

Side 1

## ACT ONE

## Scene Two

TIME: That same morning, Monday, December 21st.

PLACE: The same.

*Lights up, there is no one onstage.**ETHAN enters through the door. He is wearing a winter coat over overalls now and he is carrying a small basket of eggs. He puts the basket in the refrigerator, and takes one egg with him to the stove. He takes off his coat and hangs it up, then he takes out a frying pan and places it on the stove. DOUGLAS enters. He is carrying some mail. He stands there as if expecting ETHAN to say something. ETHAN turns around and sees him.*

— ETHAN Oh, good morning, Douglas.

DOUGLAS I suppose you didn't see me out there.

ETHAN Out where?

DOUGLAS Walking up the road to your house here.

ETHAN Oh, were you walking up my road?

DOUGLAS Yes, I was walking up your road.

ETHAN Well, no, I guess I didn't see you.

DOUGLAS And you didn't hear me call to you either, I suppose.

ETHAN Did you call to me?

DOUGLAS Several times. "Morning Ethan!", I said. Then I said it again. *(He waves.)* "Morning Ethan! I got your mail for you!" You see that there? That's a wave. I was calling and waving.

ETHAN Well, I'm sorry, Douglas. Someone disturbed my sleep last night and this morning my senses aren't as sharp as they could be.

*ETHAN takes the mail from DOUGLAS.*

DOUGLAS You're welcome.

ETHAN So, what can I do for you... Aloysius?

DOUGLAS Oh, so, you remember my visit last night, do you?

ETHAN Yes, I do. Do you?

DOUGLAS Yes, quite vividly. And did you think about what I said?

ETHAN Douglas, you had a snootfull last night, and you were babbling. Now, I'm willing to forget about it if you are. *(looking at the mail)* Look at these bills. This is the favour you do me? Bringing my bills in for me? Some friend. Final notice it says. Look at that.

DOUGLAS Are you falling behind?

ETHAN No, I started behind. I just haven't caught up yet.

DOUGLAS What is it? Business not good?

ETHAN Oh, it's about the same, Douglas. The problem is my expenses keep going up. And my truck died yesterday and now

I've got to get that fixed too. Would you like some breakfast?

DOUGLAS No, we haven't got time for breakfast. We have to get over to Erdie's Men's Wear. They open in fifteen minutes.

ETHAN Erdie's men's wear?

DOUGLAS *(takes his list out of his pocket)* Number one on my list. New clothes.

ETHAN Douglas, I am not getting any new clothes. I can't afford new clothes.

DOUGLAS Well, how are you going to impress Teresa Pike looking like a... an egg farmer?

ETHAN I am an egg farmer.

DOUGLAS But, you don't have to look like one. I mean, look at me, I grow corn. Do I look like a corn grower?

ETHAN No, you don't.

DOUGLAS You see?

ETHAN You look like an egg farmer. *(He opens a piece of mail.)*

DOUGLAS Ethan, cut it out. Now, you're going to make an impression on this woman whether you like it or not.

ETHAN No, I'm not, Douglas, because I won't even be meeting the woman. *(He starts to read the letter.)*

DOUGLAS Well, that's where you're wrong, Ethan. You see here? Number two on my list. Introduce Ethan to Teresa Pike. Well, on

my way over here this morning I stopped by the school and had a word with Miss Pike. I explained to her that it was a custom in this area for the new teachers to introduce themselves around to all the parents, and that it seems that everyone's met her except for this friend of mine named Ethan Claymore. Mind you, I didn't tell her that you weren't a parent, but that's a small point. Well, she was very apologetic and she promised that she'd stop by after school this afternoon and make your acquaintance. Now, I can be here to help break the ice if you like, but personally I think that my presence would be an intrusion, and Lord knows I've never been one to intrude.

*end*

*ETHAN doesn't respond.*

Ethan? Did you hear what I said?

ETHAN *(not listening)* Uh... I'm sorry, Douglas, no I didn't.

DOUGLAS Ethan, what's the matter?

ETHAN Nothing. Uh.... It seems my brother's passed away.

DOUGLAS Your brother?

ETHAN Yes. Martin.

