

**FORGETTING CARL**  
**CHARACTERS**

**Carl Preston:** proper; perfectionist; selfless

**Alexandria (Alex) Washington:** intelligent;  
strong-willed

**Brian James:** sarcastic; difficult

**Klarissa Bradford:** coolheaded; receptive

**Clair Remington:** fashion prone; self-concerned

**Tod Richardson:** simple-minded; kind-hearted

**Sierra Nickels:** nurse; caring; bossy

**Medical Personnel**

**ACT ONE Scene One**

*The setting is present time in July in New Jersey. The stage setting is a furnished living room. Stage center left is a swinging door, which leads to kitchen. On stage right is the entrance door to the house. By the door is a coat hanger. Up stage right is a stair case, and up stage left are two closed doors, which leads to rooms. Center stage is a couch, two small round tables on each side, and a oval medium table in front. On each round table are matching lamps. There are two end chairs one on each side of couch, further away from tables. Center right is a door way, which leads to the dining room. The first scene begins on Wednesday afternoon. When the curtains open the stage is empty. The scene starts out with CARL entering stage right.*

CARL: *(Yells)* Is anyone home?! *(Pauses, no answer)* Hello?! *(Pauses)* Guys, I am calling a house meeting. *(Pauses, no answer)* I won the \$7,000,000 lottery, and I don't know what to do with the money. *(ALEX and KLARISSA enter from center left; TOD enters from up stage left; BRIAN (has a book in his hand) and CLAIR (has comb in her hand) enter from stairs. All are ad-libbing what to do with the money.)* Good you're all here.

BRIAN: The best thing to do is just give me the money.

CARL: *(Everyone ad-libbing)* I didn't win the lottery *(more ad-lib; ALEX exits center left to kitchen)* It was the only way I could get you down here. I am calling a house meeting. I need everyone's cooperation.

CLAIR: Carl, not now. I am very busy; I have too much to do. *(ALEX reenters with mug in hand with hot chocolate)*

CARL: Clair, combing your hair does not count as busy. Guys, come on, it'll be quick. *(Everyone assembles around the couch. BRIAN sits at end close to entrance door and begins to read book; CLAIR and KLARISSA sit next to BRIAN and begin to talk about CLAIR's hair style; ALEX sits on arm of chair closest to kitchen door; TOD sits on floor in front of ALEX, and behind the table in front of the couch. ALEX and TOD begin to talk about Sarah's (a friend) new born baby. As this is going on CARL is looking on frustrated. CARL clears throat)* Excuse me! *(Everyone quiets down; BRIAN closes book)* Are we finished? Thank you. I am here to speak with you about Friday evening. Everything is set up, and hopefully everything will go as planned. I want each of you to be at the shelter at 1600 hours. Please be prepared, and make sure each and everyone of you has a smile on your face. Oh, and don't forget to stay afterwards to help clean up. Any questions?

BRIAN: *(Raises hand)*: What the hell are you talking about, and why do I care?

CARL: The shelter. We are going to the shelter this Friday to help out.

BRIAN: No, I still don't see why I should care.

CARL: Don't you remember? Don't any of you remember? *(They all look confused)* You guys volunteered your time to help out at the shelter. The Christian Shelter Center on Willis Avenue. *(Everyone is still confused)*. You know, we're going to help serve the food to the poor and needy.

EVERYONE: OH!!

CARL: Yeah, Anyway, when we get there...

BRIAN: ...Wait! When did I volunteer?

CARL: I...I, uh I don't remember. I just remember asking you all, and you said yes.

EVERYONE: OH!!

CARL: Goodness. Anyways, when we get...

BRIAN: ...No, I really don't remember volunteering. I mean I usually don't volunteer for things. Isn't volunteering working without getting paid? *(Everyone nods, and says yes)* No I don't volunteer. You must got me mixed up with someone else.

CLAIR: Me too. The only time I volunteer is to do a make over on someone who desperately needs it.

ALEX: Yeah, I'm not sure I volunteered either; let me get my planner to make sure. *(Starts to get up to get planner)*

CARL: No! Don't get you're planner, I am pretty sure each and every one of you agreed to volunteer. *(TOD is looking into ALEX's mug, which is on the table, he spots something in cup)*

BRIAN: I don't volunteer! What is the purpose of volunteering? Working and not getting paid? That should be illegal.

TOD: What's that *(pointing into cup)*?

ALEX: It's hot chocolate, why do you care.

TOD: No, the stuff on top of the hot chocolate.

ALEX: It's marshmallows and nutmeg.

CLAIR: Mmm! That sounds tasty. You know what else tastes good. Vanilla extract.

KLARISSA: In hot chocolate. That doesn't sound too good. However a scoop of vanilla bean ice cream makes it tastes delicious.

ALEX: Yeah, that does sound good. Have you ever added eggnog to hot chocolate. It tastes somewhat good.

TOD: Mixing it with coffee is good. *(Everyone ad-libs)*

BRIAN: Have you ever tried hot white chocolate. *(Everyone ad-libs no)*. It is so good. My cousin made it once, from scratch of course.

CLAIR: How?!

BRIAN: She melted white chocolate bars, the expensive kind. She melted it into a liquid, and I think she added milk. It was so good.

KLARISSA: I would love to try that. *(Every one ad-libs yeah, yes etc.)*

CLAIR: That sounds much better than what my manicurist drinks. She adds alcohol to her hot chocolate.

ALEX: You mean Shelly, she adds alcohol to everything.

KLARISSA: Ooh, we should have a hot chocolate party. We can buy a bunch of goodies and taste and see what goes best with hot chocolate.

ALEX: That's a great idea. We should go to the store now.

CARL: *(Everyone ad-libs and starts to leave)* Hello?! You guys have completely gone off subject. Have you forgotten already about the shelter?

BRIAN: Carl, get over the shelter.

ALEX: Carl, I really don't think you should get all worked up for nothing. I am sure the shelter can find other people to help.

CARL: Yeah, you guys, they found you. When you decide to volunteer, you can't just back out.

BRIAN: But no one volunteered.

KLARISSA: Maybe we should just forget the whole meeting. *(Everyone ad-libs yes; everyone gets louder giving vibrations that they disagree with CARL)*

CARL: *(Speaking over them)* Alright, Alright, everyone quiet down! Okay, you win. You didn't volunteer, I volunteered you.

BRIAN: WHAT?! How dare you? *(Everyone is ad-libbing)*

CARL: I'm sorry. You just don't understand how much your help is needed. I have been working at the shelter for a long time, and each year more volunteers leave. People just don't care to volunteer anymore. It's so sad, that no one cares about these sad, poor, and innocent people. A lot of them have jobs, but they don't get paid enough to afford a home. They save there money to buy cheep clothing, and take care of their children. They come to the shelter for comfort and love. They're Americans who don't feel the love. They are our brothers and sisters, and we just don't care anymore. *(Pretending to cry)* The minister in charge of the shelter said that they needed more help, or they would have to reject those hopefuls

coming in for food, shelter, warmth, love, and fellowship with his or her fellow American. I thought we stood united. *(March of the Republican begins to play in back round)* Whatever happened to that. Okay, maybe you won't die for your country, but you won't help your fellow American who is working just as hard as you, but is not fortunate enough to have a good education to get a decent job. Well I am shocked at each and everyone of you, and if you decide not to volunteer, well then you have no right to call yourself an American. *(Music fades out, 30 second pause)*

BRIAN: Oh, please.

CLAIR: *(Sobbing)* Oh my gosh, that was beautiful *(more sobbing)* I'm so sorry, I'll help, I'll volunteer. *(BRIAN begins to read book)*

CARL: Oh, thank you Clair.

KLARISSA: I guess it wouldn't hurt. I'll be there. 4:00 sharp, right?

CARL: Klarissa, I promise you won't regret it.

TOD: Yeah, I'll be there to help my fellow American.

CARL: Thanks Tod. You're the man!

ALEX: You can count on me Carl.

CARL: I knew I could always count on you Alex.

BRIAN: *(Silence hits the room, all are waiting for BRIAN to pitch in, but he does not give in. He sits on the couch reading his book. All look at BRIAN. ALEX clears her throat and BRIAN looks up)* WHAT?! Oh, no. I said I wasn't volunteering. Besides you have more than enough. I not being there won't be any different than me being there.

CARL: Brian, think for a minute. What if it was you who needed help? What if you were the one entering the shelter. And all because one person decided not to volunteer HIS time, you could not enter the shelter because there were too many people and not enough help. Now remember you could be the poor one needing help. You could be the needy; you could be the down and out.

BRIAN: *(Thinks for a few seconds)* Well... I'm not. I am the up and in. And I am not going to the shelter on Friday. That's final.

ALEX: Come on Brian. *(Thinks for a few seconds)* If you do... I ... will buy you something.

BRIAN: You're bribing me? It won't work.

