?

HOLLY

(Touches cross.)

There's nothing to be afraid of, 'cause when it's your time, it's your time.

WALTER

Even she knows it's your time. How prophetic.

ERNIE

Must you always be so heartless?

WALTER

I hope you're ready to jump, Miss and since I'm not going you know where with this loser, he sure could use some company.

HOLLY

Jump, what made you say jump?

(ALL sing ♪.)

WITHOUT A CRYSTAL BALL

WALTER

Without a crystal ball.
Come winter, spring or fall.
I can see it all.
Poor *buhby* had a fall.

It all appears quite clear.
I know why you cam here.
Oh my dear, my dear,
You want to disappear.

You're so young and lovely.
You need a lovey dovey.
Find someone to love
I predict you'll have it licked
And you'll get lucky.

HOLLY

It's not that I'm queasy.
But life just ain't that easy.
Why do they seem so sleazy?
And good things don't come easy.

Why do I feel estranged?
And will things ever change?
Why do they act so strange

Why you are so positive.
And I've nothing left to give.
Ain't no shining star.
And there ain't no Shangri-la.
Boy, my life is tough.

WALTER

Pardon the intrusion.
You seem disillusioned.
Which leads to confusion.
Is that a protrusion?

You are very pretty.
Personable and witty.
It's such a pity.
What happens in this city.

WALTER

But you're so young and lovely.
All you needs a lovey dovey.
When you find someone,
I predict you'll have it licked.
And you'll get lucky.

HOLLY

Of course I'm young and lovely.
But who wants a lovey dovey?
Think I need someone?
Well, you're wrong, ya see I'm
Strong and I'm lucky.

HOLLY

Another empty day, I'll fill it with my sorrow,
For the gentleman I cannot love.
How do I find you, where do I find you?
There must be more than this; I have so much to give.

ERNIE

I think you better get going, Holly. It's getting very late and
I don't want to be responsible.

WALTER

Don't go, Holly, please, this crazy lunatic is going to jump and
he wants to take me with him.

HOLLY

Are you really going to jump, mister?

WALTER

His name is Bernie Goldstein alias Ernie Taylor and he most certainly is going to jump and so are you. Me, I just came along for the ride, and by the way, you wouldn't happen to have a piece of paper and a pen on you?

HOLLY

I'm sorry, but I don't and what makes you think I came here to jump? Sure, I've been depressed a little, but everybody gets depressed once-in-awhile, but that don't mean they want to jump from this spot, especially by them self, isn't that right, Ernie?

ERNIE

That's exactly what I've been trying to tell this *Shmego*. I'm
(Exaggerated laugh.)
just a little depressed, that's all and we all get a little depressed, sometime, right Holly?

HOLLY

You don't seem that depressed to me, because you just made me laugh... Making people laugh, that's a gift. All you see on the news is terrible things. That Bin Laden and his terrorists, people killing people. Oh, please don't jump. You're a wonderful person and this world needs wonderful people like you to make them laugh... You're like a breath of spring. I mean it, I really do, and, and, maybe we can go to the Museum of Natural History some time?

WALTER

Museums are out. He has a thing for Tyrannosaurus Rex.

HOLLY

What about Central Park? We can go to Sheep Meadow, rent a rowboat.

WALTER

He never rows in public. The reason why this hermit is going to jump is he doesn't know or care what happens when you lay there six feet under: "*The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out. They crawl in your stomach and out of your mouth.*"

ERNIE

(Drinks.)

You are disgusting, absolutely revolting.

WALTER

When you jump, you'll go straight to hell, you hear? I promise you won't pass GO and collect \$200, so 'gay in drehd,' go to hell, and be my guest, 'buhby.'

ERNIE

You are so Jewish.

WALTER

At least I admit it. Some Taylor, you're name was Goldstein...

HOLLY

Please Ernie, don't do it. I think I like you. Goldstein?

ERNIE

At least I made someone laugh. Yes, it's Goldstein, its Goldstein, but don't tell anyone, because remember the *Narzis*.

WALTER

(Sings ♫.)

Narzis, schmarzis, "As long as Goldstein needs me..."

HOLLY

You can't take your own life Mr. Goldstein, I mean Mr. Taylor and what's *Narzis*?

WALTER

You forgot about Adolph and his *Narzis*, and just tell this 'yutz,' just tell him to leave me out of it, Goddamnit. Since the two of you are so determined to say goodbye, as *mein Feurer* would say, "*auf vider zein.*"

HOLLY

Oh, don't you worry Walter Wego; he's not going to jump and neither are you. That is if I have anything to say about it,
(Screams.)

'cause I just might start screaming: RAPE! RAPE! HELP
I'M BEING RAPED!

ERNIE

Quiet, do you hear? I said be quiet! Do you want the police to come?

WALTER

She's gonna wake the whole damn neighborhood, Goldie and we know how they hate noisy ventriloquists, especially three o'clock in the morning.

HOLLY

You're so funny, Walter Wego. You are adorable.

ERNIE

I'm sorry, but I think you better go where you are going Holly, its three o'clock in the morning and it is getting late.

HOLLY

I'm not going anywhere, not unless you promise you won't jump.

WALTER

Promises, promises. You think tomorrow will be any different?
He's a jumper and once a jumper always a...

HOLLY

...Even next week, you have to promise you won't jump next week.

(ERNIE drinks.)

HOLLY (cont'd)

And you better stop drinking... It killed my father when I was a kid. Seems I loved him more than anything.

ERNIE

What about your mother?

HOLLY

(Sobs.)

She died six months ago and now I'm all-alone. I hate being alone, it's so lonely.

WALTER

(Sings ♫.)

Oh, please don't cry...

LOOK in the MIRROR

When it falls apart at the seems.
Close your eyes and start a new dream, you'll feel better.
Spread your wings and fly away.
You can laugh and smile in stormy weather.

When your hearts aching don't give up.
Let love fill your cup and you'll feel happy.
Ev'rybody needs a helping hand.
Cheer up and strike up the band.

Catch a shinning star and make a wish.
Second Avenue for a knish.
Go to the zoo, feed a giraffe.
Look in the mirror and laugh, laugh, laugh.

Stop feeling blue and be glad.
Nothing's really ever that bad, things will get better.
Nothing's quite as bad as you think.
So, before you sink, you got to pull yourself together.

Just believe you can do anything.
What ever the moment may bring, live in the moment.
Don't let life pass you by.
Kick up your heels and fly.

In china Town or Mulberry Street.
Fill yourself, there's so much to eat.
So much to do, stay on the path.

Look in the mirror and laugh, laugh, laugh.
Okay Ernie, she's been more than patient. It's time to jump and
I hope Roebling doesn't hear about you jumping off the Brooklyn
Bridge.

HOLLY

Ya know Walter, maybe if you stopped reminding Ernie about
committing suicide, he might even forget about the *Narzis*.

ERNIE

What are you listening to this idiot *Shmego* for?

WALTER

I'm not the straight man Ernie, you are, remember? Anyway Holly,
I'm sure Gerty won't forget you when you say *ta ta* and too bad,
'cause I hear she *really* likes you.

HOLLY

I'm glad somebody does... Joey left.

ERNIE

Who's Joey?

HOLLY

A guy that said he loved me, but if he loved me, how could he
leave at a time like this? They all leave you.

ERNIE

Did you say all?

(HOLLY nods yes.)

WALTER

Tell him what they '*all*' made you do, honey, I mean Holly. It
was dirty, wasn't it...? I see something growing and we know what
it is, don't we.

HOLLY

You really know, don't you?

WALTER

I know everything; I see everything, because I am a psychic,
that's P-S-Y-C-H-I-C.

HOLLY

I know how to spell, thank you.

WALTER

That's not the only thing you know how to do, right, you 'momza,' you. Why, I oughta break that two-timer, Joey's head. It was really dirty, wasn't it?

HOLLY

(Sobs.)

That's why I belong in hell, and I deserve it, I deserve it.

ERNIE

You deserve nothing of the sort. Now, would you like to tell Uncle Ernie what exactly is troubling you...?

(HOLLY nods no.)

WALTER

With your luck, they'll probably never find your body and you're worried about what's troubling her? If I was you, I'd be more concerned with, "*The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out...*"

ERNIE

You said that already and it wasn't funny the first time.

WALTER

Must I apologize?

ERNIE

Only if you think it's necessary... 'Nu,' I'm waiting.

WALTER

I'm thinking, I'm thinking. Can't you see I'm thinking?

ERNIE

I think so.

HOLLY

You guys are so funny. You could have your own sitcom. Every week a different comedian plays Walter Wego's cousin. They come to live with you. Walter hates his cousins, *YOU*, Ernie loves them. Funny?

ERNIE

I think I like it.

WALTER

Like it, I love it. We'll get Berle, Youngman, George Burns, that is, if those stiffs are not too stiff. Now, that's funny.

