

THE CELLAR.....

BY GEORGE FREEK

COPYRIGHT © DECEMBER 2021 GEORGE FREEK AND OFF THE WALL PLAY PUBLISHERS

<https://offthewallplays.com>

This script is provided for reading purposes only. Professionals and amateurs are hereby advised that it is subject to royalty. It is fully protected under the laws of the United States of America, the British Empire, including the Dominion of Canada, South Africa and all other countries of the Copyright Union. All rights, including but not limited to professional, amateur, film, radio, and all other media (including use on the worldwide web) and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved; and any unauthorized use of the material may subject the user to any and all applicable civil and criminal penalties. For any information about royalties or to apply for a performance license please click the following link:

<https://offthewallplays.com/royalties-and-licensing-of-plays-sold-by-off-the-wall-plays/>

The Cellar
By George Freek

THE CHARACTERS

GERALD	AROUND FIFTY
HELEN	SAME AGE AS GERALD
SONNY	HELEN'S SON, IN HIS 20s
HONEY	HELEN'S DAUGHTER, IN HER 20s
ROBERT	PLAYED BY THE ACTOR PLAYING SONNY
MR BRIGHAM	AROUND FORTY
TWO MEN	DRESSED IN BLACK SUITS

THE SCENE

HELEN and GERALD'S HOME

A MIDWESTERN CITY OF 160,000

THE TIME

RECENTLY

ACT ONE

1, i

(Lights up slowly and remaining dim on the kitchen; GERALD is at the table talking to ROBERT, who wears dark glasses and is silent, looking afraid)

GERALD

I can talk to you. It's good to have a man to talk to. I'm not saying Helen isn't okay. She just don't understand things like a man does. You're gonna say there's Sonny. I know. But I can't talk to that sonofabitch. (ROBERT looks around nervously) Now you just take it easy and don't worry. I'm gonna take care a you. Okay?

(Suddenly, the phone is ringing in another room)

GERALD

Sounds like the phone. Must be those men calling for Sonny again. I told you he's no good. He's in some kind a trouble. You stay where you are, I'll be right back. (He exits to answer the phone).

ROBERT

(He rises, walks towards the audience, tapping with a cane) Help me. Is there someone here who can help me?.... Please....Someone. Help me...

BLACKOUT

1, ii

(The kitchen. HELEN sits at the table, counting change and a few bills and putting it in a cookie jar; There's a knock off, which she ignores)

GERALD

(OFF) Helen? HELEN

HELEN

(Finishes her counting) Sixty-five dollars and thirty two cents. (She smiles, puts the jar on a shelf and exits).

(She returns, followed by GERALD, who wears a rumpled white shirt and tie; the shirt has a name tag over one of its pockets)

GERALD

Where were you? Didn't you hear me?

HELEN

I heard you. I was counting my money. I thought you might be Sonny. Didn't want him in my cookie jar.

GERALD

You got a point. (He takes a beer from the refrigerator).

HELEN

I got enough for my curtains. And I got them all picked out.

GERALD

What color?

HELEN

Blue. I like blue. It matches the sky.

GERALD

Not today. It's gonna rain.

HELEN

How was work.

GERALD

I sold a few drain pipes, some light bulbs, made a couple a keys. And I went to Bucky Burgers four times today....

HELEN

Must a been hungry.

GERALD

What it is. They're having this contest. Every time you buy something, you get a ticket and you scrape the silver gook off a the ticket and if you're lucky, you win something. I bought four cokes today.

HELEN

You don't like coke.

GERALD

And I like it less now. I never won a thing.

HELEN

Well, I saved my money and I'm gonna have my curtains.

GERALD

Yeah.

HELEN

They giving curtains away at Bucky Burgers?

GERALD

Curtains! They're giving away up to fifty thousand dollars!

HELEN

Curtains are better than nothing.

GERALD

You know something. It's not fair. You make sacrifices. You take risks. You have the courage to dream and where's it get you? I'll tell you. Tomorrow I'm taking six breaks!

HELEN

Listen. You take six breaks....

