

JANET

Oh, I just don't know. Oh, I'm so confused. Chaperone, please, I beg you, just this one time give me some advice that is coherent and appropriate to the situation. Should I marry Robert?

START

MAN

Okay. Now here it comes. The moment I was talking about. Not only the culmination of the plot, but a moment that has fascinated me more than any other and that has brought me back to this record again and again. Here it comes.

DROWSY

Well, my advice to you is—

MAN

And this is it. Listen.

Aldolpho drops his cane.

DROWSY

L-ve while you can.

MAN

You see? You can't quite make out what she says because someone drops a cane. I'll play it for you again.

Aldolpho drops his cane.

DROWSY

L-ve while you can.

MAN

Is she saying "live while you can", or "leave while you can,"?

Aldolpho drops his cane.

DROWSY

L-ve while you can.

MAN

I mean, it's Beatrice Stockwell, so it might just be a cynical quip, but this is a wedding after all and that's exactly what you think when you're standing at the altar, isn't it, "Live" or "Leave" and you have to live. Because you do love her in some way. It's not an exact science. An arrow doesn't come down out of the sky and point to the one you're supposed to be with. So, one day you say it to someone, you say "I love you" and you basically phrase it as a question, but they accept it as fact and then suddenly there she is standing in front of you in a three thousand dollar dress with tears in her eyes, and her nephew made the huppah, so what do you do? Do you say I was kidding, I was joking? No, you can't! You live, right? You choose to live. And for a couple of months you stare at the alien form in bed beside you and you think to yourself "Who are you? Who are you?" And one day you say it out

(MAN)

loud... then it's a trial separation and couples counseling and all your conversations are about her eating disorder and your Zoloft addiction, and you're constantly redefining and re-evaluating and revisiting before you finally lose the deposit on the house and the whole "relationship" ends on a particularly ugly note with your only copy of Gypsy spinning through the air and smashing against the living room wall. But still, in the larger sense, in a broader sense, it's better to have lived than left, right?

Aldolpho drops his cane.

DROWSY

L-ve while you can.

MAN

You have no idea how many times I've listened to that.

END *Here's a tip to the Chaperone about performing this cane gag (four times in total). As soon as you hear the cane hit the floor, say VWHILE YOU CAN. So you're amalgamating "L-ve" and "while" into one syllable VWHILE, and really emphasizing the V.*

JANET

Oh, Chaperone, you certainly have a way with words. Robert, my answer is yes. I will marry you.

GEORGE

Wonderful! Wonderful.

The GANGSTERS approach FELDZIEG and KITTY.

GANGSTER #1

Well, Mr. Feldzieg it look like this wedding is a done deal.

GANGSTER #2

Now you're in truffle.

GANGSTER #3

And there's muffin you can do about it.

FELDZIEG

But there is. I found a replacement. A new leading lady.

(points to orchestra)

#16 - Kitty, The Incredible

Presenting, "Kitty the Incredible." Okay Kitty, now concentrate and show the boys how you can read my mind. My mind.