

Shuffleboard, Ham & Swiss, and That Edna...She's a Peach

by
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Cast of Characters

<u>ADDY:</u>	Middle aged daughter of StrongArm and mother to Christy.
<u>CONALL:</u>	AKA StrongArm; Reluctantly retired, aging superhero, resident of Coconut Creek experiencing increased memory loss.
<u>CHRISTY:</u>	Loving, gifted granddaughter of StrongArm, daughter to Addy.
<u>BLANE:</u>	Coconut Creek attendant.
<u>EDNA:</u>	Cute little old lady resident of Coconut Creek with crush on StrongArm.
<u>BERT or BEATRICE:</u>	Resident of Coconut Creek.
<u>ERNIE or EDITH:</u>	Resident of Coconut Creek.
<u>RESIDENTS:</u>	Any extras would be welcome as residents at director's discretion.

Synopsis

Retired Superhero, suffering from increasing memory loss, keeps forgetting he's retired and living in a retirement home. His daughter is beside herself with worry, his neighbor has a big crush on him, and his granddaughter, who had just about given up on following in his footsteps, has just discovered something amazing.

Setting

Coconut Creek Convalescent Center, Memory Unit, Common Room

Time

Current day, mid-morning

Act I
Scene 1

AT RISE: The Common Room at Coconut Creek Convalescent Center is bright and sunny. Numbered doors to resident rooms line the wall, continuing down a hallway that disappears off set. Several residents sitting at game tables playing dominoes/cards, reading etc...There is a nursing station with a desk, phone, papers, etc...BLANE, in nurse clothes and a name tag, is standing next to the desk in deep conversation with ADDY who is obviously anxious/worried.

ADDY

Well of course I'm worried Blane!

BLANE

Ms. Block. I understand you're upset. But try not to worry. He was just here for breakfast and that was-

(Checks watch.)

-only a couple of hours ago. Pancakes and sausage. Had seconds. His appetite is finally back I'm happy to say.

ADDY

I'm not worried about his appetite! Don't you remember what happened last time he disappeared? He was gone for days before...

BLANE

I don't think we have to worry about that anymore. He can't quite get around like he used to which makes me think he's somewhere close by. Did you check Edna's room yet?

ADDY

Edna's room? Why in the world would he be-

(ADDY is interrupted by a very large crash as CONALL crashes through a window/wall/ceiling, etc...)

BERT
Oh my!

ERNIE
The sky is falling!

(Several residents stand up voicing various concerns, trying to see what caused the crash. Everyone turns toward CONALL who is on a heap on the floor amongst rubble. ADDY and BLANE rush to CONALL.)

ADDY

Oh my God! Dad?!?

EDNA

(Enters from her resident room to see what the commotion is all about.)

What in the world was that racket?

CONALL

Yes, yes. I'm perfectly fine.

BLANE

Can you stand, StongArm?

ADDY

(angry) Don't call him that! His name is Mr. Murphy. Dad, are you ok?

(CONALL stands with the help of ADDY and BLANE.)

CONALL

(Sees EDNA watching, stands straight, brushing debris dust from his trousers and shirt.)

Of course, I'm ok!

(Winks at EDNA.)

EDNA

I'll say!

(Exaggerated wink back at CONALL.)

ADDY

(Checking CONALL for broken bones etc...)

But Dad, you landed pretty hard. Let's make sure-

CONALL

Oh, stop making such a fuss Addy. I'm perfectly fine!

(Turns 180 to show all sides of himself.)

See?

EDNA (flirting)

I'll say!

CONALL (proudly)

Not like I've never come through a window/wall/ceiling before.

BLANE (ever impressed)

Truer words were never spoken.

CONALL

Sorry about the mess...(trying to think of name) Brian, right?

ADDY

It's Blane, Dad.

CONALL

That's right. Say, Blain, put it on my room tab, would you?

BLANE

You got it StrongAr...