ERNIE

...And Hackett. We have to get Buddy... But it won't

(Slightly indignant.)

work, *Mr. Shmego*, I know what you're trying to do.

WALTER

You got me pegged, like an open book, Ernie. Maybe, what they say is true? I need you, so, please don't jump and make me an orphan. You know how I hated that movie, "Boys Town," but tell you the truth, this does seem like the perfect segue for the two of you to make your exit. So jump damnit, jump! And that means you too, baby.

HOLLY

You think I came here to jump? Why would I jump, tell me, why
(Sings ♫.)
would I jump?

THEY CALL ME LUCKY

I'm the happiest girl in town.
And my feet don't touch the ground.
I, I live without a care.
Because he's always there.

And when he smiles he fills my life.
I know that he'll make me his wife.
His love is for all time.
He's sweeter than sweet wine.

He says that I'm smart.
'Cause I have it all.
I never had a fall,
Or a broken heart.

We dance the night away.
And when we make love,
In heaven above,
We watch the angels play.

One day I'll have his little child.
Together we will always smile.
He'll become a teacher,
A lawyer or a preacher.

And with God's help will have a girl.
She'll brighten up our world.
Call her peaches and cream.
Ain't that the perfect dream?

He says that I'm smart.
'Cause I have it all.
I never had a fall,
Or a broken heart.

We dance the night away.
And when we make love,
In heaven above,
We watch the angels play.

(WE hear musical Underscoring of "Lament" throughout.)

ERNIE

You're too young, too beautiful. You have your whole life to live. I'm an old man, a nothing, a nobody... Promise me you won't jump.

HOLLY

How come you keep covering your mouth? Do you have a cold?

WALTER

He doesn't have a cold; he's still embarrassed that his lips move. The 'schmuck' doesn't know that no one cares. Ventriloquists are not even an endangered specie, they're 'kaput, finito,' but we know what's your reason 'buhbala,' don't we? You came here to commit suicide, because you're...

HOLLY

...A Catholic...

WALTER

But good Catholics don't believe in suicide.

HOLLY

I know, 'cause it's sacrilegious. What's wrong with me?

ERNIE

(Will not cover mouth any longer.)

Why don't we forget about all this religious B.S. and go for a cup of coffee. You'd like that wouldn't you.

(Crying)

I hate coffee.

HOLLY

ERNIE

How about a milk shake?

HOLLY

I hate milk shakes too...

ERNIE

(Drinks and offers bottle.)

Would you like a *little*...? It might do you some good.

HOLLY

That's poison. Don't you know that's poison?

ERNIE

Poison huh? How old are you Holly?

HOLLY

Old enough, old enough to become...

ERNIE

Old enough to become what...?

(HOLLY cries.)

WALTER

You see what you did? You made her cry. Oh, sweetheart don't cry. Tell Uncle Walter what's the matter... Wait, I see... It's happened to you before, and the reason why you run after all these guys is, you're still trying to replace your deceased father. She still wants her daddy, how sad.

ERNIE

...There must be something really troubling her.

WALTER

How'd you guess?

ERNIE

Come on, Holly, we're all friends, aren't we? Tell uncle Ernie what's the matter.

HOLLY

I'm... I'm... Oh, I can't, I just can't.

WALTER

(Sings ♫.)

This time its, "Joey, Joey Joey's," fault. Never trust a Joey. That's what they say in Australia.

HOLLY

He's right and that makes me a...

ERNIE

A what?

HOLLY

(Sobs - shows three fingers and cries.)

A tramp that's pregnant. How could it happen again?

ERNIE

...It's the third time you've become pregnant? Really?

WALTER

No, Reilly.

HOLLY

When I went to confession the last time, I swore I would never have an abortion again.

WALTER

You fool around and you're worried about confession?

HOLLY

What should I do...?

WALTER

We know what you want to do, don't we? You came to this spot to kill yourself. Seems everybody does, right Mr. Goldstein?

ERNIE

Walter, I can assure you, me, nor Holly or anyone else on this bridge has any intention of killing themselves...

(Refrain ends. Off, dressed as a bum, we hear TIPPY singing, "I Ain't Got Nobody.")

TIPPY

(Sings ♫, walking comes upon ALL.)

"And nobody cares for me." Hey what the hell are you guys doing here?

ERNIE

I beg your pardon.

TIPPY

You heard me. What the hell are you doing here? This is my bridge.

ERNIE

Your bridge, since when? Why I...

RUNNING INTO TIME

...I dreamed about the Brooklyn Bridge,
It's time to go away.
Can't take this life of loneliness.
I hate my hair, its turning gray.

There was a time I had it all.
When Anna was my Queen.
I'd melt when she would hold my hand,
Her smile was my everything.

All things must come to an end.
Who wants to live without my friend?
No one to kiss, or make love to.

I'm all alone what can I do?
 And so I drink to mask the pain.
 But vodka doesn't help.
 An old fool running into time.
 Can't run away from himself.

I prayed He'll fly me to the moon.
 That's where she's got to be.
 We'll laugh and sing with the angels,
 And dance through eternity.

All things must come to an end.
 Who wants to live without my friend?
 No one to kiss, or make love to.
 I'm all alone what can I do?

TIPPY

...Got any spare change mister? I ain't had anything to eat
(Notices bottle and picks it up.)
 since... This must be my lucky day, a bottle of Jack
(Goes to drink.)
 Daniels, just what I need, good old Jack.

ERNIE

(Grabs bottle.)
 That is mine, thank you.

TIPPY

Yours? What are you kidding? It was laying right here.
 Finder's keepers, losers' weepers.

WALTER

Says who, Buster?

TIPPY

Says me...

WALTER

Well, who are you?

TIPPY

(Sings ♪.)

IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER

I'm the mayor of this here bridge.
 Don't have a TV or a fridge.
 Don't need a landlord, got no rent.
 Taxes, faxes ain't got a cent, not a dime.

I'm the happiest guy you'll meet.
 All I need's this mouth and my feet.
 Even when it's bad weather.

It can't get any better, man, not a chance.
When you're number one,
You got to have fun,
Sonofagun, I'm number one.

I'm the king of my destiny.
The star of the show.
And the Lord said, "We shall be free."
Can'tcha see, he meant me.

I've been around along, long time.
Without some love life's just a crime.
Touch all the people I see.
I'll scratch you and you scratch me, I got an itch.

When you're number one,
You got to have fun,
Sonofagun, I'm number one.

I'm the king of my destiny.
The star of the show.
And the Lord said, "We shall be free."

...And the name's Tippy.

WALTER

TIPPY? What kind of name is TIPPY? That's a dogs name; "Here Tippy, Tippy, here Tippy, Tippy."

TIPPY

...Who's the midget with the big mouth, mister?

HOLLY

His name's Walter, Walter Wego.

TIPPY

(Ala Gleason.)

Wego, like, "And away we go?"

HOLLY

And this is Ernie Taylor.

TIPPY

Ernie Taylor. Are you kidding me, or what?

HOLLY

No, it's true and Walter Wego is his partner. Don'tcha remember? They were very famous.

(We hear "IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER" Underscoring.)

TIPPY

(Scratches head and looks at Ernie face-to-face.)

Wait a minute... You used to be on the Sullivan show, Milton Berle, I almost forgot, Steve Allen, right?

ERNIE

You remember?

TIPPY

Of course I remember. You were a riot and famous too. I used to love you. So, you probably got a lot of cash, 'cause all movie stars are loaded, ain't they? So, how about a little spare change, Ernie Taylor?

WALTER

Even though he's loaded and lives in the Dakota on Central Park West, the man's worse than Scrooge. Doesn't part with a penny. Won't even make me his beneficiary.

TIPPY

Won't leave it to ya, huh? Well then, how about a little taste? What do ya say, Ernie? Forget about making this midget your beneficiary, how's about a little *tastereenio*...?

ERNIE

Well, I suppose I could use a little *tastereenio* myself... 'La
(Drinks and gives bottle to TIPPY.)
chaim.'

TIPPY

(Drinks - drinks again.)

...Yeah, 'La' whatever... This is really good *la*... Want some 'La little lady, might cheer you up?

(HOLLY cries.)

WALTER

You wouldn't happen to have a sheet of paper and a pen on you, would you? Nah, forget it. Ya know, Topsy...

TIPPY

...That's Tippy...

WALTER

Here's a tip, Topsy. You better get out of here, unless you want to be a witness to a double murder.

TIPPY

(Surprised.)

A double murder?

(ERNIE, WALTER and TIPPY stare face to face.)

WALTER

They're both going to commit Hari Kari in that gook down there, and he wants to take me, can you believe it?

TIPPY

Did you say, jump into that slop?

WALTER

That's what they're gonna do, *kerplooy, kerplop, floppereenio,*
(Refrain ends. Sings ♪.)
and then it's, "So long for awhile."

