

Wally

I'd really like that.

Buttons

Because I don't think Ed would mind if I dated. I mean he didn't when he was alive.  
(LOOKS TOWARD CEILING) Would you, Ed?

Wally

(Looks toward ceiling)

What did he say?

Buttons

(Looking at ceiling)

He didn't say no.

HERB, WALLY AND BUTTONS EXIT STAGE RIGHT AS MARGO ENTERS STAGE LEFT. SHE IS FORTY SOMETHING, ATTRACTIVE AND WEARING A CHEERFUL DRESS.

Margo

(Cheerfully)

Hi! Are you mourning? If you are, I can come back.

Edna

No, Dear. Come in.

Margo

Are you sure? My, isn't that a pretty dress? (STICKS OUT HAND) Hi, I'm Margo. From Parlor C? And I really think there's been a foul up.

Edna

There has? What kind of foul up?

Margo

(Looking around room)

Where are all the people?

Edna

I've been wondering the same thing.

Margo

My parlor has been a zoo! You cannot believe all the people trooping through that room. I kept saying, 'Marty, who in the hell are all these people? I don't know any of them.' And of course he didn't know them either. Blacks, Catholics, Jews, all wearing their native costumes. The place looked like the United Nations.

Margo  
Edna  
Pg  
26-28

[ start  
3

Edna

Oh, My God!

Margo

And I've got to tell you my obit read, no visiting hours, no visitors, family only! And then this mob shows up! On top of which about an hour ago they brought in all these spotlights and flags and some kind of a stand? And I said, 'Marty, this is the last straw.' Do you know what I mean?

Edna

I know exactly what you mean. And those flags and spotlights? They belong in here.

Margo

Well, I'm certainly glad to hear that because I certainly didn't order them.

Edna

The funeral home must have mixed things up. I'll have them moved.

Margo

Of course that's what happened. I knew there was a perfectly simple explanation. (LOUD VOICE) Marty! Come in here! (PAUSE) Don't worry, he isn't coming. At least I hope he isn't coming. He's in the box. I keep forgetting he's dead. I'm going to have to take a pill in a few minutes. To calm me down? Just get me through this I told my Doctor. Just get me through this and I'll be happy to go to bed with you.

Edna

Your Doctor asked you to go to bed with him?

Margo

He said that I ought to be in bed and I just assumed...(PAUSE) Anyway, he gave me these pills and told me not to drink but of course I was drunk when he told me. What are you on?

Edna

Me? Nothing.

Margo

You must have loved him very much.

Edna

Actually, I'm the Senators ex-wife.

Margo

(Excited)

Senator?! There's a Senator in there?! (HURRIES TO CASKET) A live Senator?

Edna

Well, no, not a live one. But a Senator.

Margo

I've never seen one. Dead or alive. Do you have any idea how exciting it is for a nothing housewife, taxpayer, voter to see a Senator? I mean you read about these guys but you never think you'll see one!

Edna

I'm sorry, Margo but I'm afraid he asked for a closed casket.

Margo

(With feeling)

Marty didn't ask for one but he sure as hell got one. I told them to nail the damn thing shut. He told me he was having a vasectomy.

Edna

He had a vasectomy?

Margo

You don't know the half of it. Why is the wife always the last to know?

Edna

Know what, Margo?

Margo

That I cannot tell you but I can tell you that I gave up cigarettes for the man. Does that tell you something about commitment? And then he goes and does that!

Edna

Does what, Dear?

Margo

I cannot talk about it. Suffice to say that I have been through a traumatic experience of what Marty used to call epic proportions.

Edna

How did Marty die, Margo?

Margo

I will never tell! I mean ever! Thank God I don't have children! I told you I had a false pregnancy? And I had never even heard of false pregnancy until two weeks after the wedding and of course by that time we were living in Paris. Kentucky, not France where my father is from. Listen, I understand the flags and the spotlights, but what's the little stand for?

7end3