(ADDY interrupts BLANE with a disapproving look.)

BLANE (Cont.)

I mean, uhh...Mr. Murphy.

(Turns toward other residents who have congregated to watch the commotion and speaks friendly, gently.)

OK folks. Show's over. Nothing to see. Back to your card games!

BERT

But I was playing dominoes!

BLANE (chuckling)

Right. Well then...back to your dominoes.

ERNIE

I don't want to play dominoes! Do you have a checkerboard?

BLANE

I'm sure we have a checkerboard.

BERT

Georgina ate two of the red pieces this morning, so it's not even anymore.

ERNIE

Nah. Georgina died last February.

BERT

She did not. She was just here, at this very table, eating checker pieces this morning!

ERNIE

Was not, you old fart!

BLANE (trying to distract)

Ok, ok. Who wants to help me solve the (dramatic voice as introducing) mystery of the disappearing checker pieces?

BERT (wistfully)

That was my favorite Nancy Drew book.

ERNIE

You read Nancy Drew books? That explains a lot.

(During following dialogue, BLANE steers RESIDENTS to the bookshelf, looking for checkers game. BLANE comes and goes from the stage throughout the scene, getting RESIDENTS settled and sweeping up the debris from the crash.)

EDNA

StrongArm...you're really ok then?

CONALL

Fit as a fiddle!

EDNA

I'm so glad. Don't forget you promised me a game of shuffleboard after lunch.

CONALL

Did I?

ADDY

Please, Mrs. Banks. His name is Mr. Murphy!

CONALL

(Puts his arm out for EDNA who accepts graciously.)

Oh, I think MISS Banks can call me anything she likes.

EDNA (giggling)

You know you can call me Edna.

CONALL

Let me walk you to your room, Edna dear.

(CONALL walks EDNA to her door.)

CONALL (Cont.)

Now Edna, I'll have to check with my boss here-

(Nods to ADDY.)

-about this afternoon. If I'm not previously engaged, I would be delighted to join you for shuffleboard!

EDNA (adoringly)

I look forward to it.

(Enters her resident room and turns back to say goodbye.)

I do so enjoy our games...StrongArm!

(Giggles, gives a girlish waive, and closes her door.)

CONALL

(Looks adoringly after EDNA.)

That Edna. She's a peach.

ADDY

Dad. Please don't encourage them. Let's just stick to Mr. Murphy from now on, OK?

CONALL

I don't understand why you keep insisting that. I may be Mr. Murphy but I am also StrongArm. How can I not be what I am?

ADDY

Oh Dad. StrongArm has been retired for many years now. I don't understand why you keep flying off like that. You've just got to stop. You know what Dr. Branstein said.

CONALL

Dr. Branstein?

ADDY

Your neurologist.

CONALL (trying to figure)

Neurologist. Right.

ADDY

It's not safe for you.

CONALL

Wait. What's not safe?

ADDY

Flying, Dad. Flying's not safe.

CONALL (scoffing)

Not safe? That's ridiculous! Been doing it since I was a teenager for goodness' sake. You might as well ask me not to walk.

ADDY

It's not ridiculous Dad...and you're no teenager. I'm serious. You can't keep going off like that. You need to keep your feet on the ground. (pause) So, where were you? I was worried about you.

CONALL (thinking)

Let's see...(rubs chin) Ah...yes. There was a disturbance over at Franklin National Bank.

ADDY (flat)

Franklin National Bank.

CONALL

Yes. An armed robbery.

ADDY

Dad.

CONALL

There were only four of them. Not much of a challenge really. I barely broke a sweat.

ADDY

Dad.

CONALL

Mayor Beame will be so pleased. You know he'll probably want to have a ceremony and-

ADDY (frustrated, weary)

Dad, stop. Please.

CONALL

What? Addy...what is it?

ADDY

Sorry. Sorry. (long pause as she gathers her wits) Oh Dad. I love you. You know that right?

