

INT. DAY. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF MAX BIALYSTOCK'S OFFICE.
CLOSE-UP OF LITTLE OLD LADY. She blows a kiss and WAVES
GOOD-BYE.

CUT TO CLOSE-UP OF MAX BIALYSTOCK. HE RESPONDS WITH SIMILAR
GESTURES.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO FULL SHOT. LEGEND ON FROSTED GLASS OF
BIALYSTOCK'S OFFICE DOOR READS:

MAX BIALYSTOCK - THEATRICAL PRODUCER

LITTLE OLD LADY BEGINS TO DESCEND STAIRWAY. SHE STOPS,
TURNS, BLOWS ANOTHER KISS AND ONCE MORE WAVES GOODBYE.
BIALYSTOCK GRACIOUSLY ANSWERS IN KIND.

BIALYSTOCK

Don't forget the checkee. Can't
produce playees without checkees.

LITTLE OLD LADY

You can count on me-o, you dirty
young man.

CAMERA BACK TO BIALYSTOCK'S FACE FROZEN IN A LITTLE GOODBYE
SMILE. THE LITTLE OLD LADY'S FOOTSTEPS. BEGIN TO FADE.
BIALYSTOCK'S FACE QUICKLY RESUMES ITS NORMAL EXPRESSION --
DESPAIR AND DISGUST. HE THEN REACHES INTO HIS VEST POCKET,
PULLS OUT AN OLD-FASHIONED, POCKET WATCH AND EARNESTLY
CONSULTS ITS FACE.

CAMERA STAYS WITH HIM AS HE RUSHES INTO HIS OFFICE.
BIALYSTOCK MOVES WITH A QUICK SHUFFLING GAIT TO HIS DESK.
FROM THE TOP OF IT HE PICKS UP A FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH.

CAMERA INSERT: CLOSE-UP OF PHOTOGRAPH. IT IS FACE OF LITTLE
OLD LADY WHO HAS JUST LEFT.

CAMERA BACK TO BIALYSTOCK. HE OPENS DESK DRAWER. IT IS
FILLED WITH TAGGED KEYS. HE PICKS UP A KEY.

CAMERA INSERT: TAG ON KEY READS: INVESTORS FILE.

CAMERA BACK TO BIALYSTOCK. WITH PHOTOGRAPH IN HAND, HE
MOVES ACROSS HIS OFFICE TO A LARGE, DOUBLE-DOORED CABINET.
HE UNLOCKS CABINET.

CAMERA SHOWS CABINET INTERIOR FILLED WITH HUNDREDS OF
SIMILARLY FRAMED PHOTOGRAPHS OF LITTLE OLD LADIES.

CAMERA BACK TO BIALYSTOCK. HE PLACES PHOTOGRAPH IN ITS PROPER NICHE AND BEGINS TO LOOK THROUGH THE FACES.

CAMERA SLOWLY PANS ROWS OF PHOTOGRAPHS, BIALYSTOCK'S P.O.V.

2.

BIALYSTOCK

(Voice Over)

"Hold me, touch me', 'hold me,
touch me', 'hold me, touch me',
where is 'hold me, touch me'? Ahhh
... here we are. 'Hold me, touch
me.'"

CAMERA STOPS PANNING AND REMAINS ON ONE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS. BIALYSTOCK'S HAND MOVES INTO THE FRAME AND PICKS UP PHOTOGRAPH.

CAMERA MOVES IN TO CLOSE-UP OF PHOTOGRAPH

DISSOLVE THROUGH TO MATCHING CLOSE-UP OF SAME FACE WE HAVE JUST SEEN IN PHOTOGRAPH.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL LITTLE OLD LADY IN REAR SEAT OF LIMOUSINE. EXTERIOR. DAY.

CAMERA KEEPS MOVING BACK TO EXTERIOR OF LIMO AS IT MOVES ALONG THROUGH NEW YORK'S THEATRICAL DISTRICT.

LONG SHOT. 45TH STREET. SAME LIMOUSINE PULLS UP IN FRONT OF ONE OF THE THEATRES THAT LINE THE BLOCK.

MEDIUM SHOT. CHAUFFEUR BRISKLY HOPS OUT, AND SMARTLY OPENS REAR DOOR. THE LITTLE OLD LADY EMERGES. SHE LOWERS HER VEIL AND FURTIVELY DUCKS INTO THE BUILDING ENTRANCE.

INT. MEDIUM SHOT. DILAPIDATED THEATRE OFFICE BUILDING. THE LITTLE OLD LADY ENTERS. SHE RAISES HER VEIL, CHUCKLES GLEEFULLY, AND BEGINS TO ASCEND THE STAIRS.

MEDIUM SHOT. UPON REACHING THE LANDING, SHE SPOTS THE FIRST LITTLE OLD LADY COMING DOWN. SHE QUICKLY DROPS HER VEIL. THE FIRST LITTLE OLD LADY DISCREETLY HIDES HER FACE WITH HER PURSE AS THEY PASS EACH OTHER ON THE LANDING.

DISSOLVE TO FOURTH FLOOR LANDING. THE LITTLE OLD LADY MAKES

HER WAY TO THE TOP. SHE HANGS ONTO THE BANISTER FOR SUPPORT AS SHE CATCHES HER BREATH. SHE RAISES HER VEIL, REACHES INTO HER PURSE, TAKES OUT A SMALL FLACON OF PERFUME AND SPRAYS DELICATELY BEHIND BOTH EARS. THOROUGHLY COMPOSED, SHE APPROACHES BIALYSTOCK'S DOOR. SHE RAPS ON THE DOOR THREE TIMES IN QUICK SUCCESSION, WAITS A MOMENT, RAPS TWICE AND THEN THREE TIMES AGAIN. SUDDENLY THE DOOR IS FLUNG OPEN.

MEDIUM SHOT. MAX BIALYSTOCK

BIALYSTOCK
(leering)
Darling!

3.

MEDIUM SHOT OVER BIALYSTOCK'S SHOULDER. LITTLE OLD LADY.

LITTLE OLD LADY
(passionately)
Hold me, touch me.

CUT TO TWO SHOT. BIALYSTOCK CLUTCHES THE LITTLE OLD LADY IN A PASSIONATE EMBRACE.

BIALYSTOCK
Devil woman.

FREEZE ACTION.

SUPER-IMPOSE FIRST CREDIT: ZERO MOSTEL.

RESUME ACTION.

THE LITTLE OLD LADY GIGGLES JOYOUSLY AND THEN SLIPS FROM BIALYSTOCK'S GRASP, DARTS INTO THE OFFICE AND DUCKS BEHIND THE COUCH. SHE POPS HER HEAD UP.

LITTLE OLD LADY
Finder's keepers.

FREEZE ACTION.

SUPER-IMPOSE: TITLE OF FILM

RESUME ACTION.

BIALYSTOCK

Here I come, ready or not.

BIALYSTOCK LEAPS THROUGH THE AIR TOWARDS THE COUCH.

FREEZE-ACTION.

CREDIT.

RESUME ACTION.

BIALYSTOCK LANDS BADLY. HE WRITHES IN PAIN. LITTLE OLD
LADY COQUETTISHLY CRAWLS TO HIM.

LITTLE OLD LADY

What's the matter? Papa no want to
play with baby?

BIALYSTOCK

Ohhhhhh.

FREEZE-ACTION.

4.

CREDIT.

RESUME ACTION.

BIALYSTOCK REACHES OUT FOR HER. SHE ELUDES HIM, DARTS INTO
A CHAIR, CROSSES HER LEG SEDUCTIVELY, RAISES HER SKIRT JUST
ABOVE HER KNEE REVEALING A GOLDEN ROSE AND GARTER.

FREEZE-ACTION.

CREDIT.

RESUME ACTION.

BIALYSTOCK STRUGGLES TO HIS FEET.

BIALYSTOCK

Come to Papa. Come to Papa do.

LITTLE OLD LADY LEAPS OUT OF HER CHAIR AND POSES, COYLY.

LITTLE OLD LADY

To the victor go the spoils.

BIALYSTOCK STARTS FOR HER. SHE RUSHES AROUND A CHAIR AND DUCKS BEHIND IT. BIALYSTOCK TIPTOES ON TO CHAIR AND PEEKS OVER IT.

BIALYSTOCK

I'm gonna get you.

FREEZE-ACTION.

CREDIT.

RESUME ACTION.

CUT TO LITTLE OLD LADY WEDGED BETWEEN DESK AND BACK OF CHAIR. SHE STRAIGHTENS HER LEGS AND SENDS THE CHAIR HURLING ACROSS THE ROOM.

CLOSE-UP OF BIALYSTOCK'S FACE: TERROR.

FREEZE-ACTION.

CREDIT.

RESUME ACTION.

BIALYSTOCK CRASHES INTO RADIATOR.

BIALYSTOCK

Ohhhhhhhh.

5.

CUT TO LITTLE OLD LADY. SHE IS LYING PHONE ON THE DESK, PREENING HERSELF AND PURRING.

LITTLE OLD LADY

Meeow. Meeow. I wonder where Old Tom is tonight? Meeow.

BIALYSTOCK, WITH GREAT WILL, PUSHES THE HATE OUT OF HIS FACE AND REPLACES IT WITH SWEETNESS.

BIALYSTOCK

Rowrrr.

BIALYSTOCK GLIDES IN TOM-CAT FASHION OVER TO HIS PREENING PUSSY-CAT.

FREEZE-ACTION.

CREDIT.

RESUME ACTION.

BIALYSTOCK FINISHES CROSSING TO DESK, PUTS HIS FACE DOWN NEAR HERS AND SOFTLY MEWS INTO HER EAR. SHE SUDDENLY LETS OUT A FIERCE HOWL AS SHE REBUFFS HIM WITH A SAVAGE SWIPE OF HER "PAW". BIALYSTOCK GRABS HIS STRICKEN FACE WITH BOTH HANDS AND SHRIEKS.

BIALYSTOCK
Aieeeeeyiyiyiyiyi,

CLOSE-UP OF BIALYSTOCK'S PAIN-RIDDEN FEATURES.

STOP ACTION.

CREDIT.

RESUME ACTION.

BIALYSTOCK FALLS INTO THE CHAIR MOANING. SHE HOPS ON TO HIS LAP. FROM HIS BREAST POCKET SHE TAKES A HANDKERCHIEF AND TENDERLY DABS HIS CHEEK WITH IT.

LITTLE OLD LADY
Oh, Bialy, Bialy, darling, did I
hurt you?

FREEZE-ACTION.

CREDIT.

RESUME ACTION.

6.

BIALYSTOCK
My hand. My hand. I can't turn my
hand.
(he turns his hand)

THERE IS A RAPPING AT THE DOOR. WE HEAR IT, THEY DON'T.

LITTLE OLD LADY
(taking his hand)
Don't worry. I'll kiss it and make
it well.
(she smothers his
hand with kissers)

BIALYSTOCK
(trying to rescue his hand)
Enough. It's better. Please,
Lambchop, it's better. Stop.
You're hurting it again.

CUT TO DOOR. IT OPENS. LEO BLOOM ENTERS.

BLOOM
(his forward motion
arrested by the
unbelievable scene)
How do you do. I mean ... Excuse
me ... I mean ...

BIALYSTOCK
You mean oops, don't you? Say
oops and get out.

BLOOM
I'll wait in the hall ...

BIALYSTOCK
Oooooooooops!

BLOOM
(backing out of door)
Oooooooooops.

LITTLE OLD LADY HOPS OFF BIALYSTOCK'S LAP AND GOES TO DOOR.

LITTLE OLD LADY
I can't abide a peeping Tom.
There's one in the apartment just
opposite my bedroom window. I
swear that man NEVER takes his
field glasses off me for a minute.

SHE LOCKS DOOR AND STARTS BACK TOWARD BIALYSTOCK.

LITTLE OLD LADY
Feeling better?

BIALYSTOCK NODS HIS HEAD IN ASSENT.

LITTLE OLD LADY
Good. Let's fool around. Now,
I'll be the innocent little milk
maid and you'll be the naughty
stable boy.
(she goes into her act)
Oh, this milk is so heavy. I'll
never reach the house. Help. Will
someone help me?

BIALYSTOCK
(stopping her)
Wait. Wait. We can't play today.
I have too many appointments.

LITTLE OLD LADY
(crushed)
We can't play today?

BIALYSTOCK
Thursday. Thursday. We'll play
Thursday. We'll play the Contessa
and the chauffeur.

LITTLE OLD LADY
Oh, the best one.

BIALYSTOCK
(trying to steer her
towards the door)
Until Thursday, then, Contessa Mio.

LITTLE OLD LADY
(she sits on the sofa)
Oh, Bialy, please, just a little.
Just a little.

BIALYSTOCK
(harassed)
All right. All right.

HE SQUATS DOWN IN FRONT OF HER IN CHAUFFEUR FASHION, HIS

HANDS ON THE WHEEL.

8.

LITTLE OLD LADY

So, the Count hired you this morning, Rudolfo ... Watch the road ... Watch the road.

BIALYSTOCK

I can't take my eyes off you. How can I drive when you drive me mad. Mad.

LITTLE OLD LADY

(she squeals with delight)
Rudolfo, you dirty pig! Pull over.

BIALYSTOCK

(upright)
Good. That's enough. We'll do the rest on Thursday.
(he reaches down and helps her off the couch)
That's a good girl.
(leading her to the door)
It's always such fun to see you.

BIALYSTOCK OPENS THE DOOR AND USHERS HER OUT ONTO THE LANDING.

CUT TO HALLWAY. FAR SHOT. REVEALING BLOOM WAITING OUTSIDE. WE SEE HIM. THEY DO NOT. BLOOM, VERY EMBARRASSED, HUGS THE WALL TRYING TO MAKE HIMSELF LESS CONSPICUOUS.

MEDIUM SHOT. BIALYSTOCK AND THE OLD LADY IN FRONT OF BIALYSTOCK'S DOOR.

BIALYSTOCK

Until Thursday, then, you bawdy wench.

HE SLAPS HER ON THE RUMP.

LITTLE OLD LADY

Oooh. I love it. Hold me, touch me.

CUT TO BLOOM IN SHADOWS, AGHAST.

BACK TO MEDIUM SHOT LITTLE OLD LADY AND BIALYSTOCK.

BIALYSTOCK

Thursday. I'll see you Thursday.

LITTLE OLD LADY

And we'll finish playing the
Contessa and Rudolfo.

9.

BIALYSTOCK

Good. Yes. Thursday.

LITTLE OLD LADY

And after that we'll play the
Abduction and cruel rape of Lucretia
... And I'll play Lucretia.

CUT TO BLOOM IN SHADOWS. IT IS ALL TOO MUCH FOR HIM. HE
LOOKS THE OTHER WAY. SUDDENLY HIS EYES WIDEN IN SURPRISE,
AS HE DISCOVERS ANOTHER MAN HIDING IN THE NEXT DOORWAY. THE
MAN PUTS A FINGER TO HIS LIPS INDICATING SILENCE. THERE IS
NO PLACE LEFT FOR BLOOM TO LOOK. HE LOOKS TO HEAVEN.

BACK TO LITTLE OLD LADY AND BIALYSTOCK.

LITTLE OLD LADY

Oh, Thursday. Will Thursday ever
come?

BIALYSTOCK

(to himself)

Like clockwork.

SHE STARTS TO DESCEND.

LITTLE OLD LADY

I shall count the minutes.

BIALYSTOCK

Goodbye, my angel ... My angel!

(calling after her)

Hey, touch me ... wait! Hey, uh ...
Lucretia, Lucretia!

WE HEAR A MOUNTING CLATTER OF FOOTSTEPS AS THE LITTLE OLD
LADY FLIES BACK UP THE STAIRS.

LITTLE OLD LADY
(eagerly)
Yes???

BIALYSTOCK
Oh, Angelcake, you forgot to give
me the check. Can't produce a play
without money, ha, ha, ha.

CUT TO BLOOM. ONCE MORE HE STEALS A GLANCE AT THE STRANGER
HIDDEN IN THE SECOND DOORWAY. ONCE AGAIN THE MAN GESTURES
FOR HIM TO BE SILENT.

CUT BACK TO BIALYSTOCK AND THE OLD LADY.

10.

LITTLE OLD LADY
(opening her handbag
and reaching inside)
Of course, the check, I had it with
me all the time.

SHE TAKES OUT THE CHECK AND HANDS IT TO HIM.

LITTLE OLD LADY
I don't know what's happening to me.
I must be getting old.

BIALYSTOCK TAKES CHECK AND READS IT.

LITTLE OLD LADY
Is it all right? I made it out to
cash. You didn't tell me the name
of the play.

BIALYSTOCK
Oh, it's fine. Fine. Good. Good.
Bye. Bye.

LITTLE OLD LADY
Til Thursday, my Darling, I shall
count the minutes.

SHE STARTS TO DESCEND.

LITTLE OLD LADY

(descending)
Ta. Ta.

BIALYSTOCK
(waving check at her)
Ta. Ta.

THE MAN, WHO HAS BEEN LURKING IN THE SECOND DOORWAY, SUDDENLY SPRINGS INTO ACTION. HE DARTS FORWARD AND QUICKLY TAKES THE CHECK OUT OF BIALYSTOCK'S HAND.

THE MAN (LANDLORD)
He who signs a lease, must pay rent.

HE SHOVES THE CHECK INTO HIS POCKET AND STARTS DOWN THE STAIRS.

LANDLORD
That's the law.

BIALYSTOCK
Murderer! Thief! How can you take
the last penny out of a man's pocket?

11.

LANDLORD
(turns back, shrugs)
I have to ... I'm a landlord!

BIALYSTOCK
(shouting to heaven)
Oh Lord, hear my plea. Destroy him.
He maketh a blight on the land.

CUT TO LANDLORD ON THE WAY DOWN.

LANDLORD
(to the Lord)
Don't pay attention. He's crazy.

CUT BACK TO BIALYSTOCK. HE TURNS TO RE-ENTER HIS OFFICE.

BIALYSTOCK
(biting his knuckle)
Nnnnn. That hurt.
(he sighs)
I'll have to make another call.

HE STARTS IN AND STOPS. HE NOTICES BLOOM.