TIPPY

(Feigns cutting throat.)

You mean you're both gonna commit...?

ERNIE

...You have such a big mouth and I would advise you to get a move on, Tippy and you too Holly. This does not concern either of you.

TIPPY

Okay, if that's the way you want it. I thought you were having a
(Takes bottle and starts to leave.)
party. Ain't been to a party in a long time. See you guys.
Hey, I almost forgot. Since you're packing it in, how's about giving me your watch Ernie Taylor? Probably can get a few bucks for it.

ERNIE

My watch, my gold Rolex? Are you crazy?

TIPPY

And what about you Miss? Why don't you give me your gold cross? Probably can get a few bucks for it, too.

HOLLY

(Touches cross.)

I can't do that, I've never taken it off, I'm Christian.

TIPPY

I used to be Christian too, but when I lost my family I kinda figured out, that somebody up there doesn't give a damn about me.

HOLLY

You're wrong Tippy, Jesus loves you, he loves everybody.

TIPPY

If he loved me, how could he let such a terrible thing happen?

HOLLY

(Sobs.)

Things just happen, I know, they just do.

ERNIE

Why don't you leave us alone, mister? We'd like to be alone.

TIPPY

You really like being alone...?

WALTER

Uh oh, you won't believe this Ernie, but this guy's more lonely than the both of you. It looks like you just got more company. A triple-header, I don't believe it, three floppereenios at one time. I wish I had my Kodak.

TIPPY

Living under this bridge, I can tell you plenty about loneliness...

WALTER

You think you got problems? Wait until you hear this guy's story, a real tearjerker, 'nu?' I'm waiting...

TIPPY

...I used to be married to the most wonderful woman that ever lived, Mary: Black hair, dark brown eyes, she was more beautiful than Gina Lolabridgida and she was smart too. We had a boy named David. He looked just like her... By now, little Davey would almost be 20... and then...

WALTER

Tell them what happened to your family, murderer. He thinks he's a murderer. Its called guilt, unfounded, but never-the-less, *HELLO DERE.*

TIPPY

I'd rather not talk about it; I never talk about it, 'cause it still hurts too much... every second, all the time.

WALTER

Tell them what you were doing, and why you believe you killed them 'Smiling Jack'. Well, well?!

TIPPY

...Well what?

WALTER

Well what? You came to jump, because you're as guilty as sin and you ask me well what? Well what yourself.

TIPPY

They called it an accident, but it wasn't an accident, it
(**Emotional, drinks.**)
was my fault... We crashed because, well, it was my fault...

WALTER

Didn't I forewarn that he was guilty? Am I fantastic or what?

HOLLY

Why don't you talk about it Tippy, you might feel better.

TIPPY

I gave up feeling better, when I killed my family.

ERNIE

You said they called it an accident.

TIPPY

Really don't matter what they say. They ain't here, are
(**Sobs and drinks.**)
they? They ain't here and I'm to blame.

WALTER

I hope that means when you jump, you're all gonna hold hands,
'cause I never saw three people jump while holding hands. What a
picture. You wouldn't happen to have a camera would you? I
forgot mine.

HOLLY

You still miss them, don't you, Tippy?

TIPPY

Every second.

ERNIE

Get it off your chest?

TIPPY

(**Remorseful.**)

We were in this little Piper cub that I bought for Mary's 35th.
Called it, "*Mary's wings.*" We were headed for Boston to
celebrate Christmas with her folks. We were all singing and
laughing, and I never saw Davey so excited. Guess that's how
little boys get when they ride in an airplane for the first time,
'specially your own father's. "*Let me steer, Daddy. Oh, please
let me steer.*" 'Because I loved that boy more than life itself,
I let him steer... "*But only for a few seconds,*" I said. "*Now,
hold her nice and steady.*" And he was doing great. Mary was
busting for joy, that her 12-year old son was flying an
airplane... And then, out of nowhere, a gust of wind sheered the
plane and the next thing I knew I was in the hospital...

(ALL sing ♪.)

LOSERS

TIPPY

I couldn't sleep, with all that guilt.
Started to wilt, I couldn't make it.

ERNIE

I couldn't eat and all that pain,
Drove me insane, I couldn't take it.

HOLLY

I'm such a fool, who's not that smart.
All broken hearts know how to fake it.

WALTER

You're just a bunch of losers.
A *nummy*, and two boozers.
Stop feeling sorry for yourself.
Just go and get some help.

ALL

ALL our hearts are thumpin'.
And our bodies bumpin'.
Ain't that really somethin'?
Ev'rybody's jumpin.

TIPPY

The saying goes that time heals all.
But still I ball, I'm always crying.

ERNIE

I close my eyes and she's still there.
She's everywhere, that's why I'm sighing.

HOLLY

What should I do, where should I go?
I just don't know I feel like dying.

WALTER

You're just a bunch of losers.
A *nummy* and two boozers.
Stop feeling sorry for yourself.
Just go and get some help.

ALL

Calls us a bunch of losers.
A *nummy* and two boozers.
Sure we feel sorry for our
self.
'Cause we needs lots of help.

ALL

ALL our hearts are thumpin'.
And our bodies bumpin'.
Ain't that really somethin'?
Ev'rybody's jumpin.

TIPPY

...One time, one time I had a home in New Rochelle. Six shoe stores; Ladies shoes, French, Italian. New York, Connecticut, Boston, two in Philadelphia and one on Fordham Road in the Bronx. When I lost them, I started drinking to forget, I never forgot.

WALTER

What do you think you have a monopoly on guilt? Why don't you ask Ernie why he keeps 'hocking' me how he's gonna kill himself? Well, what are you waiting for, 'Succoth?' Why don't you all do it and let me get some peace and quiet. I got a headache from all this suicide! Gee, do I hate suicide.

TIPPY

Ya know, for a pip-squeak, you got an awfully big mouth. Come on Ernie; let's throw this little wise-ass in the river right now. I say we give *him* a little suicide up the kazoo.

WALTER

You got that all wrong. It's you that's going to commit suicide. Ain't that right Holly?

HOLLY

I don't want to jump, I really don't.

WALTER

Get on your mark, get set...

TIPPY

...Hey, I ain't jumping, no way. What for, I'm the mayor of this here bridge, ain't I? That's why I got everything to live for.

ERNIE

We all do...

HOLLY

And I couldn't be any happier, really...

ERNIE

Neither could I. Well?

(ALL cry.)

WALTER

Again with the well? Well, what about the clams, Ernie? You can't end the show without eating the clams and me singing "Home on the range," can you?

TIPPY

(Drinks, hiccups.)

Clams, you have clams and you didn't tell little old Topsy?

HOLLY

That's Tippy...

ERNIE

(Takes bottle, drinks and hiccups.)

And that is my bottle, thank you.

WALTER

(Hiccups.)

...Not only do they smell alike, they sound alike. Two-dozen steamers Topsy and they're delicious. How many sons did John have?

TIPPY

(Takes bottle and drinks.)

I love steamers, 'specially after a little 'La,' don't you Ern...? I say John Wayne had two sons.

ERNIE

Indubitably... Four, Washington, Charles, Ferdinand and Edmund, so there. We're talking about John Roebling and you can't play!

TIPPY

No one ever lets me play. Shall we...?

ERNIE

Why not, Tippy?

(ERNIE gets basket and ALL sit and prepare to eat clams as WALTER sings.)

WALTER

(Sings ♪)

"Oh, give me a home, where the buffalo roam..."

HOLLY and WALTER

(Sings ♪)

"...Where the deer and the antelope play..."

TIPPY, HOLLY and WALTER

(Sings ♪)

"...Where seldom is heard, a discouraging word. And the clouds are not cloudy all day..."

TIPPY

...May I have this dance?

(ERNIE will sing as TIPPY and HOLLY dance.)

ERNIE

(Sings ♫.)

*"I have dreamed that your arms are lovely. And I have
dreamed, what a joy you'd be..."*
(Starts to sob.)

HOLLY

Oh, please don't cry, Ernie. We're having such a good time.
Aren't you having a good time...?

**(WE hear Underscoring of "RUNNING INTO TIME," as
ERNIE nods no and sobs.)**

HOLLY (cont'd)

You're not?

(ERNIE nods no and sobs.)

WALTER

He never has a good time because he feels so guilty.

ERNIE

(Crying, looks up.)

Anna, how could you leave me...? I can't live without you. I
tried, but I can't go on. I don't want to.

TIPPY

(Crying, looks up.)

Mary, Davey, I'm sorry... It was my fault, my fault.

HOLLY

And you still miss Mary and your son Davey, don't you?

WALTER

Is everybody happy...? Anybody...? Nobody...?

HOLLY

...I can't do it again, I just can't.

(Refrain ends as ALL start to cry.)