CONALL

Of course, pumpkin. I love you too.

ADDY

(Grabs and holds both of STRONGARM'S hands and speaks gently.)
Dad...Franklin National Bank, Mayor Beame? (pause) ...that was many, many years ago. I was a kid, we were living on Long Island, and Mom was still with us.

CONALL

What? No...I...

ADDY

You're 85. You've been retired for years now.

CONALL (confused)

Wait. Hold on. Let me think.

ADDY

We're in Florida now. Do you remember?

CONALL

Florida? (long pause) Oh yes. Of course, I remember. What was I thinking? (chuckles) getting old and forgetful, I guess.

ADDY

(Takes CONALL'S face in her hands and makes him look closely at her.)
Look at me, Dad. I'm 52. I'm not a little girl anymore. I'm a scientist. I'm a mother. You have a granddaughter, Christy. Do you remember Christy?

CONALL

Christy...Christy. Oh yes. Christy! She flies now, doesn't she?

ADDY

No Dad. Nobody flies any more. She drives. She's 22.

CONALL

Oh yes. Green's her favorite color. Has a small green car, right?

ADDY

That's right! You bought it for her birthday in February. In fact-

(Looks at her watch.)

-she should be here any minute. She usually visits Saturday mornings and Wednesdays after work.

CONALL

Sometimes I just get a little...foggy. Nothing to worry about. I'm fine. I'll be just fine.

ADDY

I know you will Dad. You just have to promise me that you won't take off like that again. I can't tell you how worried I was. Where were you anyway? Do you remember now?

CONALL

Oh, don't worry. I was just tootling about. No doubt reminiscing about my glory days.

ADDY

I understand Dad. But...no more, ok?

CONALL

(Holds up the peace sign.)

Scout's honor.

(ADDY changes CONALL'S peace sign to a scout's sign and then kisses him on the cheek. ADDY'S cell phone rings, she pulls it out of her pocket and looks at the screen.)

ADDY

It's the lab. I better take this. Dad, stay put, ok?

(Steps away to have her phone conversation.)

CONALL (to himself)

Stay put. Stay put? So, this is what it's come to.

(CONALL walks to game table and observes BERT and ERNIE playing chess.)

CONALL (Cont.)

Rook to queen bishop four.

BERT

Ahh!

(Moves piece.)

Thanks, StrongArm!

ERNIE

What? Damn it! (sarcastically) Thanks a lot, StrongArm.

ADDY

(Returns from phone call and doesn't immediately see CONALL.)

Dad? (panicked) Dad!

CONALL

Right here pumpkin!

(Gets up and walks to ADDY.)

No need to call out the national guard.

ADDY

Oh! (embarrassed laugh) Sorry. Listen, I'm going to have to cut our visit short. There's some problem at the lab. Tom is in a panic about the white blood cell count on Penelope.

CONALL (puzzled)

Penelope?

ADDY

The female rhesus? The one we were talking about last week and you recommended that we...

(Realization crosses her face that he has forgotten, then a quick sad look, then a reassuring look.)

Oh, never mind, Dad. It's really not important. Not at all. But I do have to run. I'll see you on Monday morning, ok?

CONALL (objection in his voice)

Monday? (pause) Wait. What day are we?

ADDY

It's Saturday. So, I'll see you the day after tomorrow, ok? But don't forget, Christy is coming by sometime today.

ADDY

(Grabs CONALL'S hands.)

I love you Dad.

(Quickly hugs and kisses CONNALL on the cheek.)

CONALL

I love you too pumpkin. See you Monday.

ADDY

And Dad. Feet where?

CONALL

Feet?

ADDY

Where are you going to keep your feet?

CONALL

Oh yes...On the ground!

ADDY

Right! Promise?

CONALL

Scout's honor.

(Holds up peace sign, then looks at his peace sign, changes it to a scout sign, and smiles broadly and then points at ADDY.)

