

BAD MEDICINE
or
Good to the Last Drop

a Melodrama
by
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Bad Medicine or Good to the Last Drop - Cast of Characters

<u>CARL GOODALL:</u>	Town doctor, 40s, widowed, smart, sweet on Lacy but undeclared.
<u>BECKY TRUEHEART:</u>	Heroine, young pretty Nurse, 25, assistant to Carl, being courted by Gene, recently inherited large cattle ranch upon father's passing.
<u>BODKIN* SHAMLEY:</u>	Villain, snake oil peddler and con-artist 40s, well spoken, in cahoots with Sally. *Bodkin Shamley is pronounced: BODE-KIN SHAM-LEE. His name is constantly being mispronounced.
<u>SALLY WEST:</u>	Beautiful con-artist, 30s, in cahoots with Bodkin.
<u>GENE RANGER:</u>	Hero, town sheriff, 26, courting Becky.
<u>LACY MCKINNEY:</u>	Proprietor of Bagwell Saloon, 30s, sister to Charlie, tough, widowed, sweet on Carl but undeclared.
<u>CHARLIE HAMBY:</u>	Townsperson, 30s, brother to Lacy, know-it-all, best friend to Hickory.
<u>HICKORY PICKETT:</u>	Townsperson, 30s, with bad dental hygiene, best friend to Charlie.
<u>MAXWELL FORMAN:</u>	Sounds like Foghorn Leghorn. Government official, 50s, coming to finalize the lease agreement of Becky's Ranch. *Can be changed to MAXIENE FORMAN for female actor.
<u>DOUGLAS PRATHER:</u>	Local reverend, 60s, known for giving senseless words of wisdom. *Can be changed to DONNA PRATHER for female actor.

Place

Bagwell Saloon in the quite cattle town of Bagwell, Colorado.

Time

Late 1800s, noon.

ACT I
Scene 1

Setting: Rustic bar with stools, shelves on the wall behind the bar with bottles of whiskey and other libations of the time period and drinking glasses. Crude signs traditional to the time on the wall. There is a bar rag, bottles, glasses on the bar top and underneath, behind the bar, there is a shelf. There are several small tables with chairs for customers. One might have a deck of playing cards. One exit with swinging doors is the front door leading to the street. One exit behind bar goes to the store room from which there is an exit out of the back of the building. A picnic basket sits on the bar.

At Rise: CARL is dressed in a white shirt, suit vest, coat hanging over a chair, long sleeves rolled up. He is leaning over HICKORY, trying to look in his mouth. HICKORY, sitting in a chair, is moaning. LACY is fixing drinks at the bar, watching CARL with admiration. CHARLIE is sitting at the bar while LACY pours drinks for him.

HICKORY

Oh Doc! It hurts! Awww...

CHARLIE

Hickory's been going on 'bout that tooth for weeks, Doc.

(BECKY, in nurse hat and cape carrying CARL'S doctor bag enters front door and rushes to CARL.)

BECKY

I've got your bag, Doctor.

HICKORY

Awww...

CARL

Hang on Hickory. If I've told you once, I've told you a million times you can't be chewing on super bones and such. Leave 'em for the dogs.

(BECKY kneels down, opens doctor's bag, and hands CARL cotton balls and a medicine bottle.)

HICKORY

Hurts real bad Doc.

(CARL soaks cotton ball with medicine and tries to get them into HICKORY'S mouth while HICKORY thrashes.)

BECKY

Hickory dear. Hold still for the Doc.

HICKORY

Aww...But Doc!

CARL

No buts about it. You've cracked another tooth on those darn bones.

CHARLIE

You know, Doc, it ain't the bones the problem. Hickory grinds his teeth when he's sleepin.

LACY

Now Charlie, I know you think you know everything, but how in the heck would you know that?

HICKORY

Awww...Doc....Awww...

CHARLIE

Yup. No disrespect, Doc. I know you been to fancy doctor school and such, but them bones... they got the marrow in 'em and that there marrow's good fer teeth.

BECKY

Charlie, please!

LACY

Not ONE day of schoolin and you think you know everything! Hush up little brother!

CARL

Hickory, hold still!

CHARLIE

'Cause everyone knows that yer teeth is bone just like a cow bone's a bone. And bones is good fer bones.

HICKORY

Awww...Oh....

CHARLIE

Hey Doc. Maybe a drink will make him feel better.

CARL

I don't think so Charlie.

(Gets cotton balls into HICKORY'S mouth.)

CARL (Cont.)

Ok. There you go. That should start to take the pain away. You head over to my office and we'll see about getting that tooth pulled.

(LACY, watching CARL, wipes down bar, smooths hair, and pinches her cheeks in anticipation.)

CHARLIE

Hickory, your drink!
(Holds up a glass of whiskey.)

HICKORY

Sorry Charlie.

(HICKORY exits front door holding his face, moaning. BECKY cleans up, returning items to CARL'S bag.)

CHARLIE

Hope he's back soon. It's his day to buy the drinks. *(beat)* Well, don't want his to go to waste!

(CHARLIE drinks the whiskey. CARL sits at bar, shyly smiling at LACY who smiles back warmly.)

LACY

Hey Doc! Why you always doing your doctorin in my bar? I should start takin a fee.
(Aside - Although I sure don't mind. He's so handsome. Since my poor Henry passed on, I never thought I'd find love again, until the Doc came along.)

CHARLIE

Think he's sweet on you Sis.

LACY

Charlie hush up!
(Hands CHARLIE the second glass of whiskey.)
Take this here drink to that there table way over there
(Points at far table.)
and mind your own business!

CHARLIE

Gosh Sis. Don't got to be so sensitive 'bout it. Everybody knows that...

LACY

Go!

CHARLIE

Alright already! Gosh. You're not the boss of me Sis. (*under breath*) Not anymore anyhow.

(CHARLIE takes drink and sits at a table. LACY turns her attention to CARL, pouring him a drink.)

CARL

Sorry Lacy...seems I'm always in demand just when I'm taking a break for a drink. (*Aside – Course that's not the only reason I'm here all the time. Since my poor wife Henrietta passed on, I never thought I'd love again, until I met Lacy.*)

LACY

We'll, you are our best customer Doc...

(Slides drink to CARL, puts her hand over his.)

...here more than not. (*beat*) I guess if you keep buying drinks, you can keep up the doctorin.

CARL

Well thanks, Lacy. (*pause*) Umm...You...umm...fix your hair different today?

LACY

Oh. You like it?

(Touching her hair.)

CARL

Sure is pretty. (*nervously*) You know, Lacy, I've...uh...been meaning to talk to you...

(Takes a drink, swallowing hard, trying to get his nerve up.)

Um...You know the other reason I...uh...

LACY

Go on, Doc. I'm listenin.

CARL

Um....The other reason I'm here all the time is...

(Commotion (*OS front door*) drawing everyone's attention.)

GENE

(*OS front door*) Hey, the Doc in there?

CARL

I, ah...I better see what that's all about.

(Reluctantly starts toward front door.)

BECKY

Oh!

(Hurries to the bar, smiling, hands clasped in front of heart, looking toward front door.)

Is that Sheriff Ranger?

LACY

Come on Becky...you can call him Gene. After all, you've known him forever and the two of you are practically married!

(CARL opens front door and looks out.)

CHARLIE

Yeah. Practically married!

(LACY and BECKY frown at CHARLIE.)

BECKY

That brother of yours!

LACY

Don't I know it!

CARL

Hey Sheriff. In here! Just fixed up Hickory. What do you have there?

GENE

(OS front door) Hey Doc, there you are. Come here a minute!

(CARL exits front door.)

BECKY

It IS Gene...I mean Sheriff Ranger. Want to keep it proper and all. But I do think today may be the day he asks for my hand! We're going on a romantic picnic for lunch.

(Clutches hands to heart.)

(aside – My heart's a flutter! I love him so. I've never been so happy in my life! Today will be the most perfect day!)

LACY

We all knew that was comin soon. You two are just perfect together.

BECKY

We are, aren't we.

(Sighing, thinking of romance.)

But what about you and Carl? Has he said anything yet? I just know he's sweet on you.

LACY

Gosh no. It's strange. When he's doctorin he's so commanding, in control, and sure of himself. But he gets around me and he just stammers and hem haws around. Been going round and round for months now.

BECKY

I just think that's cause he likes you! He's shy when it comes to women. You know, he was married back East years ago. His wife died and he took it pretty hard. I think that's what brought him to Bagwell. *(pause)* Ya'll have that in common, being widowed and all. Maybe you should tell him how you feel and see what happens. I just know you two would be so happy together, just like me and Gene. I'm so happy, Lacy. I only wish Pa were still here to see me married.

LACY

Oh honey. I know you miss him. We all do. How you getting along running the ranch by yourself?

BECKY

Oh fine. Hank and the ranch hands have been great. They really handle most everything for me.

LACY

Oh Gosh! That reminds me. A telegram came for your pa last week. Charlie was supposed to bring it out to you but he and Hickory got busy with...who knows what!

(Hunts behind bar a bit.)

Oh, here it is!

(LACY gets telegram from bar, hands to BECKY.)

BECKY

Telegram?

(Opens telegram and skims mumbling.)

Ewing Ranch...Saguache County...Land lease? What land lease?

(CARL and GENE enter carrying SALLY.)

LACY & BECKY

Oh my! Oh goodness!

CHARLIE

Oh no. She don't look too good Doc.

CARL

Let's bring her over there.

(BECKY puts telegram in pocket, helps GENE and CARL bring SALLY to a chair.)

GENE

Hello Darlin...

(Winks and smiles at BECKY.)

(aside – Ain't Becky the prettiest thing you ever did see? I love her so. By golly, today I'm going to make her mine. Today will be the most perfect day.)

I can't hardly wait for that picnic of ours.

BECKY

Oh...Gene. Me too!

(Distracted by GENE but then snaps back to the situation.)

What happened? What's wrong with this girl?

GENE

Oh, yes...found this young thing outside behind the water trough. Don't look like she's been out there for too long but I can't seem to wake her up. Thought Doc might want to take a look. Didn't see him over at the office. Figured he was here, as usual.

(Nods indicating LACY.)

CARL

OK. Let's have a look, shall we.

(BECKY brings CARL'S doctor bag to him, gets stethoscope out and hands to CARL who kneels and uses on SALLY.)

BECKY

Lacy, get me a damp towel would you?

(LACY exits storeroom door.)

CHARLIE

Looks dead to me, Doc.

CARL

Miss...Miss...Can you hear me?

(Takes SALLY'S face in his hands.)

(to BECKY) Smelling Salts.

(BECKY gets bottle from doctor bag and hands to CARL who holds bottle under SALLY'S nose.)

CARL

Smelling salts ought to do the job.

(No reaction from SALLY who is holding her breath. LACY enters from storeroom with damp towel and hands to BECKY.)

CHARLIE

See, Doc. Told ya. Dead.

CARL

That really should have worked.

BECKY

Poor thing.

(Dabs damp towel across SALLY'S forehead.)

CHARLIE

D.E.D. Dead.

LACY

For heaven's sake little brother...HUSH UP!

(BODKIN enters from front door carrying carpet bag.)

BODKIN

Well, well, well...What do we have here?

BECKY

Oh. Hello. This young girl was found outside. Doc can't seem to rouse her. You know her?

BODKIN

Surely not. I've only just arrived in town but I heard there was someone in need of medical attention so, of course, I came quickly.

CARL

Sorry fella...who are you? Are you a doctor?

BODKIN

Of sorts...Allow me to introduce myself.

(Turns while speaking, addressing entire saloon.)

My name is Bodkin Shamley. I'm a purveyor of medicinal concoctions for all types of ailments. Tonics for headaches, creams for skin afflictions, ointments for scalp conditions. White blood? Green fever? Milk leg? No problem. Everyone needs something...

(aside – And I'll stop at nothing (evil laugh) to get what I need! What I have in store for these yokels, they'll never recover from!)

and I have something for everyone, even for this here young girl.

LACY (with distain)

Oh. A peddler then. *(to herself)* What the heck is Milk Leg?

CHARLIE

Oh the Milk Leg. That's a bad one alright. Sis, don't cha member that summer Auntie Penelope was so sick. I think she had-

BECKY

Well thanks all the same, mister, but we've got a real doctor here in Bagwell. This here is Doc Goodall.

BODKIN

I see. Well, Doctor Goodall, you don't seem to be having much luck with the young lady. Mind if I have a look?

CHARLIE

Not much can be done when yer dead!

(DOUGLAS enters front door and hurries to SALLY.)

DOUGLAS

Lord have mercy! I heard that someone is dying over here and came quick. Is this the dying girl?

CHARLIE

Yup! Better hurry Reverend. I think she's already a gonner!

(Starts walking around the bar squinting above.)

