

Ev' rybody' s **J***umpi***N'**

(A Movie adapted from the Musical)



H

Book and lyrics by Sidney Goldberg

E

Music by

L

P

Please Contact:

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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.

Ev'rybody's **J**umpin'

Songs 

LAMENT (Ernie)

WITHOUT a CRYSTAL BALL (Walter)

LOOK in the MIRROR (Walter)

THEY CALL ME LUCKY (Holly)

LAMENT (Refrain)

RUNNING into TIME (Ernie)

IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER (Tippy)

LOSERS (Ernie, Walter, Holly, Tippy)

RUNNING into TIME (Refrain)

I CAN'T WAIT (Ernie, Walter, Holly, Tippy)

IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER (Refrain)

PRAY in the RAIN (Leo)

FOOLS (Holly)

COULD'VE BEEN A STAR (Walter)

ONCE in AWHILE (Helen)

THEY AIN'T HERE (Tippy)

ONCE in AWHILE (Helen, refrain)

IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER (Tippy, refrain)

THEY CALL ME LUCKY (Holly, refrain)

PRAY in the RAIN)Leo, refrain)

EV'RYBODY'S *JUMPIN'*

EXT. Yesterday. 3 A.M. 1
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 G-d, 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.

ERNIE

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
go.

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*

(MORE)

WALTER (Cont'd)

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, G-ddamnit. 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*, *shmeego*, Walter Wego.

WALTER

Ego shmeego, you think I'm just your alter ego, *shmeego*? Not only am I your heart and soul, I know everything about you, and I hate to say this, but thank G-d you, not me, 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? (Drinks and laughs.) I thought we were friends? Best friends jump together, don't they? Always... Trust

(Looks up.)

me and I'm not going to drink
(MORE)

WALTER (Cont'd)

any more Anna, I promise, not a drop and I told you about calling me Goldie.

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, stops 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 🎵)

...*"It was a very good year..."* 1959, we did Berle

twice, Sullivan and Steve Allen, three times that year.

(Ala Ed Sullivan.)

"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

(MORE)

ERNIE (Cont'd)

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

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)

Maybe some Good Samaritan will pass by. I'll ask them. 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 the passerby to witness it and then you can *kerplooeey, kerplunk.*

ERNIE

You actually don't care if I *kerplooeey*, 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-li-acho.*" 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 (Sobs.) anymore... Then, even

my Anna, my sweet Anna left
(🎵 sings.)
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,
aren't you?

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?

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.

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

(Imaginary 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,
Bzzzzz, 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?

WALTER

(Sad.)
Dummy, huh? You know
sometimes you can really hurt
a guy. I'm sorry to tell you
this but, Gerty's not moving,

(Looks in Ernie's ear.)
Ernie. I think she's... gone
to meet her maker.

ERNIE

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

I think the both of you were
(Laughs.)
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 ugly 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*.

(Exaggerated laugh.)

I'm 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, G-ddamnit. 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, 'cause I just might

(Screams.)

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

She died six months ago and
(Sobs.)
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.

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.

(MORE)

HOLLY (Cont'd)

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 can make a comeback?
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,

(Sings )

why 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 G-d'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 refrain 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 (Crying)
that wouldn't you.

HOLLY

I hate coffee.

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.)
A tramp that's pregnant. How

(shows three fingers and cries.)
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
(Sings.)
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
(Notices bottle and picks it up.)
to eat 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."
Can'tcha see, he meant me.
...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...
(Drinks and gives bottle to
TIPPY.)
'La 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, kerploey, kerplop, and then (Refrain ends. Sings ♪.) 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, Topsy 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 (Takes bottle and starts to leave.)
having a 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.

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. 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?

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 jus a bunch of
losers.
A nummy and two boozers.
Stop feeling sorry for
yourself.
Just go and get some
help.

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 jus 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.

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

(MORE)

WALTER (Cont'd)

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.

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 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.

TIPPY

(Takes bottle and drinks.)
I love steamers, 'specially
after a little 'la,' don't
you Ern...?

ERNIE
Indubitably...

TIPPY
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 musical refrain 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.)
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.)
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 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?

LEO

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.

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 dirty.

WALTER

One, two, three and just like
that, with a shot in the
head, it's all over.

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, Tippy.

LEO

Did you say his name is Tippy?

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?

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.

LEO

Hey, you got me all wrong, I love Jews.

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?

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?

ERNIE

Walter, this is serious.

This is no time for
joviality.

LEO cries aloud.

WALTER

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

ERNIE

(Touches self.)

My *peewee*, are you crazy,
what the hell does my *peewee*
have to do with anything?

WALTER

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

ERNIE

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

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.

WALTER

What about you *Leo*? Come on,
 have a little '*rachmunes*,'
 that's sympathy for all you
 born-again Christians.

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 robins 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 going to
end it.

LEO

Are you out of your snap or
what?

WALTER

Come on, admit it, admit
it...

WE hear musical refrain 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,
'bubby.' 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?

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 G-
d...?

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 eh... Leo?

(Sings.)

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 G-d'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

(To Helen.)

father, 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 Annas
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.

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.

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.

(MORE)

WALTER (Cont'd)

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*.

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.

WALTER

Ev'rybody's jumpin'. Trust me, I know.

HOLLY

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

TIPPY

And I'm too busy.

LEO

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

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.

HELEN

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...

LEO

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

HOLLY

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

WALTER

And wait until you hear how

many children this sexpot
(To Leo.)

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.

HELEN

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

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


(MORE)

LEO (Cont'd)

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

( sings.)

futility...

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?

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 curtain.

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 clams, I pass. So,
what do you say Ernie? By
the (Looks at watch)
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

And then again, who says a
(Laughs.)
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 Mozart, 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,

(MORE)

ERNIE (Cont'd)

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 it 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

(MORE)

HELEN (Cont'd)
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.

ALL

We know, we know.

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 very spot, on this very
(Sings 🎵)
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.

(MORE)

ERNIE (Cont'd)

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 refrain 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 G-ddamnit!
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. 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 (Sobs.) 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
(Holds out hand.)
let's get 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 (Drinks gives it to Ernie.)
to jump? 'Specially since we ain't finished the 'la.'

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 and HELEN

...No, forget that, 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 🎵)

I'm always alone...


THEY CALL ME LUCKY

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
Mary.

HOLLY
What's a little?

LEO
I hate being alone.

ERNIE
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 Shmego* sorta way, but who would believe this nut, me, in a hit sitcom after all these years? That's nuts.

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;

(MORE)

WALTER (Cont'd)

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.

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 G-ddamn 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

(MORE)

TIPPY (Cont'd)

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
(Sort of sings 🎵)
'em that "*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
(Puts gun to
head.)
sure 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

Looks like this movie is
over, (Ala Donald Duck.)
"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?

THE END