See...You don't have to worry about me.

ADDY

Good job Dad. OK, I'm off then. Tell Christy I said hello and I miss her. For goodness' sake, she should stop by and see her mother sometimes! You see her more than I do!

CONALL

You got it.

(ADDY exits. CONALL walks to window to watch her go. CHRISTY, more than a bit disheveled, enters from hallway tucking in her shirt and smoothing her hair. She sees CONALL looking out the window. Goes up behind him, peeking over his shoulder without speaking for a moment.)

CHRISTY

What 'cha see out there Mr. StrongArm? Some kind of crimes being committed or something?

CONALL

(Stands up straight.)

That sounds like my little monkey!

(Turns to CHRISTY.)

That is my little monkey!

(CONALL and CHRISTY embrace and CHRISTY gives CONALL a kiss on the cheek.)

CHRISTY

Hey Gramps. (conspiratorially) How they hanging?

CONALL (conspiratorially)

The criminals? From the gallows no doubt.

(Winks at CHRISTY.)

How are you my dear? New hairdo?

CHRISTY

(Reaches up, touches, and smooths hair.)

Nah. Just...messy.

CONALL

Well, you look lovely, monkey. But I've missed you! You should visit more often.

CHRISTY

I was just here on Wednesday Gramps. (pause) We went for barbeque? (pause) You told me all about Nicaragua? (pause) The Sandinista government?

CONALL

When was that? Wednesday? Wait...what day are we?

CHRISTY

It's Saturday.

CONALL

Guess I'm a little foggy today. Hey...I didn't see you drive up.

CHRISTY

Yea...well...I didn't exactly drive today. Listen, Gramps, I've got big news. Really big news. It's kind of private. Can we sit over there?

CONALL

Ohh...Well of course.

(CONALL and CHRISTY move to game table, CONALL pulls out chair for CHRISTY, and they both and sit.)

CONALL

So, big news huh? You pregnant?

CHRISTY

Gramps!

BERT

(loudly) Pregnant?

(Walks to and slaps STRONGARM on the back.)

Congratulations StrongArm!

CHRISTY

Wait, listen...I'm not-

(EDNA, having heard, enters from her room. BLANE, having heard, enters from behind nurse's station.)

EDNA

Who's pregnant?

ERNIE (loudly announcing)

StrongArm's gonna be a Grandpa!

(EDNA joins BERT, ERNIE, and BLANE who are now gathered around STRONGARM and CHRISTY.)

BERT

A great grandpa. His granddaughter is pregnant!

CONALL

You are? Gosh...I was just kidding.

CHRISTY

No! I'm not...

EDNA

(Gives CHRISTY a hug.)

Congratulations, sweetie...when are you due?

BLANE

You're pregnant? Damn...and I was just about to ask you out.

CHRISTY

You were? (distracted and flattered) Well that's nice. You know, I...(remembering situation)
Wait! (shouting loudly) Everyone stop!

(EVERYONE stops.)

CHRISTY (Cont.)

Now listen up folks. I am not pregnant!

ALL

You're not?

CHRISTY

No! Of course not. Seriously. I don't even have a boyfriend!

(Residents, mumbling adlib, go back to their own business during the following dialogue.)

BLANE

(Smiles at CHRISTY.)

You don't?

CHRISTY

Nope.

(CHRISTY smiles back at BLANE. The loudspeaker comes on announcing that Lunch is now being served in Dining Room A.)

BLANE

Alright ladies and gents! Let's make our way to Dining Room A, shall we? (to CHRISTY) we should talk later.

(CHRISTY nods at BLANE who herds RESIDENTS down the hall all tittering about corned beef versus pot roast.)

EDNA

(Speaks as she is walking down the hallway.)

Don't forget about shuffleboard StrongArm!

CHRISTY

Shuffleboard, Gramps? Hot date?

CONALL

I have no idea.

(Looks wistfully after EDNA.)