Her spirit's probably already floating up among the rafters on its way to heaven above!

DOUGLAS

Oh, the poor dear.

BECKY

No, Reverend. She's not dead.

DOUGLAS

God knows you can never be too careful...

(Folds hands and begins praying.)

Dear Lord if you can find the time, in between runnin the universe and makin sure the Texans *(can be changed to your choice of team)* win the Superbowl *(can be changed to your choice of sporting event)*, please save this young woman!

BECKY

Reverend, she's really not dying. Doc's trying to bring her around.

BODKIN

And to no avail, I'm sorry to say. So, Doctor, might I have a look?

CARL

I don't think that'll be necessary, thanks just the same. Excuse me, Reverend. We'll give the smelling salts another go-round. I'm sure she'll come around here right quick.

(DOUGLAS moves out of the way. CARL puts smelling salts under SALLY'S nose who again holds her breath. No reaction.)

CHARLIE

Keep tellin ya, Doc. Dead!

(Keeps walking around the bar looking above.)

No amount of saltin can help ya when yer dead.

(Stops and points to a ceiling corner.)

Wait! I think I see her ghost! There...in the corner. Lacy...do you see her?

LACY

For heaven's sake, Charlie, she's not dead! Just unconscious.

(Walks to CHARLIE and looks where CHARLIE is looking.)

And that, little brother, is a cobweb. Looks like you got some cleaning to tend to, and soon!

CHARLIE

Wait? What? Uh...I don't see nothin. Nothin at all!

(Returns to table and resumes drinking.)

CARL

Mighty strange that the smelling salts aren't working. *(beat)* Well...

(Thoughtfully rubs his chin.)

I guess we'll take her back to my office and see if we can get her fixed up there. Gene, you want to help me get her over there?

BODKIN

I would think a progressive medical professional such as your-self would not be so closed minded as to refuse help when offered. Doesn't the girl deserve a chance? What if she's dying? What if I have, right here in my bag, the precise medicinal concoction that will save her? What a pity if she were to die, especially when assistance was right at hand.

CARL

Well, I don't think-

CHARLIE

Yeah, Doc. These here snake oil salesmen are sometimes better than real doctors. I hear that they-

LACY

Hush up Charlie! That's ridiculous.

CHARLIE

...don't even need no schoolin!

BECKY

Ridiculous.

CARL

Well I don't think she's on death's door, but sure, you can take a look. I suppose it couldn't hurt.

BECKY

But Doctor, are you sure? I mean, he's a-

BODKIN

I assure you, young lady, that I'm completely qualified to assist the fine doctor.
(aside – Just as I suspected...these country bumpkins will be easy to fool. Of course, it's easy to fool anyone when you're as brilliant and cunning as I am!)

(GENE puts his arm around BECKY. They smile lovingly at each other.
BODKIN lifts SALLY'S eyelids, checks her wrist pulse, listens to her breathing, and lifts her arm and lets it fall.)

CHARLIE

Still looks dead to me. What 'cha think Mr. Shambles?

BODKIN

It's Shamley and no, my dear man, definitely not dead. Yes...I think I know just what will do the trick...I mean what will bring her around.

CARL

Oh yes? What's that?

BODKIN

I've got just the thing here in my bag.

(With CARL trying to see what he's doing, BODKIN digs in bag, brings out small bottle, examines attached tag which reads AWAKE, nods, props SALLY'S head, puts to her lips. Instantly SALLY'S eyes open.)

SALLY

Where am I?

DOUGLAS

Well...I'll be my monkey's uncle!

(EVERYONE, confused, looks at DOUGLAS.)

BODKIN

It's alright, Miss. I'm Bodkin Shamley. You're here in the Bagwell Saloon. You were unconscious.

CHARLIE

Wow!

(Stands, throws arms up in air, rushes to and leans over SALLY.)

Back from the dead! Ya see Doc! This here medicine man does just fine!

(Slaps BODKIN on the back.)

CARL

Well I'll be! What kind of medicine was that, Mr. Shameless?

BODKIN

It's Shamley. Bodkin Shamley. And it's just a simple formula, similar to smelling salts, which can be taken orally. Frankly, I'm surprised that you don't know about this and furthermore that you don't keep it on hand. Most doctors I associate with swear by it. You attended medical school I'm quite sure. Are you a recent graduate?

CARL

Hmmm...Strange. Can't say I've heard of that one. *(beat)* Well, how do you feel, Miss?

SALLY

A little woozy. What happened to me?

BODKIN

Well, we're not sure yet, young lady, but we'll soon have you quite fixed up! Don't worry yourself. You're in capable hands now.

CARL

Can you tell us your name Miss?

SALLY

Yes...of course. It's...It's...Well isn't that strange. I...I don't seem to be able to remember my name.

LACY

Can't remember her name? That is strange!

DOUGLAS

Blessed is he who runs in circles for he shall be known as a wheel.

(EVERYONE, confused, looks at DOUGLAS.)

GENE

Yes. (*perplexed*) both strange and mysterious.

CHARLIE

Back from the dead and don't know her own name! One time our Uncle Jiminy got kicked in the head by a goat and he forgot his name (*beat*) and how to eat.

BODKIN

Not really unusual. I would think you would have learned about amnesia...the temporary but sometimes long term loss of memory. A phenomenon that often follows a state of unconsciousness.

CHARLIE

Oh yeah, Doc. Didn't they learn you that phe-mone-e-mone in that fancy school of yours?

CARL

I think it is a little early to diagnose amnesia. Amnesia usually follows some sort of physical trauma. I see no evidence of trauma so perhaps it's something else.

BODKIN

It's amnesia alright. Of this, I have no doubt. My deductive reasoning, where medical conditions are concerned, has always been flawless. Definitely amnesia.

CHARLIE

Yeah...ambrosia! Listen to him, Doc. Brodkin here seems to know what's going on.

BODKIN

It's Bodkin! Bodkin Shamley. We'll just see now, won't we? Dear, can you remember where you're from or what you're doing in Bagwell?

SALLY

Bagwell?

BODKIN

See! Amnesia! I knew, as always, my diagnosis would be proven correct!

CHARLIE

(*mimicking*) Proven correct!

LACY

Charlie! Hush up!

DOUGLAS

If that ain't a fact, God's a possum.

(EVERYONE, confused, looks at DOUGLAS.)

DOUGLAS

Think I'll have myself a celebratory drink.
(Goes to bar, motions LACY for a drink.)

CARL

Alright, young lady. Let's get you up and see how you feel on your feet.

SALLY

I think I prefer that you
(Gestures to BODKIN.)
help me up. After all, you saved me...right?

(BODKIN helps SALLY stand.)

BODKIN

We'll actually, Miss, I can't take all the credit. The Sheriff is the one that brought you in. He's the real hero. I was only asked to step in and assist when the Doctor here was at a loss for how to help you. And even then, I just applied logical medicine to the situation.

CHARLIE

(mimicking) Biological medicine!

SALLY

So the Sheriff saved me?

BODKIN

That's right my dear.

SALLY

Where's this Sheriff?
(Looks around the bar.)

BECKY

Why he's right here Miss.
(BECKY proudly brings GENE over to SALLY.)

SALLY

Why Sheriff.
(Takes GENE'S hand in her hands.)
Thank you ever so kindly for saving my life. I'll be ever in your debt. *(suggestively)* What ever shall I do to repay you?

GENE

My pleasure, Miss.
(Chuckles, amused but not charmed.)

SALLY

Was it? Hmm...Perhaps mine as well. My hero. A gentleman. And good looking to boot!

(BODKIN clears throat to remind SALLY of plan.)

SALLY

Oh! I feel faint!

BODKIN

Perhaps a DRINK would make you feel better, my dear?

CARL

I think she'd do better with some water.

BODKIN

Nonsense, my dear Doctor. Surely you're aware of the medicinal benefits of whiskey. A good whiskey can strengthen weak constitution, aid with sleeping, and settle the stomach.

DOUGLAS

All things in moderation

(Raises his drink to heaven.)

are a gift from the Lord...and from Jim Beam!

BODKIN

Yes, I think a drink is just what the doctor ordered.

LACY

Uh...no he didn't.

SALLY

Oh, won't you have a drink with me, Sheriff? To celebrate your brave rescue of me?

LACY

Oh brother.

CHARLIE

(Raises hand like for roll call in school.)

Here!

LACY

What 'cha think Doc?

CARL

(*nodding*) Go ahead. Guess it couldn't hurt. Just a small one to start.

(BODKIN walks to bar as LACY pours a scant amount of whiskey into a glass.)

BODKIN

Make that two would you?
(Lays coins on bar.)

(LACY pours a second drink, slides both over to BODKIN as he watches SALLY closely for his cue.)

GENE

Miss, why don't you sit down over here 'till you feel better.
(Gestures to table.)

(As GENE guides SALLY to the table, she feigns fainting into his arms, drawing the attention of everyone in the saloon except for BODKIN. LACY and DOUGLAS rush to help.)

GENE	CARL	LACY	BECKY	DOUGLAS
Oh no!	Miss! Miss!	Oh my!	Oh goodness!	Lord have mercy!

CHARLIE

There she goes again! Maybe it's the dreaded Milk Leg!

(While DOUGLAS begins praying and everyone else is attending to and/or watching SALLY, BODKIN quickly opens his bag, pulls out a red bottle with a tag attached that is labeled "LOVE".)

BODKIN

(aside –

(displaying the red love potion bottle)

With this love potion the Sheriff will have a quick change of heart and Nurse Becky will be all alone, broken-hearted, and vulnerable (evil laugh) to my irresistible charms!

(while everyone is still distracted, pours from red love potion bottle into one of the glasses, returns red love potion bottle to his bag)

SALLY

Oh my!

(Pretends to recover, looking up at GENE, batting eyes.)

What happened?

GENE

Why, you fainted.

SALLY

And you caught me? Why...you saved me again! My sweet Sheriff...so big and strong.
(Strokes GENE'S face.)

GENE (*uncomfortable*)

Perhaps you should sit a spell until you get your strength back. Becky, honey, help her will you?

BECKY

Oh sure...here we go you poor thing. Just right over here. You sure were lucky that Gene caught you. If you had fallen, you could have ended up with a nasty bump on the head.

(GENE and BECKY guide SALLY to chair at table. SALLY sits, glaring at BECKY. GENE and BECKY remain standing, and hold hands. BODKIN leaves his carpet bag on the bar, brings the two drinks to table where SALLY is sitting, putting the glass of whiskey down in front of SALLY.)

BODKIN

Here you are my dear. Drink this and I'm quite certain you'll feel better.
(Pulls out chair next to SALLY motioning for GENE to sit.)

And for you Sheriff. My treat!
(Holds up glass with love potion.)

(*aside* –

(Displaying glass with love potion.)

When the Sheriff drinks this love potion, he'll fall hopelessly in love with Sally. It will break poor Becky's heart leaving her lonely and vulnerable. Then I'll swoop in and make her mine!)

SALLY

So, that drink Sheriff? It will only take a moment. I think it would make me feel so much better. Please, Sheriff...what's your name?

BECKY

Well...
(Picks up picnic basket.)
the Sheriff's about to have his lunch now so...

GENE

I'm Sheriff Gene Ranger, Miss. But Becky's right. I do have a very important picnic date to get to.

(Turns to BECKY.)

I think Becky may have made my favorite. Cucumber sandwiches.
(Grabs BECKY'S hands in his.)

BECKY

And picnic ham. And olives!

GENE

And pickles. And meat biscuits?
(Pulls BECKY closer.)

CHARLIE

Mmmmm. Love me some meat biscuits! Sis, you member Mama used to make-

BECKY

Sugared fruit and Lemonade.

GENE

Sugared fruit!

(aside –

(Takes engagement ring out of pocket and displays to audience.)

But the sweetest thing of all will be if Becky says she'll be my wife! Today is the day I'll ask for her hand.

(Puts ring in pocket.)

Do you think she'll say yes? Over by the creek. Under our favorite tree?)

BECKY

Of course. And I brought-

SALLY

Please, Sheriff Gene Ranger.

(aside – Will that confounded nurse ever shut up! I'd like to tell her exactly what she can do with her picnic ham!)

I'm feeling faint again and I'm quite sure that a quick drink with you is just what I need.

BODKIN

Yes...

(Puts glass of love potion on table, gestures for GENE to sit.)

I think you'd better have that drink now Sheriff!

GENE

Well, alright, since the Doc says it's ok. Becky, we'll get to that picnic in just a moment. Don't leave without me!

(Offers BECKY his cheek for a kiss.)

BECKY

Never without you!

(Kisses GENE'S cheek.)

BODKIN

Quite right. Good man!

GENE

But just one quick drink and then I'll leave you in the very capable hands of the Doc here.

