

Side 7 (Aug 29)

ACT TWO

Scene One

TIME: Wednesday, December 23rd.

PLACE: The same.

As the scene opens there is no one on stage. The door to the home swings open and MARTIN enters. The door swings closed behind him.

MARTIN

(to himself) What a lousy party that was. No alcohol, no dancing. How do the Amish do it?

There is a crash of thunder and a flash of lightning. MARTIN looks up.

It was a joke! I'm joking! Boy, for a person who gave us the ostrich, you don't have much of a sense of humour. By the way, I've been meaning to ask you, what happened to this light you're supposed to see when you're dying? You know, I heard you're supposed to walk towards the light. Well, I didn't see any light. I was fumbling around in the dark there for a good twenty minutes.

MARTIN wanders over and looks at the painting.

I wish I could go back there. No second chances I guess, huh? *(Beat, as he waits for an answer.)* No, I didn't think so.

YOUNG MARTIN enters from the bedroom. He limps to a chair and sits. The door opens and YOUNG ETHAN rushes in.

YNG. ETHAN Dad?? Dad!!

ETHAN enters from the bedroom.

ETHAN What's wrong?

YNG. ETHAN Dad, I lost my painting.

ETHAN What?

YNG. ETHAN My painting of Mom. It's gone.

ETHAN Gone? How could you lose it?

YNG. ETHAN I don't know. I put it in my bag, and I thought I zipped it shut, but maybe I didn't. I don't know. And when I was running to Mr. Hoffman's, it must've fallen out I guess.

ETHAN Oh, Ethan.

YNG. ETHAN Dad, what am I gonna do? That was my Christmas present for Mom.

ETHAN All right, all right. *(He gets his coat and puts it on.)* We'll find it. Which way did you go? Past the pond, or through the woods?

YNG. ETHAN The woods.

ETHAN All right, we'll just retrace your steps then.

YNG. ETHAN But, I already looked.

ETHAN Well, we'll look again.

MARTIN *(to YOUNG MARTIN)* Tell them.

ETHAN Now, you went straight there, did you? You didn't go anywhere else first?

YNG. ETHAN No, I went straight there.

ETHAN All right then. We'll find it.

MARTIN (to YOUNG MARTIN) Tell them.

ETHAN Martin, we'll be right back. Come on, Ethan.

YOUNG ETHAN and ETHAN exit.
MARTIN moves to YOUNG MARTIN.

MARTIN Get up. Call them back.

YOUNG MARTIN doesn't hear.

Get up, you coward!

YOUNG MARTIN gets out of the chair
and moves to the front door. He opens it.

Call them. Go on. They can still hear you.

YOUNG MARTIN says nothing.

Call them!

MARTIN steps outside and yells.

Dad!! Ethan!! Come back! I took the painting!! It was me!! Dad!!?

YOUNG MARTIN turns away from the
door. He moves toward the bedroom.
MARTIN turns and looks at him from
outside.

I hate you. *and*

A flash of lightning and a crash of thunder.
The door swings closed. The door opens
and ETHAN enters. He is wearing the

clothes he purchased at Erdie's. Nice
slacks and a shirt under his winter coat.
He looks outside as he enters.

ETHAN (to himself) Awfully cold weather for
thunder and lightning. (He looks around
the room.) Martin... Martin, are you
here? Are you anywhere? (He hangs up
his coat.)

MARTIN enters from the bedroom.

MARTIN What is it?

ETHAN is startled.

ETHAN Geez! Don't do that. It's bad enough
when real people sneak up on you, let
alone a... someone like you.

MARTIN You were going to say ghost, weren't
you?

ETHAN Well, to my mind, that's what you are.
That's what we've been told all our
lives. Dead people who come back are
ghosts.

MARTIN And I suppose you're too old to change,
huh?

ETHAN Don't talk to me about changing,
Martin. Even dying couldn't change
you.

MARTIN So, where's your date?

ETHAN What?

MARTIN Your date. The woman.

ETHAN She wasn't my date.