GERALD

I don't care! I don't care if they do catch me!

HELEN

I was only gonna say bring some a those cokes home.

GERALD

You know one time at the race track the same thing happened to me.

HELEN

What same thing?

GERALD

I had a feeling it was gonna be my day, so I called in sick. I felt like the third race was gonna be it. First race, second race, the excitement's building up. Then it's the third race. I looked over the entries and picked a horse. By the name a 'Uncle Sam.' I put every cent I had on 'Uncle Sam.' He started slow. Then the jockey let him go. Fourth place, third, second....first! Coming down the stretch it was 'Uncle Sam' all the way. My eyes were blurred with tears of joy. People looked at me like I was crazy. I am crazy I wanted to tell them, 'cause I'm gonna win ten thousand bucks! Then the announcer said it was a photo finish. In the end, the winner was some nag called 'Cocaine.' And I had to walk home, I didn't even have enough money for a bus. Some bum bet on 'Cocaine' and won a thousand bucks. What was he gonna do with a thousand bucks?

HELEN

I bet he took a cab home.

GERALD

Okay.

HELEN

(Pause) Bob Hardy's wife got kidnapped.

GERALD

(Looks at her) I know her?

HELEN

That program I watch. On the TV. Bob Hardy's been living with Doc Morgan's daughter, but he's also been fooling around with Judge Tanner's daughter.

GERALD

What about his wife?

HELEN

At first they thought she committed suicide, 'cause Bob found an empty pill bottle in her bathroom. But then Bob got this ransom note. What happened was it took almost a month for him to get that note, 'cause she fell in love with one a the kidnapers.

GERALD

You watch that every day?

HELEN

Religiously.

GERALD

I'd say that's a waste a time.

HELEN

You got a right to your opinion. It's a free country.

GERALD

Free to waste your time.

HELEN

I'm not gonna say anything about people wasting their time. Okay?

GERALD

(Pause) We got another beer?

HELEN

(She gets him one) Now will you tell me why you called in sick just to go to the race track?

GERALD

Yes. I will tell you that. I did it because I love horses. That's why.

HELEN

You love horses?

GERALD

Yes I do.

HELEN

You love HORSES!?

GERALD

What's wrong with that?

HELEN

People are supposed to love other people, not horses.

GERALD

Let me tell you something about horses you don't know.

HELEN

What makes you think I want to know it?

GERALD

Just listen up a minute. Horses don't have feet, they got hooves. And with those hooves, they can run forty-fifty miles an hour. You ever seen a person run fifty miles an hour?

HELEN

You love horses 'cause they can run fifty miles an hour.

GERALD

That is something.

HELEN

I still think you're crazy.

GERALD

No. You don't get it. Horses are perfect. Because they do what they're supposed to do. Run. People never do what they're supposed to do, or if they do, they don't do it right.

HELEN

Sometimes people don't know what they're supposed to do.

GERALD

I know what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna win us fifty thousand bucks at Bucky Burgers.

HELEN

I hope you're not gonna call in sick to go to the race track any more.

GERALD

That reminds me. At work today, a guy had a stroke....

HELEN

Oh my.

GERALD

Yeah. He was manager of my department. Murphy. You remember me telling you about Murphy.

HELEN

Sure I do. He was manager of your department.

GERALD

He had a stroke while he was selling some paint.

HELEN

That is awful.

GERALD

It's terrible.

HELEN

Yes. It is.

GERALD

I'm just glad it didn't happen to me.

HELEN

Knock wood.

GERALD

What're you saying.

HELEN

You never know.

GERALD

That's true. Anything can happen to anyone at any particular time. In that respect, we are truly equal.

HELEN

We are. Yes.

GERALD

Makes me sick to think about it.

HELEN

Then I wouldn't think about it.

GERALD

No. You wouldn't.

HELEN

Anyway, funny things happen.

GERALD

What's so funny about a stroke?

HELEN

I'm only saying it's been a funny day.

GERALD

How is that?

HELEN

Well, first it was cold. Then it got hot. Kind a makes you wonder what's gonna happen next.

