

CECILY GWENDOLYN FELIX OSCAR

90

THE ODD COUPLE

SPEED. Who's playing? We didn't even start.

OSCAR. (*Turns on him.*) Is that all you can do is complain? Have you given one single thought to where Felix might be?

SPEED. I thought you said you're not worried about him?

OSCAR. (*Screams.*) I'm not worried, dammit! I'm not worried. (*The doorbell rings. A gleeful look passes over OSCAR's face.*) It's him. I bet it's him! (*The boys start to go for the door. OSCAR stops them.*) Don't let him in, he's not welcome in this house.

MURRAY. (*Moves towards door.*) Oscar, don't be childish. We've got to let him in.

OSCAR. (*Stopping him and leading him to the table.*) I won't give him the satisfaction of knowing we've been worrying about him. Sit down. Play cards. Like nothing happened.

MURRAY. But, Oscar—

OSCAR. Sit down. Everybody... Come on... Sit down and play poker.

(*They sit and SPEED begins to deal out cards.*)

VINNIE. (*Crossing to door.*) Oscar...

OSCAR. All right, Vinnie, open the door.

(*VINNIE opens door. It is GWENDOLYN standing there.*)

VINNIE. (*Surprised.*) Oh, hello. (*To OSCAR.*) It's not him, Oscar.

GWENDOLYN. How do you do? (*She walks into the room.*)

START → OSCAR. (*Crosses to her.*) Oh, hello, Cecily. Boys, I'd like you to meet Cecily Pigeon.

GWENDOLYN. Gwendolyn Pigeon. Please don't get up. (*To OSCAR.*) May I see you for a moment, Mr. Madison? Oscar. Certainly, Gwen. What's the matter? Gwendolyn. I think you know... I've come for Felix's things.

(*OSCAR looks at her in shock and disbelief. He looks at the Boys, then back at GWENDOLYN.*)

OSCAR. Felix... My Felix?

GWENDOLYN. Yes. Felix Ungar. That sweet, tortured man who's in my flat at this moment pouring his heart out to my sister.

OSCAR. (*Turns to boys.*) You hear? I'm worried to death and he's up there getting tea and sympathy.

(*CECILY rushes in dragging a reluctant FELIX with her.*)

CECILY. Gwen, Felix doesn't want to stay. Please tell him to stay.

FELIX. Really, girls, this is very embarrassing. I can go to a hotel... (*To boys.*) Hello, fellas.

GWENDOLYN. (*Overriding his objections.*) Nonsense. I told you, we've plenty of room, and it's a very comfortable sofa. Isn't it, Cecy?

CECILY. (*Joining in.*) Enormous. And we've rented an air-conditioner.

GWENDOLYN. And we just don't like the idea of you wandering the streets looking for a place to live.

FELIX. But I'd be in the way. Wouldn't I be in the way?

GWENDOLYN. How could you possibly be in anyone's way?

OSCAR. You want to see a typewritten list?

GWENDOLYN. (*Turning on him.*) Haven't you said enough already, Mr. Madison? (*To FELIX.*) I won't take no for an answer. Just for a few days, Felix.

CECILY. Until you get settled.

GWENDOLYN. Please. Please say "Yes," Felix.

CECILY. Oh, please...we'd be so happy.

FELIX. (*Considers.*) Well...maybe just for a few days.

GWENDOLYN. (*Jumping with joy.*) Oh, wonderful.

CECILY. (*Ecstatic.*) Marvelous!

GWENDOLYN. (*Crosses to door.*) You get your things and come right up.

CECILY. And come hungry. We're making dinner.

GWENDOLYN. *(To boys.)* Good night, gentlemen, sorry to interrupt your bridge game.

CECILY. *(To FELIX.)* If you'd like, you can invite your friends to play in our flat.

GWENDOLYN. *(To FELIX.)* Don't be late. Cocktails in fifteen minutes.

FELIX. I won't.

GWENDOLYN. Ta ta.

CECILY. Ta ta.

FELIX. Ta ta.

STOP →

(The girls leave. FELIX turns and looks at the fellows and smiles as he crosses the room into the bedroom. The five men stare dumbfounded at the door without moving. Finally MURRAY crosses to the door.)

SPEED. *(To the others.)* I told you. It's always the quiet guys.

MURRAY. Gee, what nice girls. *(Closes door.)*

(FELIX comes out of the bedroom carrying two suits in a plastic cleaner's bag.)

ROY. Hey, Felix, are you really gonna move in with them?

FELIX. *(Turns back to them.)* Just for a few days. Until I find my own place... Well, so long, fellows. You can drop your crumbs on the rug again. *(Starts towards door.)*

OSCAR. Hey, Felix. Aren't you going to thank me?

FELIX. *(Stopping on landing.)* For what?

OSCAR. For the two greatest things I ever did for you. Taking you in and throwing you out.

FELIX. *(Lays suits over railing and goes to OSCAR.)* You're right, Oscar. Thanks a lot. Getting kicked out twice is enough for any man... In gratitude, I remove the curse.

OSCAR. *(Smiles.)* Oh, bless you and thank you. Wicked Witch of the North.

(They shake hands. The phone rings.)

FELIX. Ah, that must be the girls.