But that Edna...She's a peach.

CHRISTY

Did you want to go to lunch? I could go with.

CONALL

Nah...I had a big breakfast. I think. (pause) Anyhow, so your news. You're not pregnant.

CHRISTY

Not at all. My news is way bigger.

CONALL

Bigger than unwed motherhood? OK...Ummm....let's see. You're getting married?

CHRISTY

No Gramps. No boyfriend, remember.

CONALL

Oh yes...that's right. Well...let's see. You won the lottery?

CHRISTY

Actually, I kind of did win the lottery Gramps. The genetic lottery.

CONALL

What?

CHRISTY

Gramps...You've told me so many stories of your adventures as StrongArm but remind me how old were you when you first discovered you were...um...different. Special. Do you remember?

CONALL

Well...my Mom, your Great-grandmother, used to tell me I was special from the day I was born. You know, she was in labor for 22 hours and...(pause) Oh...you mean special like...super strength and flying and all that stuff?

CHRISTY

Exactly.

CONALL

Let's see.

(Rubs chin thoughtfully.)

I was in high school. I think I was 17. Yes...it was my junior year at Sycamore High. I remember because my sophomore year I was on the bench the whole season. I was a little guy. But I bulked up dramatically over the summer and was crazy big and strong by the time school started. Coach moved me to varsity, and I played every game. We won the state championship that year.

CHRISTY

Right...I've heard that story before but couldn't remember your age. OK. 17. That's about what I thought. You know when I turned 16 and then 17, I was just waiting and waiting to see if I was special too.

CONALL

Monkey, you are special. You know that.

CHRISTY

You have to say that because you're my Grandpa. But I mean special...like you. Like with abilities.

CONALL

Oh, yes. I see what you're saying.

CHRISTY

So, when I turned 18, I started to give up hope. And then when 19 and 20 came and went, I finally had to face the fact that I really was just an ordinary girl.

CONALL

You're anything but ordinary.

CHRISTY

OK...but Gramps. Something's happened. Remember how I told you I didn't drive here today?

CONALL

Right...And why not? I bought you that green car for your birthday.

CHRISTY

That's right. You did. And thank you again. I love my car.

CONALL

You're welcome. (long pause) Wait...what were we talking about?

CHRISTY

Oh Gramps. Maybe it would be better if I showed you.

(CHRISTY grabs CONALL'S hand and drags him out the front door.)

Act I
Scene 2

AT RISE: 20 minutes later, RESIDENTS are sitting in different spots doing different activities. CONALL and CHRISTY enter front door, talking incoherently about fun, and fast, and high, laughing, breathing hard, and totally disheveled. He pulls the chair out for her, and they sit.

CONALL

Oh my, Christy. I can't believe it.

CHRISTY

I know, right?

CONALL

You're like me! You can fly! Does your mother know?

CHRISTY

Are you kidding? She'd freak out. Then she'd put me under the microscope and test me into my 30s! She'd never let me fly again. You're not going telling her, are you Gramps?

CONALL

Monkey...I'm a little worried about you. You could get seriously hurt if you're not carefully. Maybe your mom should know.

CHRISTY

Gramps. I don't think you have to worry about me getting hurt.

CONALL

Well of course I'm going to worry. Flying can be quite dangerous you know. There are birds, planes, billboards, hunters, all kinds of landing obstacles. It can be treacherous.

CHRISTY

Well, if we're being honest here, I must tell you that I actually did have quite a bad landing my first time out. Was quite scraped up, in fact.

CONALL

Oh Monkey!

(Quickly looks her over.)

Well, you seem to have recovered nicely.

CHRISTY

Yes, well, that's the really big news.

CONALL

Wait...I thought flying was your big news. There's more?

CHRISTY

You got that right. Listen, Gramps, you can fly right?

CONALL

Right.

CHRISTY

But you have other powers too, right? Like superhuman strength, right?