ALEX: Come on! Please, pretty please, with sugar on top.

BRIAN: Now you're coaxing me. Still not working.

ALEX: If you don't go I will-

BRIAN: Are you about to threaten me. That will never work.

ALEX: *(Speaks in firm voice)* I will call your mother.

BRIAN: Oh, please! *(Thinks, begins to look aggravated)* Fine! I will go.

TOD: *(Everyone begins to laugh and cheer)* You're afraid of your mother.

BRIAN: You don't understand my mother. She won't care that I am not volunteering. She'll just go on and on about how I never call, or write, or email, or fax or visit. I'm not in the mood for that.

CARL: Thanks Brian. Trust me; you all will enjoy volunteering at the shelter.

BRIAN: Yeah, whatever.

CARL: Alright, so everyone will be there at 4pm. Thanks everyone. I knew I could count on my friends.

### ACT ONE Scene Two

*Scene opens in living room. It is Thursday evening. When the lights come up the theme music for "The Jeffersons" is playing. BRIAN is sitting in the middle of the couch watching the television, he has a remote in his hand, and he is singing with the music. When song ends KLARISSA enters stage right through entrance door.*

KLARISSA: Hi.

BRIAN: Hello.

KLARISSA: Is anyone home?

BRIAN: Just you and me.

KLARISSA: Where is everyone?

BRIAN: Outside somewhere.

KLARISSA: Well, I could have figured that out by myself.

BRIAN: Then why did you ask?

CLAIR: *(KLARISSA exits up stage center, up the stairs. CLAIR enters stage right through entrance door. She has shopping bags in her hand.)* Smooches!

BRIAN: Hi.

CLAIR: Still, sitting in front of the TV. Don't you think you should go out and do something?

BRIAN: I did go out. How do you think the newspaper got in the house?

TOD: *(CLAIR exits stage left through kitchen door. TOD enters stage right through entrance door.)*  
Wuz Up!

BRIAN: Whatever.

TOD: So, whatcha doin'?

BRIAN: *(Sarcastically)* I'm playing chess with Chester, the imaginary elephant.

TOD: Cool. That's so rad, man. I used to know an imaginary zebra that lived outside my room when I was a kid. His name was Nebraska, but I called him Georgia.

BRIAN: Tod.

TOD: Yeah.

BRIAN: Shut up.

ALEX: *(TOD exits up stage left into his room. ALEX enters stage right through entrance door.)* Hey, how's it going?

BRIAN: Hey.

ALEX: *(Sits on end of couch closest to kitchen.)* Oh, "The Jeffersons". I love this show. *(Singing)* Well, we moving on up, to the east side...

BRIAN: Alex, please don't sing.

CARL: *(Enters stage right through entrance door.)* Hello. *(BRIAN, and ALEX say Hi.)* Is everyone home?

BRIAN: Yes, they are.

CARL: Oh, good. FIRE, FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!!! *(CLAIR, TOD, AND KLARISSA enter from places they exited. CLAIR, TOD, AND KLARISSA are screaming and running. They stand behind couch. KLARISSA stands behind ALEX, TOD stands behind BRIAN, and CLAIR stands next to TOD.)*

TOD: Call 911, Call 911.

BRIAN: *(To CARL)* What the hell is wrong with you?

KLARISSA: Carl, please don't tell me you were kidding.

CARL: Okay. I was joking. I needed a way to get you all in here.

CLAIR: You could have just called us in.

CARL: Would you have come? *(Pause. No response)* Exactly. I am calling a house meeting.

BRIAN: Not another one. Okay, new rule. Everyone is allowed one house meeting a month.

CARL: Whatever. I just need a quick rehearsal.

ALEX: A rehearsal?

CARL: Yeah, for the shelter. I want to make sure everyone knows what to do. No one leave, I'll be right back. *(Exits upstage right into door opening to get an unfolding table.)*

BRIAN: He can't be serious. A rehearsal. He has issues.

TOD: I hope I don't get a lot of lines. I'm terrible at remembering lines.

BRIAN: Clair. *(CLAIR slaps him in the face.)* Klarissa. *(KLARISSA slaps him in the head)* Thank you. I hope this is quick the Family Matters Marathon is coming on. *(Everyone ad-libs)*

ALEX: What time? I would love to see that.

BRIAN: *(Looks at watch)* in 30 minutes.

CARL: *(Enters up stage right with folding table. He sets up table center stage right.)* Okay, everyone assemble themselves behind the table.

ALEX: Carl, what are you doing?

CARL: I'm pretending that this is the table where we will all be standing. We are serving food to the poor. I'm going to show you the correct way to serve the food. And also the correct ways to greet the people.

CLAIR: You can't be serious. I'm not going to waste my time rehearsing for volunteering. I have a busy schedule Carl. Its bad enough I cancelled my pedicure, manicure, and facial appointment just to volunteer. I am not about to waste anymore time here. Sorry Carl, I can't rehearse. You know Carl if you got a life, you wouldn't have time to rehearse either.

CARL: Come on guys, don't be such mean, unpatriotic, self-centered, unkind, crazy people. If you go to the shelter and mistreat one person, you can set off a bomb. It won't take long, and besides the longer you argue with me, the more time you waste. So let's go, everyone on their feet, and stand behind the table.

ALEX: Carl, if we do this you have to promise not to bother us again.

CARL: Fine, but everyone has to rehearse.

ALEX: Come on guys, Carl promises it will be quick. *(Everyone gets up except BRIAN. He continues to watch TV. ALEX takes the remote and turns off TV. BRIAN looks at her with anger)* Come on Brian, the sooner we do this the quicker we will be finished.

BRIAN: *(Gets up)* When and why did I ever agree to live with you people.

CARL: *(Everyone is behind the table. Brian is standing closest to the audience, then it's KLARISSA, TOD, CLAIR, and ALEX being furthest away from the audience.)* Okay this is what you do. You will take a serving spoon and serve them one or two spoons of the dish that will be in front of you. As you serve you will greet them with a Hello, or Hi, or Good Evening, something like that. Does everyone understand? *(Everyone nods yes)* Good. Let's start, I will pretend to be a poor man and I will pass each of you. Know depending how you serve and greet me depends if we finish rehearsal sooner. Let's begin. *(Walks up stage and begins where ALEX is. Holds out imaginary plate in front of ALEX.)*

ALEX: *(serves one spoon of food. Note: all food, spoons, and pots are imaginary)* Hi, and how are you sir?

CARL: Stop! Why are you asking a question?

ALEX: Uh...Well, I thought that I...

CARL: ... No questions. If you ask a question they may answer it. They might even take a couple of minutes to answer the question. Those minutes will hold up the line. We do not want to hold up the line, we want to move it along. So, no questions! Understand? *(Everyone nods yes)* Good. Let's start again. *(Walks up to ALEX again with imaginary plate)*

ALEX: *(serves one spoon of food)* Hi, sir.

CLAIR: Hey, sweetie!

CARL: Stop! What the hell was that?

CLAIR: What?

CARL: Hey, sweetie? I am a poor person getting food, *not* your boyfriend.

CLAIR: But that's how I greet people, I don't see...

CARL: ... That's enough. There are no sweeties, honeys, sugars, or babies getting served. Understand? *(Everyone nods yes)* Good. Let's start again. *(Returns to ALEX with plate)*

ALEX: *(serves spoon of food)* Hi, sir.

CLAIR: *(serves spoon of food)* Hello, sir.

TOD: *(serves two spoons of food)* Wuz Up?!

CARL: Stop! *(Speaks with anger)* What the hell?! First of all this is not a beer commercial! Secondly why are you serving me two spoons?

TOD: You said we would be serving one or two spoons. Am I supposed to ask how many they want?

CARL: No questions! You serve two, *if and only if* they ask for two spoons. Understand? *(Everyone nods)* Good. We are starting again *(Returns to ALEX)*

ALEX: (serves spoon of food) Hi, sir.

CLAIR: (serves spoon of food) Hello, sir.

TOD: *(serves spoon of food)* Good Evening.

KLARISSA: *(slops food on plate)* Good day, sir.

CARL: Stop!

BRIAN: Damn, man! Would you come on. *(Smacks teeth)* I don't have time for this.

CARL: This takes time. See this is why we needed a rehearsal. You guys don't know what you are doing. Klarissa, there is no slopping food on the plate. You place carefully. Secondly this event is happening in the evening, so you don't say good day. *(With frustration)* Understand? *(Everyone nods yes)* Good. Back to the beginning, and please get this right. *(Returns to ALEX)*

ALEX: *(serves spoon of food)* Hi, sir.

CLAIR: *(serves spoon of food)* Hello, sir.

TOD: *(serves spoon of food)* Good Evening.

KLARISSA: *(serves spoon of food)* Hello, sir.

BRIAN: *(serves spoon of food, and speaks with frustration)* Hi.