(GENE slaps CARL on back, sits turns attention to SALLY and picks up the glass with the love potion. BODKIN hovers, smirking.)

SALLY

To my strong, brave husband.
(raises her glass)

BECKY

What did she say?

(BODKIN clears his throat loudly at SALLY.)

SALLY

I mean...hero. To my strong brave hero.

LACY

Oh Brother.

CHARLIE

Here!

(Raises hand like for roll call in school.)

GENE

To your health, Miss.

(GENE raises his glass of love potion, chuckling, amused, not charmed. SALLY raises her glass then they both drink and then begin staring deeply into each other's eyes.)

GENE

Oh my goodness! Oh my gosh!

BECKY

What is it? What's wrong?

GENE

Your eyes.
(Still looking deeply into SALLY'S eyes.)

SALLY (innocently)

Yes...Sheriff?

(Bats her eyes.)

GENE

They're so lovely. I could stare into those eyes forever.

BECKY & LACY

What did he say?

BODKIN

(Rubs hands together.)

Well, well, well. Seems as if we have a budding romance on our hands!

SALLY

Why thank you ever so kindly, Sheriff. Yours are quite captivatn' as well.

GENE

And please, Miss. Call me Gene.

BECKY

Gene?

SALLY

Why, sure thing Sheriff. *(beat)* I mean Gene.

GENE

Perhaps I should take you over to the station to see if anyone is looking for you there.

SALLY

Why that would be lovely, Gene. Thank you ever so kindly.

BECKY

Gene. *(beat)* Our picnic!

GENE

(Continuing to look, mesmerized, only at SALLY.)

Oh...sorry Becky. I'm really not that hungry right now. Perhaps another time.

(SALLY shoots a triumphant smile at BECKY who responds with a look of puzzlement.)

BODKIN

(aside –You see! The Sheriff has forgotten all about poor Nurse Becky! And now

(Evil laugh, moustache twist.)

for my dirty work!)

BECKY

But Gene. *(beat)* Gene? *(pause)* Well. OK. Alright then. I suppose our picnic can wait.
(Begins to sniff, on the verge of crying.)

GENE

After you, Miss.

(GENE offers SALLY his arm. They exit front door. BECKY turns away, sits at table with basket, crying quietly. BODKIN sits across the table.)

BODKIN

There, there, my dear.

(BODKIN pats BECKY on the back and hands her a handkerchief. BECKY takes handkerchief and blows nose surprisingly loudly, startling BODKIN.)

BECKY

Thank you ever so kindly.
(Sniffing daintily into handkerchief.)

BODKIN

I'm so sorry, my dear.
(Points to her picnic basket.)
You were all ready for a picnic. And now the Sheriff apparently has other interests.

BECKY

Yes. A very special picnic. I...I don't understand what happened. *(to herself)* Maybe Gene doesn't love me after all.

BODKIN

Oh my. I can see that the Sheriff has broken your heart. Such a shame. Lawmen can be so unreliable when it comes to affairs of the heart. Now if it were me...

(Moves to chair next to BECKY.)

I would never let you out of my sight. How long has the Sheriff been courting you?

BECKY

(Modestly moves to chair across from BODKIN.)

Why, we've known each other since we were kids. Been courting almost a year.
(aside – How can this be happening? Has my one true love really fallen for another? My poor heart is breaking. What shall I do?)

BODKIN

Courting for a year! And he hasn't married you yet? My dear, I'm afraid that the Sheriff is even more unreliable than most. Any level headed fellow would have asked for your hand long ago.

BODKIN (Cont.)

(Moves to chair next to BECKY.)

Let me buy you a drink, dear.

(BECKY moves to another chair while HICKORY enters front door holding his face and moaning.)

CHARLIE

(Hurries to bar.)

Hickory! You're back! Feelin better? Two whiskeys, Lacy.

(LACY pours two whiskeys.)

CHARLIE

Ready for that drink?

(Grabs drinks, holds up, motions HICKORY to come over.)

HICKORY

I don't know Charlie. My tooth's startin to hurt again, and bad! Hey Doc. You commin'?

CARL

Oh my yes. So sorry Hickory. We had an incident here.

BODKIN

Another medical emergency gone awry under your watch Doctor?

CARL

(Ignores BODKIN, looks around bar, spots DOUGLAS.)

Reverend Prather, would you mind walking Hickory back over to my office. He needs to have a tooth pulled. I'll be along shortly Hickory.

DOUGLAS

No problem at all, my son. I can drop Hickory off on my way home. Was just heading there to feed my monkey.

(EVERYONE, confused, looks at DOUGLAS.)

HICKORY

Bye Charlie.

CHARLIE

But your drink Hickory!

HICKORY

Sorry Charlie.

(DOUGLAS and HICKORY exit front door, HICKORY moaning, DOUGLAS instructing him on the power of prayer and whiskey.)

CHARLIE

Well...Can't let good whiskey go to waste!

(CHARLIE drinks one drink. LACY holds hand out for payment.)

CHARLIE

Uh...Hickory's day to pay.

(CHARLIE takes second drink to table and begins to drink. BODKIN stands, goes behind BECKY and puts his hands on her shoulders, whispering loudly into her ear. BECKY is wide-eyed. Seeing BODKIN'S advance, CARL heads to BECKY'S side.)

BODKIN (sinister, demanding)

Now, Nurse Trueheart, I think it's about time we had that drink-

CARL

Excuse me Mr. Shabby. Might I have a word with my nurse?

BODKIN (startled)

Oh, uh...Certainly. And it's pronounced Shamley. Bodkin Shamley.

(aside – Confounded Doctor! I nearly had Becky right where I wanted her. I really think she's warming up to me. And honestly, who can blame her. Moth to the flame. Moth to the flame!)

Well, then, I think I'll go check on our young amnesia patient. Perhaps we'll have that drink later my dear.

(BODKIN exits front door. CARL sits with BECKY.)

BECKY

I can't understand what happened. Long as I can remember, Gene's only ever had eyes for me. We've been planning this picnic for weeks now.

CARL

Yes, it's very strange behavior. In fact this whole morning has been very strange. The girl. The smelling salts not working. That Bodkin fella. And now Gene acting so peculiar.

BECKY

What am I going to do? You know Gene. It's not like him to cancel plans...or to not be hungry at lunch time.

(aside – Gene loves me. (pause) I think! I was so sure of it this morning. Oh...Woe is me! Woe is me!)

BECKY (Cont.)

He's acting like he's under a spell or something!

CARL

Yes...like he's under a spell. *(pause)* You're right. Gene is not himself. Something's definitely not right here. And I don't take kindly to being undermined by the likes of a snake oil salesman. *(pause)* I'm not sure what is going on but I think we need to do a little investigating. Since Gene is obviously in no frame of mind to do it, it's going to be up to us.

BECKY

But what can *we* do?

CARL

I'm not sure. But I think I'd like to have a peek at whatever Bodkin has in his bag of tricks.

BODKIN

(OS front door to SALLY) Yes...I think the fresh air will do you good, my dear!

CARL

He's back! Here's our chance! Yes...See if you can distract him somehow. *(beat)* I know! See if he has a place to stay tonight. Show him the hotel. Try to get him out of here without his bag. Turn on the charm, but be careful. Don't trust him. I'll only need a few minutes alone with the bag. Then, meet me here. Best come in the back, through the storeroom.

BODKIN

(OS front door) Sheriff, stay close and don't let the young lady wear herself out!

BECKY

Oh dear! Charm him you say? OK. I'll try. I'll do my best.

(BODKIN enters front door, walks to and puts carpet bag on bar to one side, sits, and motions to LACY for a drink. BECKY walks behind and to opposite side and taps him on the shoulder causing him to turn his back to his bag. LUCY listens, perplexed.)

BECKY

Dr. Shamley, isn't it?

BODKIN

(Turns away from bag and towards BECKY.)

Why yes...well no, not officially doctor. But what's in a title? It's what you do that matters. *(beat)* Nurse Trueheart, isn't it?

BECKY

That's right. Mr. Shamley-

BODKIN

Please, call me Bodkin.

BECKY

Alright...Bodkin. Well, I wanted to thank you ever so kindly for comforting me before. I was just a little shocked, you see. I thought Gene, Sheriff Ranger, was the man for me but I guess I was (*beat*) mistaken.

BODKIN

My dear, yes.

(aside – I knew she'd come running to me! Undoubtedly, she finds me ravishing! She can't help herself! And really, who could? Bees to honey! Bees to honey!)

I don't think the Sheriff is well suited for you at all. You'd be better off with a more professional man. A learned man. A well-traveled man.

(Stands facing BECKY and grabs her shoulders.)

A man who will love you and be devoted to you. A man who can take care of your money...I mean you...take care of you.

(Pulls BECKY close while she trembles with fear.)

BECKY

I'm sure you're quite right.

BODKIN

I think you know who I mean.

BECKY

(aside – I must continue to pretend affection for this scoundrel if we are to find out what he is up to! Oh my, can I do it? It is tortuously difficult, but I must be strong for my love. Strong for Gene!)

Talking with you has made me see things so much more clearly.

(Steps back from BODKIN, puts hand on BODKIN'S arm.)

Well Mr. Shamley...I'm sorry, I mean Bodkin...seeing as you're new to Bagwell, I wanted to see if you have a place to stay the night. Or are you passing on through this afternoon?

BODKIN

A place to stay?

(Raises eyebrows up and down suggestively and winks at BECKY.)

Well...I think I'd better stay in town, just in case Sally has a relapse.

BECKY

Sally?

BODKIN

Wait! Did I say Sally? Sally is...uh...ummm...(thinking) my sister's name. Yes that's it! My sister's name! Oh my. Well, what I meant to say was just in case the young lady has a relapse. I mean I'm not sure that your Doctor is up to the challenge of reviving her should she fall ill again, don't you think?

BECKY

Oh, ah. Yes, absolutely. Well...there is a hotel across the way. Bagwell Hotel. Would you like me to show you the way?

BODKIN

(*suggestively*) That would be lovely my dear. Show me the way, Nurse Trueheart.

BECKY

My pleasure. I mean a revered medical man like yourself needs his rest.

(BECKY offers BODKIN her arm to distract him from his bag and leads him through the front door, leaving his bag on the bar.)

BODKIN

After you, my dear! To the hotel! Yes...for some REST!
(Raises eyebrows up and down.)

(CARL follows BODKIN and BECKY as they exit front door, looking out the door after they leave.)

LACY

Somethin' funny going on here Doc. Sheriff's acting so strangely. He and Becky were supposed to have gone on a picnic this afternoon. She was sure he was going to ask for her hand in marriage. Now he's mooning over that girl and Becky leaves with that slippery snake oil salesman? What the heck is going on?

CARL

Yes, you're right. Gene is acting strangely!
(Closes door and rushes to the bar.)

But Becky is ok. I asked her to distract Bodkin so that I could have a look in his bag. I don't trust him.

LACY

Oh. I see. Good thinkin. Here.
(Slides Bodkin's bag across bar to CARL.)

LACY

You take a peek and I'll go keep a lookout.

(LACY exits front door. CARL looks in BODKIN'S bag and pulls out an assortment of bottles and jars and handmade bags tied with strings etc... and then a bottle with a tag tied to it that says "TRUTH".)

CARL

(reading) Truth. *(beat)* Truth? Strange name for a medicine.

(Puts bottle on bar top, pulls out more jars and bottles which he puts on the bar top, pulls out a red bottle with a tag reading "LOVE" and reads tag.)

(reading) Love. *(beat)* Love? Wait a minute! What's going on here? Love. The Sheriff's strange behavior. I think I might know what's happening!

(Picks up truth serum bottle and reads tag.)

Truth!

(Again, reads the love potion bottle tag.)

Love!

(Holding both bottles up.)

What bad medicine is this?

ACT I
Scene 2

Setting: Same, just a few minutes later.

At Rise: LACY and BODKIN are OS front door. CHARLIE is sitting at a table nursing a drink, playing with cards. CARL is at the bar looking through a collection of bottles, jars, bags, on the bar top from BODKIN'S bag which remains open on the bar top.

LACY

(OS front door much louder than necessary as to warn CARL) Oh hello Mr. Shameful. You're back! We haven't been formally introduced yet, but I'm Lacy McKinney.

CARL

(head snaps up) Holy Smokes!
(Begins to replace bottles and jars into bag except the tall red "love" potion bottle.)

LACY

(OS front door much louder than necessary as to warn CARL) Listen, I hear you're a whiz with medicine. I was wondering if you wouldn't mind taking a look at this here rash I have.

BODKIN

(OS front door) It's Shamley! Bodkin Shamley! And no, I'm sorry. I'm in a bit of a hurry. Out of my way! I mean, would you excuse me?

CARL

I better keep this Love potion back here behind the bar for further investigation!
(Puts tall red "love" potion bottle behind the bar.)