CONALL

When I want to, yes.

CHRISTY

Well...I'm not too strong but guess what? When I crash landed, I was really torn up. I thought I broke my ankle.

CONALL

What?

CHRISTY

I grabbed my ankle with both hands, and in like 30 seconds, the pain was completely gone. I didn't think much of it but when I got home, I was cleaning up my scraped knee and it just healed, all on its own. Like, right after I touched it.

CONALL

No! No way. You know what this means? You're...you're...you're a healer. I've heard talk of healers when I was young but never met one in person. I think the ability is quite rare. I can't believe it. The genetics skipped right over your mom and straight to you.

CHRISTY

Hmmm...A healer. I wonder what my superhero name will be...

CONALL

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Hold on a minute there, Pumpkin.

CHRISTY

Monkey.

CONALL

What?

CHRISTY

You called me Pumpkin.

CONALL

I did? Sorry Monkey.

CHRISTY

That's ok. So, go on. (pause) You were saying hold on there...

CONALL

Oh, my...sorry. Where was I? Hold on...Hold on...Oh yes! I was going to say that things aren't the way they used to be. People don't go for that any superhero stuff anymore. Regulations. Prohibitions. Restrictions.

CHRISTY

But Gramps! If I can heal...

CONALL

I know. I know. (pause) But the way things are today, your life wouldn't be your own. And really, you don't know how your gift may affect others.

CHRISTY

But Gramps, I do know. I can feel it. It's a good thing. (pause) When you discovered your gift, could you feel that it was good. That you would do good with it?

CONALL

Yes...that I do remember.

CHRISTY

But even if I could only heal one person, it would be totally worth it. (pause) You know who I'd want to heal, don't you?

CONALL

Who?

CHRISTY

You, of course.

CONALL

Me? I'm injury free! Tip top shape. Nothing to heal.

CHRISTY

Gramps, listen. You remember that Coconut Creek is not just a retirement community, don't

CHRISTY (Cont.)

you? Like, they have all different levels. You moved from your independent living apartment on the west side of the property to your new room here in the memory unit.

CONALL

Well...I moved to a smaller apartment...you know to simplify my life a bit. No need for a kitchen when you can go to the dining room, that kind of thing. But I don't recall anything about a...memory...um....

CHRISTY

Unit. A memory unit. Mom was worried because you were having more and more problems with your memory. They've diagnosed dementia...

CONALL

No, no...they called it something else. Just some minor (remembering) ...something minor.

CHRISTY

Right. Minor cognitive impairment they called it. Gramps. Minor makes it sound like it's not a big deal, right? Mom tries to sugarcoat stuff. She doesn't want to hurt you. She can't help it. Always trying to protect everyone. But you and I...we've always been straight with each other, right?

CONALL

Right. You're a straight shooter, just like me.

CHRISTY

Ok, then let me give it to you straight Gramps. That (makes air quotes) minor cognitive impairment is just a pretty way of saying Dementia...

CONALL

Oh...

CHRISTY

...and (makes air quotes) Dementia might just be a less scary way of saying what everyone is afraid of. (pause) Alzheimer's.

CONALL

I do not have Alzheimer's! I've known people with Alzheimer's. They don't know if they're coming or going. Sometimes don't even know who they are. I certainly know who I am!

CHRISTY

You're right. You know who you are...now. But for how long? (pause) Gramps-
(Grabs his hands and looks deeply into his eyes.)

CHRISTY (Cont.)

Mom thinks you're at the beginning of late onset Alzheimer's. Which means that eventually...
(chokes up)

CONALL

(long pause) Which means eventually my fog will become a blizzard. (pause) Alzheimer's. (long pause) Well... (long pause, heavy sigh) ain't that a bitch.

CHRISTY (laughs at his choice of words)

That it is. But...it doesn't have to be.

CONALL

Doesn't have to be what?

CHRISTY

Healing, remember?

CONALL

Healing?