BIALYSTOCK
(to Bloom, quietly)
Have you been there all this time?

BLOOM NODS.

BIALYSTOCK
And did you see and hear everything?

BLOOM NODS.

BIALYSTOCK
Then what do you have to say for
yourself?

BLOOM
Uh ... uh ... ooooooops?

BIALYSTOCK
(shouts)
Who are you? What do you want?
Why are you loitering in my hallway?
Speak, dummy, speak! Why don't you
speak?

BLOOM
Scared. Can't talk.

12.

BIALYSTOCK
All right. Get a hold of yourself.
Take a deep breath, let it out
slowly and tell me who you are.

BLOOM
(breathes deeply.
Words tumble from his
mouth as he exhales)
I'm Leo Bloom, I'm an accountant,
I'm from Whitehall and Marks, I was
sent here to do your books and I'm
terribly sorry I caught you with
the old lady.
(he has run out of breath)

BIALYSTOCK

"Caught you with the old lady."
Come in, Mr. Tact.

CUT TO OFFICE. THEY ENTER. BLOOM ENTERS TIMOROUSLY. HE DOESN'T KNOW QUITE WHERE TO GO. HE LOOKS TO BIALYSTOCK FOR GUIDANCE. BIALYSTOCK STUDIES BLOOM CURIOUSLY FROM HEAD TO TOE.

BIALYSTOCK

So you're an accountant, eh?

BLOOM

(timidly)

Yes sir.

BIALYSTOCK

Then account for yourself! Do you believe in God? Do you believe in gold? Why are you looking up old lady's dresses? Bit of a pervert, eh?

BLOOM, WHO HAS BEEN QUAKING UNDER THE ASSAULT, REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND TAKES OUT THE TATTERED CORNER OF AN OLD BLUE BABY BLANKET. HE TWISTS THE BLUE BLANKET NERVOUSLY IN HIS HANDS.

BLOOM

Sir, I ...

BIALYSTOCK

Never mind. Never mind. Do the books. They're in that desk over there. Top drawer.

13.

BLOOM DUTIFULLY GOES TO DESK. OPENS TOP DRAWER AND BEGINS REMOVING BOOKS.

BIALYSTOCK

How dare you condemn me without knowing all the facts.

BLOOM

But sir, I'm not condem ...

BIALYSTOCK

Shut up. I'm having a rhetorical conversation.

(to himself)

How humiliating. Max Bialystock.
Max Bialystock.

BIALYSTOCK SUDDENLY WHEELS AND SHOUTS AT BLOOM.

BIALYSTOCK

You know who I used to be? Max Bialystock! The King of Broadway! Six shows running at once. Lunch at Delmonico's. Two hundred dollar suits. Look at me. Look at me now! I'm wearing a cardboard belt!

HE RIPS THE BELT OFF AND HOLDS IT IN THE AIR.

BIALYSTOCK

I used to have thousands of investors begging, pleading, to put their money into a Max Bialystock production.

HE PICKS UP THE PICTURE ON DESK ('HOLD ME, TOUCH ME') TAKES IT OVER TO OPEN CABINET FILLED WITH SIMILAR PICTURES.

BIALYSTOCK

Look at my investors now. Voila!
(gestures at pictures)
Hundreds of little old ladies stopping off at Max Bialystock's office to grab a last thrill on the way to the cemetery.

HE PUTS PICTURE BACK IN ITS PLACE. LOOKS TOWARD BLOOM.

CUT TO BLOOM. HE IS OBVIOUSLY TOUCHED BY THE GREAT MAN'S DILEMMA.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK.

BIALYSTOCK

You have exactly ten seconds to
change that disgusting look of pity
into one of enormous respect. One
... Two ...

CUT TO BLOOM. HE IS REALLY TRYING TO CHANGE HIS EXPRESSION.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK.

BIALYSTOCK

Do the books! Do the books!

CUT TO BLOOM. HE IS GREATLY RELIEVED.

BLOOM

(sighing)

Yes, sir. Thank you.

HE PLUNGES INTO HIS WORK.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK. HE GOES TO WINDOW, LOOKS OUT.

BIALYSTOCK

(to himself)

Window's so filthy, can't tell if
it's day or night out there.

HE WIPES WINDOW WITH HIS CUFF. LOOKS AT WINDOW. NO GOOD.
LOOKS AT HIS GRIMY CUFF. GRIMACES. FROM HIS DESK HE TAKES
THE REMAINS OF A CARDBOARD CONTAINER OF COFFEE AND SLOSHES
IT AGAINST THE WINDOW. HE WIPES WITH HIS TIE. HE LOOKS
OVER HIS SHOULDER AT BLOOM TO SEE IF HE IS WATCHING. BLOOM
IS WATCHING. THEIR EYES MEET. BLOOM'S EYES RETREAT.
BIALYSTOCK VICTORIOUSLY TURNS AWAY AND LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW
DOWN INTO THE STREET.

CAMERA: SHOT OF STREET. BIALYSTOCK'S POINT OF VIEW. A
WHITE ROLLS ROYCE SLOWLY MAKES ITS WAY UP THE BLOCK.

BIALYSTOCK

(voice over as camera
follows Rolls)

Look at that. A white Rolls Royce.
That's it baby, when you got it,
flaunt it.

BLOOM

(off screen)

Koff, koff ... ahem, ahem ...

harrumph ...

15.

BIALYSTOCK

I assume you are making those cartoon noises to attract my attention. Am I correct in my assumption, you fish-faced enemy of the people?

BLOOM IS WOUNDED.

BIALYSTOCK

I have hurt your feelings.

BLOOM NODS.

BIALYSTOCK

Good, what is it?

BLOOM

Sir, may I speak to you for a minute?

BIALYSTOCK

(looking at his watch)

Go! You have fifty-eight seconds.

BLOOM

Well, sir, it seems ...

BIALYSTOCK

(interrupting)

You have forty-eight seconds left. Hurry. Hurry.

BLOOM

(speedily)

In looking at your books, I've discovered that ...

BIALYSTOCK

(interrupting)

Twenty-eight seconds, hurry, hurry, you're using up your time.

IN HIS ANXIETY, BLOOM UNCONSCIOUSLY REACHES INTO HIS POCKET TAKES OUT THE OLD BLUE BLANKET AND NERVOUSLY STROKES HIS

CHEEK WITH IT.

BLOOM

Mr. Bialystock, I cannot function
under these conditions.

BIALYSTOCK CURIOUSLY EYES THE BLANKET.

BLOOM

You're making me extremely nervous.

16.

BIALYSTOCK

What is that? A handkerchief?

BLOOM QUICKLY BEGINS TO PUT AWAY HIS BLUE BLANKET.

BLOOM

It's nothing ... nothing.

QUICK AS A FLASH, BIALYSTOCK REACHES OVER AND SNATCHES IT
OUT OF BLOOM'S HAND.

BIALYSTOCK

If it's nothing, why can't I see it?

BLOOM LEAPS UP IN HOT PURSUIT OF HIS BLANKET.

BLOOM

(shrieking in panic)

My blanket. Give me my blue blanket.

BIALYSTOCK, TAKEN ABACK, HURRIEDLY GIVES THE BLANKET BACK TO
BLOOM.

BIALYSTOCK

Here, don't panic.

BLOOM

(clutching his blanket)

I'm sorry ... I don't like people
touching my blue blanket. It's not
important. It's a minor compulsion.
I can deal with it if I want to.
It's just that I've had it ever
since I was a baby and ... and ...
I find it very comforting.

HE KISSES IT AND SHOVES IT INTO HIS POCKET.

BIALYSTOCK

(to himself)

They come here. They all come here.
How do they find me?

BLOOM

(recovering his dignity)

Mr. Bialystock ...

BIALYSTOCK

Yes, Prince Mishkin, what can we do
for you?

17.

BLOOM

This is hardly a time for levity.
I've discovered a serious error
here in the accounts of your last
play.

BIALYSTOCK MOVES AROUND THE DESK TO EXAMINE THE LEDGER.

BIALYSTOCK

Where? What?

BLOOM

According to the backer's list you
raised \$60,000. But the show you
produced only cost fifty-eight
thousand. There's two thousand
dollars unaccounted for.

BIALYSTOCK

I went to a Turkish bath, who cares?
The show was a flop. What
difference does it make?

BLOOM

It makes a great deal of difference.
That's fraud. If they found out,
you could go to prison.

BIALYSTOCK

Why should they find out? It's

only two thousand dollars, Bloom,
do me a favor, move a few decimal
points around. You can do it.
You're an accountant. The word
'count' is part of your title.

BLOOM
(aghast)
But that's cheating!

BIALYSTOCK
It's not cheating ... It's charity.
Bloom, look at me ... look at me!
I'm drowning. Other men sail
through life. Bialystock has
struck a reef. Bloom, I'm going
under. I am being sunk by a
society that demands success, when
all I can offer is failure. Bloom,
I'm reaching out to you. Don't
send me to jail. Help! Help!

18.

DURING BIALYSTOCK'S LAST SPEECH, BLOOM UNCONSCIOUSLY REACHES
INTO HIS POCKET, TAKES OUT THE BLUE BLANKET AND RUBS IT
ACROSS HIS CHEEK.

BLOOM
Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear, oh dear.

BIALYSTOCK
(faintly)
Help!

BLOOM
All right. I'll do it. I'll do it.

BIALYSTOCK
Thank you, Bloom. I knew I could
con you.

BLOOM
Oh, it's all right ... wha?

BIALYSTOCK
Nothing. Nothing. Do it. Do it.

BLOOM

(pouring over the accounts)
Now let's see, two thousand dollars.
That isn't much. I'm sure I can
hide it somewhere. After all, the
department of internal revenue
isn't interested in a show that
flopped.

BIALYSTOCK

Yes. Right. Good thinking. You
figure it out. I'm tired. I'm
gonna take a little nap.

(crossing to couch)

Wake me if there's a fire.

HE HURLS HIMSELF DOWN ONTO THE COUCH.

CAMERA MOVES IN TO TIGHT SHOT OF BLOOM.

BLOOM

Now let's see, if we add these
figures, we get ...

CAMERA MOVES INTO CLOSE-UP OF BLOOM'S FINGER SWIFTLY MOVING
DOWN LONG COLUMN OF FIGURES. HE COMES TO THE END AND
IMMEDIATELY WRITHES TOTAL BELOW.

BACK TO TIGHT SHOT OF BLOOM. HE COMPARES PAGES.

19.

BLOOM

(musing to himself)

Heh, heh, heh, amazing. It's
absolutely amazing. But under the
right circumstances, a producer
could make more money with a flop
than he could with a hit.

QUICK CUT TO BIALYSTOCK'S SLEEPING FACE. HIS EYES POP OPEN.

CUT BACK TO BLOOM.

BLOOM

Yes. Yes. It's quite possible.
If he were certain the show would
fail, a man could make a fortune.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK. BY NOW HE IS HALFWAY ACROSS THE ROOM. HIS WHOLE BEING TINGLING WITH ALERTNESS. HE MOVES TO BLOOM'S DESK AND HOVERS OVER HIM, WAITING EXPECTANTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION. BUT BLOOM IS LOST IN HIS WORK, UNAWARE THAT BIALYSTOCK IS HANGING ON HIS EVERY WORD.

BIALYSTOCK

Yes???

BLOOM LOOKS UP. HE IS STARTLED TO SEE BIALYSTOCK'S FACE SO CLOSE TO HIS OWN.

BLOOM

(at a loss)

Yes, what?

BIALYSTOCK

What you were saying. Keep talking.

BLOOM

What was I saying?

BIALYSTOCK

You were saying that under the right circumstances, a producer could make more money with a flop than he could with a hit.

BLOOM

(smiling)

Yes, it's quite possible.

BIALYSTOCK

You keep saying that, but you don't tell me how. How could a producer make more money with a flop than with a hit?

20.

BLOOM, SLIGHTLY EXASPERATED, PUTS HIS PENCIL DOWN AND FACES BIALYSTOCK. HE SPEAKS TO BIALYSTOCK AS A TEACHER WOULD A STUDENT.

BLOOM

It's simply a matter of creative accounting. Let us assume, just

for the moment, that you are a dishonest man.

BIALYSTOCK

Assume away!

BLOOM

Well, it's very easy. You simply raise more money than you really need.

BIALYSTOCK

What do you mean?

BLOOM

You've done it yourself, only you did it on a very small scale.

BIALYSTOCK

What did I do?

BLOOM

You raised two thousand more than you needed to produce your last play.

BIALYSTOCK

So what? What did it get me? I'm wearing a cardboard belt.

BLOOM

Ahhhhhh! But that's where you made your error. You didn't go all the way. You see, if you were really a bold criminal, you could have raised a million.

BIALYSTOCK

But the play only cost \$60,000 to produce.

BLOOM

Exactly. And how long did it run?

BIALYSTOCK

One night.

BLOOM

See? You could have raised a million dollars, put on a sixty thousand dollar flop and kept the rest.

BIALYSTOCK

But what if the play was a hit?

BLOOM

Oh, you'd go to jail. If the play were a hit, you'd have to pay off the backers, and with so many backers there could never be enough profits to go around, get it?

BIALYSTOCK

Aha, aha, aha, aha, aha, aha!! So, in order for the scheme to work, we'd have to find a sure fire flop.

BLOOM

What scheme?

BIALYSTOCK

What scheme? Your scheme, you bloody little genius.

BLOOM

Oh, no. No. No. I meant no scheme. I merely posed a little, academic accounting theory. It's just a thought.

BIALYSTOCK

Bloom, worlds are turned on such thoughts!

BIALYSTOCK STARTS MOVING IN ON BLOOM.

BIALYSTOCK

Don't you see, Bloom. Darling, Bloom, glorious Bloom, it's so simple. Step one: We find the worst play in the world -- a sure flop. Step two: I raise a million dollars -- there's a lot of little old ladies in this world. Step three: You go back to work on the

books. Phoney lists of backers --
one for the government, one for us.
You can do it, Bloom, you're a
wizard.

(MORE)

22.

BIALYSTOCK (CONT'D)

Step four: We open on Broadway and
before you can say 'step five' we
close on Broadway. Step six: We
take our million dollars and fly to
Rio de Janiero.

BIALYSTOCK GRABS BLOOM IN HIS ARMS AND BEGINS TO LEAD HIM IN
A WILD TANGO AROUND THE ROOM.

BIALYSTOCK

(sings)

"Ah, Rio, Rio by the seao, meo,
myo, meo ... "

BLOOM

(afraid of the
scheme, afraid of the
dance, afraid of Bialystock)

Mr. Bialystock. No. Wait. Please.
You're holding me too tight. I'm
an honest man. You don't understand.

BIALYSTOCK

(leading Bloom as he talks)

No, Bloom, you don't understand.
This is fate, this is destiny.
There's no avoiding it.

AT THIS POINT, BIALYSTOCK SWEEPS BLOOM INTO AN ELABORATE DIP.

BLOOM

(the back of his head
practically touching
the floor)

Mr. Bialystock, not more than five
minutes ago, against my better
judgment, I doctored your books.
That, sir, is the ultimate extent
of my criminal life.

BIALYSTOCK RAISES HIS FISTS TO THE HEAVENS IN DESPAIR.
BLOOM, EXPERIENCING A DEFINITE LACK OF SUPPORT, GOES CRASHING
TO THE FLOOR.

BIALYSTOCK
OOOOOHH! OOOOOHH! OOOOOHH!
OOOOOHH! I WANT THAT MONEY!

CAMERA ON BLOOM AS HE LIES STRICKEN ON THE FLOOR.

23.

BLOOM
(to himself)
Oh, I fell on my keys.
(he shifts slightly
to make himself more comfortable)
I've got to get out of here.

BIALYSTOCK
(angrily hovering
over Bloom)
You miserable, cowardly, wretched
little caterpillar. Don't you ever
want to become a butterfly? Don't
you want to spread your wings and
flap your way to glory?

BIALYSTOCK FLAPS HIS ARMS LIKE A HUGE PREDATORY BIRD.

BLOOM
(his eyes widened in terror)
You're going to jump on me.

BIALYSTOCK STARES AT HIM INCREDULOUSLY.

BLOOM
You're going to jump on me. I know
you're going to jump on me -- like
Nero jumped on Poppea.

BIALYSTOCK
(nonplussed)
What???

BLOOM
(by now he is shrieking)

Poppea. She was his wife. And she was unfaithful to him. So he got mad and he jumped on her. Up and down, up and down, until he squashed her like a bug. Please don't jump on me.

BIALYSTOCK
(shouting and jumping
up and down next to Bloom)
I'm not going to jump on you!

BLOOM
(rolling away in terror)
Aaaaaaaaaa!

24.

BIALYSTOCK
(hoisting Bloom to
his feet)
Will you get a hold on yourself.

BLOOM
(up on his feet and
running for cover)
Don't touch me! Don't touch me!

HE RUNS TO A CORNER OF THE ROOM. TRAPPED! HE TURNS.

BIALYSTOCK
What are you afraid of? I'm not going to hurt you! What's the matter with you?

BLOOM
I'm hysterical. I'm having hysterics. I'm hysterical. I can't stop. When I get like this, I can't stop. I'm hysterical.

BIALYSTOCK RUSHES TO THE DESK. PICKS UP A CARAFE OF WATER AND SHOSHES ITS CONTENTS INTO BLOOM'S FACE.

BLOOM
I'm wet! I'm wet! I'm hysterical and I'm wet!

BIALYSTOCK IN A DESPERATE MOVE TO STOP BLOOM'S HYSTERICS,
SLAPS HIM ACROSS THE FACE.

BLOOM
(holding his face)
I'm in pain! And I'm wet! And I'm
still hysterical!

BIALYSTOCK RAISES HIS HAND AGAIN.

BLOOM
No! No! Don't hit. It doesn't
help. It only increases my sense
of danger.

BIALYSTOCK
What can I do? What can I do?
You're getting me hysterical.

BLOOM
Go away from me. You frighten me.
(he indicates the sofa)
Sit over there.

25.

BIALYSTOCK SITS ON THE SOFA.

BIALYSTOCK
(exasperated)
Okay. I'm way over here. Is that
better?

