

**Ev' rybody' s *J*umpi*N'***  
(A Movie adapted from the Musical)



Book and lyrics by Sidney Goldberg

Music by

**H**

**E**

**L**

**P**

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Music by

*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 God, because bad enough we haven't worked the past 30 years. Living alone with you, I can't take it, and I don't want to. And how how can you embarrass John A. Roebling who was born in the town of Mühlhausen, Germany. Don't you know he was the greatest bulder of bridges in the world. He built this Brooklyn Bridge, remember? Don't defame him.

ERNIE

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 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

And John A. had a son Washington who helped him build this *fahcockte* bridge, remember, and maybe some Good Samaritan will pass by. I'll ask him. The whole thing won't take more than five minutes. "*I, being of sound mind bequeath everything to my best friend, Walter Wego.*" You sign it and I'll ask a passerby to witness it and then you can *kerplooeey, kerplunk, floppereenio* all you want, just leave me out of it.

ERNIE

That's impossible. You have nothing to predict, unless I say so, because you are nothing without me... That's why I named you Walter Wego, instead of *alter ego, shmego*, Walter Wego.

WALTER

*Ego shmego*, you think I'm just your alter ego, *shmego*? Not only am I your heart and soul, I know everything about you, and I hate to say this, but thank God you, not me, no not me, you, you're the one that belongs on the funny farm, going around threatening to kill yourself, so, go ahead, kill yourself, jump you lonely bastard, and see if I care... Don't you understand, I'm perfectly content right here,

(MORE)

WALTER (Cont'd)  
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 me and I'm not going to drink  
(Looks up.)  
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 '*buhby*' 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 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 And John A. had a son Washington who helped him build this *fahcockte* bridge, remember, and maybe some Good Samaritan will pass by. I'll ask him. The whole thing won't take more than five minutes. *"I, being of sound mind bequeath everything to my best friend, Walter Wego."* You sign it and I'll ask a passerby to witness it and then you can *kerplooeey*, *kerplunk*, floppereenio all you want, just leave me out of it.


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? And do you know when John Augustus Roebling died?

WALTER

(Sad.)

Dummy, huh? Thursday, July 22, 1869. You know sometimes you can  
(Looks in Ernie's ear.)  
really hurt a guy. I'm sorry to  
tell you this but, Gerty's not  
moving, Ernie. I think she's...  
gone to meet her maker.

ERNIE

She's nothing of the sort,  
because I can still feel her!  
Now, 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 unGodly  
hour, young lady?

HOLLY

I was taking a walk. I came  
to this spot to look at the  
view of the city. Isn't it  
beautiful? Don'tcha just love  
it from this spot?

WALTER

Cut the baloney, sister. We know why you came to this spot, you came to jump. Everybody jumps from this spot...

ERNIE

...Aren't you afraid something might happen to you?

HOLLY

(Touches cross.)

There's nothing to be afraid of, 'cause when it's your time, it's your time.

WALTER

Even she knows it's your time. How prophetic.

ERNIE

Must you always be so heartless?

WALTER

I hope you're ready to jump, Miss and since I'm not going you know where with this loser, he sure could use some company.

HOLLY

Jump, what made you say jump?

(ALL sing ♪.)

WITHOUT A CRYSTAL BALL

WALTER

Without a crystal ball.  
Come winter, spring or fall.  
I can see it all.  
Poor *buhby* had a fall.

It all appears quite clear.  
I know why you cam here.  
Oh my dear, my dear,  
You want to disappear.

You're so young and  
lovely.

You need a lovey dovey.  
 Find someone to love  
 I predict you'll have it  
 Licked.  
 And you'll get lucky.

HOLLY

It's not that I'm queasy.  
 But life just ain't that easy.  
 Why do they seem so sleazy?  
 And good things don't come  
 easy.

Why do I feel estranged?  
 And will things ever change?  
 Why do they act so strange

Why you are so positive.  
 And I've nothing left to  
 give.  
 Ain't no shining star.  
 And there ain't no  
 Shangri-la.  
 boy, my life is tough.

WALTER

Pardon the intrusion.  
 You seem disillusioned.  
 Which leads to confusion.  
 Is that a protrusion?