(CARL quickly closes BODKIN'S bag as BODKIN rushes in and LACY follows, entering from front door. LACY looks nervously at CARL who still has his hand on the top of the bag.)

BODKIN

Besides, you have a town doctor for that kind of thing. Surely he can handle a simple rash!

CARL

Rash?

BODKIN

My bag, Doctor.

CARL

Oh yes...

(Looks down, realizes his hand is still on the bag, picks up bag.)

Just about to bring it to you. Here you go.

(CARL gives BODKIN the carpet bag. BODKIN looks suspiciously at CARL, then the bag, then CARL. LACY looks at hands.)

LACY

Oh happy day! I guess it's not a rash after all.

CHARLIE

Yup! Got to be careful with them rashes. Couple years back over in Bixton they got the rashes bad, real bad. Nearly wiped out the entire town! Population 56. Or was it 55. Can't member if Old Man Skulkie was still alive when the rashes came. Hey sis, do you member-

CARL

Nurse Trueheart get you setup at the hotel?

BODKIN

(smiling) Yes. She showed me over and then, suddenly, *(frowning)* developed a terrible headache.

(aside – Isn't that the way it is with women? It's always a headache. (beat) Am I right fellas? Am I right?)

I was going to give her my special tonic but had forgotten my bag here. She left in such a hurry I was sure she was on her way to see you about the headache.

CARL

No. No, she didn't come over here.

BODKIN

Well can we blame her? After what happened this morning perhaps she's not as confident of your medical abilities as she once was.

(GENE and SALLY enter front door, arm in arm.)

BODKIN

Back so soon? I hope the fresh air agreed with you dear. However, I was thinking that perhaps you will need a room at the hotel. After all, you don't know who you are...

SALLY

No...No I don't.

GENE

Does it matter? She's lovely.

BODKIN

So you must not know where you're going to stay tonight.

SALLY

No...No I don't!

GENE

We have an extra room at my house!

BODKIN

That would be most inappropriate, Sheriff. I think it would be best if she stayed over at the hotel, under my supervision of course, just in case she has a relapse.

SALLY

Now that you mention it, I am quite tired. Perhaps it would do me good to rest a spell.

GENE

Here, dear, you can rest your head on my shoulder.

(SALLY rolls her eyes, sees CARL looking at her, and smiles sweetly.)

CARL

You're certainly welcome to rest up at the clinic. We have a comfortable bed there and Nurse Trueheart can stay and keep you company.

BODKIN

My dear Doctor, I don't think it would be wise to leave this young woman, in her vulnerable state, in the hands of a simple country nurse. I mean even you, the town doctor, were not able to help her in her time of need. No, No...I think I'll get her setup at the hotel, in her own room of course. Near mine, in case she needs expert medical assistance again.

SALLY

Well, if you think that's best Mr. Shamley.

GENE

Oh no...you're not leaving? Can I come with you?

SALLY

Don't worry my sweet Sheriff...I'm sure I'll be back to see you very soon!
(*aside – This is working out perfectly! That love potion turns even the strongest willed men into lovesick puppy dogs!*)

CARL

You've really taken an interest in this case, haven't you Mr. Shama-Lama-Ding-Dong.

BODKIN

It's Shamley. Bodkin Shamley. And yes.....I'm interested!

(Rubbs hands together in greed, realizes what he's doing and wipes his hands on his pants.)

I mean just doing what any responsible citizen would do, Doctor.

CARL

Well, Miss, why don't I just stop in and check on you after you get settled.

SALLY

Uhh....

(Looks to Bodkin not sure how he wants her to respond.)

GENE

Yes! I'll come check on you too!

SALLY

Uhh....

(Looks to Bodkin not sure how he wants her to respond.)

BODKIN

My dear Doctor and Sheriff, that won't be necessary at all. I've got the situation completely under control. Besides, I think rest is what is in order. Come with me dear. Good day!

(BODKIN takes SALLY'S arm in his and begins toward front door. CARL sits at bar and LACY pours a drink. BECKY, unnoticed, peeks in room from storeroom door watching as GENE pats pockets, pulls out a ring. BECKY reacts with quiet surprise which quickly turns to dismay.)

GENE

No wait! Ah...girl with no name, don't go! I...I....I love you!

LACY & CARL

What did he say?!

GENE

I don't know your name but I do know I love you. Will you marry me?

(GENE gets down on a knee in front of SALLY and holds ring up. BECKY, still unnoticed, exits storeroom door, crying into her handkerchief.)

LACY

Oh for Pete's sake! He was going to propose today! And now he's given Becky's ring to that girl!

CHARLIE

Who's Pete? Oh. You mean cousin Pete...the one with that short leg? Always walkin in circles. Funniest thing. I member this one time-

SALLY

(Snatches the ring and puts it on.)

Oh, my sweet Sheriff! Well, would you look at that! Diamonds and pearls!

(aside – This is happening just as Bodkin said it would!

(Looks at ring.)

It's a little on the small side but I'm sure I can sell it for something.)

Why this is so fast but of course I'll marry you! After all, you are my hero!

GENE

I'm gonna make you the happiest girl in the world.

(Takes SALLY'S hands in his, holding them close to his chest.)

SALLY

Why my sweet Sheriff! I'm sure that's absolutely true! Now you sit down here and let me go get rested and freshened up and when I get back we'll make our weddin plans!

GENE

Wedding plans! Yes! I think I'd better go see if I can find Reverend Prather. See when he can perform the ceremony. Hopefully very soon! Goodbye my darling.

(GENE tries to kiss SALLY on the cheek, she resists, he shrugs, still happy, and exits front door.)

BODKIN & SALLY

(aside, each to different parts of the stage – And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the power of the potion!)

BODKIN

Well my dear. Your day started off rocky but look how lovely it has turned out.

(Pulls SALLY to one side, ALL OTHERS are unable to overhear.)

So far so good, Sally. Looks as if the love potion is working perfectly on the Sheriff.

SALLY

Oh Bodkin, yes! I guess that old Indian medicine man was telling the truth after all.

Everything is working exactly as you said it would.

BODKIN

Well of course it is. All my schemes always work perfectly. I am quite brilliant, as you well know.

SALLY

The most brilliant man I have ever known. So, what now?

BODKIN

Let's get you to the hotel. Then I'll look for Nurse Becky and make sure she knows about your engagement to her Sheriff. Once she is sufficiently devastated, I'll make my move and woo her into marriage.

SALLY

But why don't you just use the love potion on Becky?

BODKIN (angry)

Who are you to question me? I don't need the love potion. I am quite irresistible to women.

SALLY

Of course! You're the most irresistible man I've ever known! So, what should I do?

BODKIN

Egad! Try using your tiny girl sized brain, woman! You will make your wedding plans with the Sheriff, of course!

SALLY

But I don't really have to marry the Sheriff, right? It's only a ruse for now, right? Because you're going to marry me after you get the ranch and get rid of Nurse Becky, right?

BODKIN (sinister)

You'll do as you are told! Let's go quickly. I've got to find Nurse Becky!
(now speaking so that everyone can hear) Now, my dear, let's get you over to the hotel. You'll need your rest if you are to be married soon. Good day everyone!

(SALLY and BODKIN exit front door. HICKORY enters front door, moaning loudly, looking very silly with bandages wound around his chin, over the top of his head, with a big bow at the top, to hold a cold compress up to the side of his face in the area of the bad tooth.)

CHARLIE

You're back Hickory! Feelin' any better?

(Hurries to bar.)

Two whiskeys, Lacy.

(LACY pours two whiskeys, gives to CHARLIE, holds hand out for payment.)

CHARLIE

Told ya, Hickory's day to pay. Ready for that drink?

(CHARLIE holds drinks up and motions to HICKORY to come over.)

HICKORY

Hey Charlie. Oh Doc. My tooth!

CARL

Oh for heaven's sake, Hickory! With all that's going on here I've forgotten about your tooth!

(BECKY, crying, enters from storeroom door.)

BECKY

(aside – Oh dear me. Gene, my one and only true love, has found another. Alas, I shall never love again. I shall ripen and wither on the vine.)

(BECKY cries quietly into handkerchief. LACY rushes to her side, and hugs her.)

LACY

Oh no honey. How much of that did you hear?

BECKY (crying)

Love. Ring. Marriage. Enough to know all is lost. I will here, now, and forever be a piece of flotsam on a loveless sea of misery.

CARL

I'll take care of Becky. Can you walk Hickory back over to the clinic? There is a bottle in the tall cabinet behind my desk labeled Shanghai Juice that should take care of the pain. Have him take a spoonful, would you?

LACY

Sure thing Doc. Anything for you.

(Gives CARL a big smile and BECKY an affectionate pat.)

(to BECKY) It'll be ok hun. *(to HICKORY)* Come on Hickory. Doc wants you to wait at the clinic. Has some pain medicine waitin for you.

(LACY guides HICKORY toward front door while CARL helps BECKY to a chair.)

HICKORY

Oh Boy! Shanghai Juice!

CHARLIE

What about that drink, Hickory?

HICKORY

Sorry Charlie.

CHARLIE

Bye Hickory. *(beat)* Be a shame to let Hickory's drink go to waste!
 (Drinks one whiskey and returns, unsteady, to his seat with the other
 whiskey and begins to drink.)

(LACY and HICKORY exit front door, HICKORY moaning loudly as
 DOUGLAS enters front door.)

DOUGLAS

(calling back to HICKORY) Bless you my child!

(Turns attention to BECKY and CARL.)

(excited) Praise be! What a glorious day! Hello Doc, Nurse Becky. I hear Gene's looking
 for me. I hear there's to be a wedding! Looks like you and Gene are finally going to tie
 the proverbial knot!

(BECKY begins sobbing. CARL greets DOUGLAS with a handshake,
 begins to usher him back to door.)

DOUGLAS

Oh mercy me! Was it something I said? Where is Gene?

CARL

Reverend Prather, I...um...I think that any discussion about weddings may be a little
 sensitive for Becky. Seems there may be a wedding, but Becky's not the bride.

DOUGLAS

Not Becky!?

CARL

Gene is out looking for you right now. Perhaps you can talk some sense into him. He
 seems a bit...confused...at the moment.

DOUGLAS

Lord help the boy. Yes...Perhaps he seeks my council. I'll go look for him right away.
 Becky, my dear, have courage! You can shed tears that he is gone, or you can smile
 because-

(BECKY begins to sob louder.)

CARL

OK Reverend.

(Muscles DOUGLAS to door as BECKY sobs.)

That's good. I think you should hurry and find Gene. Off you go.

(CARL turns back to BECKY thinking DOUGLAS has departed but DOUGLAS instead turns back to BECKY and begins speaking. CARL tries to shield BECKY while DOUGLAS tries to get her attention and deliver words of comfort.)

DOUGLAS

Remember, Becky, love is never lost. If not reciprocated, it will flow back like a good Mississippi molasses and soften and purify the heart!

(BECKY sobs even louder.)

CARL

Yes, yes, Reverend. OK. We'll see you later then...

(Practically pushes DOUGLAS out the door.)

DOUGLAS

(*OS front door, trailing off*) Love is an occasionally splended thing...

CARL

Becky, I understand what you heard Gene saying was upsetting, but I think there's a reason for his strange behavior. I think what we all just witnessed may be the result of some bad medicine.

BECKY

Bad medicine?

CARL

Look what I found in Bodkin's bag.

(From behind the bar, CARL pulls out the red love potion bottle and puts it on top of bar.)

BECKY

What's that?

(Stops crying, dabbing her eyes with the handkerchief.)

CARL

(Removes the tag that says "LOVE" and hands to BECKY.)

Read it. I think it's some kind of love potion.

BECKY

(*reading*) Love. Love potion? (*beat*) You found that in Bodkin's bag?

CARL

Yes. Among other things. He has an assortment of tonics, and lotions, and, well, I don't know what. But this love potion-

BECKY

You think that Gene drank some and is under a spell of some sort? That would mean that Gene doesn't really love her!

(aside - Be still my beating heart. Perhaps Gene loves me after all! Do you think there's hope for us yet? Do you?)

CARL

He started acting strangely after he had a drink with that girl. I think Bodkin slipped this love potion into Gene's drink so that he would fall in love with our mystery lady.

BECKY

I don't understand. Why would Bodkin want Gene to fall in love with that girl? Bodkin doesn't even know her.

CARL

Well I don't think it is a coincidence that they both showed up here at the same time...

BECKY

Wait a second. Hold on. Earlier, when I was talking to Bodkin, he called her Sally but then explained it away. Maybe her name IS Sally and they really DO know each other!

CARL

That just might be the case! This amnesia business doesn't add up. I'm thinking they're in on this together!

BECKY

But in on what? What could they gain by this Sally marrying Gene? Not like he's rich or anything.