BLOOM
It's a little better, but you still
look angry.

BIALYSTOCK
How's this?
(he smiles sweetly)

BLOOM
Good. Good. That's nice. That's
very nice. I think I'm coming out
of it now. Yes. Yes. I'm
definitely coming out of it. Thank
you for smiling. It helped a great

deal.

BIALYSTOCK

(for want of something
sensible)

Well, you know what they say,
"Smile and the world smiles with
you." Heh, heh.

(to himself)

The man should be in a straight
jacket.

(to Bloom)

Feeling better?

BLOOM

Much, thank you. But I am a little
lightheaded. Maybe I should eat
something. Hysterics have a way of
severely depleting one's blood
sugar, you know.

BIALYSTOCK

They certainly do. They certainly
do. Come, let me take you to lunch.

BLOOM

That's very kind of you, Mr.
Bialystock, but I ...

26.

BIALYSTOCK

(interrupting)

Nonsense, nonsense, my dear boy. I
lowered your blood sugar, but least
I could do is raise it a little.

BLOOM LOOKS AT HIM SUSPICIOUSLY.

BIALYSTOCK

And I promise you faithfully, I
won't discuss that silly scheme to
make a million dollars anymore.

BIALYSTOCK DONS HIS CAPE AND "BELASCO" HAT. FROM A RACK HE
SELECTS A GOLD-TOPPED WALKING STICK. HE GOES TO DOOR, OPENS
IT, AND WITH A GRAND FLOURISH, MOTIONS BLOOM TO PRECEDE HIM.

BIALYSTOCK

Avanti!

BLOOM GRACIOUSLY COMPLIES. THEY EXIT.

CUT TO EXTERIOR. ENTRANCE OF BIALYSTOCK'S OFFICE BUILDING.

THE DOOR OPENS. IT IS HELD BY BIALYSTOCK. BLOOM EXITS BUILDING INTO STREET.

BLOOM

(to Bialystock, who
is holding door)

Thank you.

BIALYSTOCK

Je vous empris.

THEY TURN UP 45TH STREET AND HEAD TOWARD BROADWAY. BIALYSTOCK REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND COUNTS HIS MONEY. HE LOOKS WORRIED. SUDDENLY HIS FACE BRIGHTENS.

WE SEE WHAT BIALYSTOCK SEES.

CUT TO MURRAY THE BLINDMAN WORKING 45TH STREET.

CAMERA BACK TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM.

BIALYSTOCK DROPS A STEP BEHIND, QUICKLY TAKES OFF HIS HAT AND FLINGS IT THROUGH THE AIR.

BIALYSTOCK

(pointing to his hat)

My hat.

BLOOM

I'll get it.

27.

HE RACES AFTER IT.

BIALYSTOCK DETOURS SLIGHTLY TOWARD MURRAY THE BLINDMAN, WHO WEARS A LARGE CARDBOARD SIGN WITH THE LEGEND: "MURRAY THE BLINDMAN. YOU CAN SEE. I CAN'T. GIVE!" INSCRIBED ON IT. BIALYSTOCK REACHES DOWN INTO HIS CUP AND GRABS A FIST FULL OF COINS.

BIALYSTOCK

Murray, I'm going to lunch. I took two dollars.

MURRAY THE BLINDMAN

Okay, Bialy, that makes six eighty you owe me.

BIALYSTOCK

I know. Don't worry. You'll get it. You'll get it.

MURRAY THE BLINDMAN

(tapping his way along)

Well, don't forget about it. I need it. Nobody understands. I'm competing with giants. The Greater New York Fund. The March of Dimes. The Community Chest. They're driving me out of business.

BLOOM COMES DASHING BACK WITH HAT IN HAND.

BLOOM

(out of breath)

I got it, Mr. Bialystock.

HE PROFFERS HAT TO BIALYSTOCK. BIALYSTOCK TAKES IT.

BIALYSTOCK

Thank you, Leo. And call me Max. You know, I don't let everybody call me Max. It's only people I really like.

BLOOM

(trying it on)

Okay ... Max! And you can call me Leo.

BIALYSTOCK

I already have. Come on.

BLOOM

Oh.

BIALYSTOCK

Where would you like to eat?

BLOOM

Well, Max, I don't know, Max. What do you think, Max?

BIALYSTOCK QUIETLY WINCES AT THE SURFEIT OF MAX.

BIALYSTOCK

Let me see ... it's such a beautiful day. Why waste it indoors. I've got it! Let's go to Coney Island! We'll lunch at the sea shore.

BLOOM

Coney Island??

BIALYSTOCK

What's the matter, Leo? Don't you like Coney Island?

BLOOM

I ... I love it. I haven't been there since I was a kid. But it's nearly two o'clock. I really should be getting back to Whitehall and Marks.

BIALYSTOCK

Nonsense! As far as Whitehall and Marks are concerned, you're working with Bialystock, right?

BLOOM

Right.

BIALYSTOCK

Then stick with Bialystock!

SWISH PAN CUT TO CONEY ISLAND.

FAR SHOT OF BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM AMIDST THE CROWD AT A CUSTARD STAND.

CAMERA ZOOMS IN. TWO SHOT.

BIALYSTOCK

(to Custard Man)

We'll have another round.

CUSTARD MAN
What kind now, sports?

29.

BIALYSTOCK
What kind now, Leo?

BLOOM
(he's loosening up)
I don't know. Let's see. We've
had chocolate, vanilla, banana -
let's go green.

BIALYSTOCK
(to Custard Man)
Two pistachios, my good man.

CUSTARD MAN
I'm not your good man, I happen to
own this establishment.
(he turns to fill the order)

BIALYSTOCK
Everybody's a big shot.
(turns to Bloom)
Well, Leo, are you having a good
time?

BLOOM
I don't know. I think so. I feel
very strange.

BIALYSTOCK
Maybe you're happy.

BLOOM
Yes. That's it. Happy. Well,
whatta ya think of that. Happy.

QUICK DISSOLVE TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ON THE WHIP (A CONEY
ISLAND RIDE). THEY ARE TIGHTLY SQUEEZED INTO ONE OF THE
MOVING SEATS. THEY ARE BETWEEN "WHIPS".

BLOOM

(licking his pistachio
custard. He is ecstatic)
I love it. I love it. Get set.
We're coming to another turn.

BIALYSTOCK
(working, relentlessly
working on Bloom)
Bloom, it can always be like this.
Life can be beautiful. Let me show
you. Stick with ...

THEY HIT THE TURN.

30.

BIALYSTOCK
Bialysto-o-o-o-ckk.

QUICK DISSOLVE TO BARKER SELLING TICKETS IN FRONT OF TUNNEL
OF LOVE. MEDIUM SHOT OF EXIT. A LITTLE BOAT COMES OUT. IN
IT ARE A MAN AND A WOMAN EMBRACING. IT IS FOLLOWED BY
ANOTHER. IN IT THERE IS A SAILOR KISSING A GIRL. BOAT
NUMBER THREE COMES OUT. IN IT ARE BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM.

CLOSE IN TO A TIGHT TWO SHOT. BLOOM IS MESMERIZED.
BIALYSTOCK SPEAKS IN A SOFT, ENCHANTING TONE.

BIALYSTOCK
Money is honey. Money is honey.
Money can put soft things next to
your skin. Silk ... satin ... women.

CLOSE-UP OF BLOOM'S EYES. THEY WIDEN ON THE WORD "WOMEN."

QUICK DISSOLVE TO PARACHUTE JUMP. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ARE
SEATED IN A LITTLE GONDOLA THAT SWINGS BENEATH A HUGE
PARACHUTE. THEY ARE BUCKLING THEMSELVES IN.

BLOOM
But if we're caught, we'll go to
prison.

BIALYSTOCK
(sensing victory, he
marshals his forces
for the final assault)
You think you're not in prison now?

Living in a grey little room.
Going to a grey little job. Leading
a grey little life.

BLOOM

You're right. You're absolutely
right. I'm a nothing. I spend my
life counting other people's
money -- people I'm smarter than,
better than. Where's my share?
Where's Leo Bloom's share? I want,
I want, I want, I want everything
I've ever seen in the movies!

THE PARACHUTE BEGINS TO ASCEND. WE FOLLOW.

BLOOM

(coming out of it)

Hey, we're going up.

31.

BIALYSTOCK

You bet your boots, Leo. It's
Bialystock and Bloom -- on the rise.
Upward and onward. Say, you'll
join me. Nothing can stop us.

BIALYSTOCK OFFERS HIS HAND TO BLOOM.

BLOOM

(shouting at the top
of his lungs)

I'll do it! By God, I'll do it!

BLOOM GRABS BIALYSTOCK'S HAND AND SHAKES IT FIRMLY.

BIALYSTOCK

This is where we belong, Leo. On
top of the world. Top of the world!

THEY HIT THE TOP. THE PARACHUTE IS RELEASED, THEY QUICKLY
PLUMMET DOWN.

BIALYSTOCK

Oiiiiiii!!!

BLOOM

Ohhhhhhhh!!!

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM DROP OUT OF FRAME.

SLOW DISSOLVE TO BIALYSTOCK'S OFFICE. NIGHT. OVERHEAD SHOT. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ARE BATHED IN A SMALL POOL OF CONCENTRATED LIGHT. THEY ARE DOWN TO THEIR SHIRT SLEEVES. THEY ARE FEVERISHLY READING PLAY MANUSCRIPTS. ALL ABOUT THEM ARE STREWN COFFEE CONTAINERS, SOME EMPTY, SOME HALF-FILLED. THERE IS A HUGE PILE OF DISCARDED SCRIPTS ON THE FLOOR.

CUT TO TIGHT SHOT OF LEO BLOOM AS HE READS SCRIPT. HE LOOKS UP, PUSHES HIS GLASSES BACK AND MASSAGES THE BRIDGE OF HIS NOSE.

BLOOM

Max, let's call it a night. It's two in the morning. I don't know what I'm reading anymore.

PULL BACK TO TWO SHOT.

BIALYSTOCK

Read, read. We've got to find the worst play ever written.

32.

BIALYSTOCK TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO A NEW SCRIPT. HE CRACKS IT OPEN AND BEGINS READING.

BIALYSTOCK

Hmmnn. "Gregor Samsa awoke one morning to find he had been transformed into a giant cock-a-roach."

IN A RAGE BIALYSTOCK FLINGS THE MANUSCRIPT ONTO THE PILE OF DISCARDS AS HE BELLOWS:

BIALYSTOCK

It's good!!!

CAMERA MOVES UP AND WE DISSOLVE THROUGH TO MEDIUM SHOT OF OFFICE. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ARE THOROUGHLY DISHEVELED AND BADLY IN NEED OF A SHAVE.

BLOOM
(mumbling to himself
as he reads)
Wait a minute, I've read this part.
I'm reading plays I read this
morning.

HE GETS UP, STRETCHES, GOES TO WINDOW AND RAISES SHADE.
SUNLIGHT FLOODS THE ROOM. HE REELS BACK AS THOUGH STRUCK.

BLOOM
Good lord, it's morning. Let's
face it, we'll never find it.
(he turns to face Bialystock)
Max, tomorrow's another day.
Today's another day.

BIALYSTOCK
(off-camera. Crazy
little voice)
We'll never find it, eh? We'll
never find it, eh? Ha, ha, ha, ha,
ha.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK. HE IS STANDING. AT HIS FEET LIES A
SCRIPT. HE DANCES AROUND IT, HIS ARMS FOLDED ACROSS HIS
CHEST.

BIALYSTOCK
(as he does an insane
little jig around the script)
You can't smell it when it's under
your nose. You can't see it when
it's right before your eyes.
(MORE)

33.

BIALYSTOCK (CONT'D)
You can't feel it when it's in your
hand, when it's in your pocket.

CUT TO MEDIUM SHOT.

BLOOM
Max, what is it? What are you
doing? What's happening?

BIALYSTOCK

I'll tell you what's happening.
We've struck gold. Not fool's
gold, but real gold. The mother
lode. The mother lode. The mother
of them all.

BLOOM

(brightening)

You found a flop!

BIALYSTOCK

A flop, ha! That's putting it
mildly. A disaster! A catastrophe!
An outrage! A guaranteed-to-close-
in-one-night beauty!

HE BENDS DOWN, PICKS UP THE SCRIPT AND SHAKES IT IN BLOOM'S
FACE.

BIALYSTOCK

This is freedom from want forever.
This is a house in the country.
This is a Rolls Royce and a Bentley.
This is wine, women and song and
women.

BLOOM SNATCHES THE SCRIPT FROM HIS HANDS AND READS ALOUD THE
TITLE.

CUT TO CLOSE-UP. TITLE OF SCRIPT.

BLOOM

(voice over)

"SPRINGTIME FOR HITLER, A Gay Romp
with Adolph and Eva in
Berchtesgarden." Fantastic!

BACK TO TWO SHOT. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM.

BIALYSTOCK

It's practically a love letter to
Hitler!

34.

BLOOM

(ecstatic)

It won't run a week!

BIALYSTOCK

Run a week? Are you kidding? This play has got to close in the first act.

BLOOM

Who wrote it?

CUT TO AUTHOR'S NAME ON THE MANUSCRIPT: By FRANZ LIEBKIND.

DISSOLVE THROUGH AUTHOR'S NAME TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM, SHAVED AND DAPPER, WALKING DOWN STREET IN A RUN-DOWN TENEMENT NEIGHBORHOOD.

BLOOM

Here it is -- 415.

THEY MARCH UP STOOP TO NUMBER 415. THEIR MOTION IS ARRESTED BY A QUERULOUS COMMAND ISSUED IN PHLEGMATIC TONES BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BUILDING (A WOMAN IN HER LATE FORTIES) WHO IS LEANING OUT OF HER WINDOW WHICH IS ADJACENT TO THE STOOP.

SUPER

Who do you want?

BLOOM

(taken aback)

I beg your pardon?

SUPER

Who do you want? No one gets in the building unless I know who they want ... I'm the concierge. My husband used to be the concierge. He's dead. Now I'm the concierge.

BIALYSTOCK

(imperiously)

We are seeking Mr. Franz Liebkind.

SUPER

Oh, the kraut. He's on the top floor. Apartment twenty-three.

BLOOM

Thank you.

THEY START INTO THE BUILDING.

35.

SUPER

But you won't find him there. He's up on the roof with his birds. He keeps birds. Dirty, disgusting, filthy, lice-ridden birds. You used to be able to sit out on the stoop like a person. Not anymore. No sir. Birds! You get my drift?

BLOOM

We ... uh ... get your drift. Thank you, Madam.

SUPER

I'm not a madam. I'm a concierge.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ENTER THE BUILDING.

CUT TO FRANZ LIEBKIND. HE IS IN HIS EARLY FORTIES. HE IS WEARING, AS ALWAYS, A GERMAN HELMET. HE CROUCHES BESIDE A HUGE PIGEON COOP. IN HIS LEFT HAND HE TENDERLY HOLDS A PIGEON. IN HIS RIGHT, A SMALL PHOTO OF ADOLPH HITLER. HE SHOWS THE PICTURE TO THE BIRD. HE MOVES IT BACK AND FORTH UNTIL HE IS SURE THE BIRD IS FOCUSED ON IT PROPERLY.

LIEBKIND

(to pigeon)

Hilda, look ... look good ...
Hilda, you're not looking. Hilda,
if he lives, I know you will find
him.

HE KISSES THE BIRD AND TOSSES IT SKYWARD.

CUT TO ROOF DOOR. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ENTER ONTO THE ROOF. THEY LOOK FOR LIEBKIND. HE IS NOT ON THAT SIDE OF ROOF. THEY WALK AROUND TO OTHER SIDE. AS SOON AS THEY TURN THE CORNER, THEY SPOT LIEBKIND CROUCHED NEAR THE COOP.

BLOOM

(quietly to Bialystock)
He's wearing a German helmet.

BIALYSTOCK
(in a fierce whisper)
Shhh. Don't say anything to offend
him. We need that play.
(cups his hands to
his mouth and calls
up to the coop)
Franz Liebkind?

LIEBKIND IS NOT AWARE OF THEIR PRESENCE UNTIL HE HEARS HIS
NAME CALLED.

36.

STARTLED, HE QUICKLY FLIPS HITLER'S PICTURE UNDER HIS HELMET.

LIEBKIND
(he speaks with a
German accent)
I was never a member of the Nazi
party. I am not responsible. I
only followed orders. Who are you?

BIALYSTOCK
Mr. Liebkind, wait. You don't
understand.

LIEBKIND
Why do you persecute me? My papers
are in order. I love my country.
(he sings)
"Oh, beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber vaves of grain."

BIALYSTOCK
Mr. Liebkind, wait ...

LIEBKIND
(singing)
"I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy ...

BIALYSTOCK
(interrupting)
Mr. Liebkind, relax, relax, we're
not from the government. We came
here to talk to you about your play.

LIEBKIND

My play? You mean, "Springtime For
... " you know who?

BIALYSTOCK

Yes.

LIEBKIND

Vat about it?

BIALYSTOCK

We loved it. We thought it was a
masterpiece. That's why we're here.
We want to produce it on Broadway.

LIEBKIND

You're not, as you Americans say,
dragging my leg, are you?

37.

BLOOM

No, not at all sir, we're quite
serious. We want to produce your
play.

(he reaches into his
attache case and
displays a legal
looking document)

I have the contracts right here.

LIEBKIND

(looking up)

Oh joy of joys! Oh, dream of
dreams! I can't believe it.

(he turns to the pigeons)

Birds, birds, do you hear? Otto,
Bertz, Heintz, Hans, Wolfgang, do
you hear? Ve are going to clear
the Fuhrer's name. Fly, fly,
spread the words.

HE OPENS THE CAGES AND SETS THE BIRDS FREE.

LIEBKIND

(singing at the top
of his lungs)

"Deutschland, Deutschland, uber
alles, Uber alles in der velt."

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN ALARM.

LIEBKIND
(singing for all he's worth)
"Deutschland, Deutschland ... "

BLOOM
(shouting)
Mr. Liebkind, Mr. Liebkind.

LIEBKIND STOPS SINGING.

LIEBKIND
Vat?

BLOOM
People can hear you.