GERALD

What about Robert?

HELEN

What about him?

GERALD

I hope you give him something to eat.

HELEN

I give him a sandwich.

GERALD

He say anything?

HELEN

No.

GERALD

He don't talk much.

HELEN

He don't talk at all.

GERALD

I sure like that about him.

HELEN

It's scary. Sometimes I look at him. And I wonder what it'd be like....

GERALD

What what would be like?

HELEN

Being blind like that.

GERALD

I never asked him that.

HELEN

Gerald, listen. I'm afraid. Why you want him to stay here? I mean he never says anything. He just sits there behind those dark glasses. I don't know why you want him here.

GERALD

You're not prejudiced against the man 'cause he's blind, I hope.

HELEN

You know what. When I was a little girl there was a blind girl who lived up the street and one day coming home from school, she fell down and so I went over to help her get back up....

GERALD

Good.

HELEN

But when I got to her and saw her lying there and I looked at those blind white eyes of hers, I got scared and I ran away.

GERALD

You ran away before you helped her up?

HELEN

I'm telling you I got scared looking at her.

GERALD

Well, they say it's the thought that counts.

HELEN

I thought about kicking her.

GERALD

I guess you never know what you're gonna do when you're scared. You know today when he had that stroke, Murphy's eyes looked like a blind person's eyes. They rolled back and all you could see was white.

HELEN

Gerald, this Robert. Why do you want him here?

GERALD

Because he just sits there and listens to you. You can say anything and he don't interrupt, or he don't contradict you. He just sits and listens.

HELEN

What if he wants to go?

GERALD

Why would he want to go? There's nowhere better than right here. (SONNY now enters, dressed in garish 'touristy' clothing; He goes to HELEN and kisses her)

SONNY

Hello, mom. What's for dinner? (He smiles broadly, then wanders over and opens the refrigerator door).

HELEN

We haven't decided yet, dear.

SONNY

No? Well then why don't we make a decision? How about it, dad? Shall we make a decision? (GERALD ignores him).

HELEN

Now don't pick, you'll ruin your appetite.

SONNY

No. No. I couldn't do that? You know why? Because I am hungry

enough to eat a bear. Literally. A god damn bear. Think about that.

(He smiles at them)

(A pause, during which GERALD bristles angrily)

HELEN

I just don't want you to pick, we'll have supper in a little while.

SONNY

Mom, you know I could eat your wonderful cooking no matter what I'd been eating beforehand. (He smiles at GERALD) How about it, dad. Don't you agree mom is a wonderful cook. Oh, by the way, would you like to know what I did today?

GERALD

No!

HELEN

Gerald! Yes. Of course we want to know.

SONNY

Well, for one thing, I bet some money on a horse.

HELEN

(Uneasy) Where'd you get the money, dear.

SONNY

You know what. I think I'm going to win a lot of money on this horse. And when I do, I'm going to buy you something, mom. What would you say to a new hat?

HELEN

I would say 'Thank you.'

SONNY

Fine. And you, too, dad. When I win this money, I think I'll buy the both of you new goddam hats. What do you say to that?

GERALD

Watch your language in front of your mother, goddamit!

HELEN

Gerald, he's young. Try to be a father. He's trying to be nice because he respects you. (To SONNY) Don't you, dear?

SONNY

Oh god yes. It's mind-boggling how much I respect dad. You know sometimes when I think about how much I respect him, I feel faint. I get weak at the knees thinking of all the respect I feel for him.

HELEN

(to GERALD) There. You see.

GERALD

I wish I could believe that.

HELEN

Don't be so stubborn.

GERALD

(to SONNY) You were telling us how you got the money to make that bet.

SONNY

So I was. Anyway, after I placed my bet, I continued down the street and I saw something that would have made you sick. You want to know what I saw?

GERALD

NO!

SONNY

Okay. I saw this middle-aged lecher propositioning a young girl. She didn't seem to be more than fourteen. I think you'd be proud of what I did about it. I gave him a kick in the balls. Let me tell you, THAT got his attention. My god, I have to ask. What kind of a world are we living in anyway?

