

KIT
JEREMY
BONNIE
ARLENE

ACT I

Two Witches, No Waiting

35

ARLENE (*to BONNIE*). See how he works? He makes YOU believe YOU brought up something he maneuvers you into saying.

JEREMY. I did not!

ARLENE. You have to be careful around this one, Bonnie.

BONNIE. Oh, I am. And he's asked me an awful lot of questions lately.

ARLENE. That's how he sells his house, first questions, then the sales pitch, right, Jeremy?

JEREMY. Oh, I wouldn't try anything like that on family.

BONNIE (*to ARLENE*). Would he?

ARLENE. Oh yes. And you should hear some of his pitches.

JEREMY. Hey, Mother, it's part of my job!

ARLENE. Some people will believe anything.

BONNIE (*eying JEREMY*). Yes, I can believe he's quite the salesman. I mean he IS very charming.

JEREMY. Oh? You really think so?

(Again BONNIE's and JEREMY's eyes connect. After a brief pause, KIT STERNWOOD enters through the front door.)

KIT. Are you going to make me sit in that hot car all day, snooky-bear?

JEREMY (*rushes over to KIT*). I was just coming out to get you, honeybun.

BONNIE (*surprised by this, looks at ARLENE*). Snooky-bear?

ARLENE (*obvious distaste*). She's got a million of them.

KIT (*to JEREMY*). You KNOW what this humidity can do to my pores. And you ALSO know how much I just hate to perspire. (*Fans herself.*)

JEREMY. I am SO sorry.

← START

(KIT tweaks JEREMY's cheek and abruptly gives him a slap.)

KIT. Sorry doesn't feed the French poodle, now does it?
(Crosses to ARLENE.) Good morning, Arlene.

ARLENE. 'Morning, Catherine.

(JEREMY rushes over to KIT.)

JEREMY. Now, now, hon, I asked you not to call her Arlene.
(Wags a finger at her.) That's not the kind of respect your father taught you.

KIT. You're right, sugar beet. *(Looks at ARLENE.)* I might as well just call you Mommy, how'd that be?

ARLENE *(again distastefully)*. Mommy?

KIT. After all— *(Hooks her arm through JEREMY's.)* we ARE engaged, so it's just a matter of time, isn't that right, Jerry-berry?

(BONNIE's eyes widen in surprise.)

ARLENE. Just go back to Arlene

KIT *(looks at BONNIE)*. Oh. And who's this?

BONNIE. I'm Bonnie Webster, I've been hired as housekeeper.

KIT *(icily)*. Oh. You're the new help.

BONNIE. Uh, yes.

ARLENE. Bonnie, this is Catherine Sternwood.

JEREMY. But everybody calls her Kit.

KIT *(eying BONNIE)*. Well, not EVERYbody. *(Turns to ARLENE.)* So, how about it, Mommy? Now's your chance to sell this old barn and then EVERYbody will be happy.

JEREMY. Kit!

ARLENE. So it's your father who wants to buy the house, then. I thought so. *(Eyes JEREMY.)*

JEREMY. You know I couldn't tell you, Mother. Ethics of the trade and all.

KIT. Oh, listen to you. You're such a worrywart. (*Again she tweaks his cheek.*)

ARLENE. And how would our selling our house make everybody happy? I'm just a little curious, you understand.

JEREMY. She's just talking, Mother, she—

KIT. DON'T interrupt me!

JEREMY. But you weren't saying anything.

KIT. I was ABOUT TO! (*To ARLENE.*) It's really so simple, I'm sure even Bonnie here can understand.

BONNIE (*wincing*). Thank you.

KIT. If you sell this old shack, Daddy-kins gets what he wants, you get a sizable check, much more than it's worth I'm sure, Jerry-bear gets a huge commission which will allow us to finally get married and he's well on his way.

ARLENE (*to JEREMY*). You really proposed to her?

JEREMY. Of course, Mother, she's not going to lie.

ARLENE. Well, in the first place, this is NOT an old barn nor a shack.

KIT. Potato, potahtah, you see it as one thing and I see it as another.

ARLENE. After all, a lot of thought and planning went into the building of our family home. Hasn't Jeremy told you about the Coventry house? (*Indicates the house.*)

KIT. Well, we talk about EVERYthing!

(*ARLENE's gaze makes her uneasy.*)

KIT (*cont'd*). Uh ... why? What is there to know about this house?

JEREMY. Nothing, really.