LIEBKIND
OH.
(he sings)
"I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy, Yankee
Doodle is my ... " Listen, this is
not place to talk. Come!
(MORE)

38.

LIEBKIND (CONT'D)
We go to my flat. An occasion like
this calls for Schnapps.

DISSOLVE TO FRANZ LIEBKIND'S APARTMENT. LIEBKIND HAS JUST
FINISHED POURING THREE GLASSES OF SCHNAPPS. HE PUTS THE
BOTTLE ON A TRAY.

LIEBKIND
(as he hands glasses
to Bialystock and Bloom)
Mr. Bloom, Mr. Bialystock.
Gentleman, with your permission, I
would like to propose a toast to
the greatest man that ever lived.
Let us say his name quietly to
ourselves. The walls have ears.

CUT TO TIGHT SHOT OF FRANZ LIEBKIND.

LIEBKIND
(a fervent whisper)
Adolph Hitler.
(he downs drink)

CUT TO TIGHT SHOT OF BLOOM.

BLOOM
(whisper)
Sigmund Freud.
(he downs drink)

CUT TO TIGHT SHOT OF BIALYSTOCK.

BIALYSTOCK
(whisper)
Max Bialystock.
(he downs drink)

BACK TO SCENE.

LIEBKIND
I vas vit him a great deal, you know.

BIALYSTOCK
With whom?

39.

LIEBKIND
(astonished by the question)
Vit the Fuhrer, of course. He
liked me. Out of all the household
staff at Berchtesgarden, I vas his
favorite. I vas the only one
allowed into his chambers at bedtime.

BIALYSTOCK
No kidding?

LIEBKIND
Oh, sure. I used to take him his
hot milk and his opium. Achhh,
those were the days. Vat good

times we had. Dinner parties vit lovely ladies and gentlemen, singing und dancing. You know, not many people knew about it, but the Fuhrer vas a terrific dancer.

BIALYSTOCK

Really, I never dreamed ...

LIEBKIND

(flies into an
indignant rage)

That's because you were taken in by that verdampfer Allied propaganda. Such filthy lies. But nobody said a bad vord about Winston Churchill, did they? Oh no, Vin Vit Vinnie!

(he gestures V for victory)

Churchill, vit his cigars and his brandy and his rotten paintings. Couldn't even say Nazi. He would say Narzis, Narzis. Ve vere not Narzies, ve vere Nazis. But let me tell this, and you're getting it straight from the horse, Hitler vas better looking than Churchill, he vas a better dresser than Churchill, had more hair, told funnier jokes, and could dance the pants off Churchill!

BIALYSTOCK

(swinging along)

That's exactly why we want to do this play. To show the world the true Hitler, the Hitler you knew, the Hitler you loved, the Hitler with a song in his heart.

(MORE)

40.

BIALYSTOCK (CONT'D)

(to Bloom)

Leo, quick, the contract.

BLOOM QUICKLY WHIPS THE CONTRACT OUT OF HIS POCKET, PRODUCES A PEN, HANDS THEM TO BIALYSTOCK. BIALYSTOCK SPREADS THE

CONTRACT OUT ON THE TABLE BEFORE LIEBKIND.

BIALYSTOCK

Here, sign here, Franz Liebkind.
And make your dream a reality.

HE HANDS LIEBKIND THE PEN. LIEBKIND REFUSES IT.

LIEBKIND

Wait. No. How do I know I can
trust you? How do I know you will
present this play in the manner and
spirit in which it was conceived?

BIALYSTOCK

We swear it!

LIEBKIND

Not good enough... Would you be
willing to take the Siegfried oath?

BIALYSTOCK

Yes. We would!

INSERT: CLOSE-UP BLOOM. HE LOOKS WORRIED.

LIEBKIND

Good. I will make the preparations.

LIEBKIND LEAVES THE ROOM.

BLOOM

(anxious whisper)

Max, I don't want to take any
Siegfried Oath. I don't know what
it is, but I don't want to take it.
We might end up in the German Army.

BIALYSTOCK

Shut up, you idiot. He's a harmless
nut. Play along with him. It's
almost in the bag.

LIEBKIND ENTERS. HE IS LADEN DOWN WITH ALL SORTS OF
RITUALISTIC PARAPHERNALIA. LIEBKIND PLACES ALL THE STUFF ON
THE TABLE. WITHOUT A WORD TO THEM, HE GOES TO PHONOGRAPH.

IN A FEW SECONDS WE HEAR THE OPENING STRAINS OF WAGNER'S
"RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES." AS THE MUSIC BOOMS LOUDER, LIEBKIND
ADDRESSES THEM.

LIEBKIND

Please to don your helmets.

FROM THE TABLE THEY TAKE CLASSIC WAGNERIAN HELMETS (WITH
HORNS) AND PLACE THEM ON THEIR HEADS.

LIEBKIND

Please to light your candles.

THEY EACH TAKE A HUGE WHITE CANDLE FROM THE TABLE AND LIGHT
IT. LIEBKIND FLICKS THE LIGHT SWITCH. NOW THEY ARE IN THE
DARK EXCEPT FOR THE GLOW OF THEIR CANDLES.

LIEBKIND

Please repeat after me. I solemnly
swear...

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM

I solemnly swear...

LIEBKIND

By the sacred memory...

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM

By the sacred memory...

LIEBKIND

Of Siegfried...

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM

Of Siegfried...

LIEBKIND

Wagner...

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM

Wagner...

LIEBKIND

Nietzsche...

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM

Nietzsche...

LIEBKIND
Bismark...

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM
Bismark...

42.

LIEBKIND
Hindenburg...

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM
Hindenburg...

LIEBKIND
The Graf Spee...

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM
The Graf Spee...

LIEBKIND
The Blue Max...

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM
The Blue Max...

LIEBKIND
And last, but not least, Adolph...
you know who.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM
And last, but not least, Adolph...
you know who.

LIEBKIND
(saluting)
Heil you know who!

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM
(spiritlessly saluting)
Heil you know who!

LIEBKIND
Good. Good. Now ve sign the
contract.

BIALYSTOCK
Good. Good.

(he hands Liebkind
the pen)

LIEBKIND

No. No. Not in ink. We'll
desecrate the oath. It must be
done in blood.

CUT TO BLOOM'S FACE. IT IS A SILENT OI.

LIEBKIND

Fingers, please.

43.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM EXTEND THEIR FOREFINGERS AND LOOK THE
OTHER WAY. LIEBKIND PRICKS THEM WITH THE SACRED SAFETY PIN,
AND SQUEEZES A FEW DROPS OF BLOOD FROM EACH INTO THE SACRED
VESSEL (A JAR COVER). HE DOES THE SAME WITH HIS OWN FINGER.

LIEBKIND

Ve vill sign vit this sacred qvill
taken from the last chicken I
served at Berchtesgarten.

LIEBKIND SIGNS. "THE RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES" REACHES ITS
ZENITH. IT ECHOES THROUGH THE ROOM AS WE FADE OUT.

FADE IN ON BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM AS THEY WALK UP STREET AWAY
FROM TENEMENT. IT IS LATE AFTERNOON. THEY ARE BOTH WEARING
SWASTIKA ARM BANDS.

BIALYSTOCK

(triumphantly whacking
the contract with the
back of his hand)

There it is... in red and white!
"Springtime For Hitler," signed,
sealed and delivered.

(he notices Bloom's
dour expression)

What's the matter with you?

BLOOM

Look, I'm just not wearing this arm
band. I don't care how big the
deal is.

BIALYSTOCK
(placating him)
Okay, take it off, take it off.

THEY TAKE OFF THEIR ARM BANDS AND TOSS THEM INTO A LITTER BASKET. BIALYSTOCK SPOTS A PASSING TAXI. HE WHISTLES. IT STOPS.

BIALYSTOCK
(to cab driver as he
opens door)
The Blue Gypsy.

BLOOM
(about to enter cab
with Bialystock)
Why are we going to the Blue Gypsy?!

44.

BIALYSTOCK
(stopping Bloom from
entering cab)
We are not going to The Blue Gypsy.
I am going to The Blue Gypsy.

BIALYSTOCK GETS INTO CAB AND SLAMS THE DOOR. HE CONTINUES SPEAKING TO BLOOM THROUGH THE WINDOW.

BIALYSTOCK
I have a rendez-vous with a lady of
some means. You see dear Bloom,
phase one is complete, the play is
ours. We are now entering phase
two -- the raising of the money.
In the days to come, you will see
very little of me, for Bialystock
is launching himself into little-
old-lady-land.
(to cab driver)
Avanti!

THE CAB SPEEDS AWAY.

SWISH PAN CUT TO TIGHT SHOT OF LITTLE OLD LADY #3. IN HER HAND SHE HOLDS A BUBBLING GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE. SHE RAISES IT TO BIALYSTOCK.

PULL BACK TO TWO SHOT OF BIALYSTOCK AND LITTLE OLD LADY.
THEY ARE SEATED IN A CORNER BOOTH OF A LITTLE VIENNESE CAFE.

LITTLE OLD LADY #3
Here's to the success of your new
play.

BIALYSTOCK RAISES HIS GLASS.

BIALYSTOCK
Our play, my love.

HE GALLANTLY INTERTWINES HIS ARMS IN HERS IN A LOVER'S TOAST.
IT IS HARD TO DRINK WITH ARMS ENTWINED, ESPECIALLY IF ONE OF
THE ARMS IS ATTACHED TO A LITTLE OLD LADY. THE TOAST IS A
FIASCO, BIALYSTOCK GETTING MOST OF THE CHAMPAGNE OVER HIS
VEST AND TROUSERS.

LITTLE OLD LADY #3
Oh, I'm sorry, Bialy, did I wet you?

BIALYSTOCK
Think nothing of it, my dear. A
mere trifle. A mere trifle. Did
you bring your checkbook?

45.

LITTLE OLD LADY #3
It's right here in my purse and I
made it out just as you told me --
to cash. That's a funny name for a
play.

BIALYSTOCK
Think nothing of it.

SHE SNAPS OPEN HER LITTLE BEADED PURSE, TAKES OUT THE CHECK
AND BEGINS TO HAND IT TO BIALYSTOCK. AT THIS MOMENT, WE ARE
ASSAULTED BY THE PASSIONATE SOUND OF A CRYING VIOLIN.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL A VIOLINIST IN GYPSY ATTIRE
CLOSING IN ON THE TABLE. THE LITTLE OLD LADY IS DELIGHTED
BY THE VIOLINIST AND UNFORTUNATELY FOR BIALYSTOCK STOPS THE
PASSAGE OF THE CHECK AS HER ATTENTION IS DIVERTED.
BIALYSTOCK CAUTIOUSLY REACHES OUT TO SNATCH THE CHECK BUT
EACH TIME THAT HE DOES, A TURN IN THE MUSIC MAKES THE LITTLE

OLD LADY CLUTCH HER HEART. BIALYSTOCK IS VERY UNHAPPY. HE QUIETLY BRINGS HIS FOOT FROM BENEATH THE TABLE AND PLACES IT DIRECTLY OVER THE FOOT OF THE VIOLINIST.

CUT TO CLOSE-UP OF BIALYSTOCK'S FOOT POISED OVER VIOLINIST'S FOOT. BIALYSTOCK PROCEEDS TO CRUSH VIOLINIST'S FOOT.

CUT TO VIOLINIST'S FACE. SOMEHOW IT CONVEYS TO US ALL THE MISERY AND PAIN OF THE HUMAN CONDITION. WITH EYES CLOSED BY GRIEF, HE LIMPS TO ANOTHER TABLE. BIALYSTOCK QUICKLY REACHES OUT AND SNATCHES THE CHECK.

SWISH PAN CUT TO HANSOM CAB THREADING ITS WAY THROUGH CENTRAL PARK. NIGHT.

CUT TO INTERIOR OF CAB. BIALYSTOCK IS COZILY ENSCONCED WITH LITTLE OLD LADY #4.

BIALYSTOCK
(taking check from
old lady)
Thank you, my dear.

LITTLE OLD LADY #4
Oh, Bialy, Bialy, tell me again.
Tell me again.

BIALYSTOCK
Edna, I swear on my life, you don't
look a day over sixty-five.

SWISH PAN CUT TO CITY TRAFFIC. DAY. A TAXI FILLS THE SCREEN. AS IT MOVES OUT OF FRAME, WE DISCOVER BIALYSTOCK AND LITTLE OLD LADY #5 ASTRIDE A RED AND WHITE HONDA MOTOR SCOOTER. AS THEY ROAR PAST THE CAMERA, BIALYSTOCK SHOUTS.

46.

BIALYSTOCK
Clear the road! Clear the road!

LITTLE OLD LADY #5
(clutching Bialystock fiercely)
Go, Bialy, baby, go!

SWISH PAN CUT TO POSH PARK AVENUE APARTMENT. NIGHT. A PRIVATE CONCERN IS IN PROGRESS. A THIN, CONSUMPTIVE-LOOKING YOUNG MAN FINGERS HIS WAY THROUGH A CHOPIN NOCTURNE.

CAMERA SLOWLY PANS THE ROOM. SEATED IN A SEMI-CIRCLE AROUND THE PIANO ON VARIOUS PIECES OF DELICATE EMPIRE FURNITURE IS AN AUSTERE GROUP OF ELDERLY DIGNIFIED PATRONS OF THE ARTS. SUDDENLY AN OLD LADY'S SHRIEK RENDS THE AIR. EVERYONE'S HEAD TURNS.

LITTLE OLD LADY #6
(slightly flustered)
Go on with the concert! Go on with
the concert! It's nothing. Nothing.

BIALYSTOCK STARES STRAIGHT AHEAD.

LITTLE OLD LADY #6
(to Bialystock, smiling)
You dirty man.

SWISH PAN CUT TO NEW YORK STREET. OLD FASHIONED LIMOUSINE PULLS INTO VIEW. THE WINDOW SHADES ARE DRAWN. AS IT PASSES, WE DETECT STRANGE SOUNDS EMANATING FROM THE INTERIOR.

LITTLE OLD LADY #7
(off camera)
Tee hee, ha ha ha, ho ho, ooo, ooo,
teehee hee.

BIALYSTOCK
(off camera, simultaneously)
Heh, heh, heh. Hah, hah, hah.

THE CAR DRIVES OUT OF FRAME.

SWISH PAN CUT TO SCULPTOR'S ATELIER. DAY. AN ANCIENT LITTLE OLD LADY WEARING A SCULPTOR'S SMOCK IS FEEBLY CHIPPING AWAY WITH CHISEL AND HAMMER AT A HUGE SQUARE BLOCK OF MARBLE. SHE MAKES NOT A SCRATCH ON IT.

CAMERA DOLLIES BACK TO REVEAL BIALYSTOCK, HER SUBJECT, STANDING NUDE, EXCEPT FOR LOIN CLOTH, HOLDING UP AN ENORMOUS GLOBE. HE IS OBVIOUSLY ATLAS.

47.

LITTLE OLD LADY #8
(stepping back to
admire her work)
Well, Bialy, how's it coming?

BIALYSTOCK

It's beautiful, Alma, beautiful.
(to the heavens)

Oi.

SWISH PAN CUT TO LIVING ROOM. NIGHT. BIALYSTOCK, DRESSED AS A TURKISH SLAVE, IS ASLEEP ON THE SOFA. THE ROOM HAS BEEN DONE IN A BYZANTINE DECOR. THE STRAINS OF SCHEHERAZADE SOFTLY FILL THE ROOM. SUDDENLY A WHIP COMES FLASHING INTO THE FRAME AND WHACKS AGAINST THE TORSO OF THE SLEEPING BIALYSTOCK.

SHOT WIDENS TO REVEAL 'HOLD ME, TOUCH ME' WIELDING THE WHIP. SHE IS DRESSED IN AN 'ARABIAN NIGHTS' COSTUME.

HOLD ME, TOUCH ME

Dance! Dance, slave!

BIALYSTOCK IS UP IN A FLASH AND INTO A QUICK TURKISH TIME STEP SO AS TO AVOID THE DEADLY LASH.

BIALYSTOCK

How's this?

HOLD ME, TOUCH ME

Faster, faster, you dog. Excite me, delight me. Hold me, touch me.

CUT TO CLOSE-UP OF BIALYSTOCK'S FACE AS HE DANCES.

BIALYSTOCK

(murmuring to himself)

Money is honey, money is honey.

DISSOLVE TO BIALYSTOCK'S OFFICE. NIGHT. BIALYSTOCK IS SEATED AT THE DESK. ON ONE SIDE OF HIM IS A LARGE STACK OF SIGNED INVESTOR CONTRACTS. ON THE OTHER AN EQUALLY LARGE PILE OF UNSIGNED ONES. BIALYSTOCK SIGNS FURIOUSLY, AS BLOOM FEEDS THE CONTRACTS TO HIM.

BLOOM

(handing Bialystock contract)

Mrs. Sarah Catheart. She owns 50%
of the profits.

BIALYSTOCK DUTIFULLY SIGNS. BLOOM TAKES ANOTHER AND PLACES IT BEFORE BIALYSTOCK.

BLOOM

Mrs. Eleanor Biddlecombe. She also
owns 50% of the profits.

BIALYSTOCK SIGNS. BLOOM PUTS THE NEXT ONE DOWN.

BLOOM

Mrs. Virginia Resnick. She also
owns 50% of the profits.

BIALYSTOCK SIGNS. BLOOM TAKES ANOTHER.

BLOOM

Mrs. Alma Wentworth. She owns 100%
of the profits.

BIALYSTOCK SIGNS. THEN LOOKS UP AT BLOOM.

BIALYSTOCK

Leo, what if this play is a hit?

BLOOM

Then the Department of Justice owns
100% of Bialystock and Bloom.

BIALYSTOCK

(Bloom's thought
makes him unhappy)

OI. I'm depressed. Leo, do me a
favor. Open the safe. I want to
see the money.

LEO, HUMORING HIM, SPINS THE COMBINATION DIAL ON SAFE AND
OPENS IT.

CUT TO INSIDE OF SAFE. IT IS JAMMED FULL OF NEATLY STACKED
PILES OF MONEY.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES IN FRONT OF SAFE.

BIALYSTOCK

(to himself. Inhales deeply)

That's better.

