

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.