CARL: Stop!

ALEX: *(speaks with frustration)* Carl, you're just being annoying now.

CARL: He said his hi in a mean way. I need to feel welcomed when I am in the shelter.

BRIAN: You're about to get slapped in the shelter.

CLAIR: That's enough Carl. We get it now. No questions, no sweeties, no two scoops unless they ask, no slopping, and no being mean. Okay rehearsal is over.

CARL: No, guys this takes time. You can't be shelter volunteers without rehearsal.

BRIAN: Well, then I guess we can't be volunteers. That works for me.

CARL: Come on guys don't do this to me. I need your help, and cooperation.

ALEX: Carl, we are helping you. We said we would volunteer. That's enough, the rehearsal is over.

CARL: *(Reluctant)* Fine, but you promise to be there tomorrow.

ALEX: Yes!

CARL: I need to hear everyone say yes.

EVERYONE: YES! (*BRIAN goes to couch and uses remote to turn on the TV*)

CARL: Good. See you all tomorrow. Please be on time, 4pm sharp.

ALEX: Carl, Don't worry we will all be there on time and ready to go. We will all be focused and... (*The theme music for Family Matters comes on, TOD, CLAIR, KLARISSA, and ALEX run to the couch.*) Ooh, It's on! (*Everyone except Carl sit in front of the TV to watch Family Matters. CARL throws his hands up and goes up stairs. Lights*)

### ACT ONE Scene Three

*Scene is in living room. It is Saturday afternoon. The day after volunteering. The scene starts with BRIAN on the couch watching TV. He is humming along with the theme music to I Love Lucy, and eating cookies & cream ice cream. When the theme is over KLARISSA enters stage right from entrance door.*

KLARISSA: Hey, what's up?

BRIAN: Nothing. (*Looking guilty*) So, I didn't see you at the shelter. I guess Carl made you do something else, you know instead of serving food.

KLARISSA: No, (*hesitating*) actually I didn't go.

BRIAN: Klarissa, how dare you. Carl depended on you.

KLARISSA: I know, I couldn't go. On the way to the shelter I stopped by the supermarket. Well, while I was there this guy, whom was so sexy, bumped into me and before I knew it, I was at the movies with him. I feel really bad. So, how was it?

BRIAN: Well, actually, it was, well. (*Sounds guilty*) I didn't go either.

KLARISSA: I should have known. Well, I am sure they all noticed we were not there and will be upset.

BRIAN: Especially Carl.

CLAIR: (*enters stage right through entrance door*) Hey, sweeties.

BRIAN: If Carl heard you say that he would be upset.

CLAIR: Oh, who cares? Besides I wasn't there for him to be mad.

BRIAN: Wasn't where?

CLAIR: The shelter.

BRIAN: Clair, I am shocked.

CLAIR: I'm sorry, but I couldn't go. Remember when I said I cancelled my pedicure, manicure and

facial, just to volunteer. Well, I didn't actually cancel it at that time. When I called to reschedule they told me it would take about a month just to get another appointment. I could not go another month with my hands, feet, and face looking the way they did. So, I went to my appointment. I feel really bad, but I'm sure those poor people will understand.

BRIAN: Maybe they can, but Carl won't. He depended on you Clair, and you let him down. You should be ashamed.

KLARISSA: Shut up Brian. He didn't go either. Neither did I.

CLAIR: *(To BRIAN)* I've should have known. Well, I'm sure everyone else will be upset with us.

KLARISSA: Yeah, especially Carl.

TOD: *(Enters stage right through entrance door)* Howdy, everyone.

BRIAN: So, Tod, how was the shelter volunteering?

TOD: I don't know yet, I'll find out when I got to the shelter.

BRIAN: The volunteering was yesterday, genius.

TOD: Oh, no, I thought it was Friday.

BRIAN: Yesterday was Friday.

TOD: Oh, no, I totally forgot. Bummer, that really sucks. I'm so sorry, can you guys ever forgive me.

BRIAN: No.

KLARISSA: Brian, shut up. *(To TOD)* Don't worry, all of us were a bit occupied, and wasn't able to go. Including Brian.

TOD: Man, when Alex and Carl get home they are going to be upset with us.

CLAIR: Yeah, especially Carl.

BRIAN: If we didn't go chances are Alex didn't go either.

CLAIR: No, Alex wouldn't break her word. I am sure she went.

KLARISSA: *(To BRIAN)* Yeah, she's the one that made you agree to go. There is no way she would not show up.

ALEX: *(Enters stage right through entrance door)* Hello everyone. How's everyone doing?

BRIAN: *(Mocking CARL)* No questions. *(Laughing)* How was the shelter work?

ALEX: What?

BRIAN: *(To KLARISSA and CLAIR)* I told you.

ALEX: *(To KLARISSA)* What is he talking about?

KLARISSA: The volunteer work. None of us went. I'm sure you're aware of that, since you didn't see any of us there.

ALEX: *(Feeling guilty)* Well, yeah, of course, I didn't see *(pause)* any *(pause)* of you *(pause)* there. I'm disappointed in each and everyone of you.

BRIAN: *(To KLARISSA and CLAIR)* I told you. She didn't go.

CLAIR: *(To ALEX)* You were there, right? *(Pause, no response)* Alex, how could you not show up?

ALEX: I'm sorry, but I was preoccupied. Besides, none of you went either.

CLAIR: Well, it's different for us. You're the responsible one. If any one of us should have went, it should have been you.

ALEX: That is so stupid. Carl is going to be upset with us.

TOD: Yeah, especially Carl. *(They look at him puzzled)*

KLARISSA: *(To ALEX)* So, what were you doing?

ALEX: Well, I was about to go to the shelter and my mom called me. She said she was in New Jersey for business and had some time to hang out. Well, I don't get to see her much, so I told her that I would go out with her. I completely forgot about the whole shelter. I feel so bad.

CLAIR: We all do.

TOD: Yeah. I feel like... like...like a turtle who doesn't have a shell.

BRIAN: Tod.

TOD: Yeah.

BRIAN: *(frustrated)* Shut Up. *(Looks back at TV and begins to watch. Doorbell rings)*

ALEX: Who could that be.

BRIAN: *(sarcastically)* A person ringing the doorbell.

ALEX: Shut up Brian. *(Opens doors. At the door is Carl in a wheelchair. Behind him is the MEDICAL PERSONNEL)* Oh my gosh. What happened?! *(To the MEDICAL PERSONNEL)* Come in. *(MEDICAL PERSONNEL rolls in CARL. KLARISSA, CLAIR, and TOD gasp and ad-lib "what happened". Brian is watching TV and is not paying attention to what is going on.)*

MEDICAL PERSONNEL: *(To ALEX)* There was a problem at the shelter. He's been in the hospital since yesterday. He's doing better now. He'll just need help getting around. *(To CARL)* Well, it was nice meeting you. *(To everyone)* Goodbye. *(Exits stage right through entrance door.)*

*SIMULTANEOUSLY*

ALEX: What happened?

KLARISSA: Are you okay?

CLAIR: Who did this to you?

TOD: Wow, a wheelchair do you get to keep it?

BRIAN: Would you guys keep it down. I'm trying to watch Lucy. It's the vitametavegamin episode.

*SIMULTANEOUSLY (All run to the couch.)*

ALEX: Oh, I love that episode.

KLARISSA: Ooh, that's a funny episode.

CLAIR: Lucy is too funny.

TOD: Try to say that 3 times fast.

Vitametavegamin

CARL: Hello! Crippled man over here.

*SIMULTANEOUSLY (They run back to CARL)*

ALEX: I'm so sorry, Carl

KLARISSA: I didn't mean to ignore

you.

CLAIR: Sorry, got caught up in Lucy.

TOD: Sorry, dude.

BRIAN: *(Looks at CARL)* What happened to you?

CARL: *(To All. Frustrated)* You weren't there!

**CURTAINS**

## ACT TWO Scene One

*The scene continues from Act One Scene three. Everyone is in the same positions. It is now Saturday Evening.*

CARL: You weren't there. How dare you?!

*SAID ALL AT ONCE*

ALEX: Well, actually at the last minute my mother...

CLAIR: Well, you see, I had an appointment...

KLARISSA: I was on my way, but I had to stop at the supermarket...

TOD: I'm so sorry Carl, I just completely forgot about the whole thing...

BRIAN: Well, you see, what had happened was...

CARL:... SHUT UP!!!!

ALEX: Carl, calm down, it's not what you think.

KLARISSA: *(To CARL)* What happened?

CLAIR: *(TO CARL)* Yeah, how did you get into a wheelchair?

CARL: It was terrible, no, it was horrible, horrific, unbelievable, painful, extremely bad, it was...

BRIAN: Carl, we get the picture.

CARL: Oh, no you don't. You won't be able to get the picture unless you were there. Which you were *NOT*.

ALEX: Carl, give us a break.