BIALYSTOCK TAKES OUT A STACK OF NEATLY FOLDED BILLS. HE
SMELLS IT, KISSES IT AND PUTS IT IN HIS POCKET.

BLOOM
What are you doing?

BIALYSTOCK
I'm going to buy a toy. I worked
very, very hard and I think I
deserve a toy.

49.

BLOOM
(quizzically)
A toy?

DISSOLVE TO CLOSE-UP, FACE OF A GORGEOUS BLONDE, ULLA.
DOLLY BACK TO REVEAL THE REST OF HER. SHE IS INCREDIBLY
WELL-ENDOWED.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM. THEIR EYES GLUED TO HER FORM.

BLOOM
That's a toy?

BIALYSTOCK
Yes. She's an adult, educational
toy made in Sweden for children
over fifty.

BLOOM STARES AT HIM.

BIALYSTOCK
Stop looking at me like that.
She's not an indulgence. She
happens to be our new receptionist.
She goes with our new surroundings.

QUICKLY PAN POSH NEW WALL-PAPER, FURNISHINGS, ETC.

BIALYSTOCK
Ulla, I'd like you to meet my
partner and associate, Mr. Leo Bloom.

ULLA
Got dag pa dig.

BLOOM
How do you do.

(to Bialystock)
Have you gone mad? A receptionist
that can't speak English. What
will people say?

BIALYSTOCK
They'll say, "Oooh, wah, wah, wah,
ooh, ooh."

BLOOM
What is she gonna do here?

BIALYSTOCK
I'll show you. Ulla, go to work.

ULLA
Ya, sur.

50.

ULLA GOES TO PHONOGRAPH AND PLACES NEEDLE ON RECORD. THE
DRIVING SOUND OF A TWIST FILLS THE ROOM. ULLA SENSUOUSLY
TWISTS, VIBRATES, FRUGS, WATUSIS AND ROCKS HER BODY IN TIME
WITH MUSIC.

BIALYSTOCK
See, it helps the day go by. Ulla,
okay. Okay.

ULLA STOPS, GOES TO PHONOGRAPH AND TAKES NEEDLE OFF.

BIALYSTOCK
Go to desk. Answer telephone.

HE PICKS UP PHONE TO SHOW HER.

BIALYSTOCK
Bialystock and Bloom. Bialystock
and Bloom.

ULLA
(repeating to herself
as she leaves)
Bialystock and Blum. Bialystock
and Blum. Bialystock and Blum.
Got dag pa dig. Bialystock and Blum.

BIALYSTOCK

(to Bloom, opening up
a box on his desk)
Hey, Blum, have a cigar.

BLOOM
No thanks.

BIALYSTOCK TAKES AN ENORMOUS BLACK CIGAR.

BLOOM
Max, maybe...

BIALYSTOCK REACHES UNDER HIS DESK. PRESSES BUZZER. WE HEAR
BUZZING SOUND IN ANTE-ROOM.

BLOOM
What's that?

BIALYSTOCK
Nothing. Nothing. Go on.

ULLA ENTERS. GOES TO DESK, PICKS UP CIGARETTE LIGHTER,
LIGHTS BIALYSTOCK'S CIGAR, KISSES HIM.

51.

ULLA
(pinching Bialystock's
cheek)
Min Bialystock.

ULLA LEAVES.

BIALYSTOCK
Nice girl.

BLOOM
Max, as I was saying, maybe we
should go easy on the spending. I
mean these offices and everything.

BIALYSTOCK
Why? Take it when you can get it!
Flaunt it, baby, flaunt it!

BLOOM
But if something should... God
forbid... go wrong, at least we

could give them some of their money
back. It would look better in court.

BIALYSTOCK

Stop talking like that, you white
mouse! Nothing's going to go wrong.
As a matter of fact, today I have
taken steps to insure total disaster.
At two o'clock we have an
appointment with none other than
Roger De Bris.

BLOOM

(searching)

Roger De Bris. Roger De Bris. Oh
yes, the director. Is he good... I
mean bad?

BIALYSTOCK

Roger De Bris is the worst director
that ever lived.

BLOOM

Do you think he'll take the job?

BIALYSTOCK

Only if we ask him.

BIALYSTOCK CONSULTS HIS WATCH.

52.

BIALYSTOCK

Come on. We'd better hurry. We're
late.

BIALYSTOCK BUZZES. ULLA ENTERS.

BIALYSTOCK

Call chauffeur. Get car.

ULLA

(smiling)

Good. Good. We go Motel.

BIALYSTOCK

No. We go.

(he indicates Bloom

and himself)

ULLA
You, Blum go Motel.

BIALYSTOCK
No. No Motel. Get car. Get car.

ULLA
(as she leaves)
Get car. Get car.

BIALYSTOCK
Very nice girl.

DISSOLVE TO STREET IN FRONT OF CHIC TOWNHOUSE UPPER SIXTIES.
DAY. A WHITE ROLLS ROYCE LIMO PULLS UP. A LIVERIED
CHAUFFEUR WITH SMALL LATIN-TYPE MUSTACHE GETS OUT AND OPENS
DOOR FOR PASSENGERS. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM GET OUT.

BIALYSTOCK
(to chauffeur)
Thank you, Rudolfo.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM CLIMB THE STEPS TO THE FRONT DOOR.
BIALYSTOCK PUSHES THE DOORBELL. WE HEAR CHIMES.

BIALYSTOCK
(whispering)
Now don't let anything he does or
says upset you. He's a little
peculiar.

BLOOM
What do you mean?

53.

THE DOOR OPENS. FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY IS A THIN, STRANGE
LOOKING MAN IN A BLACK TURTLENECK SWEATER. (CARMEN GIYA)
HE CONTEMPLATES THEM COLDLY.

CARMEN
Yesssssss?

BIALYSTOCK
I am Max Bialystock. This is my

associate, Mr. Bloom. We have an appointment with Mr. De Bris.

CARMEN

Ah, yes, you're expected. Please come in.

THEY ENTER THE VESTIBULE. CARMEN CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND THEM.

CARMEN

How do you do. I'm Carmen Giya, Mr. De Bris' private secretary. Would you be so kind as to remove your shoes.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM LOOK AT EACH OTHER BEWILDERED.

CARMEN

White, white, white is the color of our carpets.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM REMOVE THEIR SHOES.

CARMEN

(to Bloom indicating
a rack of slippers)

Now, let's see, you're wearing grey. I would suggest the crimson. They're a little vivid, but your suit is so quiet.

(to Bialystock,
studying his mish
mash attire)

Why don't you... Oh, take anything. Please follow me.

CARMEN LEADS THE WAY. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM SCUFF AFTER HIM. WE FOLLOW THEM DOWN A NARROW CORRIDOR LINED WITH EXAMPLES OF CLASSIC GREEK SCULPTURE -- EACH ONE DEPICTING NUDE MALES IN VARIOUS POSES.

INT: ELEVATOR.

CUT TO ROGER DE BRIS' BOUDOIR SITTING ROOM. IT IS ELEGANTLY FEMININE.

CHAISE LOUNGE, ANTIQUE MIRRORS, LOUIS XVI ARMOIRE AND DRESSING TABLE. FROM BEHIND AN ORNATE DRESSING SCREEN, WE HEAR MUFFLED SOUNDS OF DISCONTENT.

DE BRIS
(from behind screen)
I'll never get into this damned thing.

CUT TO BOUDOIR ENTRANCE. CARMEN, BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ENTER.

CARMEN
(to De Bris)
We're not alone.

DE BRIS' HEAD POPS OVER THE SCREEN. HE IS A ONCE HANDSOME, NOW DISSIPATED MAN IN HIS LATE FORTIES.

DE BRIS
Ah, Messers Bialystock and Bloom, I presume. Ha, ha, ha, forgive the pun.

BLOOM
(to Bialystock)
What pun?

BIALYSTOCK
(a curt whisper)
Shut up. He thinks he's witty.
(to De Bris)
It's good to see you again, Roger.
Did you get a chance to read
"Springtime For Hitler?"

DE BRIS EMERGES FROM BEHIND THE SCREEN. HE IS WEARING A "LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN" STYLE DRESS.

DE BRIS
Remarkable. Remarkable. A stunning piece of work.

BLOOM
(shocked, whispers)
Max! He's wearing a dress.
(his mouth remains open)

BIALYSTOCK

Shhhhhh.

55.

DE BRIS

(continuing)

I think it's a very important play. I, for one, never realized that the Third Reich meant Germany. I mean it's drenched with historical goodies like that.

DE BRIS IS SUDDENLY AWARE OF BLOOM'S EXPRESSION. (BLOOM'S MOUTH IS STILL AGAPE.)

DE BRIS

Oh, dear, you're staring at my dress. I should explain. I'm going to the Choreographer's Ball tonight. There's a prize for the best costume.

CARMEN

(smugly)

We always win.

DE BRIS

(looking in the mirror)

I'm not so sure about tonight. I'm supposed to be the Grand Duchess -- I think I look more like Tugboat Annie. What do you think?

HE PARADES BACK AND FORTH, EXECUTING SHARP TURNS LIKE A MODEL AT A FASHION SHOW.

DE BRIS

No be cruel. Be brutal. Be brutal. Because heaven knows they will. Well, what do you think, Mr. Bloom?

BLOOM

(very embarrassed)

Well, it's... uh... it's nice and long... I mean, it's... uh... uh... where do you keep your wallet?

BIALYSTOCK

(jumping in)
It's gorgeous. Absolutely gorgeous.
You couldn't have picked a better
color. It brings out your eyes.
Let's face it, Roger, that dress is
you.

56.

DE BRIS
(his eyes flashing flirtatiously)
Do you really think it brings out
my eyes?

CARMEN
(irritated)
We can't tell a thing without your
wig. As far as I'm concerned,
you're only half-dressed.

DE BRIS
Ummmm. Well, if you're so worried
about the wig, get it, o' wicked
witch of the west.

CARMEN TURNS IN A HUFF AND LEAVES TO GET THE WIG. DE BRIS
REACHES INTO CUT CRYSTAL CIGARETTE BOX, TAKES CIGARETTE,
TAPS IT, AND HOLDS IT FOR A LIGHT.

BIALYSTOCK
(in a whisper to Bloom)
Quick, light his cigarette. He
likes you.

BLOOM NERVOUSLY REACHES FOR A BOOK OF MATCHES, RIPS ONE OUT
AND STRIKES IT. IT DOESN'T LIGHT. HE TRIES ANOTHER AND
ANOTHER. ONE FINALLY CATCHES FIRE. HE TRIES TO HOLD IT
STEADY, BUT HE IS TOO NERVOUS. DE BRIS FIRMLY PLACES HIS
HAND OVER BLOOM'S TO STEADY THE FLAME.

DE BRIS
Didn't I meet you on a summer cruise?

HE LIGHTS THE CIGARETTE BUT CONTINUES TO HOLD BLOOM'S HAND.

BLOOM
I've... I've... never been on a
cruise.

DE BRIS

Oh, quel dommage.

CARMEN ENTERS CARRYING WIG. HE SEES DE BRIS HOLDING BLOOM'S HAND.

CARMEN

(snidely)

Oh, I see we're getting acquainted.

DE BRIS DROPS BLOOM'S HAND AND TURNS ON CARMEN.

57.

DE BRIS

How would you like to go back to teasing hair, big mouth?

BIALYSTOCK

Roger, do you mind if we talk a little business?

DE BRIS

Please, please, that's what we're here for.

(to Carmen, who is adjusting the wig)

Be careful, that hurt.

BIALYSTOCK

I think this would be a marvelous opportunity for you, Roger. Up to now, you've always been associated with musicals, and...

DE BRIS

Yes. Dopey show-girls in gooey gowns. Two-three-kick-turn! Turn-turn-kick-turn! It's enough to make you throw up! At last a chance to do straight drama! To deal with conflict, with inner truth. Roger De Bris presents history. Of course, I think we should add a little music. That whole third act has got to go. They're losing the war. It's too

depressing. We'll have to put something in there.

(gripped by his vision)
Aaahghhh! I see it! A line of beautiful girls, dressed as Storm Troopers, black patent leather boots, all marching together... Two-three-kick-turn! Turn-turn-kick-turn!

BIALYSTOCK

That's genius. That's genius. Roger, I think I speak for Mr. Bloom and myself when I say that you're the only man in the world who can do justice to SPRINGTIME FOR HITLER.

58.

DE BRIS

(in one rush)

Wait a minute. This is a very big decision. It might effect the course of my entire life. I'll have to think about it. I'll do it.

DE BRIS EXTENDS HIS HAND. BIALYSTOCK SHAKES IT.

BIALYSTOCK

Congratulations.

DE BRIS

(to Carmen)

Get on the phone. Send out a casting call. Call every agent in town. I want to see everybody. Everybody.

DISSOLVE TO STAGE DOOR OF BROADWAY THEATRE. DAY. SIGN ON DOOR READS: CASTING TODAY -- SPRINGTIME FOR HITLER.

QUICK DISSOLVE TO INTERIOR OF THEATRE. THE PLACE IS A MADHOUSE. HUNDREDS OF WOULD-BE HITLERS FILL THE STAGE. EACH AND EVERY ONE WITH THE FUHRER'S HAIRCUT AND LITTLE SQUARE MUSTACHE. THERE ARE TALL HITLERS, SHORT HITLERS, FAT HITLERS, SKINNY HITLERS, METHOD HITLERS, SHAKESPEAREAN HITLERS, ALL KINDS HITLERS.

CUT TO FIRST ROW OF AUDIENCE. SEATED THERE, WATCHING THE
BEDLAM, ARE BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM, DE BRIS, CARMEN GIYA AND
FRANZ LIEBKIND.

BIALYSTOCK
(looking for the
least likely Hitler)
Roger, what about that one? The
fat Hitler on the right?

DE BRIS
I don't know. I rather fancy that
one.

CUT TO BEAUTIFUL, BLOND, MUSCULAR, YOUNG MAN, WHO LOOKS AS
IF HE IS POSING FOR "BODY BEAUTIFUL." HE BEARS NOT THE
SLIGHTEST RESEMBLANCE TO HITLER EVEN THOUGH HE DOES SPORT A
LITTLE BLACK MUSTACHE.

CUT BACK TO BIALYSTOCK.

BIALYSTOCK
Not bad. Not bad. What do you
think, Franz?

59.

LIEBKIND
(very emotional)
I don't know. I don't know. For
some strange reason, I'm deeply
moved.
(he wipes away a tear)

DE BRIS
(getting to his feet)
Oh, this is bedlam, bedlam. We
must have some order.

DE BRIS, FOLLOWED BY CARMEN, HOPS TO THE STAGE AND ADDRESSES
THE MILLING MOB.

DE BRIS
(clapping his hands
for attention)
Will all the dancing Hitlers please

wait in the wings. We're only
taking the singing Hitlers.

AS THE DANCING HITLERS LEAVE THE STAGE, CARMEN ARRANGES THE
SINGING HITLERS SO THAT THEY ARE IN A LONG STRAIGHT LINE
AGAINST THE BACK OF THE STAGE WALL. CARMEN READS OUT A NAME
AND THE FIRST SINGING HITLER WALKS DOWNSTAGE TO AUDITION.
EXCEPT FOR A SPORTY LITTLE HITLER MUSTACHE, HE BEARS LITTLE
RESEMBLANCE TO THE FUHRER.

CARMEN
Arthur Packard.

DE BRIS
Hello, Arthur. Tell us something
about yourself.

ARTHUR PACKARD
(in a strangulated
tenor's voice)
I was the lead tenor of the
Albuquerque Opera Company for two
seasons. I just finished a road
tour of STUDENT PRINCE. And last
season I was up for the lead in the
Broadway production of Circus Man.

DE BRIS
What happened?

ARTHUR PACKARD
I didn't get it.

60.

DE BRIS
What are you going to sing for us
Arthur?

AS ARTHUR TELLS HIM THE TITLE OF HIS SONG, DE BRIS MOUTHS IT
WORD FOR WORD TOWARD HIS FRIEND, CARMEN.

ARTHUR PACKARD
The soliloquy from CAROUSEL.

FROM THE PIT THE PIANO PLAYS A FOUR BAR INTRODUCTION.

ARTHUR PACKARD

(sings)
My boy Bill will be strong and as
tall as a...

DE BRIS
Thank you.

ARTHUR SHRUGS AND LEAVES THE STAGE.

DE BRIS
Next please.

CARMEN
Jason Green.

JASON GREEN COMES DOWNSTAGE. HE IS A BIG, BARREL-CHESTED
MAN. HE ALSO WEARS HITLER-TYPE MUSTACHE.

DE BRIS
Well, Jason, what have you been
doing lately?

JASON GREEN
(in basso profundo)
For the last sixteen years, I've
been touring with "Naughty Marietta."

DE BRIS
Good. And what are you going to
sing for us, Jason?

AS JASON TELLS HIM THE SONG'S TITLE, DE BRIS ONCE AGAIN
MOUTHS IT WORD FOR WORD WITH HIM.

JASON GREEN
"Stout-hearted Men."

BEGINNING OF "STOUT-HEARTED MEN" MONTAGE.

THERE IS A SHORT PIANO INTRODUCTION.

61.

JASON GREEN
(singing)
"Give me some men
Who are stout-hearted men
Who will fight for the right they

adore."

DE BRIS
(off-camera voice)
Thaaank you.

DISSOLVE TO A NEW HITLER SINGING (LITTLE BALD MAN)

BALD HITLER
(singing)
"Show me some men
Who are stout-hearted men
And I'll soon show you ten thousand
more."

DE BRIS
(off-camera voice)
Thaaank you.

DISSOLVE TO ANOTHER HITLER (ITALIAN BASSO)

ITALIAN HITLER
(singing)
"Shoulder to shoulder and bolder
and bolder
They grow as they march to the war."

DE BRIS
(voice off camera)
Thaaank you.

DISSOLVE TO DELICATE HITLER

DELICATE HITLER
(singing)
"There is nothing in this world can
halt or mar our plan."

DE BRIS
(voice off camera)
Thaank you.