You are very pretty.  
 Personable and witty.  
 It's such a pity.  
 What happens in this city.

WALTER

But you're so young and lovely.  
 All you needs a lovey dovey.  
 When you find someone,  
 I predict you'll have it licked.  
 And you'll get lucky.

HOLLY

Of course I'm young and lovely.  
 But who wants a lovey dovey?  
 Think I need someone?  
 Well, you're wrong, ya see I'm  
 strong and I'm lucky.

HOLLY

Another empty day, I'll fill  
 it with my sorrow,  
 For the gentleman I cannot  
 love.  
 How do I find you, where do I  
 find you?

There must be more than this;  
I have so much to give.

ERNIE

I think you better get going,  
Holly. It's getting very late  
and I don't want to be  
responsible.

WALTER

Don't go, Holly, please, this  
crazy lunatic is going to jump  
and he wants to take me with  
him.

HOLLY

Are you really going to jump,  
mister?

WALTER

His name is Bernie Goldstein  
alias Ernie Taylor and he most  
certainly is going to jump and  
so are you. Me, I just came  
along for the ride, and by the  
way, you wouldn't happen to  
have a piece of paper and a  
pen on you?

HOLLY

I'm sorry, but I don't and  
what makes you think I came  
here to jump? Sure, I've been  
depressed a little, but  
everybody gets depressed once-  
in-awhile, but that don't mean  
they want to jump from this  
spot, especially by them self,  
isn't that right, Ernie?

ERNIE

That's exactly what I've been  
trying to tell this *Shmego*.

(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 to go to the Museum of Natural History some time?

WALTER

Museums are out. He has a thing for Tyrannosaurus Rex.

HOLLY

What about Central Park? We can go to Sheep Meadow, rent a rowboat.

WALTER

He never rows in public. The reason why this hermit is going to jump is he doesn't know or care what happens when you lay there six feet under: *"The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out. They crawl in your stomach and out of your mouth."*

ERNIE

(Drinks.)

You are disgusting, absolutely revolting.

WALTER

When you jump, you'll go straight to hell, you hear? I promise you won't pass *GO* and collect \$200, so *'gay in drehd, ' go to hell, and be my guest, 'buhby.'*

ERNIE

You are so Jewish.

WALTER

At least I admit it. Some  
Taylor, you're name was  
Goldstein...

HOLLY

Please Ernie, don't do it. I  
think I like you. Goldstein?

ERNIE

At least I made someone laugh.  
Yes, it's Goldstein, its  
Goldstein, but don't tell  
anyone, because remember the  
*Narzis*.

WALTER

(Sings )

*Narzis, schmarzis, "As long as  
Goldstein needs me..."*

HOLLY

You can't take your own life  
Mr. Goldstein, I mean Mr.  
Taylor and what's *Narzis*?

WALTER

You forgot about Adolph and  
his *Narzis*, and just tell this  
'yutz,' just tell him to leave  
me out of it, Goddamnit.  
Since the two of you are so  
determined to say goodbye, as  
*mein Feurer* would say, "*auf  
vider zein.*"

HOLLY

Oh, don't you worry Walter  
Wego; he's not going to jump  
and neither are you. That is  
if I have anything to say  
about it, '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 *Shmeigo* for?

WALTER

I'm not the straight man  
Ernie, you are, remember?  
Anyway Holly, I'm sure Gerty  
won't forget you when you say  
*ta ta* and too bad, 'cause I  
hear she *really* likes you.

HOLLY

I'm glad somebody does... Joey  
left.

ERNIE

Who's Joey?

HOLLY

A guy that said he loved me,  
but if he loved me, how could  
he leave at a time like this?  
They all leave you.

ERNIE

Did you say all?

HOLLY nods yes.

WALTER

Tell him what they 'all' made you do, honey, I mean Holly. It was dirty, wasn't it...? I see something growing and we know what it is, don't we.

HOLLY

You really know, don't you?

WALTER

I know everything; I see everything, because I am a psychic, that's P-S-Y-C-H-I-C.

HOLLY

I know how to spell, thank you.