CARL: A break? What kind of a break? Like the break my bones received last night. You don't deserve a break.

CLAIR: Could you just tell us what happened so we can start feeling bad for you.

CARL: *(Looks at CLAIR with anger)* Well, it started pretty good. I was there around 2pm. I started to help set up. Around 3:30pm they were allowing the people to come in the shelter. It was about 4:30pm when I realized that none of you were there yet. One of the ministers asked me where you guys were. Sadly enough I could not give her an answer. I had to tell her, I don't know, they just didn't show up.

BRIAN: Did you tell her we originally didn't volunteer.

ALEX: Brian! Show some consideration. Continue Carl.

CARL: It was terrible. By 6pm it was really crowded. I did not know there were that many homeless people in New Jersey. It was so sad and depressing. However I wasn't sad, I was angry. There I am serving hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people 10, 20, 30 different dishes. Corn, peas, potato

salad, macaroni and cheese, pasta, spaghetti, garden salad, string beans, and a bunch of other dishes. Serving them all by myself, and of course everyone asked for two spoon fulls. The other ministers tried to help, but there was just too many people there and not enough help. It would have been much better if there were volunteers. By the time I try to get everyone in order, I went crazy. My head is spinning, I running from corn to peas to chicken to hot dogs. I'm scooping, and serving, and spooning. I was about to loose my mind. And then it happened one of the poor citizens took one of the spoons and served himself, and before you know it people are pushing and shoving and screaming, and.. I couldn't take it, I yelled, EVERYONE CALM DOWN! And that was it, they all ran for the table and trampled everything. I fell to the floor and everyone ran over me, and then that's all I remember. When I woke up I was in a hospital bed. The doctor told me I passed out on the floor of the shelter. I couldn't believe it. Not the fact that I fainted, or that the shelter went into chaos. *(Pause)* I couldn't believe my own friends promised to be there, and did not show up. The worse part was that none of you had the guts to call and tell me you weren't coming. *(Pause, no response)* Well, what happened? Do you hate me? Did you want to get back at me for not telling you I volunteered you? What was it? *(Pause, no response)*. WOULD SOMEONE SAY SOMETHING *(Pause)*

TOD: I just forgot to go.

CARL: Well, that's acceptable for him, but what about the rest of you?

CLAIR: I'm sorry, I couldn't cancel my pedicure, manicure, and facial appointment. I tried to reschedule, but they said it would take a whole month. I'm really sorry. If I would have known I couldn't reschedule I would have never promised to volunteer, and then you wouldn't have even expected me to be there. This is all the spa's fault. If they would have been able to reschedule me for next week, I would have been there. Sorry.

KLARISSA: I guess me not being there is my fault. I stopped by the supermarket for mints, because I didn't want my breath to stink, while I was serving the people. While I was there this guy, *who was really sexy* bumped into me. We started talking and then he asked me to the movies. I just couldn't resist his beautiful eyes, and his sunrise like smile, his lovable voice and his great butt, and his big hands and feet, and his...

CARL: Okay Klarissa, I get it.

KLARISSA: I'm really sorry. I didn't mean to break my promise.

ALEX: I'm sorry too. My mom called me as I was leaving to go to the shelter. She said she was coming to New Jersey for business. She said she only had that time to spend with me. You know that I don't get to spend much time with her. She is always traveling, and she lives in California, so, you know. It was the only time I could spend with her.

CARL *(really frustrated)* That doesn't mean anything. You still could have called me.

SAID AT SAME TIME

ALEX: Sorry, Carl, I guess I forgot.

KLARISSA: It just left my mind, I'm sorry.

CLAIR: I'm sorry, I feel so bad.

CARL: What about you Brian?

BRIAN: I just didn't feel like going. I figured everyone else will be there, so why should I go. I thought

you would all be so busy, you wouldn't have even noticed I wasn't there.

CARL: Great! That's what friends are for, right. They are there to lie to you. *(Starts to cry)* To not be there for you. To not call when they decide to break a promise. To break promises! Just great!

ALEX: Carl, I'm so sorry. What can I do for you? What can *we* do for you?

BRIAN: We?

ALEX: Yes, we. This is somewhat our fault. We volunteered to be there and we did not show up.

BRIAN: But we really didn't volunteer.

ALEX: Shut up Brian. So, Carl, what do you want? Whatever it is we will get it.

CARL: Um...Uh...Well, I could use some ice cream. Cookies and cream please.

ALEX: Brian, get him some cookies and cream ice cream.

BRIAN: That's not going to happen. *(Shows empty box of ice cream)* I ate it already.

ALEX: Store Brian.

BRIAN: What about it?

ALEX: Brian, go to the store. *(BRIAN gets up and gets coat off coat rack. Exits stage right through entrance door.)* Klarissa roll Carl to his room, and help him get into bed. Clair get his favorite video to watch, and Tod get him some tea.

CLAIR: And what are you doing?

ALEX: I'm getting a drink.

TOD: I thought that's what I was doing?

ALEX: I'm getting a drink for me.

TOD: *(ALEX and TOD exit stage left through kitchen door. KLARISSA rolls CARL upstage left to room. CLAIR follows KLARISSA to CARL'S room to get video. Minutes later KLARISSA and CLAIR exit CARL'S room, enters living room, and sits on couch. TOD exits kitchen with a mug with tea and enters CARL'S room. TOD exits CARL'S room without mug and then goes into his room and gets bell, reenters CARL'S room, and exits without bell. TOD sits on the arm of the couch closest to the kitchen door. ALEX exits kitchen with a glass of beverage with a straw, she is drinking as she exits. TOD speaks to ALEX)* I gave him a bell so he can ring it when he needs something.

ALEX: Good idea.

KLARISSA: Where did you get a bell from?

TOD: My room.

KLARISSA: What is a bell doing in your room.

TOD: It was attached to the church in my Super Mega-Man village play set. It's attachable so I'll be able to attach it back when Carl is done with it.

KLARISSA, ALEX, CLAIR: Super Mega-Man village? *(Pause)*

CLAIR: Anyway, I really don't think that was a good idea. Chances are he's going to ring it just to annoy us. You know, get back at us, for not showing up at the shelter.

ALEX: Carl won't do that. *(Bell rings, and ALEX goes to CARL's room. After a few seconds ALEX returns.)* He... just wanted to know ... if we could hear him.

CLAIR: I told you.

KLARISSA: If he's going to keep doing that, I'll get a hotel room until he's better.

ALEX: Come on guys, it's our fault he is in a wheelchair. He needs our help. Just remember it's temporarily.

CLAIR: *(Bell rings)* I'm not getting up.

ALEX: Tod, would you please?

TOD: *(Goes to CARL's room. Returns seconds later)* He just wanted to make sure we were still here.

CLAIR: *(gets up as if she is about to pack)* Okay, I'm checking in at the Hilton.

ALEX: Guys, it's not that bad. It's temporarily, he'll be up and okay in no time.

CLAIR: *(Bell rings)* Klarissa it's your turn.

KLARISSA: No it's not, Tod go check what he wants.

TOD: I just went.

ALEX: *(Bell rings, ALEX looks back at CARL's direction)* Just a minute Carl. We have to get some kind of order.

CLAIR: What do you mean?

ALEX: An order of who goes to check on Carl. So when he rings the bell whose ever turn it is, goes to check on him.

KLARISSA: Well, that sounds logical. I volunteer Alex to be first.

ALEX: *(Bell rings)* Just a minute Carl! Fine, who's going second.

KLARISSA & CLAIR: Tod.

TOD: That's not fair.

CLAIR: Hey, life's not fair. Klarissa you're going third. I guess that makes me last.

KLARISSA: *(Brian enters stage right through entrance door, he has many shopping bags in his hands)* I guess that makes Brian last.

BRIAN: Last. Last of what? What you talking about Klarissa?

KLARISSA: We're making an order of who checks on Brian. Alex is first, then Tod, *(annoyed)* then me, then Clair, and lastly you.

CLAIR: Yeah, when he rings the bell...

BRIAN: Bell?

CLAIR: Yeah, the bell. When he rings it, whose ever turn it is goes to check on him.

BRIAN: Who gave him a bell?

TOD: *(Sure of himself)* I did.

BRIAN: *(To TOD)* I should slap you.

TOD: Why do you have so many bags? I thought you were only getting ice cream

BRIAN: I decided to get some things for me.

CLAIR: And you got nothing for us. How rude.

BRIAN: Ya didn't ask for anything.

ALEX: *(BRIAN takes bags to the kitchen. Bell rings.)* I'm coming Carl. *(Walks to CARL's room)*

KLARISSA: And just to think this is going to last for about 2 weeks.

CLAIR: No way. Carl is not that crippled. Believe me, he will get well, or I will beat him well. *(ALEX returns from room and starts to enter kitchen)* What did he want?