DISSOLVE TO SHORT-HAIRED WOMAN HITLER

SHORT-HAIRED WOMAN HITLER
"When stout-hearted men
Will get together man to man."

DE BRIS
(voice off camera)
Thaaank you.

CUT TO CARMEN GIYA ON STAGE. IT IS NOW EMPTY.

CARMEN
Well, that's it.

CUT TO FIRST ROW OF AUDIENCE. SLOW PAN BIALYSTOCK, BLOOM,
DE BRIS, AD LIEBKIND. THEY ARE TIRED, DISHEVELED AND UNHAPPY.

BLOOM
I think that's enough Hitlers for
one day. Maybe we'll get lucky
tomorrow.

BIALYSTOCK
You think out of all those Hitlers
you could find just one...

LIEBKIND
It was the same thing in Germany.
We looked for years before we found
the right Hitler.

FROM OFF-STAGE WE HEAR THE SHARP CLICK OF BOOTS APPROACHING.
ALL EYES TURN TOWARD THE STAGE. FROM OUT OF THE WINGS STEPS

A YOUNG PERSON IN A LEATHER DOUBLET, HIGH LEATHER BOOTS, AND
EXTREMELY LONG HAIR. IT CARRIES A GUITAR. UNTIL IT SPEAKS,
WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER IT IS A YOUNG MAN OR A YOUNG WOMAN.
(LORENZO ST. DU BOIS)

LSD
Hey, man.

CARMEN
I beg your pardon.

LSD
Is this where they're auditioning
Boomerang?

CARMEN
(studying him coldly)
No, I'm afraid you've wandered into

the wrong theatre.

LSD
(to himself, as he
starts to leave)
Man, freaked out again.

63.

BIALYSTOCK
(leaping to his feet)
Wait! This is Boomerang. This is
Boomerang.

DE BRIS
(to Bialystock)
What are you saying?

BIALYSTOCK
Let's hear him. What have we got
to lose?
(to LSD)
What's your name?

LSD
Lorenzo Saint DuBois. But everybody
calls me LSD.

DE BRIS
What have you done, LSD?

LSD
Six months, I'm out on probation,
but it's cool now, baby.

DE BRIS
I mean in show business.

LSD
Oh, in show business. Well, let's
put it this way, my next job will
be my debut.

DE BRIS
What do you do best?

LSD
Hey, man, I can't do that here,

that's what they put me away for.

DE BRIS

Oh, sing. Sing!

LSD

Hey, baby, that's where they put
me, Sing-Sing. How'd you know
that, you been up?

DE BRIS

(a little hysterical)

Sing a song! Just sing a song!

64.

LSD

Here's a little thing I think
you're going to see on the charts
any day. I wrote it last night in
my sleep. It's a Hindu Zen Folk
Rock Ballad.

LSD SINGS "I'M THE VICTIM OF A MULTI-MYSTIC FREAK-OUT." THE
SONG IS GEARED TO THE AU COURANT "RAGA ROCK" BEAT. PHRASES
SUCH AS, "CONNECT WITH THE INFINITE" AND "TURN ON THE
WORLD." LORENZO FINISHES THE NUMBER.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK, BLOOM, LIEBKIND AND DE BRIS. THEY ARE
STUNNED. BIALYSTOCK IS THE FIRST TO RECOVER.

BIALYSTOCK

(shouting)

That's our Hitler!

LIEBKIND

(howls of despair)

Vaaaat???

BIALYSTOCK

(quickly)

Franz, don't you see, Hitler was a
man of his time. This is a man of
his time.

LIEBKIND

But he has long hair!

BIALYSTOCK

Don't look at the outside, look at the inside. It's the inner Hitler we're after. The young beautiful Hitler, who danced his way to glory.

LIEBKIND

I don't know. I don't know.

DE BRIS

(he has been studying
LSD intensely)

Could be an exciting piece of off-beat casting. Of course, we'd have to do something about that coiffure.

LIEBKIND

But he's so crazy, he's so sloppy, he's so... so... American!

65.

BIALYSTOCK

Franz, trust me. I promise I won't let you down.

LIEBKIND

All right, but remember, if you damage the Fuhrer's reputation, I kill you.

DISSOLVE TO MARQUEE OF BROADWAY THEATRE. MARQUEE READS:
OPENING TONIGHT - SPRINGTIME FOR HITLER. Directed by ROGER
DE BRIS.

PAN DOWN TO THEATRE ENTRANCE. THE SIDEWALK IS CHOKED WITH
OPENING NIGHTERS, ALL AGLITTER IN DIAMONDS, FURS AND ELEGANT
TUXEDOS. LUXURIOUS BLACK LIMOUSINES PULL UP TO THE CURB,
DEPOSITING THEIR RICH CONTENTS, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH ARE
LITTLE OLD LADIES.

CUT TO LOBBY. THERE IN THE MIDST OF THE SWIRLING CONFUSION
STAND BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM IN THEIR OPENING NIGHT TAILS.
BIALYSTOCK IS RESPLENDENT IN A BLACK SILK CAPE, LINED IN
CRIMSON SATIN. BLOOM'S TAILS ARE OBVIOUSLY RENTED. THEY
ARE NEAR THE TICKET TAKER. AS SOME OF THE OPENING NIGHT
"SUPPORTERS" ENTER THE THEATRE, THEY SHOUT ENCOURAGEMENTS TO
BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM. TO EACH OF THE WELL-WISHERS,

BIALYSTOCK RESPONDS WITH A SMILE AND A MUMBLE. THEY GET THE SMILE, WE HEAR THE MUMBLE.

FIRST WELL-WISHER
(a silver-haired
gentleman in his late fifties)
Good luck, Max, I hope it's a big
hit.

BIALYSTOCK
(mumbling)
Bite your tongue.

SECOND WELL-WISHER
(a little old lady)
We're gonna do it this time, Bialy,
I just know it.

BIALYSTOCK
I hope you lose your bloomers.

THIRD WELL-WISHER
(another old lady)
My prayers go with you, Bialy.

BIALYSTOCK
God Forbid.

66.

CUT TO LIMOUSINE PULLING UP IN FRONT OF THEATRE. DOORMAN OPENS DOOR, ASSISTS RICH COUPLE OUT OF CAR. LIMOUSINE PULLS AWAY. A MOTORCYCLE WITH SIDE-CAR ROARS UP TO FRONT OF THEATRE. AT THE HANDLEBARS, BEAUTIFULLY DECKED OUT IN TUXEDO AND HIS EVER POPULAR GERMAN HELMET IS FRANZ LIEBKIND.

CAMERA FOLLOWS LIEBKIND AS HE ENTERS LOBBY. HE MAKES HIS WAY THROUGH THE MILLING THROG TOWARD BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM.

LIEBKIND
(to Bialystock and
Bloom, very seriously)
Gentlemen, this is a very momentous
moment.

HE CLICKS HIS HEELS AND SHAKES HANDS WITH EACH OF THEM.

LIEBKIND

(to Bloom)
Good luck.
(to Bialystock)
Good luck.

HE STARTS INTO THEATRE, STOPS, TURNS BACK TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM.

LIEBKIND
(a mad gleam in his eye)
Tonight, New York. Tomorrow, the
world!

HE TURNS TRIUMPHANTLY AND ENTERS THE THEATRE.

OFF-CAMERA VOICE (GIRL)
Check your hat?

LIEBKIND
(off camera)
No!!

BIALYSTOCK
So much for Nutsy Fagin.

BLOOM
(nudging Bialystock, whispers)
Here comes the Times Drama Critic.

BIALYSTOCK
Watch closely, as Bialystock drives
the last nail into the coffin.

BIALYSTOCK AMBLES OVER TO THE TIMES CRITIC, WHO HAS STOPPED TO CHAT WITH SOME PEOPLE.

67.

BIALYSTOCK
Always delighted to see the
gentlemen of the press. There you
are, sir. Two on the aisle,
compliments of the management.
(he smiles unctuously)

DRAMA CRITIC
(haughtily accepting tickets)

Thank you. Here, wait a minute.
There seems to be some mistake.
There's a hundred dollar bill
wrapped around these tickets.

BIALYSTOCK
(conspiratorially)
It's no mistake. Enjoy the show.

DRAMA CRITIC
(outraged)
Mr. Bialystock, just what do you
think you're doing?

BIALYSTOCK
I'm bribing you. And if you play
ball, there's a lot more where that
came from.

BIALYSTOCK WINKS AND SAUNTERS OFF.

DRAMA CRITIC
(blustering with rage)
I... I... I... How dare he! I've
never been so insulted in my life!
The gall of the man! The incredible
gall of the man! I'll fix his wagon.

THE CRITIC STALKS INTO THE THEATRE. AS HE PASSES BIALYSTOCK,
HE CONTEMPTUOUSLY FLINGS THE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL TO THE
FLOOR. HE DISAPPEARS THROUGH THE DOOR.

OFF-CAMERA VOICE (GIRL)
Check your hat?

DRAMA CRITIC
(off camera)
No!!

BIALYSTOCK REACHES DOWN, PICKS UP CRUMPLED DOLLAR BILL,
STRAIGHTENS IT OUT, PUTS IT IN HIS POCKET.

68.

BIALYSTOCK
(grinning like a
Cheshire cat)
Heh, heh, heh. He'll kill us.

FROM INSIDE THE THEATRE, WE HEAR THE OVERTURE BEGINNING.
LIGHTS IN THE LOBBY BLINK.

BLOOM
Come on, they've started the
overture.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ENTER THE THEATRE.

CUT TO REVERSE ANGLE. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ENTERING DARKENED
THEATRE. THEY TAKE POSITIONS AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE.
BLOOM EXTENDS HIS HAND TO BIALYSTOCK. HE INTENDS TO SPEAK
IN A CONFIDENT AND CONTROLLED MANNER BUT WHAT COMES OUT IS
AN HYSTERICAL SHRIEK.

BLOOM
(casually shrieking)
Well, Max, this is it!!!

HE SCARES HIMSELF AND QUICKLY CLAPS HIS HANDS OVER HIS MOUTH.

BLOOM
(whispers)
I'm sorry, I'm a little nervous.

BIALYSTOCK
Relax, in two hours our worries
will be over.

CUT TO STAGE. AS THE OVERTURE IS CONCLUDED, THE CURTAIN
SLOWLY RISES. ON STAGE THERE IS A LINE OF GIRLS DRESSED IN
SEXY STORM TROOPER COSTUMES--BLACK PATENT LEATHER BOOTS, ETC.
THEIR ARMS ARE LINKED ABOUT ONE ANOTHER AS THEY DANCE AND
KICK IN RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL ROCKETTE FASHION.

STORM TROOPER CHORUS
(singing)
Germany was having trouble,
What a sad, sad story.
Needed a new leader
To restore its former glory.
Where, oh, where was he,
Who could that man be,
We looked around,
And then we found,
The man for you and me,
And now its...

THE STORM TROOPER ROCKETTES PART AND FROM ABOVE THEM,
DESCENDING TWIN STAIRCASES, WE SEE TWO LINES OF BEAUTIFUL
SHOWGIRLS, HOLDING HUGE BALLOONS ABOVE THEIR HEADS. ON EACH
BALLOON IS PAINTED A PICTURE OF THE FUHRER. EVERYONE SINGS
AS THEY DESCEND.

ENTIRE CHORUS
(singing)
"Springtime for Hitler," etc.

CUT TO AUDIENCE. NUMBER ON STAGE CONTINUES.

CLOSE-UP OF MAN AND WOMAN ON AISLE.

WOMAN (DOWAGER)
This is shocking!

CUT TO ANOTHER AREA OF AUDIENCE. ANOTHER COUPLE.

MAN (STUFFED SHIRT)
Outrageous!

CUT TO CRITIC ON THE AISLE, BIALYSTOCK'S P.O.V. HE SCOWLS
AS HE FURIOUSLY MAKES NOTES.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM AT BACK OF THEATRE. THEY ARE
SMILING. BIALYSTOCK POINTS TO COUPLE WHO HAVE LEFT THEIR
SEATS AND STARTED UP THE AISLE.

BIALYSTOCK
Ahhhhh, it's going better than I
expected.

THE COUPLE COMES ABREAST OF BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM.

WOMAN
(to man as they exit theatre)
Well, talk about bad taste.

BIALYSTOCK
(he chuckles as they leave)
Come, let us repair to the bar
across the street. I don't want to
be caught here during intermission.
We'll be stoned to death.

THEY LINK ARMS AND MERRILY MARCH OUT OF THE THEATRE.

CUT TO STAGE. "SPRINGTIME FOR HITLER" OPENING IS ENDING IN A GREAT CRESCENDO OF PATRIOTIC INSANITY.

70.

ENTIRE CHORUS

(singing)

So Springtime for Hitler,
Is Springtime for Goering,
Is Springtime for Goebbels,
Is Springtime for Himmler,
Is Springtime for you and me!!

CURTAIN FALLS. THE NUMBER IS RECEIVED BY THE AUDIENCE WITH HUSHED SILENCE. FOLLOWED BY A SURGE TOWARD THE DOORS. THE AISLES ARE CHOKED WITH UNHAPPY PEOPLE, WHO CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT.

CURTAIN RISES. ON STAGE ARE EVA BRAUN AND HITLER (LSD). EVA BRAUN IS A FETCHING BLONDE IN LONG BRAIDS. LSD IS PACING UP AND DOWN. EVA BRAUN SITS ON LOVE SEAT DOWNSTAGE. IN HER HAND IS AN OVERSIZED DAISY. AS SHE PULLS THE PETALS FROM IT, SHE WHINES. SHE HAS A PRONOUNCED AMERICAN ACCENT.

EVA

Er liebt mir. Er liebt mir nicht.

Er liebt mir.

(the last petal)

Er liebt mir nicht.

CUT TO PEOPLE IN AISLE. THEY HAVE NOTICEABLY SLOWED DOWN. SOME ARE WALKING BACKWARDS. THEY ARE INTRIGUED.

CUT BACK TO STAGE.

EVA

(turns to LSD)

Du liebt mir nicht!

LSD

(protesting vehemently)

I lieb you baby, I lieb you. You know that.

EVA

If you lieb me, why are you leaving

me?

LSD

Hey, man, I can't spend all my time
with you. I took an oath, baby,
Deutschland uber alles.

CUT TO AUDIENCE IN AISLES. THEY HAVE ALL STOPPED LEAVING TO
TURN AND WATCH. SOME BEGIN TO LAUGH AND OTHERS APPLAUD.
THEY LIKE LSD.

71.

MAN

That's Hitler? I get it! It's a
put-on.

CUT TO WOMAN.

WOMAN

Hey, Harry, he's funny.

NOW THERE IS A MAD RUSH TO REGAIN THEIR SEATS.

CUT TO INTERIOR BAR. IT IS EMPTY EXCEPT FOR THE BARTENDER
AND A DRUNK AT THE FAR END OF THE BAR. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM
ARE SEATED ON STOOLS AT THE BAR. THEY CLINK GLASSES.

BIALYSTOCK

Here's to the one and only
performance of "Springtime for
Hitler."

THEY BOTH LAUGH AND DOWN THEIR DRINKS. BIALYSTOCK RAPS ON
THE BAR WITH HIS CANE.

BIALYSTOCK

Innkeeper, innkeeper, another round
of drinks here. As a matter of
fact, a round of drinks for
everybody in the place!

BARTENDER LOOKS AROUND AT THE ALMOST EMPTY BARROOM. DOES A
LITTLE TAKE. HE THEN REPLENISHES THEIR DRINKS AND PLACES A
GLASS IN FRONT OF THE DRUNK. THE DRUNK TIPS HIS HAT
GRACIOUSLY TOWARDS BIALYSTOCK.

BLOOM

Just think, yesterday I was a
meaningless little accountant --
and today, I am the producer of a
Broadway flop!

BIALYSTOCK
(raising his glass)
To failure!

BLOOM
To failure!

DRUNK
(blushing)
Oh, thank you! It's very kind of
you.
(raises his glass and
downs his drink)
(MORE)

72.

DRUNK (CONT'D)

CUT BACK TO STAGE. SAME SCENE. EVA STARTS TO CRY.

EVA
If the Duke of Windsor could give
up the Throne of England for the
woman he loved, why can't you?

LSD
It's different. I'm a tyrant, baby.

AUDIENCE LAUGHS.

CUT TO FRANZ LIEBKIND SEATED IN AN AISLE SEAT. HE NERVOUSLY
PINCHES HIS FACE AS HE SEMI-COHERENTLY MUMBLES TO HIMSELF.

LIEBKIND
(becoming slightly unhinged)
Baby, why does he keep saying baby?
I didn't write baby. The Fuhrer
never said baby. Vat is it vit
this baby?

WOMAN IN ADJOINING SEAT

(very annoyed)
Will you shut up!

LIEBKIND
You shut up! I'm the author.
You're just the audience. I
outrank you.

CUT TO BAR. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ARE A LITTLE TIPSY. BY
NOW THE DRUNK HAS JOINED THEM AND ALL THREE ARE GOOD PALS.

BIALYSTOCK
Bartender, bartender, another drink
for myself and my associate, Mr.
Bloom. And don't forget our good-
natured inebriate over there.

DRUNK TIPS HIS HAT GRACIOUSLY.

DRUNK
Eternally grateful. Sincerely
yours, Oliver Wendell Drunk.

DURING DRUNK'S SPEECH, BARTENDER HAS REFILLED THEIR GLASSES.
HE STANDS BACK, WATCHING THEM AS HE DRIES GLASSES.

73.

DRUNK
(raises his glass)
A toast!

BLOOM
To what?

DRUNK
(stumped)
To... toast! I love toast.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM
To toast.

BIALYSTOCK
(smacking his glass
down on the bar)
Now I'll take the lead and I want
you right behind me all the way!
One... two... three!

(singing)
"By the light,

BLOOM AND DRUNK
(singing)
"By the light, by the light,

BIALYSTOCK
"Of the silvery moon,

BLOOM AND DRUNK
"Of the silvery moooooon,

BIALYSTOCK
"I want to croon,

BLOOM AND DRUNK
"He wants to croon, he wants to
croon,

BIALYSTOCK
"To my honey I'll croon,

BLOOM AND DRUNK
"He's gonna croon love's tune,

BIALYSTOCK
"Honeymoon,

BLOOM AND DRUNK
"Honeymoon, honeymoon,

BIALYSTOCK
"Keep a shining in...