WALTER

That's not the only thing you know how to do, right, you 'momza,' you. Why, I oughta break that two-timer, Joey's head. It was really dirty, wasn't it?

HOLLY

(Sobs.)

That's why I belong in hell, and I deserve it, I deserve it.

ERNIE

You deserve nothing of the sort. Now, would you like to tell Uncle Ernie what exactly is troubling you...?

HOLLY nods no.

WALTER

With your luck, they'll probably never find your body and you're worried about what's troubling her? If I was you, I'd be more concerned with, "*The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out...*"

ERNIE

You said that already and it wasn't funny the first time.

WALTER

Must I apologize?

ERNIE

Only if you think it's necessary... 'Nu, ' I'm waiting.

WALTER

I'm thinking, I'm thinking. Can't you see I'm thinking?

ERNIE

I think so.

HOLLY

You guys are so funny. You could have your own sitcom. Every week a different comedian plays Walter Wego's cousin. They come to live with you. Walter hates his cousins, you, Ernie loves them. Funny?

ERNIE

I think I like it.

WALTER

Like it, I love it. We'll get Berle, Youngman, George Burns, that is, if those stiffs 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  
(MORE)

WALTER (Cont'd)  
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 God's help will have  
a girl.  
She'll brighten up our world.  
Call her peaches and cream.  
Ain't that the perfect dream?

He says that I'm smart.  
'Cause I have it all.  
I never had a fall,  
Or a broken heart.

We dance the night away.  
And when we make love,  
In heaven above,  
We watch the angels play.

WE hear musical 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.)  
...Yeah, '*la*' whatever... This is really good *la*... Want some  
(Drinks again.)  
*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, Topsy. You better get out of here, unless you want to be a witness to a double murder.

TIPPY

(Surprised.)

A double murder?

ERNIE, WALTER and TIPPY stare face to face.

WALTER

They're both going to commit Hari Kari in that gook down there, and he wants to take me, can you believe it?

TIPPY

Did you say, jump into that slop?

WALTER

That's what they're gonna do, *kerplooy, kerplop, 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?  
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 Tippy?

HOLLY

That's Tippy...

ERNIE

(Takes bottle, drinks and hiccups.)  
And that is my bottle, thank  
you.

WALTER

(Hiccups.)  
...Not only do they smell alike,  
they sound alike. Two-dozen  
steamers Tippy and they're  
delicious. How many sons did John  
have?

TIPPY

(Takes bottle and drinks.)  
I love steamers, 'specially after a  
little 'La, ' don't you Ern...? I  
say John Wayne had two sons.

ERNIE

Indubitably... Four, Washington,  
Charles, Ferdinand and Edmund, so  
there. We're talking about John  
Roebbling and you can't play!

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, Topsy.

LEO

Did you say his name is Topsy?

TIPPY

That's Tippy, if you don't mind.

LEO

I know that name from somewhere. Tippy, what a great name.

TIPPY

Why thank you and yours?

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, Topsy?

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 robbins sing.  
And when snowmen lose their  
feet.

People play in the sun.  
And I pray in the rain.  
Laugh, there is a smile,  
But it's far away.

Heard a poet lost a day.  
And a robin wouldn't sing.  
I hear things all the time.  
Little children in the park.

Take the subway to the end.  
On the beach a white seagull.  
And the night is very long.  
In my one bedroom home.

People play in the sun.  
And I pray in the rain.  
Laugh, there is a smile,  
But it's far away.

HOLLY

You're so lonely, aren't  
you...?

WALTER

Loneliness, that's why all of you came to the bridge, isn't it? You're all so lonely that's why you're 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, 'buhby.' And why don't you all think it over, Holly, Tippy, Leo. It's the right thing to do. Ernie's dying for company. Dying, that's funny.

TIPPY

I am not committing suicide, so forget it, ya hear? Forget it.

LEO

THE SERGEANTS BEEN SHOT, THE SERGEANTS BEEN SHOT!

WALTER

Bad enough you two '*schmucks*,'  
no pun intended, are going to  
kill yourself, now, you want  
to be responsible for his  
sergeants death, too?

LEO cries aloud.

HOLLY

Don't cry Leo, it will be all  
right, I promise.