ALEX: His ice cream. *(Enters kitchen)*

TOD: *(takes remote from table in front of couch and turns on TV. The theme music for Three's Company comes on.)* Ooh! *(Singing)* "Come on knock on my door, we'll be waiting for you etc." *(KLARISSA and CLAIR sit on the couch and nod along with song. ALEX exits kitchen with ice cream and spoon. BRIAN exits with bag of potato chips)*

BRIAN: I thought the Three's Company marathon comes on tomorrow.

TOD: No, the Facts of Life marathon comes on tomorrow.

BRIAN: (*Puts chips on table*) I thought that comes on Monday.

TOD: No, the Different Strokes marathon comes on Monday.

BRIAN: Oh. I should get a video tape ready. (*Goes up stairs to get video*)

ALEX: (*ALEX returns from room. Bell rings*) What could he want now.

CLAIR: That's for Tod to figure out.

TOD: Oh man! (*Exits to CARL's room*)

CLAIR: (*To ALEX*) What took you so long?

ALEX: We were talking about the incident at the shelter. I told him about my day with my mom. I told him how sorry I was. But he understood, he knows I don't get to spend much time with my mom. (*TOD returns from room*) What did he want?

TOD: He wants a glass of milk, and a piece of chocolate cake. Do we even have cake?

CLAIR: Yes, I baked it, however I hid it so noone would eat it. He must have found it. That sneaky bastard. (*TOD enters kitchen.*)

ALEX: Clair! That's so rude. And why are you hiding cake?

CLAIR: Everything I bake winds being ate before I get any. So I thought, I'll hide it.

TOD: (*Tod exits kitchen with a glass of milk and a piece of cake on a plate*) Wow, Clair, this cake looks good. You mind if I have some.

CLAIR: Yeah, I guess. No need in hiding it now.

TOD: Thanks. (*Exits to CARL's room*)

KLARISSA: Does that mean we can have some too?

CLAIR: Whatever, just make sure you save me some.

KLARISSA: Thanks Clair. *(KLARISSA and ALEX exit to the kitchen. BRIAN enters from stairs with video in his hand. TOD returns from CARL's room)*

CLAIR: *(To BRIAN)* What took you so long?

BRIAN: I had to find a video that wasn't full. I forgot about all the other shows I taped.

CLAIR: You're such a TV land junkie.

KLARISSA: *(The bell rings. CLAIR and BRIAN look back at the room. KLARISSA pops her head out of the kitchen door with a milk mustache.)* Who's turn is it?

CLAIR: It's your turn Mr.

KLARISSA: What?

BRIAN: Wipe your mouth milky.

KLARISSA: Oh. *(Wipes mouth. Exits to CARL's room. TOD exits to.)*

CLAIR: I hope he gets everything he needs, because I don't feel like getting up.

BRIAN: He doesn't want all that stuff. He's just getting back at us.

CLAIR: That's what I said, but Alex doesn't believe me. I knew all along he was pulling this stunt. I'm just not going to do anything because I feel bad. I mean I guess I could have waited a month for my appointment. *(Looks at nails)*. No, I needed it done.

BRIAN: I could care less. He started this *whole* thing by volunteering our services *without* asking. If anything he deserved getting trampled like a pinata.

KLARISSA: *(Exits from CARL's room)* He's getting on my nerves. First he said he just needed someone to talk to. Then he asked for a massage. Now he wants to borrow my CD's so he can listen to some music. And he knows how much I feel about my CD's. He's just doing this because I didn't show up. He could be so annoying. I would hurt him, if he wasn't already.

BRIAN: I would hurt him whether he's hurt or not. *(KLARISSA exits up stairs to get CD's. Bell rings.)* It's your turn sweetie.

CLAIR: *(Gets up and exits to CARL's room)* This is too annoying.

ALEX: *(ALEX and TOD exit kitchen. Each is holding napkins and a glass or cup of milk. ALEX has a straw in her cup or glass)* I see he's still ringing that bell.

BRIAN: Yeah. He enjoys annoying people.

ALEX: It's only temporarily. *(KLARISSA exits from stairs with a CD case in her hand, she exits to CARL's room. As she enters CLAIR exits CARL's room.)* Wow. He really has you guys working.

CLAIR: How long must this go on? Where do we keep the magazines?

ALEX: Upstairs in the guest room. They are alphabetized. I spent last week doing that myself. *(Drinks milk)*

BRIAN: *(In a sarcastic and uncaring way)* And your point. Would you like an award?

ALEX: No, I just want you all to keep it that way.

CLAIR: Whatever. *(Exits up stairs)*

KLARISSA: *(Exits CARL's room)* If there is one scratch in my CD's, there will be a scratch in his ass.

ALEX: Come on guys. You're not being nice. Yes Carl is somewhat annoying ringing that bell, but he's crippled. And would not be crippled if we would have all showed up at the shelter. So I think it is only fair that we endure this until he gets better. Believe me it is only temporarily.

CLAIR *(Exits from up stairs with some magazines in her hands.)* This is so annoying. If I kill him, will you guys miss him?

BRIAN: No. But don't kill him yet. I don't like wearing black in the summer. *(CLAIR exits to CARL's room)*

ALEX: *(Sarcastically)* How considerate.

BRIAN: Yeah, I know.

KLARISSA: Anyways, what's on TV?

BRIAN: Well, tonight the...

KLARISSA: *(Cuts him off)*... Besides TV land.

BRIAN: Nothing much. Just a bunch of reality shows.

ALEX: I'm so sick of all of them. They should have real reality shows. Like record a real bank robbery.

BRIAN: No. They should follow celebrities 24/7 so we know what they look like when they wake up in the morning.

KLARISSA: That would be funny. I always wanted to see music celebrities backstage. So we get a glimpse at what they do back there.

BRIAN: They get hi.

TOD: They should have a reality show on women and the problems they have after breast implants.

BRIAN: *(To TOD)* This is exactly why you are never invited into conversations.

CLAIR: *(Exits CARL's room)* So what were you talking about while I was gone.

ALEX: Reality shows.

CLAIR: Oh. Nothing special.

BRIAN: *(Bell rings)* What could he possibly want now!?

CLAIR: You'll find that out as soon as you check on him.

BRIAN: This is so annoying. I'm putting an end to this now.

ALEX: Brian what are you planning to do?

BRIAN: *(Exits to CARL's room)* Don't worry about it.

ALEX: What is he doing?

KLARISSA: He said don't worry.

ALEX: When Brian says don't worry, that means to worry.

CARL: *(offstage)* Brian, give that back!

ALEX: I knew he was starting trouble. *(BRIAN exits CARL's room with bell in his hand)*. What are you going to do with that?

BRIAN: You'll see. *(He opens the entrance door and exits)*

ALEX: *(Follows BRIAN out the door. Said offstage)* BRIAN WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?! BRIAN NO!  
*(BRIAN enters the entrance door and ALEX follows.)* I can't believe you did that!

CLAIR: What did he do?

TOD: Where's the bell?

CARL: *(offstage)* ALEX!

ALEX: Hold on Carl. He threw it out in the street, and a car ran over it.

TOD: It's broken?

BRIAN: *(sarcastically)* No, it jumped out of the way.

TOD: *(relieved)* Oh, good.

CARL: *(offstage)* KLARISSA!

KLARISSA: Carl, hold on.

ALEX: Tod, he's joking, yes it broke.

TOD: Oh, know!

BRIAN: What do you care?

TOD: That was my bell. It came from the church in my Super Mega-Man village play set.

BRIAN: You can't be serious.

CARL: *(offstage)* CLAIR!

CLAIR: Carl, would you wait.

TOD: Yes, I am serious. And you're going to pay for a new one.

BRIAN: Tod, grow up. I can't believe you are still playing with play sets.

CARL: *(offstage)* TOD!

TOD: *(Looking towards CARL's room)* Dude. Wait! *(To BRIAN)* Whether I play with play sets or not is my business. You broke my bell so you have to get me a new one!

BRIAN: Tod. Please calm down. I will get you...

CARL: *(offstage)* BRIAN!!!!!!

EVERYONE: SHUT UP CARL!!!

ALEX: Brian it's your turn.

BRIAN: I brought him the ice cream, that was my turn.

KLARISSA: Alex we can't keep doing this.

ALEX: Well, what do we do?

TOD: *(pause in the room)* We could hire someone to do it.

CLAIR: Tod you're a genius.

ALEX: Who?

TOD: Maybe someone like the mailman.

BRIAN: So much for him being a genius.

KLARISSA: Can't you call the hospital and get a nurse.

ALEX: How much money do they cost.

CLAIR: I don't care, I'll chip in. I'd rather pay for a nurse than run around like a servant.

ALEX: Well, then that solves it. I call right now.

