

JEREMY
KIT
STERNWOOD
ELZBETH
ARLENE

ACT II

SCENE 1

(It is now about an hour later. LIGHTS up, ARLENE is sitting in the chair next to the couch. STERNWOOD is calmly sitting on the couch, and KIT rocks furiously in the rocking chair. JEREMY is behind her, trying to keep order in everything. ELZBETH is sitting at the dining table, enjoying her pot roast, while BONNIE is picking up the plates off the table at the same time listening to the others.)

JEREMY *(to KIT)*. Will you LISTEN to me, Kit?

KIT. Oh, I'm sure you'll have a good excuse and I'm always open to hear your side of any story. Anybody who knows me can tell you I'm ALWAYS fair and open-minded and ALWAYS willing to hear ANYthing anyone has to say. So SHUT UP!

JEREMY. What?

STERNWOOD *(to ARLENE)*. Children can be so impetuous, can't they?

ARLENE. Some more than others.

STERNWOOD *(leans forward)*. Are you saying Kitten is TOO impetuous?

ARLENE. I was referring to Jeremy.

STERNWOOD *(relieved)*. Oh, my apologies. And also for bursting in on you in such a fashion.

ARLENE. No need; I assumed we'd meet sooner or later.

(BONNIE, still listening, moves to pick up ELZBETH's plate.)

ELZBETH. Hey, hey, hey!

(BONNIE looks at her.)

ELZBETH (*cont'd*). I'm still eating that.

BONNIE. Sorry.

(*BONNIE returns ELZBETH's plate and carries the rest to the kitchen door where she exits.*)

JEREMY. Kit, I don't know what you think was going on here, but I only came out because Mother invited me to dinner.

KIT. Do you do EVERYTHING your mother says?

JEREMY. No!

(*ARLENE looks over at him. JEREMY looks at her.*)

JEREMY (*cont'd*). Yes!

KIT. Well, which is it?

JEREMY (*looks up*). Can't I just have one argument at a time here?

STERNWOOD. Now, if we can just come to some agreement tonight, it would certainly help to expedite everything. (*Takes out a pen and notepad.*)

ARLENE. Sir, I really don't see there's anything to come to an agreement about.

STERNWOOD. Now, now, I can understand your reticence. After all, this house has been in your family for years and I'm sure you love it dearly.

ARLENE. That's very true. (*Leans over to him.*) And it loves me back. (*Sits back.*)

STERNWOOD (*a little unsettled*). Uh ... yes.

KIT. Here, you sneak out here, and date that ... that PERSON behind my back.

JEREMY. I DID NOT! I didn't even know she'd BE here.

KIT (*stops and looks at him*). She LIVES here.

JEREMY. I MEAN I didn't know it was a set-up.