HELEN

(to GERALD) He has a point.

SONNY

I left him in an alley, but I'd given him something to think about, and then I took this girl to her room. Because believe it or not, she had her own room, because it turned out while she looked about fourteen, she was actually nineteen.

HELEN

I've seen girls like that.

SONNY

And when we get back to her room, what do you think? To show her appreciation, she propositions ME! That was a surprise!

GERALD

(to HELEN) Do I have to listen to any more of this filth?

HELEN

(to SONNY) I do have to get supper ready.

SONNY

One more point. It seems she was a prostitute. How about that for irony? I mean I save her from this filthy creep and then she comes on and asks me for fifty dollars. Well, if that doesn't shake your faith in humanity, what does? I thought of doing her an injury, but I just got the hell away. I wonder. Where do these people get their values? I don't know, maybe they've never had a home, a family. Maybe we should feel sorry for them after all. What do you think, dad?

GERALD

(to HELEN) I want him out of this house.

SONNY

Let me tell you, dad, you'll change that tune when my horse comes in.

GERALD

(to HELEN) Will you tell him to quit calling me dad!

SONNY

Look, dad, I'll tell you what. Why don't we have a little chat? Just the two of us, a man-to-man discussion. How about it?

HELEN

Gerald, he is your son.

GERALD

Step-son.

HELEN

I hope you don't hold that against him.

GERALD

You know what I hold against him? He stole my fishing cap. The fishing cap my dad gave me. That bastard stole it. (To SONNY) You had your own cap, why'd you steal mine?

SONNY

Mom, if I may say it, I think dad needs medical attention.

HELEN

I'll tell you what I think. I think it's disgraceful the way you two gone on.

SONNY

That reminds me. Dad, I have something for you.

HELEN

(to GERALD) There. What do you say about that?

GERALD

I don't trust him. Where did he get the money?

SONNY

As a matter of fact, I took it off that pervert, the one who was propositioning that girl. I took his money because I hoped it might teach him a lesson and I decided to buy you and mom something with it.

HELEN

Now, aren't you ashamed of yourself, Gerald?

GERALD

First, let me see what he bought.

SONNY

(He smiles, reaches in his pocket and takes out a screw driver)
Here it is. It's a beauty, isn't it?

GERALD

A screw driver?

HELEN

It's very nice. I can use it to put up my curtains.

SONNY

What it is, dad, it's a Phillip's head.

GERALD

(to HELEN) What's he driving at here? (To SONNY) Okay. Wait a minute. What are you trying to prove by this? Listen. I make the rules around here, you understand? And another thing. Why don't you get a job?

SONNY

(to HELEN) Oh. One more thing. Can I ask, mom, what are you hiding in the cookie jar?

HELEN

The cookie jar? What do you mean?

SONNY

Okay. I'll bet it's a secret. Well, I love secrets. (He smiles, exits).

GERALD

(Holds up the screw driver) Find out where he got this, I'll get a refund.

HELEN

Gerald, he knows about my cookie jar. That money is for my curtains.

GERALD

I got to talk to somebody about this.

HELEN

I love him. Of course I do, he's my boy. But I want my curtains.

GERALD

I'm gonna talk to Robert. That's what I'm gonna do.

HELEN

Robert? Listen, you know what I think? This is all his fault!

GERALD

What're you talking about?

HELEN

I'm talking about that Robert. All this is happening because of him.

GERALD

Well, you know what I think?

HELEN

Yes. I do. I do know what you think, Gerald. And I don't like it. I don't like it one tiny bit! (They look at each other, and....)

THE FIRST ACT IS OVER

ACT TWO

(GERALD sits at the table gluing trading stamps in a book; HELEN enters, goes to her cookie jar)

HELEN

(Counts her money) It's all there.

GERALD

You're kidding. He didn't take it?

HELEN

Five more dollars, I buy my curtains.

GERALD

(Pastes the last stamp in the book) I'm working on that speedboat.

HELEN

That sounds nice. We'll have fun in that speedboat.

GERALD

That's why I'm gonna get it.