74.

BIALYSTOCK STOPS ABRUPTLY. HE POINTS TOWARD THE DOOR. WE
HEAR THE SOUND OF PEOPLE ENTERING THE BAR.

BIALYSTOCK
Intermission! Quick, hide your
face. They'll tear us to pieces.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM HOP ON THEIR STOOLS AND COVER THEIR
FACES WITH THEIR HANDS. THE DRUNK SHRUGS, HOPS ON THE STOOL
NEXT TO THEM AND ALSO HIDES HIS FACE. A HORDE OF FIRST
NIGHTERS SWEEPS INTO THE BAR. THEY ARE ALL AROUND

BIALYSTOCK, BLOOM AND THE DRUNK, CLAMORING FOR DRINKS.

CROWD

(ad-lib)

"Scotch on the rocks,"

"Bourbon and soda."

"Two martinis."

"Whiskey sour."

THE CROWD IS VERY CHEERFUL. THEY ARE STILL BUBBLING FROM THE FIRST ACT.

WOMAN

(to her escort)

Well, so far that's about the funniest thing I've ever seen on Broadway.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

WOMAN'S ESCORT

Never laughed so much in my life.

MAN

(to his friend)

Hysterical, absolutely hysterical.

MAN'S FRIEND

I thought I'd split my sides.

BIALYSTOCK

Take it easy, don't panic. There are a lot of plays on this street. They are not necessarily talking about "Springtime For Hitler."

HUSBAND

(to his wife)

Honey, I never in a million years thought I'd ever love a show called "Springtime For Hitler."

75.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM FREEZE. A LITTLE OLD LADY COMES UP BEHIND BIALYSTOCK. SHE RAPS HIM ON THE BACK WITH HER UMBRELLA.

LITTLE OLD LADY #8
Bialy, you sly fox, you've done it.
It's a smasheroo.

BIALYSTOCK
(in a daze)
Smasheroo. Smasheroo.

THE CROWD STARTS TO LEAVE.

LITTLE OLD LADY
Oh, I'd better hurry back. I don't
want to miss one minute of it.

THE FIRST NIGHTERS LEAVE THE BAR. ALL THAT REMAIN ARE
BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM, THE BARTENDER AND THE DRUNK.
BIALYSTOCK SLIPS OFF THE STOOL AND WANDERS TO MIDDLE OF
BARROOM.

BIALYSTOCK
(dazed)
Got to think... Got to think... Got
to think... Got to think... Got to
think...

CUT TO BLOOM AT THE BAR, FROZEN, STARING STRAIGHT AHEAD.
HIS EYES ARE GLAZED WITH SHOCK. HE STROKES HIS CHEEK WITH
HIS LITTLE BLUE BLANKET.

BLOOM
Mrs. Cathcart -- 50%
Mrs. Biddlecombe -- 50%
Mrs. Wentworth -- 50%
Mrs. Resnick -- 100%

THE DRUNK STARES FROM ONE TO THE OTHER. UNHAPPY WITH THEIR
PRESENT MOOD, HE DECIDES TO LIVEN THINGS UP AGAIN. HE
TIPTOES OVER TO BIALYSTOCK, PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND BIALYSTOCK'S
WAIST, ROCKS BACK AND FORTH AND BEGINS TO SING.

DRUNK
(singing)
"By the light...
By the light, by the light...
Of the silvery...

BIALYSTOCK PICKS HIM UP AND THROWS HIM ACROSS THE BAR.

BIALYSTOCK

Get away from me, you drunken bum!

76.

DRUNK PICKS HIMSELF UP AND DUSTS HIMSELF OFF.

DRUNK
(indignantly)
Fairweather friend!

THE DRUNK STAGGERS OUT OF THE BAR. BIALYSTOCK GETS A HOLD OF HIMSELF.

BIALYSTOCK
Maybe it's not true!

BIALYSTOCK RUSHES OVER TO BLOOM.

BLOOM
(still mumbling to himself)
No way out. No way out.

BIALYSTOCK
Bloom, Bloom, maybe it's not true.

BLOOM DOES NOT RESPOND. BIALYSTOCK SHAKES HIM.

BLOOM
(droning monotonously)
No way out. No way out. What? Who?

BIALYSTOCK
Why don't we go over to the theatre
and see what's really happening?
After all, we've only heard from a
small portion of the audience.
Let's hear what the majority thinks.

BLOOM
(in a trance)
The majority. The majority. Yes.
Let's hear from the majority.

THEY START TO LEAVE.

DISSOLVE TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ENTERING LOBBY OF THEATRE.
AS THEY OPEN DOOR TO THEATRE, THEY ARE GREETED BY A SHOCK
WAVE OF LAUGHTER. THEY PAUSE STRICKEN.

BLOOM

I don't want to go in.

BIALYSTOCK

Come, we have to.

THEY TAKE EACH OTHER'S HANDS LIKE TWO FRIGHTENED LITTLE BOYS AND CAUTIOUSLY WALK IN.

77.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM AS THEY ENTER. THEY TAKE THEIR POSITIONS AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE AND WATCH THE PROCEEDINGS MEEKLY, LIKE TWO LAMBS AWAITING THE SLAUGHTER.

CUT TO STAGE. HITLER HAS OBVIOUSLY CALLED A COUNCIL OF WAR. THE FUHRER IS SURROUNDED BY HIS GENERAL STAFF.

GENERAL

(making a report)

We are falling back on all fronts.
Our soldiers are retreating.

LSD

No good, baby, no good. You heard
my orders. Nobody retreats.
Attack! Attack!

GENERAL

Who can we attack? They're all too
big.

LSD

(getting an inspiration)

Hey, man, let's stomp Switzerland!

GENERAL

We can't... we keep our money there!

CUT BACK TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM. THEY STARE STRAIGHT AHEAD, STONY-FACED. HUGE TEARS WELL UP IN THEIR EYES AND RUN DOWN THEIR CHEEKS.

CUT TO LIEBKIND. HE HAS RIPPED OFF THE ARM OF HIS CHAIR AND IS EARNESTLY GNAWING AT IT.

LIEBKIND

Baby, again with that baby. There
must be no more babies.

LIEBKIND LEAPS FROM HIS SEAT AND HEADS TOWARD THE SIDE
ENTRANCE LEADING TO THE STAGE.

CUT BACK TO STAGE.

LSD
Where's Goebbels? Where's my
little Joe?

GENERAL
(to the wings)
Send for Goebbels.

78.

LSD
He's the only cat left that still
grooves me.

GOEBBELS ENTERS LAUGHING.

GOEBBELS
Heil, baby! I just finished the
morning propaganda broadcasts.

LSD
What did you tell the people?

GOEBBELS
I told them we invaded England.

LSD
Hey, baby, that's good! How'd we
come out?

GOEBBELS
We won.

LSD
Groovy!

THEY SMACK HANDS.

LAUGH FROM AUDIENCE.

CUT TO BACKSTAGE. LIEBKIND COMES CHARGING IN LIKE A LUNATIC.

LIEBKIND

Bring down the curtain! Bring down
the curtain!

HE RUSHES FOR THE CURTAIN ROPE. A STAGEHAND ATTEMPTS TO STOP HIM. HE RIPS OFF HIS HELMET AND BANGS HIM OVER THE HEAD WITH IT. AS HE SLUMPS TO THE GROUND, LIEBKIND UNDOES THE CURTAIN ROPE.

CUT TO ACTORS ON STAGE.

LSD

Goebbels, you're the only one...

THE CURTAIN DROPS WITH A THUD. FROM BENEATH IT CRAWLS LIEBKIND. HE JUMPS UP AND ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE.

LIEBKIND

I am the author of this play. You are the victims of a hoax. These are not my words. The Fuhrer never said baby. The Fuhrer was sweet, the Fuhrer was kind, the Fuhrer was good.

79.

STAGE MANAGER

(off camera)

Get that curtain up.

CURTAIN STARTS TO RISE. LIEBKIND HURLS HIMSELF IT, AND HOLDS IT DOWN.

LIEBKIND

NO! No! The curtain must not go up!

DESPITE HIS EFFORTS, THE CURTAIN SLOWLY RISES. LIEBKIND DOES NOT RELEASE HIS HOLD ON IT. HE STARTS TO GO UP.

LIEBKIND

Stop! Stop!

AS THE CURTAIN RISES, WE SEE A BEWILDERED GROUP OF ACTORS AND STAGE HANDS WATCHING LIEBKIND'S ASCENT. THE AUDIENCE, THINKING LIEBKIND'S BEHAVIOR PART OF THE SHOW, ENJOYS THE

PROCEEDINGS TREMENDOUSLY. THEY BREAK INTO APPLAUSE.

CUT TO CRITIC. HE IS LAUGHING UPROARIOUSLY AND TEARING UP HIS NOTES.

CUT BACK TO LIEBKIND.

LIEBKIND

We have been betrayed! I will
return! I will returnnnnn...

LIEBKIND DISAPPEARS INTO THE FLIES.

DISSOLVE TO ANTEROOM OF BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM'S OFFICE. DAY. ULLA, WEARING A BELTED RAINCOAT, SITS AT THE TYPEWRITER. MUSIC FROM A RECORD PLAYER SOFTLY ROCKS IN THE BACKGROUND. IN HER LEFT HAND SHE HOLDS A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE, FROM WHICH SHE SIPES, WHILE HER RIGHT HAND, INDEX FINGER EXTENDED, STABS AT THE FUNNY LITTLE KEYS. SHE IS HAPPY, IT IS THE RIGHT ONE. THE DOOR FLIES OPEN. THE DESPERATE BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM ENTER. ULLA LEAPS UP, QUICKLY UNDOES HER RAINCOAT, EXPOSING HER DELICIOUS BODY, CLOTHED ONLY IN BLACK LACE UNDERTHINGS.

ULLA

We make love?

BIALYSTOCK

No! No! We don't make love. Go
to work.

ULLA IMMEDIATELY TURNS UP RECORD PLAYER TO A CRASHING BLARE AND DOES HER GROOVY DANCE. BIALYSTOCK HOWLS IN DESPAIR AND FLEES INTO HIS OFFICE TOGETHER WITH BLOOM.

80.

HE CLOSSES THE DOOR, SHUTTING OUT THE NOISE. THE OFFICE IS FILLED WITH FLOWERS AND CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS. BIALYSTOCK SWOOPS DOWN ON THE TELEGRAMS. HE RIPS ONE OPEN AND BEGINS READING.

BIALYSTOCK

"Congratulations. It's the biggest
hit on Broadway."

HE TEARS IT UP AND THROWS IT AWAY. HE PICKS UP ANOTHER AND READS.

BIALYSTOCK
"Congratulations. Hitler will run
forever."

HE THROWS IT AWAY. BIALYSTOCK ATTACKS THE PILE OF TELEGRAMS.
WITHOUT OPENING THEM UP, HE TEARS THEM ONE AT A TIME.

BIALYSTOCK
(boiling with rage)
Congratulations!

HE TEARS TELEGRAM.

BIALYSTOCK
Congratulations!

HE TEARS TELEGRAM.

BIALYSTOCK
Congratulations!

HE TEARS TELEGRAM.

BIALYSTOCK
Congratulations!

HE TEARS TELEGRAM.

THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN. POSED IN THE DOORWAY IS ROGER DE BRIS.
IN ONE HAND HE CARRIES AN OPEN, BUBBLING MAGNUM OF CHAMPAGNE.

DE BRIS
(ecstatic)
Congratulations! Have you seen the
reviews? Have you seen the lines
at the box office? It's a torrent,
it's an avalanche, it's the biggest
hit on Broadway!

HE STARTS INTO THE ROOM. BIALYSTOCK GROWLS AND LUNGES AT HIM.

81.

BIALYSTOCK
You lousy fruit. You've ruined me!

HE SMASHES DE BRIS UP AGAINST THE WALL. THE CHAMPAGNE GOES
FLYING.

DE BRIS

(shrieking)

Help! Help! He's crazy! He's
going to kill me. Call the police!
Call the police! Help, help,
murder, murder, rape, rape!!!

BIALYSTOCK THROWS HIM OUT, SLAMS THE DOOR AND LOCKS IT. HE
FALLS INTO THE CHAIR AND PUTS HIS FEET UP ON THE DESK.

BIALYSTOCK

(moaning)

How could this happen? I was so
careful. I picked the wrong play,
the wrong director, the wrong cast.
Where did I go right? We forgot
one important, Bloom. Adolf Hitler
always drew a crowd.

BIALYSTOCK IS SUDDENLY AWARE THAT BLOOM IS DOING STRANGE
THINGS AT THE NEXT DESK.

BIALYSTOCK

What are you doing?

CUT TO BLOOM. HE IS FEVERISHLY PILING LEDGERS AND ACCOUNT
BOOKS TOGETHER. HE SWOOPS THEM UP IN HIS ARMS, CLUTCHES
THEM TIGHTLY AND BEGINS BACKING TOWARDS THE DOOR.

BLOOM

(defensively)

Don't try to stop me. I've made up
my mind.

BIALYSTOCK

What are you doing with those books?
Where are you going?

BLOOM

(with hysterical conviction)

I'm turning myself in. It's the
only way. I'm going to cooperate
with the authorities. They'll
reduce my sentence and then there's
time off for good behavior. And
maybe I'll get a job in the prison
library. So long.

HE TURNS THE KNOB. THE DOOR IS LOCKED. HE FIDDLES WITH THE CATCH. TOO LATE! BIALYSTOCK IS UP AND AT HIM IN A FLASH. HE BLOCKS THE DOOR.

BIALYSTOCK

(reasonably)

Leo, take it easy. Relax, you're overwrought. You don't know what you're doing. You're acting out of panic... GIMME THOSE BOOKS!

BIALYSTOCK LUNGES AT BLOOM AND GRABS FOR THE BOOKS. BLOOM STILL RETAINS A FIRM HOLD. THEY STRUGGLE BACK AND FORTH.

BLOOM

I never should have listened to you.

BIALYSTOCK

I never should have listened to you.

BLOOM

Ohhhhhhhhh, how I hate you.

BIALYSTOCK

Double. Double. Double.

WITH A MIGHTY WRENCH, BIALYSTOCK RIPS THE BOOKS OUT OF BLOOM'S HANDS.

BIALYSTOCK

(clutching the books triumphantly)

Haaaaa! Haaaaa! Haaaaa!

BLOOM FLIPS. HE ATTACKS BIALYSTOCK LIKE A CRAZY KID, SCREAMING HYSTERICALLY AND PUNCHING WITH ONE ARM AS HE PROTECTS HIS FACE WITH THE OTHER.

BLOOM

(shrieking)

FAT! FAT! FAT! FAT! FAT!

BIALYSTOCK GOES CRASHING TO THE FLOOR UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT. BLOOM DIVES ON TOP OF HIM. THEY ROLL ON THE FLOOR LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT. SUDDENLY THREE SHOTS RING OUT IN SUCCESSION. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM IMMEDIATELY STOP WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND TURN TOWARD THE DOOR.

CUT TO LOCK AND HANDLE OF DOOR. THEY DROP OFF. A LITTLE SMOKE RISES FROM THE HOLE.

LIEBKIND
(off screen, outside door)
I am betrayed!

83.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

CUT TO THE DOOR. IT FLIES OPEN. FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY IS FRANZ LIEBKIND, SMOKING LUGER IN HAND.

LIEBKIND
(solemnly)
You have broken the Siegfried Oath.
You must die.

HE BLASTS AWAY. THE WINDOW IS SHATTERED. PIECES OF WALL GO WHIZZING THROUGH THE AIR. BIALYSTOCK DROPS THE LEDGERS AND HE AND BLOOM DIVE FOR COVER BEHIND THE DESK.

LIEBKIND
This is no good. I'm not killing you. Don't you understand, you have broken the Siegfried Oath. You must die. Vill you cooperate!!!

CUT TO TIGHT TWO SHOT. BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM SCRUNCHED BEHIND DESK. THEY STARE AT EACH OTHER IN AMAZEMENT. THERE IS A TIMOROUS KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM
(together)
Come in. Come in.

ULLA ENTERS.

ULLA
I hear noise. You call?

SHE LOOKS AROUND.

ULLA
Where are you?

SHE CONTINUES WALKING UNTIL SHE SEES THEM CROUCHED BEHIND THE DESK.

ULLA
Ahhh. I see you. You like something? Coffee?

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN DISBELIEF.

BIALYSTOCK
Coffee. Yes. That's a good idea.
(with great emphasis)
Why don't you ask the gentleman with the gun... The gentleman who is shooting at us... and trying to kill us... what he will have.

84.

ULLA
(to Liebkind)
You like coffee?

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM. THEY STARE AT EACH OTHER, DUMBFUNDED.

LIEBKIND
Yes, please. Black. Two sugars.

ULLA REPEATS TO HERSELF AS SHE STARTS FOR THE DOOR.

ULLA
Three coffees. Two regular. One black... two sugars.

SHE EXITS AND CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.

BIALYSTOCK LOOKS UP TO THE FATES AND MAKES A SMALL SOUND OF DESPAIR.

LIEBKIND
And now we must resume hostilities. Are you coming out from behind that desk or not?

BIALYSTOCK
Not.

LIEBKIND

Cowards, miserable cringing cowards.
Clinging to life like baby
butterflies. Vatch, vatch and
remember. Franz Liebkind vill show
you how to die like a man!

HE PLACES THE MUZZLE OF THE GUN AGAINST HIS TEMPLE. BLOOM
AND BIALYSTOCK PEER OVER THE DESK TO SEE.

LIEBKIND

(exhalted)

Soon I vill be vit mine Fuhrer, und
Goering, und Goebbels, and Himmler.
I'm coming boys!

HE PULLS THE TRIGGER. CLICK. CLICK. CLICK. THE GUN IS
JAMMED. HE THROWS THE GUN DOWN IN DISGUST.

LIEBKIND

(in utter anguish)

Boy, vhen things go wrong!

HE FALLS INTO A CHAIR AND SOBS LIKE A CHILD.

85.