DOUGLAS I didn't even know you had a brother. You've never spoken about a brother.

ETHAN Well, he's been selling cars back home for the past... I don't know... fifteen years. It says he had a heart attack. Forty-three years old.

ETHAN

Well, we'll see how busy I am. *(He has his back to DOUGLAS as he works at the counter.)*

*MARTIN CLAYMORE enters through the open door. He is wearing a business suit. DOUGLAS cannot see him, and ETHAN isn't looking. MARTIN looks around the room, then wanders over to the easel and looks at the painting.*

DOUGLAS

Never mind that. You're going. I've already told the boys you'll be there. They're very excited. New blood and all that. All right?

ETHAN

We'll see.

DOUGLAS

Good. I'll pick you up at two. So long, Ethan.

*DOUGLAS exits and closes the door.*

MARTIN

Still painting I see, Nancy.

ETHAN

*(turning around)* What? *(Beat.)* Oh, my God. Oh my God. Martin? Is that you?

MARTIN

Been a long time, Ethan.

ETHAN

Martin? I... I thought you were dead.

MARTIN

I am.

ETHAN

You are what?

MARTIN

Dead. Very much so.

ETHAN

No, I mean, I got a letter saying that you had died. It said you had a heart attack.

MARTIN

I did have a heart attack.

ETHAN

No, it said you died.

MARTIN

I did die.

ETHAN

No, it said you were dead.

MARTIN

I am dead. Exactly what part of this don't you understand?

ETHAN

I don't understand any of this.

MARTIN

All right, let me try and explain. Last week, I was showing a young couple this used Riviera on the car lot. The young lady—quite a striking woman—the young lady says to me can they take it for a test drive. And I says "Sure. Just let me go inside and get the..."

ETHAN

Get the what?

MARTIN

Nothing. That's as far as I got. Next thing I know I'm down on one knee and I'm hanging on to the Riviera's bumper. The young woman asks me if I'm all right, and I say, "I'll be fine." Those were my last words. "I'll be fine."

ETHAN

So, you *did* have a heart attack.

MARTIN

I sure did. Hurt like hell. I thought I was gonna die. Turns out I was right.

ETHAN

Wait a minute. What are you saying?

MARTIN

I'm trying to tell you that I'm dead, Ethan. And I'm not happy about it either. I could've sold that Riviera.

ETHAN

All right, Martin, what is this? What are you trying to pull?

*The door opens and DOUGLAS enters again.*

DOUGLAS Ethan, you'll want me to come with you to Erdie's, of course. I mean, I have a pretty keen eye for fashion as you can tell, so you'll probably want me to be there, right?

*ETHAN doesn't answer.*

Ethan?

MARTIN Hey, Douglas? Over here.

DOUGLAS Ethan, are you going to answer me or not?

MARTIN Douglas?? Yoo-hoo? *(He moves to the door.)*

DOUGLAS Well, fine then. If you don't want me to come, just say so. You don't have to ignore me. *(He turns to leave.)*

ETHAN Douglas?

DOUGLAS What?

ETHAN You can't see him?

DOUGLAS See who?

ETHAN Him. Right there.

DOUGLAS Right where? *(looking around)*

ETHAN Right there. There.

MARTIN Forget it, Ethan. He'll think you're crazy.

DOUGLAS What are you, crazy?

MARTIN Too late.

DOUGLAS Now, you call me when you're ready to go to Erdie's, all right? And have a nap. You're seeing things that aren't there.

*DOUGLAS exits and closes the door.*

ETHAN He didn't see you.

MARTIN That's right.

ETHAN No, I mean, he didn't see you at all. Like you were invisible.

MARTIN Now you're catching on.

ETHAN Oh, now wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute.

MARTIN It's true, Ethan.

ETHAN No, it's not.

MARTIN I know it's a shock, but it's true.

ETHAN You're a ghost?

MARTIN No, they don't call us ghosts. We're shadow beings.

ETHAN Shadow beings?

MARTIN Yeah, in life we were human beings, and at this stage, we're only shadows of our human being selves, so we're shadow beings.

ETHAN We? You mean there are more of you? *(He looks around.)*

MARTIN Don't worry. I'm the only one you'll see.