CARL

I don't know just yet. But I intend to find out.

*(CHARLIE walks unsteadily to bar, puts his empty glass on bar, and sits.
MAXWELL enters front door.)*

CHARLIE

Afternoon, Mister.

MAXWELL

Yes. Good afternoon. I'm on official government business and looking for a rancher by the name of Cory Trueheart. Any idea where I can find him?

CHARLIE

Cory? Heck no. How could he be here? He's been gone for months now. Many a strange things have happened here today but nothin' that strange! Although...

CHARLIE (Cont.)

(Looks up to the rafters while talking.)

my Auntie Vergie always used to say that after she lost Uncle Walter in the big accident, he used to visit her, in the outhouse of all places! Can you imagine? You're in the outhouse, gots to go bad, you're just squattin' down, getting ready to-

MAXWELL (horrified, interrupts)

Excuse me? An accident?

CHARLIE

Yes. A mining accident over in Casterville.

MAXWELL

Are you saying Cory Trueheart has been injured in a mining accident?

CHARLIE

Ah...no. I was tellin you 'bout my Uncle Walter's ghost. Geeze. Thought all you gov'ment fellas supposed to be real smart like! *(beat)* Oh, never mind mister. You won't find Cory here anymore than you'll find my Uncle Walter. But his daughter, Becky, is right over there.

(Points to BECKY.)

MAXWELL

Uh...Thanks.

(Walks to BECKY.)

Are you Becky Trueheart?

BECKY

Yes. I'm Becky Trueheart.

MAXWELL

My name is Maxwell Foreman. I'm here on official government business and need to see Cory Trueheart. I understand he is your father. Where can I find him?

CHARLIE (shouting)

Bagwell Cemetery!

(MAXWELL and BECKY turn to look at CHARLIE while CARL takes the love potion bottle to the bar, putting it down and tucking the tag into his pocket.)

CHARLIE

(to CARL) That govment fella's just dumb as socks!

(CARL claps CHARLIE on the back and then turns his back to CHARLIE and the red love potion bottle, facing BECKY'S table, listening with concerned interest.)

BECKY

I'm sorry, Mr. Foreman, but Father passed away unexpectedly just three months ago. May I ask the nature of the government's business with him?

MAXWELL

Oh. *(pause)* I'm so sorry for your loss. *(pause)* Well, I'm here to facilitate the final payment, I say final payment, and ownership transfer of his land lease.

BECKY

Land lease? What? Oh yes...I forgot about the telegram.

(Pulls telegram out of her pocket and starts to read.)

But this must be a mistake. I don't think he carried a lease on any land. None that I know of anyway.

CHARLIE

Yup. Nobody owns nothin no more. It's all leases nowadays.

(Picks up red love potion bottle, examines/admires it, looks around, remembers CARL is close by, and puts it down.)

MAXWELL

(Pulls paperwork out of his bag and reads.)

Ewing Ranch Lot 19 in Saguache (pronounced suh-watch) County, Colorado...

(CHARLIE picks up red love potion bottle, smells the cap/cork, looks at CARL'S back, and puts it down, afraid of getting caught.)

MAXWELL (Cont.)

9,756 acres 9.5 miles east of the town of Saguache, .7 miles west of the town of Bagwell.

BECKY

Why yes, that's our ranch. But I don't understand. I thought we owned the property. Are you sure there's a lease?

(CARL walks to BECKY and puts a reassuring hand on her shoulder. CHARLIE picks up red love potion bottle again, shakes it, looks around, licks lips, holds in his lap.)

MAXWELL

Quite sure. A ten year lease to be exact. I say a ten year lease! See here.

(BODKIN pokes head in storeroom door, unseen by all, listening, twisting mustache. He cannot see the red bottle in CHARLIE'S lap. MAXWELL hands paperwork to BECKY, pointing to a paragraph.)

MAXWELL

The final payment is due this week and I have the paperwork here to execute the transfer of ranch ownership once the payment requirements have been fulfilled. And...

(Flips through pages, skimming.)

...in the case of the death of the original lessee...

(Flips through more pages, finds what he's looking for.)

Ah...here it is...(reading) the lease must be executed by the eldest male relative. I say, the eldest male relative! So we'll need either your brother or husband to execute the final paperwork.

BECKY

Oh my! I have no brothers. I'm an only child. And I'm not yet married. What happens then, if there is no male relative to sign the paperwork?

MAXWELL

Well, the lease will terminate. I say terminate! And the government will take possession of the property. It's all detailed in the lease agreement.

(Turns to a page of agreement and points to paragraph.)

See here.

BODKIN

(aside – Well, well, well. Looks like Becky will be in great need of a husband in order to save her beloved ranch. This government business could certainly work to my advantage.)

(BODKIN exits storeroom door.)

CARL

Mr. Foreman, I'm Doctor Goodall. Becky is my nurse. Do you mind if I take a look at the agreement for her?

MAXWELL

Surely.

CARL

(Takes paperwork from BECKY and reads.)

Don't worry Becky. Looks like Gene can execute the agreement once you're married.

MAXWELL

Oh! You're getting married. A happy coincidence.

BECKY

Umm...yes. I'm going to be married soon.

(GENE enters front door unnoticed by all but CHARLIE who quickly replaces the red love potion bottle on the bar, afraid of being caught.)

CARL

To Gene Ranger, the town Sheriff.

GENE

Did I hear my name?

BECKY and CARL (shocked)

Gene!

MAXWELL

Oh hello. Sheriff Ranger I presume? I'm Maxwell Foreman. Miss Trueheart was just telling me about you.

(GENE and MAXWELL shake hands. During this exchange BECKY and CARL are nervous that GENE will blow their story.)

GENE

Pleasure, Mr. Foreman. I trust nothing crime related needing my attention has brought you to Bagwell.

MAXWELL

No, no. Nothing like that. Just some financial business. I understand that you're getting married.

GENE

That's right! I am! I'm the luckiest guy alive!

BECKY (nervously)
Oh, so lucky! So much luck.

CARL (nervously)
Lucky, yes! Extremely lucky.

MAXWELL

Well, yes then, that would be fine but you'll need to make it soon. I'll be in town for only three days. Three days I say!

GENE

Huh?

(BECKY pretends to cough loudly to divert the conversation.)

CARL (catching on)

Oh, my Becky. You OK? Uhh...Hey Gene, would you get a drink for Becky?

GENE

Oh, sure. Excuse me.

(Walks to bar, looking around for LACY.)

Hey Charlie. Where's Lacy?

CHARLIE

(Looks around for Lacy and then remembers.)

Oh yeah. Took Hickory over to Doc's office for some Shanghai Juice! His tooth ya know.

(As CARL, MAXWELL, and BECKY continue to look through the paperwork, GENE sees the red love potion bottle and picks it up.)

GENE

Fancy bottle. Don't think I've ever seen a red bottle before.

(Examines red love potion bottle.)

CHARLIE

Yeah...Must be French or something. The good stuff!

(Licks his lips with desire.)

GENE

Hope Lacy doesn't mind me giving some of it to Becky.

(GENE pours a drink from the red love potion bottle while CHARLIE looks on, licking his lips, wanting. GENE notices CHARLIE'S desire.)

GENE (Cont.)

Think we'll just find some place behind the bar for safe keeping.

(GENE squats down putting the bottle on a shelf inside the bar while MAXWELL speaks. CHARLIE is frustrated.)

MAXWELL

(while GENE is behind counter) As long as you and the Sheriff marry, make the final payment, and execute the documents to my satisfaction before I leave town, the ranch will remain within your family's possession.

(GENE stands.)

MAXWELL

Well, I'm off. I'll be staying at the Bagwell Hotel if you have any questions for me. Good day. I say good day!

(CARL walks MAXWELL to front door. GENE brings the love potion drink to BECKY.)

GENE

Enjoy your stay in Bagwell!

(MAXWELL exits front door without papers. CARL sits with BECKY.)

GENE

Here you go Nurse Trueheart.

(Puts love potion drink he thinks is whiskey in front of BECKY.)

BECKY

Thank you. Listen, Gene-

GENE

Nice fella. I guess he wants to come to the wedding.

BECKY

...about that wedding. I really need to talk to you. You see-

GENE

Oh, don't worry. You'll be invited too, of course. After all, we've known each other forever.

BECKY

Well, it's not exactly about the wedding. It's about Bodkin and the girl that showed up this morning. You see I think that-

GENE (smiling)

Oh yes...the girl. She is so lovely. Becky, once you get to know her, I sure you'll be great friends.

BECKY

Oh, well, I'm sure she is a *(pause)* lovely person, Gene, but I really need to tell you-

(BODKIN and SALLY enter front door.)

SALLY

Gene, darling! I'm back to make our wedding plans!

BODKIN

Yes...our plan is working! *(beat)* I mean, uh, yes, you'd better get working on those wedding plans my dear!

(GENE rushes to SALLY and they embrace.)

GENE

Oh darling. It's so wonderful to see you again. I couldn't find Reverend Prather but left word for him to come over here as soon as possible.

BECKY

(Following GENE.)

Gene! Please! I need to talk to you!

GENE

Perhaps another time Becky. I've got myself a weddin' to plan!

(SALLY shoots BECKY a snarky smile. BODKIN puts his arm around BECKY.)

BODKIN

Tsk-Tsk my dear...still hoping the Sheriff will come around?

(BECKY shrugs off BODKIN and sits at table with CARL. GENE and SALLY sit next to each other at far table, whispering and holding hands.)

BODKIN

(angrily) (aside – Well, well, well...Nurse Becky may be a tougher nut to crack than I thought. But she must, she will be mine!)

(BODKIN sits at bar. LACY enters front door.)

LACY

OK Doc. Got Hickory setup with that Shanghai Juice.

CARL

Thanks Lacy.

LACY

Becky, hun, you ok?

BECKY

Oh Lacy, what do you think?

(Points to GENE and SALLY who are mooning over each other.)

LACY

Oh brother!

CHARLIE

Here!

(Raises hand like for roll call in school.)

(LACY shoots CHARLIE a look, goes to bar and begins to pour a drink for BODKIN. MAXWELL enters front door and walks to CARL and BECKY, not noticing GENE and SALLY.)

MAXWELL

There it is. The lease agreement. I'll need to take that with me.

(GENE and SALLY giggle. MAXWELL looks at them. GENE and SALLY kiss.)

MAXWELL

Miss Trueheart! Isn't that your future husband, I say your future husband, over there kissing another woman? Look, I don't know what you're trying to pull, but let me tell you that committing fraud against the government of the U.S. of A. is a most serious offense!

CHARLIE (mimicking)

I say, a most serious offense!

BODKIN

What's this? Yes indeed. A most serious offense. One that may work to my advantage! I mean, um, terrible how the government is taking advantage!

CHARLIE

Yeah. Government's always taking advantage. Hey sis! Member when cousin Buck's bees escaped and then them gove'ment fellas come a callin and-

BECKY

But Sir-

MAXWELL

A crime, in fact, punishable by 10 years in prison!

CHARLIE (mimicking)

I say ten years in prison!

BODKIN

Oh my! Ten years in prison! That's not good. I can tell you from personal experience! I mean so I've heard, personally.

CARL

Listen here-

MAXWELL

You have three days, I say three days, to produce a husband which obviously will not be the Sheriff.

BODKIN

Oh my no. Certainly not the Sheriff!

(Puts his arm around BECKY which she shrugs off.)

BECKY

If I could explain-

MAXWELL

Otherwise, you'll have 48 hours, I say 48 hours, to vacate and a public auction of property and contents will be held!

CHARLIE

Yeah, the government's always auctioning off people's property. I member one time our cousin Fester-

BECKY

Mr. Foreman, I-

MAXWELL

And don't give any thought to buying it back at auction. Union Pacific is intent on purchasing available land for their rail road expansion and they have the financial power to outbid anyone.

BODKIN

Oh my yes. That's simply wonderful! I mean terrible, dear. Simply terrible!

(Puts his arm around BECKY which she shrugs off.)

BECKY

But sir!

CHARLIE

And the railroads. Just goin around doin what the government tells em to.

CARL

Sir, if you would just please listen-

MAXWELL

Good day! I say, good day!

(Storms out front door with papers.)

LACY

For heaven's sake! What was that all about?

(LACY gives BODKIN a mean look and puts a protective arm around BECKY. HICKORY enters, singing loudly, unsteady on his feet.)

HICKORY (slurring)

Charlie! I'm back!

CHARLIE

Two whiskeys, Lacy. Hickory, how's the tooth?

LACY

It'll be alright Becky. You'll see.

(Returns to the bar, pours two drinks, gives to CHARLIE, holds hand out for payment.)

CHARLIE

I keep tellin ya-

LACY

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Hickory's day to pay. Funny thing is, little brother, you're doin all the drinkin and nobody's doin the payin!