CARL: *(offstage, sounding pitiful)* Will someone help me. *(Lights out)*

## ACT TWO Scene Two

*The scene is the same. It is Monday Morning. All are awaiting the nurses arrival. They are all around the TV. BRIAN, KLARISSA, and ALEX are sitting on the couch. ALEX and BRIAN are sitting on the ends, ALEX is closest to the entrance door. CARL is in wheelchair next to ALEX. TOD is sitting on an end chair next to BRIAN and CLAIR is sitting on an end chair next to CARL. When the lights come up the theme to the Cosby Show comes on (anyone of them). When the song is over the doorbell rings, they all look at the door and then back at the TV. The doorbell rings again and ALEX gets up to get it. Sierra is at the door.)*

ALEX: Hello, may I help you?

SIERRA: Hello, my name is Sierra Nickels. I am from J & J Hospital. I came to help assist a patient at this address.

ALEX: Oh, yes, please do come in. Your help is very much needed.

SIERRA: So, where is the patient?

BRIAN: Gee, I don't know. Maybe the one in the wheelchair.

SIERRA: *(Ignores BRIAN's sarcasm. Speaks to CARL)* Hello, what's your name?

BRIAN: Brian.

SIERRA: I was speaking to the patient.

BRIAN: Carl.

ALEX: Let me introduce you to everyone. *(Pointing to each one as she says their name. As she says each name each one waves at SIERRA.)* This is Carl, that's Klarissa, Clair, Tod, and you've met Brian. I'm Alexandra, but you can call me Alex.

SIERRA: Well, now that we've finished the introductions I will take Carl to his room.

CARL: Oh, please don't, I'd rather stay here.

SIERRA: But it's better that you be alone at this time, so that you can make a faster recovery.

CARL: I've been in there all day for two days straight. Please don't make me go back in there.

SIERRA: Well, you must be alone. Uh... if you stay in here then everyone else will have to leave.

CARL: Well, that's fine with me.

BRIAN: Not with me.

ALEX: *(Motioning them to leave)* Uh, guys. It's okay Sierra, we will leave.

CLAIR: Do we really have to leave. I am sure Carl can recover with us around.

ALEX: Guys, please cooperate. *(To SIERRA)* We'll be out of the way. *(BRIAN turns off TV with remote. Then BRIAN, TOD, KLARISSA, and CLAIR, exit up stairs ad-libbing their complaints.)* Sorry about that, they just need to get used to you being around here.

SIERRA: No problem. See ya.

ALEX: See ya. *(Exits up stairs)*

SIERRA: *(Sits down on couch next to Carl)* So, Carl how are you feeling?

CARL: I'm doing fine. My legs are a bit stiff.

SIERRA: Would you like a massage?

CARL: If you insist.

SIERRA: *(Begins to massage CARL's legs)* So, what happened to you?

CARL: I was in an accident. I was at the Christian Shelter Center last Friday volunteering my services.

SIERRA: Oh, I used to do that, but I stopped. That place is a mad house. There's not enough volunteers.

CARL: Don't I know it. It's the reason why I'm in a wheelchair. You see I was at the shelter serving the food by myself, and it got hectic. People got anxious and just started pushing and shoving. Before I knew it I passed out while people trample over me for food. It was terrible.

SIERRA: Oh, you poor thing. Well, this house is pretty full. Why didn't you ask some of them to help you?

CARL: I did. I asked them all. At the last minute they all backed out, without calling me. I felt betrayed.

SIERRA: Well, that's sad too. You know friends are great to have, but every now then they can let you down. That's why it's important not to have too many.

CARL: They're the only ones I have. They're really good to me when they want to be.

SIERRA: Do you all live here? Together?

CARL: Yeah, the house is big enough.

SIERRA: How do you pay for it? You guys look awful young to afford a house like this.

CARL: Well, actually Alex received this house after her grandfather died. He left it to her in his will. He was 103. It was amazing; the funeral. All those people showed just to hear the results of his will. 9 out of 10 of them were disappointed. The house was so big Alex didn't know what to do with it. So she asked us to move in with her. We told her to save it for her husband and kids, but she said she wouldn't want to live in this house. She said she wanted to go through the process of picking one out with her husband. She said she's going to use this as a get away from her family. So we all agreed to live here.

SIERRA: How did you guys meet?

CARL: The fifth grade pageant. We all enter fifth grade as new students. We attended other elementary schools, and enter Richardson elementary as frightened shy fifth graders. We all knew of each other because we were all known as the new kids. Anyway, at the pageant everyone was put into groups. The theme of the pageant was "What to be when I grow up". We were put into the doctors category; we were either a physician, specialist, surgeons, nurses etc. I was the doctor. We didn't talk to each other, we just rehearsed and that was it. Well, one day after a snack break, the teachers had called the classes back to rehearsal. Well, Tod was still eating his snack; a carrot and he just looked at me and said, "What's up Doc?" After that we all laughed and that pretty much broke the ice. For some crazy reason that made us laugh. Ever since then we've been friends. Sometimes people can't believe we stayed friends this long, but we have. We've been through a lot together, and it's made us stronger. They're great group of people.

SIERRA: *(Stops massaging)* Well. *(Pauses.)* What a story. So, can I do anything else for you?

CARL: Do you mind turning the TV on for me?

SIERRA: *(Takes remote on table in front of couch and turns TV on)* There you go. Is there anything else?

CARL: Well, *(About to say yes)* um...uh...no.

SIERRA: Come on Carl, you can ask me for anything. I am here to help you recover.

CARL: Well, I did want some oreo cookies, but there's no need.

SIERRA: I'll get some for you Carl. It's not a problem. Where is the kitchen? *(CARL points to kitchen. SIERRA gets up and exits into kitchen)*

ALEX: *(Comes down stairs)* Hey, Carl. Where's Sierra.

CARL: In the kitchen getting me some oreo cookies.

ALEX: We don't have any oreo cookies.

CARL: Oh.

ALEX: I hope she doesn't go through the kitchen. She looks like one of those mother-in-laws who goes through people's business.

SIERRA: *(Exits kitchen)* Carl, there are no oreo cookies in there. *(Notices ALEX)* oh, Hi. Do you need something?

ALEX: No, I was just checking on you, making sure everything is okay.

SIERRA: Well, they're not. I'm going to have to go shopping. The kitchen is bare. There are no nutritious items in the refrigerator or cabinets. I'll first make a list then I'll go. *(Exits to kitchen)*

CARL: Wow, I never had someone go shopping for me since my mom.

ALEX: *(Sarcastically)* When was that? Yesterday.

CARL: Ha, Ha, Ha. Funny.

ALEX: How do you like her? Is she treating you well?

CARL: Yeah, she's pretty good. She's a great masseuse.

ALEX: Anything to make you happy. We're really trying to help you get better. *(Pauses)* I'm sorry for not showing up, and not calling you either. It just slipped my mind.

CARL: It's okay, and apology accepted. Just forget about it. What's done is done, you can't change it.

SIERRA: *(Exits the kitchen, with a shopping list in her hand)* Well, I'm off to the supermarket.

ALEX: Sierra, you really don't have to go shopping. We have what we need. Besides if you leave who will take care of Carl? We are paying you to care for Carl, not go shopping.

SIERRA: You are so right. Well, then who will go shopping.

ALEX: No one has to go shopping. We have...

SIERRA: *(Cuts her off)* Alex, you can go for me. *(Hands her list)* here's the list.

ALEX: But we don't need...

SIERRA: *(Cuts her off)* Hurry back now, and make sure you compare prices.

ALEX: Sierra, we do not need to go shopping. The kitchen is packed with...

SIERRA: *(Cuts her off)* And remember to get what's on sale, too.

ALEX: Sierra, you are not listening to me. We have everything...

SIERRA: *(Cuts her off)* Oh, and don't forget to use your supermarket club card.

ALEX: Sierra, hello! We, don't...

SIERRA: *(Cuts her off)* You should leave now, in about 2 hours the supermarket will be crowded. You don't want that.

ALEX: *(Breathes hard in frustration.)* Is there anything else you need?

SIERRA: Whatever's on the list honey. *(ALEX begins to walk slowly in frustration towards the entrance door. She takes her purse from coat rack.)* Alex. *(She looks back at her)* I hope you don't drive the way you walk. You're slower than a turtle. Come on girl get the molasses out of your ass and move.

ALEX: *(Looks stunned and surprised. Turns back towards door and begins to exit, she reminds herself...)* It's only temporarily. *(She exits. Lights go out.)*

### ACT TWO Scene Three

*The scene is the same. Except for the magazines on the table in front of the couch. It is Tuesday afternoon. When the lights come up no one is on stage. After the lights are up SIERRA rolls CARL from his room to the kitchen. After a few seconds KLARISSA, CLAIR, ALEX, TOD, and BRIAN exit the kitchen.*

CLAIR: I can't believe she through us out of the kitchen.

TOD: Why do we have to keep playing musical rooms for Carl. It seems like every time we go somewhere we're thrown out.