HELEN

How you coming along? Good?

GERALD

Let me tell you I am.

HELEN

That's good.

GERALD

Only eight hundred and twelve books to go.

HELEN

It'll be fun to have a speedboat.

GERALD

Never had a speedboat, just dreamed about it.

HELEN

I never had a speedboat either. But when I was a girl I had this pretty pair of shoes.

GERALD

Shoes? Why are you talking about shoes?

HELEN

I loved those pretty little shoes. I wore 'em everywhere. But I wasn't supposed to do that. And my mom was wondering how I wore those shoes out so darn fast.

GERALD

You making some kind a point here?

HELEN

I am. Yes. See, this afternoon I was cleaning out the cellar....

GERALD

The cellar? You didn't bother him.

HELEN

No. I didn't go near him. But I came across those shoes. I'd saved them in a box all these years...

GERALD

You're talking about memories.

HELEN

No. Yes. In a way. But what I am saying is they were just an old pair of shoes. They didn't mean nothing. Is that sad? I guess so. I mean once, they meant so much to me, and now they're just a dirty old pair of worn-out shoes. At first, I thought they were an old pair of Honey's.

GERALD

Of Honey's? She home yet?

HELEN

You seen her?

GERALD

It's late. She ought a be home. Why's she out so late?

HELEN

You remember that time when she was a little girl, she ran away?

GERALD

The hell you say. She never ran away.

HELEN

No. She didn't exactly run away. She climbed up the neighbor's

tree, and she wouldn't come down. So I went out there and told her to get down out a that tree and you know what she said?

GERALD

What?

HELEN

She said she wasn't up there.

GERALD

Funny thing to say.

HELEN

Honey's not up here, she told me. Nobody's up here. Honey's run away and she's never coming back. She kept saying that and all the time, there I was looking at her up in that tree.

GERALD

How old was she?

HELEN

About thirteen, I guess.

GERALD

Must a been playing a game with you.

HELEN

Maybe so. I mean she did come down.

GERALD

Of course she did. She's a good girl.

HELEN

She's a wonderful girl.

GERALD

She's the light of my life. And then, when I think of Sonny. You know, at night sometimes, I think of sneaking into his room and starting his bed on fire. And I fall asleep, thinking of that.

HELEN

That's nasty.

GERALD

Maybe things'll be better when I get that speedboat.

HELEN

That's something we'll be able to enjoy, as a family.

GERALD

That's what I had in mind.

HELEN

We can all have fun in that speedboat.

GERALD

Everybody but Sonny. I'm not letting him near my speedboat.

HELEN

You'll change your mind.

GERALD

Not on your life.

HELEN

Deep down, you want to get along with him.

GERALD

I wonder if all stepfathers have problems like this.

HELEN

It's a matter of getting adjusted. You got to get to know each other. Then you can understand each other. And once you understand each other, then you can get along. You just got to try. Promise me. Okay?

GERALD

I know what I got to do. I got to talk to Robert about it.

HELEN

Gerald, listen. Robert wants to leave here.

GERALD

Well, he can't. I got to talk to him.

HELEN

There. You see. If Robert was gone, then maybe you and Sonny could get together and talk like a real father and son.

GERALD

Get this into your head. I hate Sonny.

HELEN

He told me he thinks a lot of you.

GERALD

He thinks a lot about killing me.

HELEN

Just the other day he was telling me how nice it was having you for a father and how you used to take him to ball games and take him fishing. He remembered all that.

GERALD

He was lying. Me and Honey did all that. And he stoled my fishing hat. You think I'd take him fishing after he did that?

HELEN

Maybe he stoled it because you wouldn't take him.

GERALD

He stole my hat, then he took it in the cellar and he burned it. He burnt it to a crisp. The hat my dad gave me..

HELEN

Gerald, listen to me. I got to say something....

GERALD

What is that?

HELEN

All this hate, it's because a that Robert. He has to go. He's causing trouble for the whole family. If he goes, you'll talk to Sonny.

GERALD

No. I won't. I don't want to talk to Sonny. I can't talk to Sonny. Because I hate him. And he hates me.

