

DIANE. It's open.

(Kathy Ann enters carrying a box of donut holes. She is sixty two years old with a childlike demeanor. Tastefully dressed in a sharp dichotomy from Verna. She is sweet and naïve in nature and clueless about adult issues. During down time in this scene she can be reading a children's cartoon book or coloring book she keeps in her pocket book)

KATHY ANN. I brought some donut holes.

VERNA. You couldn't afford the whole donut?

KATHY ANN. No! They just cut back my hours at the dentist's office so I'm trying to economize.

DIANE. So is Verna, she's buying smaller shirts....I'll put the coffee on...

(she exits to kitchen)

VERNA. So the dentist cut your hours, huh?

KATHY ANN. Isn't it terrible? In this bad economy people cut back on everything, even going to the dentist!

VERNA. As if they needed an excuse to cut back on that!

KATHY ANN. It's throwing off my whole schedule. I used to get up in the morning, have breakfast, watch Skippy the Bush Kangaroo reruns on Animal Planet...take a shower....

VERNA. Skippy the Bush Kangaroo? You don't watch the morning news show, or the financial channel or something like that?

KATHY ANN. Too complicated and sad. I like to watch the animals or cartoons, Bugs Bunny is my favorite.

VERNA. Really?

KATHY ANN. Some prefer the more modern cartoon shows but I think they are a bit too crass. No, I prefer the old Warner Brothers classics. But, now with all this extra time to fill in my day I don't know what I'm going to do with myself. You know what they say... 'an idle mind....

VERNA. You should know.

(Diane re-enters with tray of coffee cups)

VERNA. Did you know that Kathy Ann watches cartoons?

DIANE. To each his own.

(Rose Monahan, eighty one, enters. She walks with a cane)

DIANE. Hi Rose, you're just in time, have a seat.

ROSE. Thanks, my hip is killing me. Ever since I had it replaced it acts up on rainy days.

KATHY ANN. But it's not raining.

ROSE. Great, thanks for the news flash, now it hurts in *any* kind of weather. Anybody got a cigarette?

DIANE. I thought you gave up smoking?

ROSE. I did. Force of habit makes me keep asking...besides, who can afford cigarettes at their current price! Between that, rent increases and the price of gas, people can't even afford to commute to their job anymore. It's a good thing I stopped working, I'd go broke!

DIANE. Tell me about it. Social Security just cut my benefits!

KATHY ANN. And the dentist just cut back my hours.

ROSE. *(to Verna)* How about you Lady Godiva?

VERNA. I'm independently wealthy. Trust fund.

ROSE. How nice for you. Too bad the rest of us need to scrimp and cut corners whenever we can. If I get bad service at a restaurant, I leave an eleven cent tip.

KATHY ANN. Eleven cents? Why not just leave nothing?

ROSE. If you leave nothing they might think you're just an old lady who forgot to tip them! If you leave eleven cents they'll *know* the service was lousy!

(knock at the door)

ROSE. Why does everybody knock? Don't you believe in door bells?

DIANE. Do you know how much it costs to fix a doorbell? This house is ancient, that old relic has been out of commission for five years.

ROSE. Sounds like my last boyfriend.

(knocking persists)

DIANE. Who is it?

HARRY. Lover boy! At your service!

VERNA. *(moving towards door)* I'll let him in.

DIANE. *(to Verna)* Down girl. *(to door)* It's open Harry.

(Harry Hitchcock, mid sixties, enters)

VERNA. We're ready for you 'Lover boy'!

HARRY. Four of you huh? Be right back.

(He turns to exit)

DIANE. Where are you going?

HARRY. Back to my car to get the Viagra.