LIEBKIND

I'm a failure. I'm a failure. I'm
a failure.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM COME OUT FROM BEHIND DESK. BIALYSTOCK
LOOKS AT HIS WATCH.

BIALYSTOCK

Five o'clock. Killed a whole day
playing hide-and-seek with a crazy
Kraut.

BIALYSTOCK PICKS UP LUGER.

LIEBKIND

(still sobbing)

I'm not crazy. I'm inept.

HE CONTINUES TO SOB. BLOOM WALKS OVER TO THE WEEPING
LIEBKIND AND COMFORTINGLY PATS HIM ON THE SHOULDER.

BLOOM

There, there.

LIEBKIND

(looking around)

Where? Where?... oh...

BIALYSTOCK

(to Liebkind)

You crazy lunatic! What are you shooting at us for? Why don't you use this

(indicates gun)

where it will do us some good? Why don't you shoot the actors?

(the thought strikes home)

Liebkind, have I ever steered you wrong?

LIEBKIND

Always.

BIALYSTOCK

Never mind. Listen. Every night people are laughing at your beloved Fuhrer. Why?

LIEBKIND

It's that LSD und his verdampfer babies!...

86.

BIALYSTOCK

(handing him the gun and some money)

Here. Buy bullets. Kill. Kill them all!

BLOOM

What???

BIALYSTOCK

(to Bloom)

Shut up.

LIEBKIND

Yes. The actors. I must destroy

the actors.

LIEBKIND STARTS TO GO.

BLOOM

Stop! Stop! This is insanity.

HE LEAPS ACROSS THE ROOM AND WRENCHES THE GUN FROM LIEBKIND'S HAND.

BLOOM

(screaming)

Have you lost your mind? What are you talking about? Kill the actors. You can't kill the actors -- they're not animals, they're human beings!

BIALYSTOCK

They are? Have you ever eaten with one? Liebkind, go! Kill!

BLOOM

Liebkind, no!

BIALYSTOCK

(to Bloom)

What are you doing? We're trapped. It's either the show or us. There's no way out. What can we do, blow up the theatre?

BIALYSTOCK FREEZES AS THE THOUGHT TAKES HOLD.

CUT TO CLOSE-UP OF BLOOM. HIS EYES NARROW AS HE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERS THE PROPOSAL.

CUT TO CLOSE-UP LIEBKIND. HIS FACE A POSTER OF SHINING APPROVAL.

87.

CAMERA PULLS BACK. THE THREE OF THEM SEARCH EACH OTHER'S FACES EARNESTLY. THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY IN ACCORD.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN. DARKENED CELLAR OF THEATRE. WE SEE THE FAINT GLOW

OF A SHIELDED LAMP AT THE END OF A TUNNEL. AS THE CAMERA MOVES THROUGH TUNNEL CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE LIGHT, WE MAKE OUT THE SHADOWY FORMS OF THREE MEN.

CAMERA DOLLIES IN TO REVEAL BIALYSTOCK, BLOOM AND LIEBKIND. BLOOM IS HOLDING A MINER'S LAMP. LIEBKIND IS TRYING BRICK LOOSE FROM WALL. BIALYSTOCK IS CONSULTING MAP. BRICK COMES LOOSE. LIEBKIND REMOVES IT.

LIEBKIND
(the surgeon at work)
Dynamite.

BLOOM SLAPS A NEATLY TAPED BUNDLE OF DYNAMITE INTO LIEBKIND'S HAND. LIEBKIND GENTLY PLACES IT IN OPENING.

LIEBKIND
Fuse cap.

BIALYSTOCK REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND HANDS HIM A FUSE CAP. LIEBKIND PUTS CAP IN PLACE.

LIEBKIND
Fuse.

BLOOM REACHES IN POCKET, TAKES OUT SPOOL OF FUSE, HANDS IT TO LIEBKIND.

LIEBKIND
Thank you.

LIEBKIND TIES FUSE IN PLACE.

LIEBKIND
Gut. Now for the master connection.

CAMERA FOLLOWS THEM AS THEY MOVE BACK THROUGH THE TUNNEL. LIEBKIND TRAILS FUSE FROM SPOOL. THEY FINALLY EMERGE INTO AN OPEN AREA OF CELLAR DIRECTLY BENEATH THE STAGE.

LIEBKIND
Gut. Now where's the other fuse?

BLOOM RAISES HIS LAMP, REVEALING A SIMILAR TUNNEL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CELLAR.

BLOOM
There it is.

CAMERA INSERT: CLOSE-UP SIMILAR FUSE PROTRUDING FROM SECOND TUNNEL.

BACK TO SCENE.

LIEBKIND
(to Bloom)
Pick it up and bring it here, please.

BLOOM
Okay.

HE STARTS TOWARD SECOND TUNNEL.

LIEBKIND
(anxiously)
Where are you going vit the light?

BLOOM
I need it. How'm I gonna find the fuse?

LIEBKIND
Oh, ve come vit you. All for one and all in the light.

THE THREE OF THEM GINGERLY TIPTOE OVER TO SECOND TUNNEL ENTRANCE. BLOOM PICKS UP THE FUSE. THEY TIPTOE BACK. BLOOM HANDS FUSE TO LIEBKIND.

LIEBKIND REACHES INTO HIS KNAPSACK, TAKES OUT LITTLE BLACK METAL BOX WITH TWO TERMINAL CAPS AT EITHER END AND SETS IT DOWN ON CELLAR FLOOR.

LIEBKIND
Now ve take the two fuse leads, attach them to the terminals of the conductor and ve're in business.

BIALYSTOCK
(grinning)
You mean out of business. Heh, heh.

LIEBKIND BEGINS FIDDLING WITH THE FUSE LEADS AND TERMINALS.

BLOOM

Max, I...

BIALYSTOCK
(irritated. He has
not time for small talk)
What is it?

89.

BLOOM
Well, I... Well, it's just that...
I'm sorry I called you fat, fat, fat.

BIALYSTOCK
(smacking Bloom
affectionately on the shoulder)
Ahhhhhh. Leo, Leo, Leo.

LIEBKIND
(mumbling to himself)
Plus to minus. Negative to positive.
Male to...

BIALYSTOCK
Come on. Let's get going.

LIEBKIND
Quiet. Quiet This is very
important.

HE TURNS BACK TO HIS WORK.

LIEBKIND
Vait a minute. Vait a minute.
Male to male? Male to female?
Female to male? Female to female?
Vait a minute. In people, male to
female. But electricity is strange.
It's male to male.

HE QUICKLY FINISHES THE CONNECTION.

LIEBKIND
Sehr gut.
(to Bialystock)
Slow fuse, please.

BIALYSTOCK REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND HANDS LIEBKIND A ROLL

OF FUSE.

LIEBKIND

Thank you.

HE BEGINS TYING SLOW FUSE TO CONDUCTOR.

LIEBKIND

(as he works)

Now we take the slow fuse. Tie one end to the master connection and the other we attach to the detonator.

HE FINISHES CONNECTIONS.

90.

LIEBKIND

Come, we go to the detonator.

THEY BEGIN TO MOVE BACK AS LIEBKIND SLOWLY SPOOLS OUT FUSE. THEY START UP THE STAIRS.

LIEBKIND

Wait a minute. Are you sure this is slow fuse? It feels like quick fuse.

(to Bloom)

Shine your light on it.

BLOOM SHINES LIGHT ON FUSE.

LIEBKIND

I don't know. I don't know. The markings are so similar. Quick fuse or slow fuse?

LIEBKIND TAKES A WOODEN MATCH OUT OF HIS POCKET.

LIEBKIND

I must find out. It is critical.

HE STRIKES THE MATCH AND LIGHTS THE FUSE. WHOOSH! IT IGNITES. THE SPARKS RUSH TOWARD THE MASTER CONNECTION. LIEBKIND CHARGES DOWN THE STAIRS AND CHASES AFTER THE QUICK BURNING FUSE FOR ALL HE'S WORTH. HE CATCHES UP WITH IT JUST BEFORE IT REACHES THE MASTER CONNECTION AND QUICKLY STAMPS IT OUT.

LIEBKIND

Let's face it. That was dumb.

HE TROTS BACK.

LIEBKIND

Boys, where is you?

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM COME CRAWLING OUT FROM BEHIND STAIRS.

LIEBKIND

(seeing them)

Dot vas the qvick one.

BIALYSTOCK

We assumed that.

LIEBKIND REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND SHOWS THEM A ROLL OF FUSE.

91.

LIEBKIND

Here. You see. This is the slow fuse. It is much wider. It has more resistance, more density. Therefore, it burns slower.

BIALYSTOCK

You mean you had the slow fuse in your pocket all the time and you forgot to put it on?

LIEBKIND

Yes. Amazing isn't it?

BIALYSTOCK RAISES HIS CANE AND SMASHES LIEBKIND ON THE HELMET. BONNNG.

BIALYSTOCK

You stupid kraut!

LIEBKIND

Why do you always call me kraut? Kraut is cabbage! Do ve call you hot dogs? Ve call you Yanks not franks!

BIALYSTOCK

All right. Finish the job. Let's
get outta here.

CUT TO SIDE DOOR OF THEATRE. THE DOOR OPENS SLOWLY.
BIALYSTOCK, BLOOM AND LIEBKIND TIPTOE OUT. BLOOM SETS
DETONATOR DOWN.

LIEBKIND

Und now for the final connection.

HE WRAPS THE FUSE LEAD AROUND THE METAL CONTACT POLE AND
RAISES THE PLUNGER.

BIALYSTOCK

Wait. I'll check to see if the
coast is clear.

HE RUNS TO THE END OF THE ALLEY. LOOKS BOTH WAYS AND RUNS
BACK.

BIALYSTOCK

The coast is clear!

LIEBKIND

Good. Get down.

92.

BIALYSTOCK AND BLOOM CROUCH DOWN AND HOLD THEIR EARDRUMS.
LIEBKIND GRABS THE HANDLE OF THE DETONATOR. HIS EYES
SUDDENLY GLISTEN WITH TEARS.

LIEBKIND

Goodbye, my foolish fancy. Goodbye,
my misbegotten child. Goodbye, my
tortured testament of twisted truths.

BIALYSTOCK

Do it! Do it!

LIEBKIND TENSES HIMSELF FOR THE PLUNGE. HE STARTS AND STOPS.

LIEBKIND

I can't. I can't do it. It's a
demon. It's a gargoyle, it's a
monster... but it's still my child.

HE SOBS INCONSOLABLY. BIALYSTOCK ROUGHLY PUSHES HIM ASIDE AND GRABS THE HANDLE OF THE DETONATOR AND PLUNGES IT DOWN. HE HURLS HIMSELF TO THE GROUND AND COVERS HIS HEAD IN ANTICIPATION OF THE EXPLOSION. NOTHING HAPPENS. AFTER A WHILE THEY ALL RAISE THEIR HEADS CURIOUSLY.

BIALYSTOCK
(quizzically)
Nothing.

LIEBKIND GOES TO PLUNGER, RAISES HANDLE AND EXAMINES DETONATOR.

LIEBKIND
Here is gut... of course, of course.
In electricity, it's always male to
female. But with people, it's not
always so. Come ve must go back.

BIALYSTOCK
Do you need us?

LIEBKIND
Of course I need you. It's dark in
there.

BLOOM
Okay, okay. Let's not waste time.

THEY OPEN THE SIDE DOOR AND DISAPPEAR INTO THE THEATRE.

DRUNK
(off camera, singing)
"Honeymoon, keep a shinin' in June,"

93.

CUT TO ENTRANCE OF ALLEY. DRUNK COMES STAGGERING INTO VIEW. HE SPOTS DETONATOR.

DRUNK
"your silvery beams,
Will light love's dreams," What
the heck is that? A bicycle pump?
Naaah. Lemme see. Could it be?
Good grief, it's Eli Whitney's
cotton gin... Naaah. Aahh, I know

what it is.

HE WALKS OVER TO DETONATOR AND SITS ON FIRE STANCHION JUST BEHIND IT. HE RAISES HIS FOOT AND STARTS IT DOWN TOWARD THE PLUNGER.

DRUNK

Shine 'em up!

HE PUSHES PLUNGER DOWN WITH HIS FOOT.

CUT TO LONG SHOT OF THEATRE. (MOCK UP) THERE IS A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION. PIECES OF THE THEATRE GO FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.

CUT TO TIGHT SHOT OF DRUNK. HE IS ON HIS KNEES. DEBRIS CRASHES ALL AROUND HIM. SMOKE AND NOISE FILL THE AIR. HE STAGGERS TO HIS FEET. HE ROCKS BACK AND FORTH AS THOUGH HE WERE IN AN EARTHQUAKE.

DRUNK

(bravely singing)

"Sa-an Fra-ancisco, open your
golden gates,
Don't let a stranger wait...

DISSOLVE TO TIGHT SHOT OF JUDGE'S GAVEL SOLEMNLY RAPPING FOR ORDER.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL CROWDED COURTROOM.

CAMERA MOVES IN TO FOREGROUND OF COURT. THERE, SEATED AT THE DEFENDANT'S TABLE ARE, IN ORDER, BLOOM WITH HIS ARM IN A SLING, BIALYSTOCK WITH HIS LEG IN A CAST, AND A MUMMY SWATHED IN BANDAGES. WE KNOW THE MUMMY IS LIEBKIND BECAUSE IT IS WEARING A GERMAN HELMET.

LIEBKIND

(mumbling through his bandages)

Male to male? Male to female?

CUT TO TIGHT SHOT OF JUDGE.

JUDGE

Has the jury reached a verdict?

94.

CUT TO JURY. THEIR EXPRESSIONS INDICATE THAT THEY ARE NOT

AT ALL WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE DEFENDANTS.

CAMERA CLOSSES IN ON FOREMAN. HE RISES.

FOREMAN

We have, your honor.

JUDGE

(off camera)

How does the jury find?

FOREMAN

We find the defendants incredibly guilty.

CUT TO JUDGE.

JUDGE

Will the defendants please rise and approach the bench.

CUT TO BIALYSTOCK, BLOOM AND LIEBKIND. THEY STRUGGLE TO THEIR FEET AND HOBBLE TO THE JUDGE'S BENCH.

JUDGE

Do the defendants have anything to say in their behalf before the court pronounces sentence?

BLOOM

I would like to say a word, sir, not on my behalf, but in behalf of my partner, Max Bialystock.

JUDGE

Proceed.

BLOOM

Thank you, your honor. Max Bialystock is a very selfish man.

BIALYSTOCK

(whispers to Bloom)

Don't help me.

BLOOM

He's a liar and a cheat and a scoundrel. He's taken money from little old ladies. He's talked

people into doing things they never
would have dreamed of. Especially
me. But who has he really hurt?

(MORE)

95.

BLOOM (CONT'D)

Who are the victims? Not me, I had
the most exciting adventure of my
life. And what about the little
old ladies? What would their lives
have been without Max Bialystock?
He made them feel wanted and young
and attractive again.

LITTLE OLD LADIES

(off camera, ad-lib)

"Oh, Max, Max, I love you Max."

"Let him go, let him go."

"Don't take my Bialy."

JUDGE

(rapping gavel)

Order. Order.

BIALYSTOCK

And may I humbly add, your honor,
that we have learned our lesson and
we'll never do it again.

JUDGE

I will take that into consideration.
The defendants shall serve not more
than five and not less than two
years in the State Penitentiary.

(he pounds gavel)

DISSOLVE THROUGH TO SIGN ON STONE WALL. SIGN READS: STATE
PENITENTIARY.

DISSOLVE THROUGH TO PRISON YARD. DETACHMENTS OF PRISONERS,
LED BY GUARDS, MARCH PAST CAMERA.

DISSOLVE THROUGH TO EXTERIOR OF PRISON BUILDING MARKED:
PRISON LAUNDRY. MUCH NOISE AND STEAM.

CAMERA PANS TO ANOTHER BUILDING MARKED: MACHINE SHOP. LOUD METALLIC CACOPHONY EMANATES FROM INSIDE.

CAMERA CONTINUES ITS JOURNEY. IT COMES TO REST ON PRISON AUDITORIUM. TINKLE OF PIANO IS HEARD FROM INSIDE.

CAMERA MOVES THROUGH CLOSED DOORS TO INTERIOR. WE SEE A LONG LINE OF PRISONERS (20). FOR SOME REASON THEY ARE ALL HOLDING MONEY IN THEIR HANDS. LINE ENDS AT A DESK. SEATED AT THE DESK, IN A GREY, PRISON UNIFORM, IS NUMBER: 979345, FORMERLY KNOWN TO US AS LEO BLOOM. BESIDE THE TABLE IS A LARGE DISPLAY BOARD READING:

96.

WORLD PREMIERE
979344 and 979345
PRESENT
"PRISONERS OF LOVE"
STARRING 778629 and
CO-STARRING 440123
INVEST NOW!!!! HUGE PROFITS GUARANTEED!!!

A PRISONER HANDS BLOOM MONEY. BLOOM COUNTS IT AND PUTS IT INTO TIN BOX. HE HANDS PRISONER A RECEIPT.

BLOOM
Twenty-five dollars. Here's your receipt. You now own 28% of "Prisoners of Love."

CAMERA PANS TO STAGE. THE STAGE IS FILLED WITH A LINE OF CONVICT "CHORUS GIRLS." THEIR TROUSERS ROLLED UP ABOVE THEIR KNEES, SHOWING AN ASSORTMENT OF INTERESTING HAIRY LEGS.

AT THE PIANO, KNOCKING OUT THE LIVELY RHYTHM, IS FRANZ LIEBKIND AND HIS EVER POPULAR GERMAN HELMET.

ON STAGE DIRECTING THE REHEARSAL IS THE INDOMITABLE MAX BIALYSTOCK.

BIALYSTOCK
(waving his cane and shouting at the top of his lungs)
Higher, you animals, higher! We open Saturday night! Kick! Kick! Two-three-kick-turn! Two-three-

kick-turn! Okay, let's hear it!

THE PRISONERS BREAK INTO SONG.

PRISONERS

(singing)

"We're prisoners of love, etc."

MUSIC SWELLS TO CRESCENDO.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE STAGE AS

"THE END"