(Pause; then HONEY enters, followed by a shy MR. BRIGHAM; He's dressed in an expensive suit)

HONEY

(Looks tired but smiles) Hello, everyone.

HELEN

Hello, dear. It's late.

GERALD

(Goes and kisses her on the cheek) Evening, Honey. That's wonderful perfume you are wearing.

HONEY

(Pulls MR. BRIGHAM into the room) I want you to meet Mr. Brigham. This is my mom and dad.

MR. BRIGHAM

(Extremely uneasy) Look, I think I should probably be on my way...

HONEY

No. No. Don't do that. I just haven't sen them all day.

GERALD

(to MR. BRIGHAM) This girl is our pride and joy.

HELEN

That's right. You know she gives us half of everything she makes.

HONEY

Boy oh boy. It's sure getting chilly out. (To MR. BRIGHAM) Isn't it?

HELEN

(Cheerfully, to MR. BRIGHAM) They say it's gonna freeze tonight. Everything's gonna be frozen stiff.

MR. BRIGHAM

Perhaps. Look, maybe it would be best...I'm kind of in a hurry....

GERALD

Keep it in your pants, friend. We're just having a little chat. (To HONEY) You say it's getting colder, huh?

HONEY

Yup. (to MR. BRIGHAM) Okay. Come on. There's time. Look, mom, dad. We'll have that chat later, okay? (She leads MR. BRIGHAM off).

GERALD

Wait just a minute. You remember that time we went fishing?

HONEY

We went fishing?

GERALD

Yup. And Sonny stole my fishing hat.

HONEY

No. I don't remember that.

GERALD

(Slightly defiantly, to HELEN) Well, it still happened.

HONEY

Okay. Well, I'll see you later. (She takes MR. BRIGHAM to her room).

HELEN

(Pause) He seems like a nice man. Well mannered.

GERALD

(Gloomy) She don't bring in any trash.

HELEN

That's what I meant.

GERALD

You know, there are times, I feel....old....

HELEN

(Pause) We could try....you and me....

GERALD

We have tried.

HELEN

We could try again.

GERALD

You think there's any point in that?

HELEN

(Sighs) I guess I should do the vacuuming.

GERALD

I need to talk to Robert.

HELEN

You got to let him go, Gerald. That's a fact.

GERALD

No. I can't do that. I got to talk to him. That's a fact.

(SONNY now enters, wearing a red fishing cap)

GERALD

(Sighs) This just about makes my day.

SONNY

Hi, mom. Hi, dad.

HELEN

Hello, dear. Gerald, can't you say 'Hello.'

GERALD

I'm going to the bathroom.

SONNY

You might want to hear what I have to say. It's about that horse.

HELEN

You telling us that horse won?

SONNY

The race is tonight. I had to arrange a little loan.

GERALD

He made that bet with a bookie.

HELEN

(to SONNY) Well, don't skip out on your loans, otherwise you won't have any friends.

SONNY

Yes. That is so very true, mom.

GERALD

He's making illegal bets. That's it. I want him out a here. Now.

SONNY

But dad, this horse is a sure thing. In fact, would you like me to put something down for you? No? Well, what I am saying is, I need to give this man, because in fact, I already owe him a little money, some reassurance that I am good for what I owe him. It's only a simple formality.

GERALD

Maybe so. But you got no money. Where you gonna get any money?

SONNY

I have to go.

GERALD

Wait a minute. Answer me. Where you think you're gonna get any money?

SONNY

You know, before I leave there is one thing I'd like to say....

HELEN

What is it, dear? (She looks at GERALD).

GERALD

Alright. Say it. Then go.

SONNY

I just want to say how wonderful it is to have a family. To know there are people who care, people one can count on when the world suddenly becomes difficult to bear. And if suddenly one finds himself lost and uncertain of who he may be, it's beautiful to have the support of a family to give one his bearings in a cruel and unfriendly world. That is all I wanted to say.

HELEN

Your dad and I appreciate that. Don't we, Gerald?