WALTER

(Sobs, - cries loudly.)

I can't take all this crying. You're making me cry. Why don't
you all just leave?

HOLLY

I'd leave Walter, but where should I go?

TIPPY

What about Miami? Weather's always nice.

HOLLY

I always wanted to go to Hawaii.

ERNIE

I have the perfect idea, really.

(ALL sing 🎵)

I CAN'T WAIT

ERNIE

I can't wait, I can't wait, I can't wait,
To walk through that pearly gate.
I can't wait to get to heaven.

HOLLY

No more sleeping on the subway.

TIPPY

No more crying on the bus.

ERNIE

No more getting mugged on Broadway.

HOLLY

No more allergies and dust.

ALL

No more, no more, no more, no more.

TIPPY

No more getting stuck in traffic.

ERNIE

No more seeing the Mets loose.

HOLLY

No more feeling it's tragic.

TIPPY

No more singing the blues.

ALL

No more, no more, no more, no more.
I can't wait, I can't wait, I can't wait,
To walk through that pearly gate.
I can't wait to get to heaven.

HOLLY

No more running into time.

TIPPY

No more saying I'm okay.

ERNIE

No more saying it's a crime.

TIPPY

No more running from today.

HOLLY

No more looking for that guy.

TIPPY

No more hitting my poor head.

ERNIE

No more saying I know why.

TIPPY

No more eating day old bread.

ALL

No more, no more, no more, no more.
I can't wait, I can't wait, I can't wait,
To walk through that pearly gate.
I can't wait to get to heaven.

(LEO, a thief appears and points gun.)

LEO

Okay, stick'em up or I'll blow your brains out. This is a hold up, so, put'em up!

WALTER

You wouldn't happen to have a sheet of paper and a pen, would you? Where was John buried Mr. Goldstein?

TIPPY

Pikes Peak and I wanna play.

ERNIE

Mercercer cemetary in Trenton, New Jersey, wise guy and you can't play Tippy.

LEO (cont'd)

I don't believe this. Didn't you hear me? This is a hold up...!
Put'em up I said or I'll blow your brains out!

HOLLY

I guess I should be first, 'cause I'm pregnant, and I was sorta planning to say goodbye anyway.

ERNIE

(Crying.)

I was married for... and then she died, just like that. So, I'm going to meet her in heaven.

LEO

Heaven, you actually believe in heaven?

TIPPY

(Crying.)

I killed my wife and my son and I know they're in...

WALTER

(Sings ♫)

"Heaven, they're in heaven. And my heart beats so that I can hardly speak..."

LEO

...What the hell is going here? This is worse than a soap opera. You mean you actually believe in...?

HOLLY

...I hope that's a real gun.

LEO

You bet your sweet-ass it is, lady. Now put 'em up I said, or I'll blow your freakin' head off!

WALTER

That's fantastic! Perfect timing. Now, none of you have to jump. He can shoot all of you right in the head. Thanks mister.

ERNIE

You know how I hate guns, Walter.

WALTER

And you think jumping into all that 'drek,' that garbage is better? It's disgusting and a bullet is so much cleaner.

HOLLY

Tell you the truth Ernie; if I was you, I think I'd rather get shot. The river does look awfully yucky.

WALTER

One, two, three and just like that, with a shot in the head, it's all over. Just leave me out of it mister.

TIPPY

I say, let's take a vote.

HOLLY

I agree.

TIPPY

So, do I.

ERNIE

What do you mean you agree? It was *Shmego's* idea.

TIPPY

Three-to-one Ernie, three-to-one.

ERNIE

You can all do what you want.

LEO

Am I hearing this correctly? You, think this guy's really going to jump in that cesspool with this wise ass, midget?

WALTER

Not if you shoot him sweetheart... and *puhleeze*, leave me out of it.

LEO

(To Tippy.)

And you.

TIPPY

(Points to Ernie's temple and laughs.)

Right here, if you would be so kind.

LEO

Let me get this straight. You all want me to plug this guy?

WALTER

He's not plugging anyone, Ernie. Like you, he came here to jump, 'cause I know a jumper when I see one. The problem is, unfortunately, he's not going to jump, 'cause he's chicken shit like the rest of you. I'm the only one that has any balls, excuse the French, Holly, and, I'm not jumping.

LEO

I don't believe what I'm hearing. You think I came here to do myself in? Are you crazy or what?

WALTER

First nail Ernie, then Holly and lastly, Topsy.

LEO

Did you say his name is Topsy?

TIPPY

That's Tippy, if you don't mind.

LEO

I know that name from somewhere. Tippy, what a great name **TIPPY**
Why thank you and yours?

TIPPY

Why thank you and yours?

LEO

Leo, Leo Mataratz.

TIPPY

Is that M-A-T-A-R-A-T-Z?

LEO

You got it.

TIPPY

Mataratz huh? You got a brother named Lewie that went to
Roosevelt High School in the Bronx?

LEO

Maybe.

TIPPY

And you got a sister named Trudi, real pretty with big *bazoomers*?

LEO

What are you, some kind of mind reader?

TIPPY

Me and Lewie used to play handball in Crotona Park, and you're
his kid brother Leo, ain'tcha. I don't believe it, what the hell
is Lewie doing these days?

LEO

Still at the P.O. on Fordham Road. 32 years can you believe it,
32 years.

TIPPY

And Lucy?

LEO

Married some rich Jew lawyer and I mean rich. Got six kids.
Guys an animal, all he does is bang my sister and make money.

WALTER

Sounds like defamation of character to me, Goldie.

ERNIE

Me too and I doth protest, I really doth doth. How many daughters
did he have?

LEO

Hey, you got me all wrong, I love Jews. And Wayne didn't have any daughters.

HOLLY

We have too, Jesus was Jewish, so was Peter, Paul and Mary.

WALTER

Peter, Paul and Mary, one of my all-time favorite groups. They had a couple of hit records, remember? And what about Sammy Davis Jr., he, became a Jew and wasn't he best friends with the great, Sinatra? Laura, Josephine and Elvira. Like Tippy, you can't play Leo. What's good for the goose is good for the goose.

ERNIE

I opened for the both of them.

HOLLY

He did, he really did. Ernie Taylor and Walter Wego were very famous, they used be on television all the time.

LEO

(Stares at Ernie and Walter.)

Wait a minute, I remember you... At the end of your show, you used to eat clams while this shrimp sang, I forget what he sang.

WALTER

(Sings ♫)

"Home, home on the range..."

LEO

...That's right, that's right, you were hysterical, and then something happened. What happened, I forgot what happened?

ERNIE

They all forgot too, like I never existed.

LEO

So, whatcha been doing these days?

ERNIE

Not very much.

WALTER

Not very much? He's driving me crazy, that's all. The man does nothing, but talk about how he's going to kill himself.

LEO

Hey, you don't want to do that, do ya? I mean, you were famous.

(ERNIE shakes head, maybe.)

WALTER

How many famous lunatics have committed suicide from this spot, on this very bridge? Let me count the ways, right, Tippy?

TIPPY

...He thinks I want to do it too. I don't know where he gets that crap from. All I know is, we were about to eat some clams and then Mr. Famous here was going to jump. He was going to jump, not me, when you so rudely interrupted. Now, he won't have to jump, because you my dear friend are going to shoot him in the head and put "Us" out of our misery, aren't you.

WALTER

You just said he was going to put "Us," out of our misery and "Us," my good friend, is more than a Freudian slip, because you want to do it too, *he wants to do it too, he wants to do it too.*

TIPPY

Hey, you got that all wrong, I'm definitely not going to jump...

LEO

And I ain't shooting him or anybody, I, ain't no murderer.

(TIPPY cries.)

WALTER

Well, the least you can do is shoot Ernie. After all, he is the oldest. I mean, can't you tell?

LEO

I was only trying to scare you. Tell you the truth; I was more scared than you...

ERNIE

Why, he's nothing more than a mere amateur.

HOLLY

(Sobs.)

Oh, please Leo, you said you were going to shoot us, I mean him... You have to, he's afraid to jump...

TIPPY

...You promised to nail Ernie and a promise is a promise.

WALTER

I'm afraid he's right. A promise is a promise, unless you're a 'pisher?' Want Tippy to tell your brother that you're a 'pisher,' liar?

LEO

(Cries.)

TAKE COVER! ENEMY AT FOUR O'CLOCK! Goks, they're coming, they're coming to get me.

WALTER

What are you crying about? Just put an ad in the paper: Wanted: Enemy pilot, laundry and Tai cooking a must.

ERNIE

...Now's not the time to be cute, Walter. The man's in so much pain.

WALTER

And you're not? what's the name of Roebing's second wife.

ERNIE

Walter, this is serious. This is no time for joviality. Lucia Cooper, satisfied?

(LEO cries aloud.)