WALTER

Don't make promises that you  
can't keep, Holly. He wants  
a...

HOLLY

(Touches Leo.)

...What do you want, Leo?  
Please tell me.

LEO

(Crying.)

I can't, I wish I could, but I  
can't, it's too embarrassing.

HOLLY

What's embarrassing? Tell me,  
please tell me.

WALTER

Ernie, what do you say...?


ERNIE

...Ask *Tipsy*...

TIPPY

He said Ernie; he didn't say  
Tippy, so leave me out of it,  
will you please?

WALTER

(Sings  to Eleanor Rigby.)  
"All the lonely people. Where  
do they all come from?" Hey,  
I just got a brilliant idea,  
how to end Leo's loneliness,  
Holly. Why don't you give him  
a *little*? Come on, be a  
sport, what's a *little*?

HOLLY

Oh, I would gladly give him a little, but a little what?

ERNIE

I advise you to drop the subject, Walter.

WALTER

You're making a big mistake, a big mistake. What's a little compared to a fellow human being's life.

HOLLY

I'm sure Bloomingdale's has a little. They carry a little of everything. In fact, it might even be on sale.

WALTER

Want a clam, Leo? They say it puts a *little* in your *pencil*.

ERNIE

You'll never learn, will you?

WALTER

What should I learn Ernie, how to kill myself? No thanks.

ERNIE

Why thank you for reminding me, Walter. I believe it is that time for us to say goodbye. Shall we hold hands?

ERNIE takes HOLLY'S and TIPPY'S hand and THEY step away from LEO.

HOLLY

(Looks at Ernie and starts to cry.)  
I don't want to jump Ernie, I really don't.

LEO

You're not going to jump, are you Holly?

HOLLY

I really don't want to.

LEO

Because you're gonna have a  
little baby.

HOLLY

I know.

LEO

You might have a girl... I  
always wanted a little girl.

WALTER

(Sings )

*"My little girl, pink and  
white, as peaches and cream is  
she..."* Do you swear to take  
this woman, for better or for  
worse, so help you God...?

LEO

(Aside.)

...I do...

WALTER

(Refrain ends and sings to *"Here comes the bride."*)  
You may kiss the bride. *"Dum,  
dum, da dum. Dum, dum, da  
dum."*

HOLLY

(Sobs.)

He said he was going to marry  
me, he lied, they all lied.

TIPPY

All...?

HOLLY

Michael and...

ERNIE

Michael and?

HOLLY

(Sings )

George and now, Joey.

## FOOLS

He said that he really loved  
me.  
He promised he'd always care.  
Forever he's stand by me, he'd  
swear.

I tried so hard to make him  
happy.  
His last kiss didn't feel  
right.  
Lord, how I cried when he left  
me that night.

When he held me,  
I got so hot I couldn't  
breathe.  
I thought his love was all I'd  
need.

Fools they make the same  
mistakes.  
Fools, they live in their  
heartaches.  
Afraid, that's why they  
walk alone.  
They cry, 'cause no one's  
there when they come home.

We planned a lifetime  
together.  
Loved every moment we shared.  
Like a child I believed he  
cared.

I thought that I was his  
sweetheart.  
He'd sing and I'd start to  
dance.  
I thought I needed was  
romance.

But I was wrong.  
And so I walked around blind.  
Looking for what would be  
mine.

Fools they make the same  
mistakes.  
Fools, they live in their  
heartaches.  
Afraid, that's why they

walk alone.  
They cry, 'cause no one's  
there when they come home.

WALTER

So, marry someone else. This  
ain't Australia? There's more  
than one Joey in the ocean.  
Why don't you pick a name,  
like eh, like 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 God's name are you all  
doing out here at this time of  
night? I thought I would be  
all-alone. Now, will you  
please move out of the way and  
let me pass...

ERNIE

I beg your pardon.

HELEN

Pardon my *caboli*. What the hell's going on here?

WALTER

Haven't you heard? They're all going to commit suicide.

HELEN

Did you say suicide?

WALTER

Yes, *Ev'rybody's jumpin'*.

HELEN

Everybody?