SONNY

Well, on that note, I must go. I have business. (He puts on a pair of dark glasses).

GERALD

Wait just a minute. Where'd you get that hat?

SONNY

You bought it for me, dad. You must remember.

GERALD

No. That's my fishing hat. That's the hat MY dad gave ME.

SONNY

Your memory is failing, dad. Well, I have to go.

HELEN

Just remember, dear. We love you.

SONNY

I never forget it. That's what keeps me going. Oh and dad....

GERALD

(to HELEN) Tell him not to call me that. It makes my blood run cold.

SONNY

I only want to say 'Thanks for the hat,' It means a lot to me. (He smiles and exits).

GERALD

(Pause) I wonder what the name a that horse is.

HELEN

He says he's gonna win a lot of money.

GERALD

He'll never give us any of it.

HELEN

He might. If we're nice to him.

(A pounding is heard, coming from the cellar)

HELEN

Listen, Gerald. It's him.

GERALD

Sounds like he wants something.

HELEN

I know what he wants. He wants to go home.

GERALD

No. He wants to talk to me.

(The pounding suddenly stops; then HONEY enters with MR. BRIGHAM; He's tying his tie; HONEY leads him to the door and kisses him on the cheek, after he gives her some bills, then he rapidly exits)

HONEY

(Sighs) I'm exhausted.

HELEN

You got to slow down a little.

HONEY

(Lights a cigaret) Half the time I don't know which end is up. I probably need a vacation.

GERALD

We all do. You know what. We ought to start doing things together, as a family. That's what I think.

HELEN

That's what I been saying.

GERALD

What do you think, Honey?

HONEY

Yeah. Where's Sonny?

HELEN

He just left.

HONEY

He did? Where'd he go?

HELEN

He had some business. Something about a horse.

HONEY

Oh god. Is he doing that again? He's gonna get in trouble doing that. Real big trouble.

GERALD

That's what I'm hoping.

HELEN

He says he's gonna win a lot a money off that horse.

HONEY

He's just gonna get in more trouble, He ought to get an honest job.

HELEN

He will. He's still young.

GERALD

(Getting irritated) May I say something here?

HELEN

I know. You're gonna say he's trying to find himself.

GERALD

I am? HIM? No, what I'm gonna say is let's forget about Sonny, because he is pulling us apart. He's destructive, so we got to fight against his influence. (No one is listening) Am I getting through on this?

HONEY

One time, when I was young, Sonny gave me something....

HELEN

I just know he's got a lot of good in him.

GERALD

You are kidding me.

HONEY

He gave me this post card and it had a picture of Hawaii on it. You could see a beach, and far off, the ocean and the sky came together. It was so beautiful....

GERALD

Hold on. Sonny never gave that to you. I gave you that.

HONEY

He just put it in my hands and said, 'How'd you like to be there, huh? Lying on that beach, feeling the hot sun warm your body, and when it gets too hot. You can just run into the sea and let it cool you off again.' (Pause) Maybe I should go away for the rest.

GERALD

Yeah. Yeah. You should. We all should do that.

HELEN

(to GERALD) That's just what I been telling you.

GERALD

(to HONEY) Hey. Did you know your mom's gonna buy new curtains for the kitchen?

HELEN

I'm buying blue ones.

HONEY

That's nice.

GERALD

I hope to tell you it's nice. Because here's what we're gonna do. When you get those curtains, we're gonna have a curtain hanging party.

HELEN

My. I never knew you were so excited about them curtains.

HONEY

I don't think Sonny would go for that much.

HELEN

I'll tell him anyway.

GERALD

Listen to me! Ain't I getting through to anyone here? We are gonna forget about Sonny. What we are gonna do is we are gonna get us some coke and some chips and some dip and some steaks and we are gonna have ourselves an old-fashioned family cook-out. Now, what do you say about that?

HELEN

I think it sounds like a wonderful idea.

GERALD

Sure it does. Honey?

HONEY

(Indifferent) Yeah.

HELEN

It sounds like a wonderful idea.

GERALD

Then that's what we'll do. Right, Honey?