WALTER

If you're so concerned, why don't you give him your peewee, 'putz?' He lost his in Nam. Who settled Brooklyn?

ERNIE

(Touches self.)

My peewee, are you crazy, what the hell does my peewee have to do with anything? AS you know the Dutch.

WALTER

Why not, you stopped using it, didn'tcha? He stopped *schtupping*, which means *doing it*, in case anybody's interested. When"

ERNIE

What did you lose in Nam, and absolutely not! It is out of the question, *Shmego!* My peewee is my peewee. The early 17th century.

WALTER

What are you making such a big deal about such a little nothing?

ERNIE

N-O! Now, will you please change the subject? there is a lady present. How big is Brooklyn?

WALTER

What about you Leo? Come on, have a little '*rachmunes*,' that's sympathy for all you born-again Christians. 25 square miles and larger than Manhattan.

LEO

What are you kidding? How can I give him my, when I, when I,
(Points to penis, touches head and sings. ♫)
aw, forget it...

PRAY IN THE RAIN

I know I'm not all there,
Call me crazy if you like.
As I walk the lonely street,
Yes, sometimes I get lost.

My hair's staring to gray.
Seems I forget to laugh.
I know why robbins sing.
And when snowmen lose their feet.

People play in the sun.
And I pray in the rain.
Laugh, there is a smile,
But it's far away.

Heard a poet lost a day.
And a robin wouldn't sing.
I hear things all the time.
Little children in the park.

Take the subway to the end.
On the beach a white, seagull.
And the night is very long.
In my one bedroom, home.

People play in the sun.
And I pray in the rain.
Laugh, there is a smile,
But it's far away.

HOLLY

You're so lonely, aren't you...?

WALTER

Loneliness, that's why all of you came to the bridge, isn't it?
You're all so lonely that's why you're all going to end it. Just
leave me out of it, damn it!

LEO

Are you out of your snap or what?

WALTER

Come on, admit it, admit it...

(WE hear musical Underscoring of "PRAY IN THE RAIN.")

LEO

I'll admit nothing of the sort. GET THE BAZOOKAS! TANKS, ENEMY
TANKS AT FOUR O'CLOCK!

WALTER

I'm telling you Ernie, I wish I had a camera. Enemy tanks, can you believe it, enemy tanks?

ERNIE

You are utterly revolting.

WALTER

You're repeating yourself, 'buhby.' And why don't you all think it over, Holly, Tippy, Leo. It's the right thing to do. Ernie's dying for company. Dying, that's funny.

TIPPY

I am not committing suicide, so forget it, ya hear? Forget it.

LEO

THE SERGEANTS BEEN SHOT, THE SERGEANTS BEEN SHOT!

WALTER

Bad enough you two '*schmucks*,' no pun intended, are going to kill yourself, now, you want to be responsible for his sergeants death, too? "*I pledge allegiance to the flag...*"

(LEO cries aloud.)

HOLLY

Don't cry Leo, it will be all right, I promise.

WALTER

Don't make promises that you can't keep, Holly. He wants a...

HOLLY

(Touches Leo.)

...What do you want, Leo? Please tell me.

LEO

(Crying.)

I can't, I wish I could, but I can't, it's too embarrassing.

HOLLY

What's embarrassing? Tell me, please tell me.

WALTER

Ernie, what do you say...?

ERNIE

...Ask *Tipsy*...

TIPPY

He said Ernie; he didn't say Tippy, so leave me out of it, will you please?

WALTER

(Sings ♫ to Eleanor Rigby.)

"All the lonely people. Where do they all come from?" Hey, I just got a brilliant idea, how to end Leo's loneliness, Holly. Why don't you give him a *little*? Come on, be a sport, what's a *little*?

HOLLY

Oh, I would gladly give him a little, but a little what?

ERNIE

I advise you to drop the subject, Walter.

WALTER

You're making a big mistake, a big mistake. What's a little compared to a fellow human being's life.

HOLLY

I'm sure Bloomingdale's has a little. They carry a little of everything. In fact, it might even be on sale.

WALTER

Want a clam, Leo? They say it puts a *little* in your *pencil*.

ERNIE

You'll never learn, will you?

WALTER

What should I learn Ernie, how to kill myself? No thanks.

ERNIE

Why thank you for reminding me, Walter. I believe it is that time for us to say goodbye. Shall we hold hands?

(ERNIE takes HOLLY'S and TIPPY'S hand and THEY step away from LEO.)

HOLLY

(Looks at Ernie and starts to cry.)

I don't want to jump Ernie, I really don't.

LEO

You're not going to jump, are you Holly?

HOLLY

I really don't want to.

LEO

Because you're gonna have a little baby.

HOLLY

I know.

LEO

You might have a girl... I always wanted a little girl.

WALTER

(Sings ♪.)

"My little girl, pink and white, as peaches and cream is she..."
Do you swear to take this woman, for better or for worse, so help
you God...?

LEO

(Aside.)

...I do...

WALTER

(Refrain ends and sings to "Here comes the bride.")
You may kiss the bride. *"Dum, dum, da dum. Dum, dum, da dum."*

HOLLY

(Sobs.)

He said he was going to marry me, he lied, they all lied.

TIPPY

All...?

HOLLY

Michael and...

ERNIE

Michael and?

HOLLY

(Sings ♪)

George and now, Joey.

FOOLS

He said that he really loved me.
He promised he'd always care.
Forever he's stand by me, he'd swear.

I tried so hard to make him happy.
His last kiss didn't feel right.
Lord, how I cried when he left me that night.

When he held me,
I got so hot I couldn't breathe.
I thought his love was all I'd need.

Fools they make the same mistakes.
Fools, they live in their heartaches.
Afraid, that's why they walk alone.
They cry, 'cause no one's there when they come home.

We planned a lifetime together.
Loved every moment we shared.
Like a child I believed he cared.

I thought that I was his sweetheart.
He'd sing and I'd start to dance.
I thought I needed was romance.

But I was wrong.
And so I walked around blind.
Looking for what would be mine.

Fools they make the same mistakes.
Fools, they live in their heartaches.
Afraid, that's why they walk alone.
They cry, 'cause no one's there when they come home.

WALTER

So, marry someone else. This ain't Australia? There's more than one Joey in the ocean. Why don't you pick a name, like eh, like
(Sings.)

eh... Leo? He's available. *"To know, know, know him, is to love, love, love him..."*

LEO

Nice try, Walter, but it won't work. No one will ever love me. Not Holly, not anybody. Not, as long as I'm still fighting those GOKS, SNIPERS, THREE O'CLOCK, THERE'S THREE OF THEM!

HOLLY

Do you really need a little that bad? Will it end the war, if I gave you a little?

LEO

(Squats and looks up.)

ENEMY AIRCRAFT! TAKE COVER, TAKE COVER!

(ALL squat and look up as HELEN, running meets ALL.)

HELEN

Would you please get out of the way and let me pass, please?

(No one moves.)

HELEN (Cont'd)

What in God's name are you all doing out here at this time of night? I thought I would be all-alone. Now, will you please

move out of the way and let me pass...

ERNIE

I beg your pardon.

HELEN

Pardon my *caboli*. What the hell's going on here?

WALTER

Haven't you heard? They're all going to commit suicide.

HELEN

Did you say suicide?

WALTER

Yes, *Ev'rybody's jumpin'*.

HELEN

Everybody?

WALTER

They're all gonna hold hands and jump, in there. Scouts honor.

HELEN

(Aside.)

I don't believe it. Tell me I'm not working. *I'm not working.*
Are you all really going to kill yourself? No, wait, don't tell
me, because, I'm not working...

HOLLY

(Sad.)

...Because I'm... I'm...

HELEN

I don't want to hear, not now, not a word.

HOLLY

...I'm a tramp that's pregnant for the third time. Why do I keep
falling in love and don't tell me it's because of my father,

(To Helen.)

Walter and why am I telling you?

HELEN

...The third time? Please, I don't want to know, not unless
you're willing to pay... how does a \$150 an hour sound?

HOLLY

\$150 an hour. You sound like, are you some kind of shrink?

HELEN

I was this afternoon.

HOLLY

Wow, a real shrink, that's fantastic. My mother died six months ago and since then, I've been thinking, maybe I should be analyzed.

HELEN

Not a chance, now will you please excuse me, my husband gave me a 15-minute head start and I'm wasting precious time. The third time? You gotta be kidding.

HOLLY

(Sobs.)

You don't understand nobody does.

HELEN

Handle it; it's not the end of the world. You either get an abortion or you have it. No if, ands or buts. It's your decision, it always is.

(ALL cry.)

HELEN

(To Ernie.)

And you, Mr. Tuxedo, what the hell are you cryin' about? No, don't tell me, I'm not interested, because I'm really not...

ERNIE

...You wouldn't understand.

HELEN

How right you are, so don't tell me, anything...