CHRISTY

My other superpower.

CONALL

Oh yes. Right!

CHRISTY

Come here Gramps.

(CHRISTY takes CONALL'S face in her hands. He looks at her, she moves her hands to each side of his head, behind his ears, and they both close their eyes. After a very long pause (30 seconds) CONALL begins to weep, continuing through CHRISTY'S next line.)

CHRISTY

(Pulls her hands away, frightened that she has somehow hurt CONALL.)

Oh my God. I hurt you. Gramps-

CONALL

No. No Monkey. You didn't hurt me.

(Raises his eyes to meet hers, smiles and speaks through tears.)

The fog...

CHRISTY

The fog?

CONALL

The fog...has lifted.

(CONALL and CHRISTY smile at each other for a long moment.)

CHRISTY

Really?

CONALL

It's like...like slowly losing your eyesight, until you're nearly blind and forgetting what things look like and then putting on glasses. Suddenly everything is sharply in focus, vibrant, dimensional.

CHRISTY

Oh Gramps. I don't know what to say. I'm so happy.

CONALL

Your power. It's unbelievable. Completely amazing.

(BERT and ERNIE shuffle in from hallway and sit at table during dialogue.)

BERT

Meatloaf wasn't half-bad today.

(BLANE enters and grabs a deck of cards from the shelf and brings to table during dialogue.)

ERNIE

Best meatloaf I've ever had!

BLANE

That wasn't meatloaf.

(Puts deck of cards on the table in front of RESIDENTS.)

That was lasagna.

ERNIE

Well then (pause)...that lasagna was terrible.

BERT

I'll say!

CHRISTY

Sounds like you didn't miss much at lunch.

BLANE

There's still time to order a sandwich, StrongArm. Shall I order your favorite? Ham and swiss on Rye?

CONALL

Sounds good. Thanks Blane.

BERT

I'll take a sandwich!

ERNIE

Peanut butter and Bacon on pumpernickel!

BLANE

You guys just had lunch.

BERT

Did we? I'm still hungry.

ERNIE

Oh yes...meatloaf. My favorite!

BLANE

Hey Christy, you gonna be around for a bit?

CHRISTY

Actually, I have to take off here in a minute. I've got work this afternoon.

ERNIE

Hey! Gimmie those crackers back! I'm saving those for later!

BERT

You can't hoard crackers. Can't hoard the crackers! Can't! Can't!

(BLANE moves toward RESIDENTS while motioning to CHRISTY, holding a phone to his ear and mouthing "I'll call you." and CHRISTY, shaking her head in the affirmative, mouths back "OK", laughing.)

CHRISTY

Gramps, I have to go home and get cleaned up for work. At least brush my hair. How about I see

CHRISTY (Cont.)

you again tomorrow around 11?

CONALL

But tomorrow's Sunday. You're not due back here until Wednesday.

CHRISTY

True, but we have so much to talk about! And...I don't want to wait to, well...meet each one of your friends ...if you know what I mean.

(CHRISTY and CONALL stand and share a brief hug. then CHRISTY turns and heads toward exit. BLANE moves over to CONALL.)

CONALL

Bye Monkey. See you tomorrow.

CHRISTY

Bye Gramps!

(CHRISTY exits. BLANE puts his arm around CONALL'S shoulder.)

BLANE

Mighty nice granddaughter you have there, StrongArm.

(The loudspeaker comes on announcing that Shuffleboard is being played on the south lawn.)

CONALL

Shuffleboard? Shuffleboard? I gotta go!

(Turns and moves toward hallway during dialogue.)

BLANE

Wait! What about your sandwich?

CONALL

I've got a shuffleboard date with Edna-

BLANE

Shuffleboard over ham and swiss on rye?

CONALL

-and I just remembered what she likes to do when she wins! Break out the do not disturb sign Blane!

BLANE

The what? Oh...

Edna! Edna!

CONALL

END