BRIAN: I think we should just fire her and stick Carl into a hospital. That way we don't have to deal with either them.

ALEX: Guys, I understand Sierra can become a little annoying. But it's only temporarily, and it's working. Carl seems to be getting better everyday.

KLARISSA: Well, I can't take this nurse. She has gotten on my last nerve.

SIERRA: *(exits kitchen rolling CARL with her)* Excuse me guys. Carl would like to watch TV.

CLAIR: And your point.

SIERRA: Can you guys leave. Please.

BRIAN: Just roll his crippled ass to his room.

SIERRA: He would like to watch TV in here.

CLAIR: Well, we'll watch TV together.

SIERRA: He wants to be alone.

CLAIR: Carl, do you really want to be alone? *(CARL does not respond)*

SIERRA: Yes he does.

TOD: We have to leave? Again?

SIERRA Yes. Please.

KLARISSA: We just left the kitchen for him.

SIERRA: Well, he would like to be in the living room now.

CLAIR: Well, we live here too.

ALEX: Guys?

KLARISSA, CLAIR, TOD, BRIAN: *(Frustrated)* Temporarily.

SIERRA: *(BRIAN, and CLAIR exit to kitchen, TOD exit to center stage left to his room, KLARISSA and ALEX exit up stairs)* Thank you guys. Carl needs his self time.

CARL: You know Sierra you don't have to send them off like that. I don't mind their company.

SIERRA: You need to be alone. You need some peace time. You need recovery time from them too. Time to recover from their negative energy.

CARL: They don't have negative energy.

SIERRA: Well, I don't like the way they act towards you. Especially Brian, he is a rude soul. I don't want any of that to rub off on you. It'll make matters worse.

CARL: He's not rude. He just expresses what he feels. That's what we like about him. Sometimes what he says can sound mean, but he means no harm.

SIERRA: Well, until you get better you should not be around anyone. Alone time is the best way to recover. Now come on, I'll bring you to your room. It's time for you to get some rest. *(Rolls CARL into his room. When she has fully exited the stage BRIAN and CLAIR enter from kitchen with rage.)*

BRIAN: Look Sierra, if I want to watch TV in...*(Realizes she's not there)* Oh, well, where did she go.

CLAIR: She probably took him to his room

BRIAN: I can't believe her. She throws us out so he can watch TV and then brings him to his room. I can't take this anymore. She has got to go. *(Walks to stair case, and calls for ALEX.)* Alex, can you come here?

ALEX: *(Comes down stairs)* Yes.

BRIAN: I'm calling a house meeting.

ALEX: Oh. Is it important.

BRIAN: It's urgent!

ALEX: Oh, okay. I'll go get Klarissa. *(ALEX exits up stairs. BRIAN exits to TOD's room. CLAIR sits on couch. She picks up a magazine from the table and begins to read and flip through it. A few seconds later ALEX and KLARISSA enter the living room, and sit on the couch. At the same time BRIAN and TOD exit TOD's room.)* Okay everyone house meeting. Oh wait, should we get Carl?

BRIAN: No.

ALEX: What's wrong? Why the meeting?

BRIAN: Miss Misery has to go now.

ALEX: Brian don't start that again.

CLAIR: Alex, he's right. She's not being much of a nurse. She has made this her house and has treated us like dirt. I mean she had you shopping for things we don't even eat.

ALEX: She said we needed the nutrition.

CLAIR: She's not here to tell us what we need.

KLARISSA: Yeah, she has got to go. Yesterday I was singing and dancing to J Lo. I had the costume and everything. She comes in and she says, Carl would like to use your CD player, I hope you don't mind. And before I can answer she pulls the plug and takes it. She didn't even shut it off. And then she says the J Lo costume is ugly, don't ever wear it again. Can you believe that?

CLAIR: Oh, that's nothing. I was on the phone *(says seductively)* entertaining a male friend, and she picks up the phone and says whoever is on the phone get off, because Carl needs to use it. Can you believe that, and it was right before the good part of the entertainment.

TOD: Well, she came in my room last night and told me to stop making so much noise. All I was doing was acting out the scenes from Spider-man.

BRIAN: Oh, please, I was playing interactive twister with someone on the internet, and she threw me out of the den so Carl can use the computer.

ALEX: *(Looking shocked)* What the hell goes on in this house? Look, we can't get rid of her until Carl is feeling better. It is only temporarily.

BRIAN: You keep saying that. How come temporarily feels like forever.

SIERRA: *(SIERRA exits CARL's room with a piece of paper in her hand.)* Oh, Alex, I completely forgot. *(Hands her paper)* While you were out yesterday some guy called you. He said call him back, and that you know his number.

ALEX: Well, what was his name?

SIERRA: I don't know. *(SIERRA hums and returns to CARL's room)*

ALEX: *(Pause)* She has to go.

BRIAN: Well, it's about time.

TOD: Who's going to tell her?

BRIAN: Me.

ALEX: No, I'll do it. *(Gets up from couch)* Sierra, can you come in here?

SIERRA: *(Offstage)* Just a minute. *(Exits CARL's room.)* Yes. What do you need?

ALEX: *(Walks up to her. BRIAN stands next to ALEX.)* Well, actually, I need to speak with you about Carl. I believe that he is recovering pretty good. I thank you for everything, you don't know how much your help was needed, however it's not needed anymore. And, I appreciate your work, but I think now is the time to leave. We won't be needing your services anymore. You can stay the night if you like. But we will be expecting you leave by tomorrow.

SIERRA: No.

BRIAN *(Pushes ALEX aside. Says quickly)* Who, What, Where, When, Why, *What?*

ALEX: *(Pushes BRIAN aside)* What he means is, we can take care of Carl. So your services are no longer needed.

SIERRA: No.

ALEX: What do you mean? No? You don't make that chose.

SIERRA: Yes I do. I am a nurse. My job is to make sure my patients are fully recovered before I leave. He still needs a little bit more time. So until he is fully recovered, I am staying right here. Now would please excuse me, Carl wants me to read him a story. *(Exits to CARL's room)*

KLARISSA: She is crazy. Who does she think she is?

CLAIR: I don't like how she just dictated to us what she was going to do in our house. She must have lost her mind.

TOD: Does that mean she is staying?

BRIAN: That's a good question. You know we could call the police. Or maybe we can get a restraining order against her.

ALEX: *(Breathes hard in frustration)* We are not going that far. I am very upset she did not take a good message, but sometimes you have to put yourself aside. We are doing this for Carl. Yes Sierra is pain in the ass, but we'll just have to deal with her until Carl gets better.

BRIAN: Well, I'm not going to stay here. I need to get away from her completely. I'm going out anyone want to come with me.

KLARISSA: Where are you going?

BRIAN: I don't know. The mall, a store, movie theater. Any place is better than staying here.

KLARISSA: Well, I'll go with you.

TOD: Me too.

BRIAN: Well, I got to get some things from upstairs first. I'll be quick. *(Goes up stairs)*

ALEX: Well, one thing that keeps me calm is shopping.

CLAIR: Ooh, you sure go that right. I'm with you. Wait for me though, I need to get some things first. *(Exits up stairs)*

BRIAN: *(Enters living room. Has keys in his hand)* Well, I'm ready. So where do you guys want to go?

KLARISSA: Movies is fine.

TOD: Yeah, let's go see *(mention the latest and hottest movie out)*.

BRIAN: Yeah, I heard that was good. Let's stop by 7/11 first so we can get some snacks.

TOD: The movie theater sells snacks Brian.

BRIAN: But 7/11 snacks are much cheaper.

CLAIR: *(BRIAN, KLARISSA, and TOD exit through entrance door. CLAIR enters living room with purse.)* I'm ready to shop!

ALEX: Until you drop?

CLAIR: Oh, no I never drop when I shop, the only thing that keeps me from shopping all day is the store hours.

ALEX: *(Takes purse from coat rack.)* Sierra.

SIERRA: *(Offstage)* Yes.

ALEX: We're going out, we'll be back okay.

SIERRA: *(Offstage)* Okay. *(ALEX and CLAIR exit through entrance door. SIERRA rolls CARL from his room into living room. She rolls him over next to the end chair closest to the kitchen.)* So did you enjoy the story?

CARL: Oh, yes. "I Don't Like Green Eggs and Ham" is my favorite book.

SIERRA: Don't you think you should be reading books without pictures?

CARL: Oh, I do sometimes. I just enjoy a good Dr. Seuss book.

SIERRA: Seriously? You can't be serious.

CARL: Yeah. What's wrong with Dr. Seuss.

SIERRA: For a kid, nothing, but for you...never mind. Can I get you anything else.

CARL: No thank you. I'll just watch some TV. I think Sesame Street is on.