ERNIE

...I killed the only woman I ever loved, Anna.

HELEN

Genghis Khan killed 900 Anna and did he complain? Not a chance.

ERNIE

Anna, she loved me so much, that after my lips started moving, she waited 20 years to have a heart attack and didn't even say goodbye.

HELEN

We mustn't blame our self for our wife having a weak heart. I don't think that's such a good idea, do you mister?

ERNIE

I couldn't get a job, I was so embarrassed that my lips started to move, and 20 years later she decided to pass, and that's when I decided it was time to pack it all in. Where was he buried?

WALTER

And the man constantly repeats on me, and it's worse than heartburn, and his 'facockte,' moving lips, cost me my whole career and it was budding. Next to Johanna and his two children.

(**ERNIE** sings 🎵)

COULD'VE BEEN A STAR

Used to do 50 shows a year.
Made more money than a king.
People would stand in line to hear.
When he'd eat the clams, I'd begin to sing.
While this 'schmuck' took all the bows.
I, I never said a word.
Now he smells worse than the cows.
The older he gets the more absurd.

Like Brando I could've been a somebody.
Remember Bogey had his African Queen.
Because Of rotten Ernie I've become a plain nobody.
That's why my life becomes totally obscene.

Opened for the very best.
Worked the Copa did TV.
"What's My Line," he was the guest.
And do you see what happened to me?
Climbed to the top, then he fell.
Now all he wants to do is die.
He wants to take me to hell.
Don't want to go, why should I?

Like Brando I could've been a somebody.
Remember Bogey had his African Queen.
Because Of rotten Ernie I've become a plain nobody.
That's why my life becomes totally obscene.

HELEN

Who's the shrimp with the attitude?

WALTER

For your edification, madam *shrinkydinky*, perhaps the attitude emanates from *moi* being born a shrimp. Seems *moi's* always been a shrimp, but you don't see *moi*, wanting to jump, do you?

HELEN

Touché, Shrimpy.

WALTER

Shrimpy huh, and *touché* yourself and tell this *shrinkydinky* who I am, Ernie.

ERNIE

(Smiles.)

Shrimpy's, Walter Wego, my best friend and partner for 40 years.

HELEN

No, no don't tell me, I don't want to know. I haven't got the time. Really, I must be going. Walter Wego huh...? Why does that name sound so familiar?

HOLLY

He's Ernie Taylor and Walter Wego's his partner. Don't you remember? They were on T.V. Ernie used to eat clams as Walter sang...

WALTER

(Sings. ♬)

...*"Home, home on the range..."*

HOLLY

...They were very famous...

HELEN

...Oh yeah, I remember you. I saw you on, on, Ed Sullivan right? You were a pisser. I used to love you, and now you want to kill yourself? No, don't tell me... I don't want to know about another suicide. I've had enough suicide, because it's killing me.

WALTER

Suicide's his favorite subject, for years and it's *boring*. When was the Brooklyn Bridge opened?

HELEN

You're not really going to kill yourself, are you? Not *"The"* Ernie Taylor? You have to be kidding. Don't tell me, please don't, I really don't want to know, not a thing. Er... 1880?

WALTER

Wrong! Next. *Ev'rybody's jumpin'*. Trust me, I know.

HOLLY

I don't want to join you Ernie Taylor, I really don't. 1881?

TIPPY

And I'm too busy. 1879?

LEO

And I certainly didn't come here to jump or shoot anybody. 1878?

HOLLY

If all you need is a *little*, what the heck's a *little* these days

Leo and sometimes, I guess, I wish I had a *little* too. 1882?

HELEN

(To Holly - to Tipp.)

You're knocked up for the third time, you're guilty that your wife died and you're still fighting the war? Where have I heard this before? No, don't tell me... Er, 1884?

LEO

Nam... It happened, I lost it in Nam. 85?

HOLLY

You lost it in Nam and you never found it, right...? Wow. 86?

WALTER

Wrong wrong wrong and wrong. May 24, 1883. And wait until you
(To Leo.)

hear how many children this sexpot wants to have? Do you know how much it costs for a college education, 'putz?'

LEO

How am I supposed to know? I never went to college. Really?

HELEN

You all feel worthless, don't you? Forget that question. Disregard this and all future questions, I must get going. Really?

WALTER

No Reily.

LEO

Ain't that the truth. I've been feeling worthless since the day I lost it...

HELEN

(Sarcastic.)

...I don't know how you've managed to take it so long, the humility of knowing you lost it. I am so sorry. How many times have you thought of taking your life Leo, 5, 10, 1,000? Well what's taking you so long? No, I withdraw the question... I don't want to know. Not about another suicide. It will definitely kill me...

LEO

(Dangles gun.)

...I brought this 45 home from Nam. I still polish it, night and day I polish it, and then I put the clip in, in and out, ya know what I mean? Standing in front of the bathroom mirror, I open my mouth and put the barrel of the 45 in and out of my mouth, praying to Christ that I get the courage to pull the trigger, but I don't have the...

HELEN

...Ending it all that is the definitive sign of depression; pain,
loneliness, utter futility...

(HELEN ♪ sings.)

ONCE IN AWHILE

When you are lying on the floor.
Can't take it anymore, you're sure.
With nothing left to give.
You need a reason to live.

Little children need a mother.
Sisters need a brother, lover.
The homeless looking for a home.
A broken heart's alone.

Once in awhile,
Stop and smile.
It's fun.
To touch someone.

Smell the roses,
Drink some wine.
If you smile I promise,
The sun will shine.

You're feeling blue, your body aches.
Everybody makes mistakes.
Nothing's that bad, it's not the end.
All you need is a friend.

Don't be afraid to give your heart.
Then you'll become a part, so start.
Laugh and sing it's a great day.
You're gonna find your way.

Once in awhile,
Stop and smile.
It's fun.
To touch someone.

Smell the roses,
Drink some wine.
If you smile I promise,
The sun will shine.

...And what about your family, friends?

LEO

I got a sister, who got six kids; she doesn't understand what
it's like to lose it, having nobody to share things with. I

can't talk to her. And the reason I don't have any friends is, they don't understand either, no one does, no one does, or gives a damn.

WALTER

That's what you get for living in a 'schmeckle' oriented society. Trust me, not all penises are that happy, although that rich 'schmuck' that just became mayor hasn't stopped smiling. So, Mr. Taylor, are you jumping, or are we going home?

ERNIE

I suppose I'm ready to jump that is if everyone else is.

WALTER

All those holding noses raise hands.

LEO

Are you telling me, that you're all gonna do it? No chickening out, promise? You really promise?

HELEN

I don't suppose you all could wait a couple of minutes? My husband should be coming by any minute and I know he'd have a blast seeing all of you jump at the same time. He hasn't had a good laugh since he saw "*Shindler's List*." Laughed two weeks straight. He has the most unbelievable sense of humor and he has the kind of laugh, that when he laughs, he makes everybody laugh, and I can assure you, when he sees you flailing in the air, just about to hit that slime, I'm telling you, he'll make the whole damn city pee, so please, do me and everybody a favor and wait five minutes. What's five minutes?

WALTER

You'll have an audience Ernie. What more could you ask for and he'll laugh. I love those kinds of laughs, don't you? Too bad he'll miss your belly whopper, though.

ERNIE

Well, for a good laugh, I suppose I could delay the final floppereenio.

HELEN

On second thought, Ernie, why delay anything at all? As far as I'm concerned, you can jump right now, as long as he sees your body floating up the river, will be fine. That'll give him plenty to laugh about. So, I guess this is goodbye Ernie, Holly, Leo, see you around Tippy.

TIPPY
(Cries and sings. ♫)

THEY AIN'T HERE

I can't forget the little things.
Sparrows would have to sing,
As we walked arm in arm.

In the park we climbed a hill.
Touching was a thrill.
Her smile, she had such charm.

There was a time I had it all.
I felt like I was the king.
There was a time I had nothing to dread,
Now the king is dead.

Sure they ain't and I'm to blame.
And it's a crying shame.
That's why I can't breathe.
They were everything to me.
The stars, the deep blue sea.
Guess that's why I still grieve.

There was a time I had it all.
I felt like I was the king.
There was a time I had nothing to dread,
Now the king is dead.

Some how I cannot say goodbye.
And that's the reason why,
This man wants to...

There was a time I had it all.
I felt like I was the king.
There was a time I had nothing to dread,
Now the king is dead.

Yeah, I'll see you around, so, let's do it...!

WALTER

Me, I think I'll hang around, have a good laugh and share some of these delicious clams with, what's your moniker, Ms. *Shrinkydinky?*

HELEN

My friends call me Helen, my patients call me Dr. and as for the
(Looks at watch.)
clams, I pass. So, what do you say Ernie? By the time you surface and start floating, my husband should be here. I'm sure he'd appreciate it, especially if you land face up. He loves

bulging eyes. Probably bust a gut from laughing so hard,
Shrimpy.