WALTER

They're all gonna hold hands and jump, in there. Scouts honor.

HELEN

(Aside.)

I don't believe it. Tell me I'm not working. *I'm not working*. Are you all really going to kill yourself? No, wait, don't tell me, because, I'm not working...

HOLLY

(Sad.)

...Because I'm... I'm...

HELEN

I don't want to hear, not now, not a word.

HOLLY

...I'm a tramp that's pregnant for the third time. Why do I keep falling in love and don't tell me it's because of my

(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. 1878?

HOLLY

If all you need is a *little*, what the heck's a *little* these days Leo and sometimes, I guess, I wish I had a *little* too. 1882?

HELEN

(To Holly

- to Tipp.)

You're knocked up for the third time, you're guilty that your wife died and you're still fighting the war? Where have I heard this before? No, don't tell me... Er, 1884?

LEO

Nam... It happened, I lost it in Nam. 85?

HOLLY

You lost it in Nam and you  
never found it, right...?  
Wow. 86?

WALTER

Wrong wrong wrong and wrong.  
May 24, 1883. And wait until  
you

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  
mirror, I open my mouth and  
put the barrel of the 45 in  
and out of my mouth, praying

(MORE)

LEO (Cont'd)  
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 Goddamnit! This is your life!

TIPPY

(Sings )

IT DON'T GET ANY BETTER  
I'm the king of my destiny,  
The start of my show.  
The Lord said, "We shall be  
free."  
Can'tcha see, he meant me...  
...Sure could use some spare  
change, Ernie.

HELEN

...Take it from me Tippy,  
money's not the answer, love,  
peace and serenity, health,  
good friends, that's what it's  
all about. 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  
Tippy?

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. What happened to Roebbling?

WALTER

I bet if you called just a few of those big shot producers and a couple of your nutty friends, Lewis, Hacket, Cosby and you tell them you're gonna give "*them*" a chance to make a big comeback by letting "*them*" play my cousins, they'll pee.

(MORE)

WALTER (Cont'd)

They'll love it so much; you'll have every crazy comic begging to do, "*Wego's Amigos*." I love that name Ernie, I love it, it's a natural. Just say it once. *Betcha can't. You know everything, I quit.*

HOLLY

It's so exciting, isn't it? I just created my first sitcom. I can't believe it. I bet Eddie Murphy and Billy Crystal will be your funniest Wego Amigos. Oh, I can just see it.

WALTER

Remind me to call Crystal and Murphy first thing in the morning. Absolutely brilliant. And you're unique, O.K.?

HELEN

I hope that doesn't mean that the rest of you aren't going to jump? You promised... Tippy?

TIPPY

Don't look at me, Holly's next. I came after her, way after.

HELEN

(Takes Holly's hand and readies to jump.)  
Size places, huh...? Well Holly, what say we hit the water? I do hate cacklers, so let's get a move on, shall we? I really don't want to hear him cackle again.

HOLLY

I think I changed my mind Helen. I figure if I can have a sitcom on T.V., why I can't have a baby. I mean, things could be worse, I could be doing radio.

HELEN

(Takes Tippy's hand and readies to jump.)  
Okay Tippy, the ball's in your court. We have to get a move on. I told you about his cackles, didn't I? And I know I'm sure gonna miss you. That story about how you killed your wife and son, I don't blame you at all for wanting to kill yourself, 'cause the guilt you must feel must be unbearable. Who cares that you loved them more than anything, and don't you think Mary loved you? And if she loved you half as much as you loved her, do you think she would want anything, but the best for the man she loved more than anything? And Davey, who do you think he admired more than you, Superman? Even though your son is gone, don't you think he would want his father to go on? Doesn't what your family would have wanted, still matter?

WALTER

That was one hell of a preamble, but, save your breath, they said they're all going to jump so, 'luz 'm gayn, ' let 'em jump.

TIPPY

Hold on there a minute. This lady just said something that got me thinking. Me, being in the street, I made it happen; I wanted it to happen, because I felt so Goddamn guilty. I was guilty until *Shrinkydinky* made me realize that Mary, Davey, they wouldn't want to see me living like this... like a bum. I am a bum, but one time I had it all and I

(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