CHARLIE

(Shrugs, holds drinks up and motions to HICKORY over.)

Ready for that drink?

HICKORY

Sure thing, Charlie!

CARL

Oh good Lord! Hickory! Things have been so crazy. I'm sorry I've not come to pull that tooth yet!

HICKORY

's ok Doc. My tooth don't even hurt no more! Lacy gave me some of that there Shanghai Juice and I feel wonderful! Really, really, really wonderful! Don't think my tooth needs pullin no more.

CARL

Oh no. How much did you have?

HICKORY

(Pulls bottle out of jacket, cradling it like kitten, petting it.)

This here bottle. This beautiful, beautiful bottle.

LACY (scolding)

Hickory!

CHARLIE

Yeah...as far as bottles go, Hickory, that's a doozie! Bring it on over here!

(CHARLIE licks lips, wanting Shanghai Juice.)

CARL

Now Hickory. I know Lacy did not give you the entire bottle.

BODKIN

Dr. Goodall! I'm quite sure that allowing a barkeep to administer powerful medications is a violation of medical ethics!

LACY

I gave him one spoonful. Hickory! I told you Doc said you could have just ONE spoonful.

HICKORY

It wasn't workin so good so I had me another spoonful. And then, it was workin so good I had to have me just one more spoonful. Then a couple more! You want one Doc? Let's everyone have some!

(Holds the bottle up.)

Shanghai Juice for everybody!

CHARLIE

Yes!

(Fist pump in air.)

CARL

I don't think so Hickory! Charlie!

(Snatches bottle and puts in his coat pocket.)

CHARLIE

Darn!

HICKORY

Sorry Charlie.

BODKIN

I think this gross negligence needs to be reported to the medical board!

CARL

Why don't you head back over to the clinic? I'll be there as soon as I can. Take a nap on the bed in there. You need to sleep off some of that juice. Charlie, walk Hickory back over to the clinic, would you?

CHARLIE

Sure thing, Doc. Hold on. Don't want these whiskeys to go to waste.

(Drinks both whiskeys, throws arm around HICKORY and leads him toward front door.)

CHARLIE (Cont.)

Let's go Hickory, old buddy, old pal!

HICKORY

Thanks Charlie.

(HICKORY and CHARLIE stumble out front door drunk-laughing loudly or singing "I've Been Working On The Rail Road". CARL follows, watches them out the door.)

BODKIN

Surely, you're not going to put that overmedicated bumpkin in the hands of that drunken bumpkin?

CARL

I'm sure they'll both be fine Mr. Spamley.

BODKIN

It's Shamley! Bodkin Shamley for heaven's sake!

BECKY

(to herself) Oh could this day get any worse? First I lose Gene and now I'm sure to lose the ranch. Where will I live? Oh no! What about Hank and Chuck and the rest of the ranch hands...

(Begins to pace, wringing her hands.)

and their families? Their children? They'll be out of work and out of a place to live as well. This is terrible, just terrible!

BODKIN

(Puts arm around BECKY.)

I have the perfect solution to your problem Nurse Trueheart. Me!

(CARL hears BODKIN'S remark, extracts BECKY from BODKIN.)

CARL

Come on Becky. Let's sit and think about this. We'll figure out something.

(Leads BECKY to table where he sits and BECKY sits in front of her untouched drink.)

BODKIN

(Sits at bar to order a drink.)

Whiskey.

(aside – Meddlesome doctor! I've got to get Nurse Trueheart alone. I think it's time she had some of the love potion!)

(Opens bag and starts to look for the love potion.)

(GENE and SALLY go to BECKY, CARL.)

GENE

Ya'll keep an eye out for Reverend Prather for me would ya? I'm going to take a stroll with my lady love and don't want to miss him. If he comes by could you tell him I'm looking for him?

CARL

Um...Sure thing, Gene.

SALLY

(snarky) Yes. Tell him we need help planning our wedding. *(pause)* Oh Becky, don't be so sad. I'm sure you'll find a husband one day!

(GENE and SALLY exit front door arm in arm chatting about weddings.
LACY exits to storeroom door to get broom.)

BECKY

Maybe I do need this drink after all.

(Lifts glass, about to drink the love potion but is interrupted.)

CARL

If we can't figure this out, if worse comes to worse, I could marry you...to save the ranch of course.

BODKIN

(Stops looking for bottle and starts listening.)

(aside – WHAT? Dang nabbit! That pesky doctor could ruin all our plans! I must find a way to get to Nurse Becky. She MUST, she WILL be mine!)

BECKY

(Puts glass down without drinking.)

Oh Carl. You're such a good friend. But everyone knows you're in love with Lacy. And you must know she's sweet on you too. How's that going to work out for you if you marry me?

(BODKIN is visibly relieved and starts looking through bag again for the love potion.)

CARL

If only I had the courage to tell her how I feel. She's just so independent. Running this place all by herself. Doesn't seem to even need a man.

(LACY enters from storeroom door with broom and begins sweeping.)

BECKY

Love has much more to do with want than need Carl. Though, look at me! I've found myself in a situation in which I'm both wanting and needing Gene. Oh me! Oh my! Perhaps Gene will come around in time but if not, what's to become of me?

BODKIN

Dagnabbit! Where is it?

LACY

What 'cha looking for Mr. Boobkin?

BODKIN

It's BODKIN! Bodkin Shamley! And I'm looking for...well, never you mind. I think I'll have another drink.

(BODKIN'S voice draws BECKY'S attention. LACY puts down broom and proceeds to fix a drink for BODKIN.)

BECKY

(Looking at BODKIN.)

I know just what I should do. I'll confront Bodkin and get some answers about this nonsense!

(Holds glass with love potion high.)

For courage!

(Drinks love potion and, not taking her eyes off of BODKIN, approaches him.)

BODKIN

Nurse Trueheart. With all that government excitement I forgot to check on your headache? I trust you're feeling better?

BECKY

Actually no, Mr. Shamley. I'm quite upset. I need to ask you some questions. I...I... (*swoony*) why Bodkin.

BODKIN

Yes?

BECKY

Your eyes...you have such stunning eyes. I could just swim in them! Oh Bodkin!
(Faints into BODKIN'S arms.)

LACY & CARL

What did she say?

BODKIN

Nurse Trueheart. Are you alright?

BECKY

(Comes around, looking up adoringly into BODKIN'S eyes.)

More than alright now that you're here. So strong and handsome, and smart too! And please, call me Becky.

LACY & CARL

Oh Brother!

CHARLIE

(*from OS*) Here!

(BODKIN stands BECKY on her feet and puts his arm around her shoulders.)

BODKIN

Dear Becky. Well it was a simple headache after all! I was worried you had changed your mind about me.

(*aside – (evil laugh) I was right after all! No woman can resist my charm, my astounding good looks, and my unmatched intellect!*)

CARL

(Picks up BECKY'S empty glass and sniffs it.)

(*aside –*

(*Carrying BECKY'S empty glass.*)

Oh no! This is not whiskey! Gene must have mistakenly given Becky the love potion! This can only lead to more trouble!)

(CARL takes BECKY'S empty glass to the bar motioning LACY to smell it. LACY smells it and shakes her head and shrugs her shoulders.)

BODKIN

Let's take a stroll and get to know each other better. You must tell me all about yourself, my dear. And this charming town. And your sizeable ranch.

BECKY

Sounds lovely! Lacy, would you be a dear and put my picnic basket

(Points to basket on the bar since beginning of play.)

behind the bar while I show Bodkin around town? It's too heavy to carry around.

LACY

Um...Sure. No problem.

(Moves basket from bar top to under/behind bar.)

BECKY

Thanks. Alright, Bodkin, let me show you around Bagwell.

BODKIN

We've got a lot to discuss, dear Becky. Now, tell me all about your ranch my dear! It must be difficult running it all by yourself. What a heavy burden for your tiny, delicate, milky white shoulders. (NOTE: change to appropriate color description for actress or remove "milky white")

(BODKIN and BECKY exit front door. CARL and LACY follow, open front door and look out, do not exit.)

LACY

Hey Doc. What's wrong with Becky? What's going on NOW?

(While CARL and LACY are still looking out the front door talking to each other silently, CHARLIE and HICKORY enter, sneaking, from storeroom door. LACY and CARL do not notice. CHARLIE holds his finger in front of his mouth, indicating to HICKORY to keep quiet, points to a table. HICKORY drunk tip-toes to table and sits while CHARLIE drunk tip-toes to bar, looks for red love potion bottle, remembers it is behind the bar, and squats down behind bar to get the red love potion bottle which he thinks is fancy whiskey.)

CHARLIE

(Pops up with red love potion bottle.)

Here it is! Fancy whiskey! It ain't Shanghai juice but it'll do!

(CHARLIE freezes, clasps his free hand over his mouth, realizing he has spoken aloud. Looks at CARL and LACY and, seeing they are still looking out the door and did not hear him, also grabs a bottle of regular whiskey and carries both bottles, drunk tip-toeing to table, and sits with HICKORY, handing him the regular whiskey bottle, keeping the red love potion bottle for himself. They silently argue over who gets the red bottle, pulling it back and forth, or drawing for high card etc...)

LACY

Do you think we should let her go with him?

CARL

I don't think she's in immediate danger. Something bigger going on and we have to figure it out.

LACY

What in tarnation is going on? And what was that in Becky's glass?

CARL

I'm still not completely sure but that red bottle on the bar had a tag that says love...

(LACY goes to bar and looks for red love potion bottle while CARL looking out front door. LACY does not notice CHARLIE and HICKORY arguing silently over red love potion bottle thinking it fancy whiskey.)

LACY

Uh, Carl...

(Continuing to look for bottle.)

CARL

(over his shoulder as he is still looking out front door) I think it's some kind of love potion.

LACY

Carl...

(Continuing to look for bottle.)

CARL

(Still looking outdoor and trying puzzle it out.)

Gene, and now Becky, both seem to have had some and now both are in love with those two. And then there is this government business...

(Closes door, thoughtfully rubs his chin.)

LACY

Uh Carl....

CARL

The girl has Gene.... *(beat)* And now Bodkin's got Becky *(beat)* and-

(CHARLIE wins the battle, holds red love potion bottle possessively. HICKORY shrugs, picks up the regular whiskey bottle.)

LACY (loudly)

Carl!

CARL

What?

LACY

What bottle you talking about?

CARL

The one I left on the bar.

(Rushes to bar, looking all around.)

It was right here! It's a tall red bottle. I took it out of Bodkin's bag.

(CARL and LACY look all over the bar top and behind the bar. CHARLIE and HICKORY clink bottles and drink, CHARLIE from the red love potion bottle and HICKORY from the regular whiskey bottle. CARL and LACY look around the saloon and see CHARLIE drinking from the red love potion bottle.)

CARL

Oh no!

CHARLIE

(gazing into HICKORY'S eyes) Hickory, I never noticed your eyes were blue with little specks of green! They're so pretty!

CARL & LACY

Oh no!

HICKORY

(*confused*) Uhhh....Thanks?

CHARLIE

Truthfully, Hickory, them's the prettiest eyes I ever did seen! Wonder why I never noticed them eyes before. So pretty.

(Touches HICKORY'S cheek tenderly.)

HICKORY

(Swats CHARLIE'S hand away.)

Gee Charlie...I...I...(very *confused*) I don't know.

LACY

Well I never! Has everyone has gone crazy? Even my little brother! (*pause*) Although, (*thinking*) truth be told, (*thinking*) Charlie has always been quite fond of Hickory.

CARL

Truth. Truth? Truth! Lacy! That's it! I don't know the whole truth of the matter yet, but I think I know how to find out! I've got to get back into Bodkin's bag again and find that truth serum, before it's too late!

ACT II
Scene 1

Setting: Same, just moments later.

At Rise: CARL is standing at CHARLIE'S table. LACY is behind the bar looking at CHARLIE who is still sitting at his table gazing affectionately at HICKORY who is uncomfortably perplexed. During this whole scene CHARLIE is fawning over HICKORY who is confused by and repelling his attentions.

CARL

Don't know what we're going to do about those two.

(Plucks red love potion bottle off the table and returns to bar, handing to LACY.)

And I've got to get that tooth pulled before the Shanghai juice wears off. But right now I need to find some way to get back in Bodkin's bag so I can get that bottle labeled truth.

LACY

So....this is the love potion. Really seems to work, huh?

(Examines bottle, looking up at CARL and down at the bottle, toying with idea of using it on CARL.)

CARL

(Walks to CHARLIE looking at him closely.)

I would say it's 100 percent effective. But what I need to take a look at is his bottle labeled truth.

LACY

(Shakes her head, rejecting the idea of tricking CARL into loving her and puts the red love potion bottle behind bar.)

He's got a love potion and a truth potion?