WALTER

Too bad he won't see his belly whopper, 'cause it's a splash.

TIPPY

(Drinks and laughs.)

Go a head, Ernie; I'm ready for your belly whopper...

LEO

Yeah, do it Ernie. Last time I saw bulging eyes was in the
funnies. Seems like I sure could use a good laugh, ya know what
I mean?

HOLLY

Why don't you let them meet *bzzzz* first, and then you can do your
belly whopper. And after we hear Helen's husband laugh, he's
suppose to have one of those laughs that make you laugh, I love
to laugh... And then I guess we'll join you, won't we fellas?

TIPPY

(Laughing.)

We just might, right Leo? We just might.

LEO

(Laughs.)

And then again, who says a fella can't change his mind?

ERNIE

But you promised, you gave me your word.

WALTER

Don't worry Ernie, sooner or later they're going to jump and does
the seer know? See ya Ern, and sure been nice knowing you
fellas.

HELEN

The most important thing is that Ernie is finally going to end
his life and I think it's only fair that he should be first. I
mean who deserves it more. Just think big guy, no more
loneliness, no more guilt or pain or Matisse, Picasso, pizza, the
Beatles, a rose. Hopefully, someone will still be around to
remember you, yes, remember you, hopefully, right *Shrimpy*?

WALTER

Only me, Ernie, that's why I have to stay. I'm the only one
that's dumb enough to remember.

HELEN

I'm waiting, Ernie. What about that belly whopper?

ERNIE

You're tempting me, aren't you? You're playing one of your devious little games with me, but it won't work. I will jump when I'm good and ready, because it's my life and besides, I think I'd like to hear your husband laugh. Always like a good belly laugh, right fellas?

LEO

Yeah...

TIPPY

Why not?

HOLLY

I always laugh.

ERNIE

And besides, we haven't finished the clams.

TIPPY

(Drinks, gives bottle to Ernie.)

...Or the 'la...'

(ALL start to eat clams.)

WALTER

(To Helen.)

Sorta reminds you of," "The Last Super," don't it?

HELEN

And too bad it didn't happen to me, Holly; I always wanted to have children... Well, it's certainly been fun.

TIPPY

It's funny how things turn out, *Shrinkydinky*. You always wanted a kid and here she is having one that she doesn't want. Life's sure a bitch, ain't it, and by the way, you got any spare change? I sure could use some spare change.

HELEN

You haven't told me your story, Tippy. Don't you want a little free advice? No, forget free advice, please, no more free advice. Forget about free advice and pay up!

TIPPY

It ain't the \$150 at all, is it? You really care don'tcha and doctors are not supposed to get emotionally involved.

HELEN

Don't I know?

TIPPY

If you can't disassociate your emotions from your patients, you got a problem, don't you *Shrinkydinky*?

HELEN

A very serious problem, but we all have problems, don't we?

TIPPY

Including you.

HELEN

Unfortunately, but, please don't tell my husband.

TIPPY

(Sort of laughs.)

Want to talk about it, *unfortunately*?

WALTER

Wait, I don't want to hear a thing, not a word, not for nothing.

TIPPY

You know mimicry is the highest form of flattery.

WALTER

(Ala Helen.)

Well, are you flattered, *please don't tell my husband*?

HELEN

...I've been flattered all right. The last 13 years, running the mental health clinic at eh, at Mount Sinai. I specialize in suicide prevention. What a joke, suicide prevention. I tried to understand and I thought I was succeeding... Three years ago, I got an idea. Since loneliness is the primary contributor to suicide, I started a "*Dare to Live*" program. Instead of the usual one-on-one, which I felt was getting us no where, I thought if I could get them to identify, open up, share their feelings, hang-ups, eventually they would see that they're not alone. I was hoping they'd see that what's bugging them isn't half as bad as someone else troubles. Started out with 12 people that attempted suicide more than twice in the previous year. Those 12 people became 16 and now, there's hardly any left.

WALTER

...How many did you lose this time? No, don't tell me. And she said suicide-prevention was her specialty. You have to be kidding, *shrinkydinky*...

(Sobbing, HELEN raises two fingers.)

ERNIE

Any comedians, *shrinkydinky*?

HELEN

Sylvia and Eddie. I can't believe it; they met at a meeting last year. They were so in love. They even talked about starting and act together, getting married and now, they're gone too.

ERNIE

Think they held hands when they jumped?

HELEN

They jumped from this very spot on this very bridge. It's everybody's very favorite spot. I should have known.

WALTER **ERNIE** **TIPPY** **LEO**
We know. We know. Smart move. Good for them.

ERNIE

You're only a doctor. How could you have known the excruciating pain they were both suffering from? No one does, never, because it's silent and deadly. Did I say excruciating?

HELEN

That's my job, I'm supposed to prevent suicide, but, I've failed, I'm a worthless and useless has-been. There's only four left and soon there won't be any. I know, I can tell. I'm contagious. Everyone I meet commits... Even you're going to jump from this

(Sings ♫)

very spot, on this very bridge.

ONCE and AWHILE

When, you are lying on the floor.
Can't take it anymore, you're sure.
With nothing left to give,
You need a reason to live.

What do you think you're all better than me? I'll end it all like you, and then, no more pain and we'll all be free.

ERNIE

What are you crazy? You can't commit suicide, it's unheard of. Whose gonna save your patients, who's gonna save the world if you commit suicide. Why, that's the most selfish thing I ever heard.

WALTER

That's some *shrinkydinky* for you. She's crazier than you, because at least we know you're crazy, right Goldstein?

HOLLY

Oh, please don't commit suicide Helen. You know I'm 23 years old and I was sorta hoping that you'd talk me into having my baby... I really want this one, I do.

(WE hear musical Underscoring of "TICKET to HELL.")

LEO

RAPID FIRE! TAKE COVER! Ya know, maybe I could use a little talking to myself, Helen.

HELEN

I'm afraid that talking to you is impossible.

LEO

Why not? Don't tell me I'm too crazy for you, too.

TIPPY

That ain't it, Leo. I think she wants the 150. Money ain't everything, you know. It helps, but it ain't everything.

WALTER

Ernie's a millionaire, ten times over and he's still miserable... Say something Goddamnit! This is your life!

TIPPY

(Sings 🎵)

IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER

I'm the king of my destiny,
The start of my show.
The Lord said, "We shall be free."
Can'tcha see, he meant me...
...Sure could use some spare change, Ernie.

HELEN

...Take it from me Tippy, money's not the answer, love, peace and serenity, health, good friends, that's what it's all about.

(Sobs.)

I know, I know, that's what I've been trying to tell all of my patients, but it didn't work, it didn't work. I killed them, I'm an incompetent, no, I'm a murderer, a murderer, right Tippy?

ERNIE

You are nothing of the sort and I'll hear nothing of it, do you understand? You are one of the few people that truly cares for his fellow man; why, you're another Sister Theresa.

HELEN

(Sobs.)

Sister Theresa my ass. Those tormented souls came to me for help and I let them down. More than half have jumped from this very spot, on this very bridge and they didn't even say goodbye. All right, so I got a couple of, "I can't take it anymore," notes, big deal.

WALTER

I got something I'd like to ask you, Ern.

ERNIE

Forget it Walter. You're definitely coming with me and that's it.

HELEN

No sense in taking *Shrimpy*, when I'm more than willing to join you, so why don't you forget about those clams and let's get

(Holds out hand.)

going, shall we?

(ALL cry.)

WALTER

I don't believe it. Five, at the same time, from the same spot, on the same bridge? I have to call Ripley's, 'cause this is definitely a "Believe it or not." Maybe, you should all go to Africa and starve with Mobutu? I got a better idea; What about a little cancer or T.B. You know T.B.'s on the rise and its fun. Hold it, A.I.D.S, now, that's the perfect way to say goodbye, and haven't you heard, it's the latest rage? You don't have to think about it, talk about it, you don't have to worry about being knocked up, having guilt, having the nerve to pull the trigger, or jump, nothing. It happens automatically and then it will be all over, and comes 'Yom Kippur,' I'll say a prayer for each and every one of you, not that it will do you much good, Ernie, 'cause we know where you're going, don't we? Remember the "Worms..."

HELEN

Since it's been decided on, let's get going, shall we? I want to do it before my husband gets here or he'll cackle right in my face. That's right, he cackles when he *laughs* and it drives me crazy.

ERNIE

Wait a minute, hold your horses. We're not through with the clams. These are very special clams, ya know.

TIPPY

That's right and who do you think you are telling us, when to jump? 'Specially since we ain't finished the 'la.'
(Drinks gives it to Ernie.)

ERNIE

(Drinks.)

We'll jump when there's no more clams and 'la,' right Topsy?