SIERRA: *(Turns TV on with remote. Hands CARL the remote.)* Here you go. I'll be in the kitchen. I'm going to start dinner. *(Exits to the kitchen)*

CARL: *(Uses remote to turn channels, after he pushes 2 buttons the theme for Sesame Street comes on. He nods with the music happily. During mid-song he begins to sing along. At the end of the song he claps.)* Yeah, Sesame Street is on.

SIERRA: *(Peaks through the door. Speaks to herself)* I can't believe he's watching Sesame Street.

CARL: *(CARL notices SIERRA)* What did you say?

SIERRA: *(Caught off guard)* Oh, nothing. Just checking up on you. Everything okay?

CARL: Yeah. Don't worry about me, Elmo, Big Bird, Oscar, and the rest of the company will keep me company.

SIERRA: How pathetic.

CARL: *(BRIAN, KLARISSA, and TOD enter through entrance door.)* I thought you guys were going out.

TOD: We were about to go to the movies...

BRIAN: But, we went to Tyrone's Pawn Shop instead and brought the bootlegged.

CARL: I thought Clair and Alex were with you.

KLARISSA: No, they went shopping. We'll be in TOD's room watching the movie. *(KLARISSA, BRIAN, and TOD exit to TOD's room.)*

CARL: Okay. *(CLAIR enters from entrance door with tons of shopping bags.)* You went shopping that fast.

CLAIR: Well, when you know what you want.

CARL: Where's Alex?

CLAIR: She said she had to go to the Post Office. I'll be in my room trying on these clothes. *(Exits up stairs)*

CARL: Okay.

SIERRA: *(Enters living room from kitchen.)* Carl, should I make peach cobbler or apple pie for dessert?

CARL: I'm not sure. Let me think about it.

SIERRA: You know what, I'll just make both. *(Exits to kitchen)*

CARL: Life can't get any better than this. *(Looks around the room to see if anyone can see him. Then he gets out of the wheelchair and begins to dance and sing "Put on a Happy Face")*

Gray skies are gonna to clear up put on a happy face

Brush off the clouds and cheer up put on a happy face

spread sunshine all over the place just put on a happy face! *(ALEX enters as he ends the song. She has two shopping bags in her hand. She is looking at CARL with anger. CARL cuts his singing off when he realizes that ALEX caught him. There is a pause)* It's a miracle I'm healed! Glory Hallelujah!

ALEX: *(Frustrated and angry)* You jerk. I can't believe you. I stood up for you Carl. I am the reason why Sierra is still here. Everyone else wanted of get rid of her. Every time they would come to me I would tell them that we have to do this for you. I felt really bad Carl. I thought you were really hurt. Do you know how much it cost to bring Sierra here? Are you aware of the trouble she has put us through. All along Clair and Brian told me you were faking it, but I assured them that you weren't. How could you?

BRIAN: *(No response. CARL puts his head down in shame. Brian enters living room)* What the hell is this?

ALEX: He can stand. If anything there was nothing wrong with him to begin with.

BRIAN: *(Looks at CARL in shame. Then looks at ALEX)* I told you. *(To CARL)* I want you to know, what goes around comes around, and you better believe it's coming.

TOD: *(Enters living room)* Brian, Klarissa said she rather have apple juice. *(Looks at CARL)* Hey, you can stand.

BRIAN: He could stand all along.

TOD: No he couldn't. Remember, he was in a wheelchair.

BRIAN: He was faking it. Remember I said he probably was faking it to get back at us.

TOD: Oh, I see. *(Realizes what CARL did.)* Hey, that was mean Carl.

BRIAN: Tod. Shut up.

KLARISSA: *(Enters living room. Looks at CARL.)* Hey Carl, what's up? *(To BRIAN)* Why are you taking so long with the drinks? *(Realizes CARL is standing)* Oh my gosh you can stand. *(Hugs CARL)* Oh, I'm so glad you're okay. Now we can finally get rid of Sierra. You have no clue what she put us through.

ALEX: Let's not worry about what Sierra out us through. Let's worry about what Carl put us through.

KLARISSA: What do you mean? (*ALEX looks at her to signal CARL was faking. KLARISSA gets the hint a few seconds later.*) Wait a second, you mean. (*ALEX shakes her head yes.*) Carl! How could you?

CLAIR: (*Enters living room from stairs. She has on an outfit she just brought (with tags).*) Oh, good you're all down here. (*Looks at CARL*) Hey, Carl. Just look at this. Isn't beautiful on me? Don't I know how to look good. (*Giggles*) I am so pleased with myself. I went shopping in less than an hour and I still picked out the best. I should be given an award. I, mean I am... (*Looks at CARL again. Shocked*) What the hell?

ALEX: Isn't it amazing he can stand. No more wheelchair.

CLAIR: Oh, so I guess he wasn't faking it.

ALEX: (*Upset*) He was!

CLAIR: Oh. I told you so. Well, now we can get rid of Sierra. Then we're going to have to beat you down Carl. You put us through hell and back living with that nut. And you're paying for her services too. Don't think I'm going to pay for Nurse Ratchet. (*Pause.*) Well, Carl, is there anything you would like to say?

CARL: (*Pause*) I'm sorry?

ALEX: Carl, don't ask a question. You owe us an apology.

CARL: I'm sorry.

BRIAN: You sure are. Sorry, trifling, despicable, pitiful, pathetic...

ALEX: (*Cuts him off*) Brian. (*TO CARL*) Well, explain your self.

CARL: I'm sorry guys. I didn't know you were going to get a nurse. I just wanted you to take care of me. I thought it would have been a way to pay me back for not keeping your promise. I guess I just got carried away. I was going to tell you to get rid of her, but after Sierra gave me a massage, I just couldn't. I'm really sorry.

BRIAN: And really trifling, and really dishonest and really inconsiderate...

ALEX: (*Cuts him off*) Brian!

CARL: Please accept my apology, (*hesitant*) and I'll pay for Sierra.

BRIAN: I accept.

ALEX: We all accept. Just don't ever do that again. And next time I'll do my best to keep my promise. I'm apologize too. I wish I could have been there to help.

KLARISSA: Me too.

CLAIR: Me three.

TOD: Me (*Counts with his fingers*) one, two, three, four. Me four.

BRIAN: I would have liked to see you get trampled. (*To CARL*) It sounded funny when you explained it to us.

ALEX: Brian.

BRIAN: What?

ALEX: (*Pause*) Well, I wonder where Sierra is.

CARL: She's in the kitchen cooking. Uh... Don't tell her I was faking it. It might make her mad.

ALEX: Don't worry about it.

SIERRA: (*Enters from the kitchen*) Dinner's ready. (*Notices CARL*) Oh, my word, you're standing.

CARL: Yeah, I wanted to try to stand. I needed to stand. (*Demonstrating how he tried*) So I tried and I struggled, although I was in pain I kept trying. I was not going to give up and miraculously I tried and stood all by myself.

BRIAN: And the Oscar goes to...

SIERRA: Oh, that sounds so good. Well, I guess that means my work is done here.

ALEX: How about you stay and eat with us.

SIERRA: No, that's okay. I'll go get my things. I'm so happy for you Carl. (*Exits up stairs*)

CLAIR: Wow, we are actually getting rid of her.

BRIAN: Thank God.

KLARISSA: Amen to that.

TOD: It's so groovy.

ALEX: (*Pause*) I think I'm going to miss her.

BRIAN: I won't. (*Smiling*) Well, except for her breakfast.

CLAIR: (*Smiling*) I'll miss the way she cleaned my bathroom.

KLARISSA: (*Smiling*) I'll miss her peach cobbler.

ALEX: (*Smiling*) I'm going to miss her humor, it was so unique.

TOD: (*Smiling*) I'm going to miss talking to her. She is the only one who understands how I feel about

children.

ALEX: How do you feel about children?

TOD: They are so cruel, and selfish. It hurts me every time I turn on the TV and I see them. Taunting and harassing that innocent rabbit. It's just not fair. Every time I think of what they say it just makes me want to cry.

BRIAN: *(Looking puzzled)* What do they say?

TOD: You know, silly rabbit tricks are for kids. *(Everyone looks at TOD with an annoyed look. He tries to explain himself)* Would it hurt to let him have one bowl?

BRIAN: Tod, Shut the hell up. CARL: Well, I won't miss her at all. She was getting on my nerves. *(Everyone looks at CARL puzzled)*

SIERRA: *(Enters the living room with a duffle bag, and nurse aids bag)* Well, it's time for me to go. Enjoy you're dinner. *(ALEX opens door for SIERRA.)* And don't worry about me. Just as long as there is pain and suffering in the world, I'll be okay. *(Exits entrance door. ALEX closes door.)*

ALEX: Well, that's the end of that.

KLARISSA: Yeah.

CLAIR: Yeah.

TOD: Yeah.

CARL: Yeah.

BRIAN: Time to eat. *(Everyone exits to kitchen)*

**CURTAINS**