CARL

A truth serum of some kind. I think our mystery lady is in cahoots with Bodkin. She's definitely not what she seems. If I can get the truth serum and get her to drink it, I might be able to find out exactly what the heck is going on here before Gene marries her.

LACY

I'm with you Doc. Just let me know what I can do to help. Anything for you.

(Looks lovingly at CARL and he at her.)

BODKIN

(OS front door) After you, my precious pet.

CARL

Here's our chance!

LACY

Alright, I'll distract Bodkin so you can get the truth serum.

(BODKIN and BECKY enter front door.)

BECKY

Carl! Lacy! Bodkin proposed! Can you believe it? We're getting married!

CHARLIE

Awww...Gettin married. Ain't that sweet Hickory.

HICKORY

Um...Yes? I guess so.

BODKIN

Quite right...as soon as possible!

(aside – The sooner we're married, the sooner I can get my hands her ranch! Candy from a baby! Candy from a baby!)

LACY

Gosh Becky, are you sure? I mean, just this morning you were going on and on about Gene. No disrespect Mr. Spamalot.

BODKIN

None taken. And it's Shamley. Bodkin Shamley.

BECKY

Was I? Well I think it must have been just a childish crush. What I feel for Bodkin

(Clasps her hands to her heart.)

I just never felt anything so strongly in my life! I can just tell he's the one.

BODKIN

And you're the one for me my dear!

BECKY

Lacy, can I get my basket back? Bodkin and I are going to go on a romantic picnic to talk about our engagement.

LACY

(Gets an idea, pretends to look for basket behind bar.)

Oh sure. Now where did I put that basket? Hmm...Why don't you have a seat with your handsome husband-to-be while I look for it.

(BECKY and BODKIN sit at a table. BODKIN puts his bag on the floor on the opposite side of the table from where BECKY is sitting.)

LACY

I just remembered! I put your basket in the storeroom.

(BECKY starts to get up. LACY puts a hand on her shoulder to hold her down.)

LACY (Cont.)

Why don't you let your betrothed get the basket? As you said, it's rather heavy. And what with him being so big and strong...

CHARLIE

He is rather big and strong, don't you think Hickory?

HICKORY

I guess. But he ain't no bigger 'n you.

CHARLIE

Aw, shucks. You noticed! I been workin out.
(Makes muscles with his arms.)

LACY

Would you mind, Mr. Scamley?

BODKIN

It's Shamley! Bodkin Shamley. And yes. I'll get it. Where did you say?

LACY

(Points to storeroom door.)
Thru that door and just around the corner to the left.

BODKIN

(aside - My, my yes. Bigger and stronger and smarter than all these small-town hicks!)

(BODKIN exits the storeroom door. LACY motions to CARL who hurries over to and kneels in front of BODKIN'S bag.)

BODKIN

(OS storeroom) I don't see any basket back here.

LACY

(loudly) Are you sure? I'm positive I put it right inside the door way.

(CARL opens BODKIN'S bag.)

BECKY

(Trying to peer over table to see what CARL is doing on floor.)
Hey Doc. What 'cha doing down there?

CARL

(Snaps Bodkin's bag closed and stands.)
Oh nothing. I was, ah, tying my shoe.

(BODKIN enters from storeroom door.)

BODKIN

There's no basket by the door.

LACY

Oh that's right. I put it on the table, inside just to the right.

(BODKIN exits storeroom door. LACY holds her hand in front of BECKY'S face to distract her while CARL kneels in front of BODKIN'S bag.)

LACY

Becky. Look here at my hand. Does this look like a rash to you?

(BECKY looks at LACY'S hand while CARL opens Bodkin's bag again.)

BECKY

Ummm...I don't see anything. Does it itch?

BODKIN

(os storeroom door) What is this nonsense? There is absolutely no basket back here!

(CARL quickly shuts the bag and stands up as BODKIN enters from storeroom door.)

LACY

Stay there. I'll show you where.

(Nods at CARL.)

Oh no, look at your hand Becky. I think I've given you my rash!
(aside – I've distracted Becky and now will distract Bodkin so Carl can search his bag for the Truth serum. For Carl I would do anything!)

Let me show you where it is.

(BECKY examines her own hand closely while LACY and BODKIN exit storeroom door and CARL opens BODKIN'S bag and roots around inside.)

LACY

(OS storeroom) I was sure it was right back here!

BECKY

Oh no. Is it a rash?

CHARLIE

Hope the rashes haven't come here to Bagwell. Could have an ep-er-dermic on our hands!

(HICKORY and CHARLIE look at their own hands and then CHARLIE takes one of HICKORY'S hands and examines lovingly.)

HICKORY

An eperdermis? On our hands?

(HICKORY realizes CHARLIE is holding his hand, yanks his hand out of CHARLIE'S, turns away sort of hiding his hands from CHARLIE and examines his own hands while CHARLIE keeps trying to peek over his shoulder and see HICKORY'S hands.)

BODKIN

(OS storeroom) Well I don't see the basket anywhere back here!

(BECKY and HICKORY continue to examine their hands, CHARLIE continues to try and peek at HICKORY'S hands, CARL removes bottle labeled truth from BODKIN'S bag, closes it, and stands with bottle in hand.)

CARL

Truth!

(aside – I'll use this Truth serum

(Displays truth serum bottle to audience)

to find out just what those charlatans are up to!)

(Puts bottle with "truth" label in his pocket.)

BODKIN

(OS storeroom) Oh! Ms. McKinney! Well I don't think that's appropriate at all. I'm about to be married you know. *(pause)* Oh well. I guess I'm not married yet!

LACY

(OS storeroom) Mr. Shamwow! How dare you!

((OS storeroom) Sound of a slap across the face which gives CARL a start. LACY enters from storeroom door, smoothing her dress, looks at

CARL who nods. LACY goes to bar. BODKIN enters from storeroom, rubbing his cheek where slapped, sits by BECKY, looking bewildered.)

BODKIN (defeated)

(Still rubbing his cheek.)

That's Shamley. *(beat)* Bodkin *(beat)* Shamley.

BECKY

Dear, do you see a rash anywhere on my hand?

(puts her hands in front of BODKIN'S face)

I'm afraid I might have caught Lacy's rash.

(CHARLIE and HICKORY rush over and put their hands in BODKIN'S face.)

CHARLIE

Us too! What about us?

HICKORY

Look here. Do we have the rashes?

BODKIN

Rash? No!

(BODKIN explodes up, pushing CHARLIE and HICKORY off of him. CHARLIE stands protectively in front of HICKORY who gives him a strange look.)

BODKIN (Cont.)

Why's everyone around here worried about rashes? Appears to be mass hypochondria!

BECKY

Oh good. Nothing can ruin this perfect day!

(CHARLIE and HICKORY return to their table. CHARLIE gallantly pulls out a chair for HICKORY'S who gives him a weird look and chooses another chair. They both sit down and examine their hands.)

LACY

Well would you look at that! My rash is gone again! Thank goodness.

CHARLIE

Mine too! Whew!

HICKORY

That was a close one!

(CHARLIE and HICKORY stop examining hands and continue to drink and play cards.)

LACY (innocently)

Oh, lookie here! Silly me. Here's your basket.

(Easily picks up the basket from behind the bar and hands to BODKIN who gasps at its weight and nearly drops it.)

LACY

Best be on your way, you two...ummmm...(sarcastic) love birds.

BODKIN

Quite right. Let's get going. We do need to make plans for our future.
(Struggling with weight, hands basket to BECKY who holds easily.)

BECKY

And the wedding?

BODKIN

And the ranch. Uh...err...I mean the wedding!
(aside – *The ranch! The ranch! Oh yes indeed! Have I got plans (evil laugh) for the Ranch!*)

BECKY

And the children?

BODKIN

And the money...Oh...Uh...I mean the children, yes, of course the children.
(aside – *Children? NOT likely. They're so...sticky...and smelly...and loud.*
(Points to child/children in audience.)
Yes...I'm talking about you! (pause) But the money! The money! Have I got plans (evil laugh) for the money!)

LACY

Bye! Have fun!

CARL

See you later!

(BODKIN and BECKY head toward front door with basket.)

BODKIN

So, dear, tell me more about this ranch of yours...How big is it, did you say?

(With LACY following, BODKIN and BECKY exit front door talking about the ranch. LACY watches out the door for a bit and CARL takes out and examines truth serum while conversation below happens.)

CHARLIE

You know, Hickory, my Mama always used to say you can't keep drinkin on an empty stomach.

HICKORY

Yeah...

CHARLIE

And we want to keep drinkin, right?

HICKORY

Yeah...

CHARLIE

And somebody just left with a basket full of meat biscuits!

HICKORY

Yeah?

CHARLIE

Let's follow 'em! See if they're in the mood for sharin that romantic picnic!

HICKORY

Yeah!

(CHARLIE and HICKORY rush out front door, nearly knocking LACY down. LACY closes door, rushes to CARL.)

LACY

Thank goodness they're all gone. Did you get it? Is that the truth serum?

CARL

Yes, thanks to the way you distracted them. You were quite brilliant! *(pause)* Although I've always found you to be quite...distracting...and...*(awkwardly)* brilliant.

LACY

Oh Carl.

(LACY and CARL gaze into each other's eyes, distracted, until they hear SALLY laughing OS front door.)

SALLY

(OS front door) Oh Gene, Gene, Gene. You're so funny!

LACY

Here she is now! What should we do?

CARL

OK...Well...I didn't think this through quite yet. *(beat)* Just how are we going to get that girl to drink this?

LACY

(Starts getting glasses and bottles off the shelf.)

LACY (Cont.)

Doc, you know you're talking to a professional barkeep, don't you? I may not know a lot of things, but one thing I do know is how to get people to drink! Hand me that truth serum!

(CARL hands LACY truth serum. GENE and SALLY enter arm in arm talking and laughing and sit at table. LACY pours one drink from truth serum bottle and one drink from whiskey bottle and carries to SALLY and GENE'S table.)

LACY

Hello Sheriff. Congratulations you two, uh, lovebirds. I don't think we've officially met, Miss. I'm Lacy McKinney, proprietor of Bagwell Saloon. When's the weddin'?

GENE

As soon as possible, though she won't agree to a date yet.

SALLY

Um...Yes. Soon, I'm sure. I'd like to have my family at the wedding, so I don't think we can set a date just yet.

LACY

Your family...so you remember your family now, do you?

(aside with filled glasses in hand – Goodness, gracious! This girl's not foolin' anybody... 'cept the Sheriff. But the Doc will soon fix that with this...

(Holds up one glass, uncertain.)

or is it this...

(Holds up the other glass, uncertain.)

truth serum!)

(During the following dialogue LACY is facing SALLY and GENE pretending to pay attention but, in between, is making gestures - that she can't remember which glass is which to CARL who is standing behind SALLY and GENE and trying to gesture which glass is which.)

SALLY

Yes. Well no. Um...I don't remember them just yet. But I'm sure I must have family somewhere and I'm sure they would want to be at my wedding.

LACY

Well, when you do get your memory back, I hope you'll consider having your family here for a little get together after the weddin. Or you can even have the ceremony right here, unless you're going to the church over in Bixton. We've had many a fine celebrations here with music and such. Course you'll want to coordinate with Becky and Mr. Shamley. They're getting married too so you'll want to make sure you don't schedule it for the same day.

GENE

Oh I'm so happy for Nurse Trueheart. She's a sweet kind of gal. Deserves to be happy. Just as happy as you and me my darling.

SALLY

Oh...I think Nurse Trueheart will be getting everything she deserves. Don't you worry.

LACY

Hm...Well, in the meantime here are two drinks...

(LACY looks to CARL, who is motioning to her madly behind SALLY and GENE and, finally understanding, she crosses her arms before putting the drinks down, the truth serum in front of SALLY and the whiskey in front of GENE.)

LACY (Cont.)

on the house, to toast your upcoming weddin!

SALLY

Free drinks! Maybe gettin married does have its advantages!

(GENE gives SALLY a perplexed look.)

SALLY (Cont.)

I mean...thank you.

GENE

(smiles) Much obliged Lacy!

(LACY returns to bar and stands next to CARL and they closely watch SALLY and GENE.)

GENE

(Raises glass in toast.)

To my beautiful bride.

SALLY

(Raises glass in toast.)

To my handsome husband-to-be!

(aside – Husband-to-be? Husband-to-be? HA! As if I would really marry this idiot sheriff! If brains were leather, this one couldn't saddle a fly.)

(GENE and SALLY drink. CARL sits with them.)

CARL

So Sally, is it?

SALLY

Um...Ummm...What? Yes, that's right.

(Slaps her hand over mouth, not believing what she just revealed.)

GENE

(oblivious) Sally? You remembered your name. What a lovely name! Oh Sally! Sally Ranger. Has a lovely ring to it don't you think?