TIPPY and ERNIE

That's right, when there's no more la!

HELEN

Well, I'm not waiting, I can't, my husband will be here any minute and his cackling, I can't take it. Every time he cackles, I get sick.

TIPPY

You know, your patients count on you.

HELEN

Big deal, and you haven't told me your story, Tippy, why not, don't you have a story?

WALTER

...No, forget that.

ERNIE

I don't want to know.

HELEN

(To Walter.)

What are you trying to be funny?

WALTER

Since my *Bar Mitzvah*. Ask Goldie, it's in his blood too.

ERNIE

Try, try as you may, you are still not funny, Walter.

WALTER

Where have I heard that before?

ERNIE

This is no time for joviality, Mr. Walter Wego, *Shmego, Shrimpy!*

WALTER

Must be something I ate. Everything seems to be repeating on me.

LEO

I say let's get rid of the little twerp and the dame; They both have big mouths.

HOLLY

You know, your patients count on you, Helen, lots of people do.

HELEN

Big deal.

TIPPY

Even though your husband cackles, I'm sure it's just a sign of love.

HELEN

You may call doing it once a week love. Do not include me.

TIPPY

Mary, Davey, they used to love me too...

ERNIE

So did Anna, until I gave her a heart attack... Now, I'm all-alone.

HOLLY**(Sings 🎵)****THEY CALL ME LUCKY**

I'm always alone...

He says that I'm smart,
 'Cause I have it all.
 I've never had a fall,
 Or a broken heart.

We dance the night away.
 And when we make love,
 In heaven above,
 We watch the angels play.

...Wish I had someone that loved me.

WALTER**(Sings 🎵)***"What the world needs now, is love sweet love..."***(ALL sob.)****HELEN****(Dramatic.)**

That's what this is all about, isn't it? You think no one loves you, because you don't matter, but you're all wrong, you matter. All you have to do is make an effort, reach out, touch someone and you'll feel and you'll matter. You can do it, matter, you have too... matter.

TIPPY**HOLLY****LEO****ERNIE**

Mary. What's a little? I hate being alone. I can't.

WALTER**(Sings 🎵)**

"You're nobody, 'til somebody loves you..." I used to be in show biz and I still miss it... Don't you still miss it too, Mr. Goldstein...? Ain't that part of the reason you want to end it? Lot's of great comedians made comebacks. How many comebacks did Chaplain make and what about Groucho? He was a flop for years until he did, *"You Bet Your Life."* I love that idea Holly had about my family coming to visit us. It's really funny Ernie, I hate them and you like them. I really like it, the perfect sitcom.

HOLLY

I hope that means I'll be given credit for conceiving *"Wego's Amigos."*

WALTER

Did you hear that Ern, "*Wego's Amigos?*" Hysterical, I love it, don't you love it? "*Wego's Amigos, Wego's Amigos.*"

ERNIE

Well, it does sound sorta nutty. That, is nutty in a *Wego Shmegeo* sorta way, but who would believe this nut, me, in a hit sitcom after all these years? That's nuts. What happened to Roebing?

WALTER

I bet if you called just a few of those big shot producers and a couple of your nutty friends, Lewis, Hacket, Cosby and you tell them you're gonna give "*them*" a chance to make a big comeback by letting "*them*" play my cousins, they'll pee. They'll love it so much; you'll have every crazy comic begging to do, "*Wego's Amigos.*" I love that name Ernie, I love it, it's a natural. Just say it once. *Betcha can't. You know everything, I quit.*

HOLLY

It's so exciting, isn't it? I just created my first sitcom. I can't believe it. I bet Eddie Murphy and Billy Crystal will be your funniest *Wego Amigos*. Oh, I can just see it.

WALTER

Remind me to call Crystal and Murphy first thing in the morning. Absolutely brilliant. And you're unique, O.K.?

HELEN

I hope that doesn't mean that the rest of you aren't going to jump? You promised... Tippy?

TIPPY

Don't look at me, Holly's next. I came after her, way after.

HELEN

(Takes Holly's hand and readies to jump.)

Size places, huh...? Well Holly, what say we hit the water? I do hate cacklers, so let's get a move on, shall we? I really don't want to hear him cackle again.

HOLLY

I think I changed my mind Helen. I figure if I can have a sitcom on T.V., why I can't have a baby. I mean, things could be worse, I could be doing radio.

HELEN

(Takes Tippy's hand and readies to jump.)

Okay Tippy, the ball's in your court. We have to get a move on. I told you about his cackles, didn't I? And I know I'm sure gonna miss you. That story about how you killed your wife and

son, I don't blame you at all for wanting to kill yourself, 'cause the guilt you must feel must be unbearable. Who cares that you loved them more than anything, and don't you think Mary loved you? And if she loved you half as much as you loved her, do you think she would want anything, but the best for the man she loved more than anything? And Davey, who do you think he admired more than you, Superman? Even though your son is gone, don't you think he would want his father to go on? Doesn't what your family would have wanted, still matter?

WALTER

That was one hell of a preamble, but, save your breath, they said they're all going to jump so, 'luz 'm gayn,' let 'em jump.

TIPPY

Hold on there a minute. This lady just said something that got me thinking. Me, being in the street, I made it happen; I wanted it to happen, because I felt so Goddamn guilty. I was guilty until *Shrinkydinky* made me realize that Mary, Davey, they wouldn't want to see me living like this... like a bum. I am a bum, but one time I had it all and I made it all on my own, every dime. I borrowed 15 grand from my uncle Jack and I opened my first shoe store. I only sold the best and people ate it up. I paid uncle Jack back in less than a year and from then on, there was no stopping me. I imported the grooviest Italian and French shoes and within six years I had four stores, in the finest areas, all over the East Coast. Three years later I had two more stores and I couldn't spend the money fast enough. Imagine that, Ernie, I'm asking you for change. What a come down, huh?

ERNIE

(Almost sings.)

I was there Tippy, "Don't lock the door, don't hold the mail, I'm on my way out."

TIPPY

If you can make a come back, why can't Tippy? All I need is a shower, maybe a nice haircut and some nice togs, a telephone, get a few samples, make a few phone calls, tell 'em that

(Sort of sings ♪)

"Tippy's back in town."

ERNIE

Far as that shower is concerned, long as you don't use too much of my cologne, I think it can be arranged and you might even be invited to stay for a few days if you behave. I'll not have you drinking all my bourbon, not without me, understood?

TIPPY

What about the haircut and...?

ERNIE

...I told you about the cologne, didn't I?

TIPPY

You certainly did and I heard every word.

HELEN

Leo, it looks like it's just you and me. Shall we show them our belly whopper?

LEO

You can't fool me, *Ms. Shrinkydinky*. Since they all chickened out, you think you're going to get me to chicken out, well it looks like your right again, don't it *Ms. Shrinkydinky*, it sure

(Puts gun to head.)

been nice knowing you...

HOLLY

...Wait Leo, please don't shoot yourself. If you need a little, I'll give it to you. Just tell me what it is. All I know is that I'm going to have a baby and, she sure could use an Uncle Leo, and I could use a best friend, someone that understands how a girl feels, Leo.

LEO

Now, don't you start on me, Holly, I'm warning you.

HOLLY

(Coy, flirtatious, touches Leo.)

What are you warning me about, Leo?

LEO

Even though you're having a baby and I sure would like to be an uncle and all, just don't touch me and don't look at me like that, please.

HOLLY

You're very sensitive and shy, aren't you? How sweet.

LEO

(Sings 🎵)

PRAY IN THE RAIN

I know I'm not all there.
Call me crazy if you like.
As I walk the lonely street,
Yes, sometimes I get lost
People play in the sun.
And I pray in the rain.
Laugh, there is a smile,
But it's far away.

...And I'm not that sensitive and I'm definitely not sweet.

HOLLY

(Takes gun.)

Would you kiss me, Leo?

LEO

Hey, what are you crazy?

HOLLY

What's wrong with a little kiss?

LEO

I guess there's nothing wrong with a little kiss, but in front of all these people...?

HOLLY

...You are shy. Oh, you dear thing.

(HOLLY and LEO kiss and embrace.)

WALTER

(Ala Donald Duck.)

Looks like this movie is over, "Duh, duh, what's up Doc?"...

ERNIE

...And our sitcom has just begun...

WALTER

(Sings ♪)

"Hurray for Hollywood..."

(Off we hear a booming guffaw of laughter.)

HELEN

See what I mean about cacklers? If I was you I'd run and by the way, all that bull about me being a shrink, I teach acting at the New School. Come on by, I'll give you a free lesson, not that you need any. I mean all of you... What an act, you'll

(Runs off, laughing.)

probably win a Tony, maybe even an Oscar?

(Lights, curtain.)

THE END

S Goldberg

Ev'rybody's Jumpin'

1-1-67