

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

(A suicidal musical in One Act)



Book and lyrics by Sidney Goldberg

Music by

**H**

**E**

**L**

**P**

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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 '*bubby*' 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, Tippy...

**TIPPY**

...That's Tippy...

**WALTER**

Here's a tip, Tippy. 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 Tippy?

**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 Tippy 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  
**(Starts to sob.)**  
dreamed, what a joy you'd be..."

**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 Roebeling'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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Roebbling?

**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