CARL

She's known her name all along, haven't you Sally?

SALLY

(A look of realization crosses her face, she looks at her empty glass, snatches it up, and sniffs it.)

The truth serum! How'd ya get your hands on it?

CARL

I think I'll ask the questions. You don't have amnesia. You know who you are and you know Bodkin, isn't that true?

SALLY

No.

(Begins to pace the room.)

Not True. No, no, no. No, no. No, no, no.

(Struggling not to speak.)

NO!

(Finally, can't help but let the truth out.)

Alright. Yes. I know who I am and I know who he is!

GENE *(oblivious)*

You do? Oh great! Your memory is back! Now we can get in touch with your family and set the date for the wedding!

CARL

And you and Bodkin are up to something here in Bagwell, isn't that true? Did you give the Sheriff here some kind of love potion to make him fall in love with you?

GENE

Love potion? No need for a love potion. I love her and that's the truth. Now, about that wedding date...

SALLY

(Calculating words carefully.)

No *(pause)* I *(pause)* did not give *(pause)* the Sheriff *(pause)* any love potion.

GENE

See, Doc. No love potion. Nothing to worry about! Now Sally. I was thinking this Sunday would be a good day for a weddin. Your family close by?

CARL

Then Bodkin. Did he give it to him?

SALLY

No.

(Begins to pace the room.)

Not True. No, no, no. No, no. No, no, no.

(Struggling not to speak.)

NO!

(Finally, can't help but let the truth out.)

YES! Darn it. It was Bodkin.

CARL

Why?

SALLY

(Fast, without thinking.)

He did it to keep the Sheriff from marrying Nurse Trueheart!

(Slaps hand over her mouth, not believing what she has revealed.)

Double Darn!

GENE

Marry Becky? Don't worry your pretty little head about it, darlin'. I mean yes. I do recall having a crush on Becky but-

LACY

Twern't no crush Gene Ranger!

GENE

...but we were kids together. It was just puppy love, dear. You must know I only have eyes for you now!

CARL

Is there an antidote?

SALLY

NO! Yes. NO! Yes. Dagnabit! But I'll never tell you where!

CARL

Where is the antidote?

SALLY

(Fast, without thinking.)

I have some of the antidote in my bosom.

(Again slaps her hand over her mouth.)

LACY

Figures.

SALLY

Darn that truth serum!

CARL

Hand it over.

(SALLY, pouting, pulls small bottle out from the bosom of her dress and hands it to CARL.)

CARL (suspicious)

This is the antidote to the love potion? Are there any side effects?

SALLY

Yes, it's the antidote and no, there are no side effects. (*snickers*) Cept, of course, that the Sheriff will lose that lovin feeling toward me. Poor guy!

GENE (exasperated)

I assure you both that I am not under the influence of any love potion. I truly, deeply, from the bottom of my heart, love you. Nothing could change the way I feel about you.

CARL

OK Gene, I think it is safe for you to drink. Go ahead.

GENE

Well, if it will prove to you all that my love for you is true Sally. Anything for you!

(Tips antidote bottle back and drinks, emptying the already nearly empty bottle.)

Not much in there.

(GENE hands empty antidote bottle to LACY and SALLY smirks.)

GENE

See. I feel just fine. I told you, I love...I love...Wait a minute! I don't love YOU! I love Becky! Oh my gosh! What has been going on around here? What's happening?

LACY

Carl just given Sally a truth serum so that we can find out precisely that!

CARL

What we know so far is that Sally here, and her buddy Bodkin, were trying to pull a fast one over on us. They gave you a love potion to make you fall in love with her so that...wait. I still don't know why!

GENE

In love with HER! Impossible! Wait...A truth serum you say? And it works?

LACY

Oh yes indeed!

CARL

Seems to work just fine.

GENE

(Sits next to SALLY.)

Alright, Sally, tell us what you and Bodkin are up to here in Bagwell.

(SALLY puts both hands over her mouth. GENE and CARL each pull a hand from her mouth. She resists but, after struggling, relents.)

SALLY

Oh all right already! We met some prospectors a couple of towns over and found out that Nurse Goodie Goodie Two Shoes is running that ranch all by herself since her daddy died. Figured she'd be ripe for the picking but then we found out she's practically engaged! And our luck...to a sheriff!

GENE

That's right. I'm going to ask Becky to marry me today on our picnic.

LACY (happily)

I knew it!

GENE

Wait! Our picnic! What time is it?

(Looks at pocket watch, stands.)

Oh my gosh! Oh no! Does Becky think I'm in love with HER?

LACY

Yep.

SALLY

You could do worse.

LACY

Nope.

GENE

Worse? I can't imagine anything worse than breaking Becky's heart! And what?

(Sits next to SALLY.)

Your part was to distract me so I wouldn't be available for courtin'?

CARL

Or for investigating!

SALLY

(Runs a finger down GENE's cheek while talking and rests her hand on his shoulder.)

I probably could have done it without the potion (*beat*) but Bodkin insisted.

LACY

Not likely!

GENE

(With distain, removes SALLY'S hand from his shoulder.)

And what about Becky?

SALLY

Becky, Becky, Becky! Bodkin will then marry poor brokenhearted Becky! After the way you treated her, you can't blame her!

GENE

(*stands*) Becky would never marry the likes of Bodkin!

CARL

I'm so sorry Gene. Becky's had the potion as well. She's under Bodkin's spell and they're making wedding plans right now!

GENE

What? No! On no! My poor Becky!

(Sits next to SALLY.)

Tell me what you and Bodkin want with Becky's ranch!

SALLY

(trying to resist speaking and when she does, she's obviously struggling through a lie)

We...we...we like the ranch life?

(GENE and CARL clear their throats and frown, waiting for the truth.)

SALLY (Cont.)

We were looking for a place to raise our lamas?

(GENE and CARL clear their throats and frown impatiently waiting.)

SALLY (Cont.)

Alpacas? Sheep? Goats?

(GENE and CARL clear their throats and frown impatiently waiting.)

SALLY (Cont.)

Oh, all right! We found that the Union Pacific Rail Road wants to buy a lot of ranch land round here for railroad expansion. After they're married he'll sell the ranch to them at a high price. Word is that they've got deep pockets.

GENE

Becky would never sell the ranch!

SALLY

Like it would make a difference what perfect little Becky wants! First off, sounds like she's under the spell, so she'll do anything to please Bodkin. And secondly, he's gonna get rid of her and marry me right after the weddin! After all, Bodkin doesn't need TWO wives!

(Covers her mouth.)

(aside - Whoops. That one just sort of slipped out.)

GENE

(Stands in heroic pose.)

I've got to get Becky the antidote right away!

(LACY holds the bottle upside down and sadly shakes her head.)

CARL

But Gene, the bottle's empty!

SALLY (sarcastically)

Oh...too bad fellas. None left. You may have cured the Sheriff here but boo hoo, there's not a drop left for dear Becky!

GENE

None left?

(Sits, deflated, thinking, then stands in heroic pose.)

Wait! We've got the truth serum on our side! Sally, where is the rest of love potion antidote?

SALLY

That's the funny part! There ain't no more! Ha! Thought you had it all figured out. You two ain't so smart after all, are ya?

(GENE sits, deflated.)

CARL
So there's no antidote left...

LACY
(Has idea and snaps fingers.)
Even in Bodkin's bag?

SALLY
That's the truth.

GENE
OK, so that's the last of the antidote. Ah ha!
(Stands in heroic pose.)
Sally, do you or Bodkin know how to mix another dose?

SALLY
No. We got it from an old Indian medicine man.

(GENE sits, deflated.)

CARL
How long until the love potion wears off?

SALLY
That's the beauty of it. It never wears off...unless...
(Hand over mouth.)

GENE
Unless what? Unless what?

SALLY (resisting)
Darn it! If you really must know, the old medicine man said that true love can also break the spell.

LACY
True love?

GENE
What does that mean? True love? (*long pause*) Tell us, Sally. Tell us now!

SALLY
OK! Don't get yourself all in a fizz! If the person who drank the potion is kissed by someone she is truly in love with, and if the person who kisses her is truly in love with her, the spell will be broken. Or so says some crazy medicine man.

GENE

So all I have to do is kiss her?
(Stands in heroic pose.)

CARL

Hold on Gene. This one's a bit slippery. Let's make sure we have all the information this time. OK so tell us everything else you know about this True Love cure.

(GENE sits, but interested, not deflated.)

SALLY

What are you? Holmes and Watson? Seriously boys...I'm plum tuckered out!

(GENE and CARL clear throats, frown at SALLY, waiting for her to continue, becoming impatient.)

SALLY (Cont.)

Geez...You're spoiling all my fun, fellas! (*seeing that they're not going to give her a break she continues*) I don't know if it's true or not but that old Indian said that you have to be sure if you're gonna break the spell with

(Makes air quotes.)

true love. If you kiss Becky and she doesn't truly love you, or you don't truly love her, she'll end up hating you forever and you'll end up alone and lonely forever. You will never love again!

CARL

Oh. Becky hating you forever and a lifetime of loneliness? Gene, that's a lot to risk. How sure are you about Becky's feelings for you? Has she told you she loves you?

GENE

Well, we've never said it outright like that but I think she loves me. I mean I know that I love her.

(Stands in heroic pose.)

But I would risk anything to save her from that scoundrel.

SALLY (astonished)

You'd risk being alone? Never loving again? Forever? For your whole life?

GENE

Of course. Today was the day I was going to ask for her hand. By the way, Sally. Give the ring back. That's for Becky.

SALLY

(Choked up realizing she's never had true love, acts nonchalant.)

Well that's rude. You have no manners at all asking someone to return a gift. I don't think you were raised right Gene.

GENE

Hand it over. And Sally...you can call me Sheriff.

SALLY (sincerely)

You'd really risk anything, everything to save Becky?

GENE

Without hesitation. I truly love her.

SALLY

(Takes ring off her finger and looks lovingly at it while speaking.)

Maybe there is such a thing as true love after-all. Maybe...Maybe even someone like me might find it...someday.

(SALLY tosses the ring to GENE and runs out the storeroom door. GENE fumbles with ring for a moment, looks at it to make sure it is intact, secures it in his pocket, and then looks around for SALLY.)

GENE

Confounded! Where did that girl go?

LACY & CARL

She went out the back!

(GENE runs out storeroom door. DOUGLAS, BODKIN and BECKY enter front door, BECKY with bouquet of wildflowers and a wedding veil. HICKORY and CHARLIE trail behind each holding a corner of the long veil, doing an exaggerated wedding march, humming/singing "Here Comes The Bride".)

BECKY

Lacy! I'm so glad you're here...I've got some exciting news!

(HICKORY and CHARLIE put down dress. CHARLIE offers arm to HICKORY who gives him a strange look and goes to table. CHARLIE follows and pulls out HICKORY'S chair as he sits. CHARLIE sits and pulls chair close to HICKORY. HICKORY scoots chair away. GENE enters from storeroom door.)

GENE

She's gone! Becky! You're back! Are you OK?

BECKY

Oh, hello Sheriff Ranger. Yes, I'm quite well. In fact I'm happier than...happier than...

CHARLIE

...a chicken on Thanksgivin?

BECKY

Happier than I've ever been! I'm getting married!

ACT II
Scene 2

Setting: Same, a moment later.

At Rise: Everyone in same spot. During this whole scene CHARLIE continues to fawn over HICKORY who is confused by and is repelling his attentions.

GENE

(Rushes to BECKY, grabs her shoulders, and looks beseechingly into her eyes.)

Becky! Oh Becky. Are you sure you're ok? What's this you have on?

(Touches her veil, backs up a bit looking her up and down, confused.)

BECKY

Oh Yes! I'm more than ok. I'm wonderful! Didn't you hear me? Bodkin and I are getting married! Look who we bumped into in town! Reverend Prather! He's going to perform the ceremony.

BODKIN

Quite right my dear.

(aside – (singing to the tune of children's song) First comes Love, then comes marriage, then comes Bodkin...

(Stops singing, rubs hand together, evil laugh.)

... with lots and lots of money!

GENE

Marry this slippery snake oil salesman? Over my dead body! Bodkin, you scoundrel, I know what you're up to and I'm going to arrest you.

DOUGLAS

Arrest him? Gene, what in heaven's name is going on here?

BODKIN

On what charge, may I ask?

GENE

Sally told us everything.

BODKIN

Sally. Who is Sally?

GENE

That woman. The one who pretended not to know her name. You know who she is!

BODKIN

I can assure you that nothing of the sort is true. However, perhaps her memories are mixed up. That's common with amnesia patients, isn't that so, Dr. Goodall?

CARL

Yes, that is true in some amnesia cases. However, in this case-

BODKIN

And where is this Sally person now?

LACY

(Points to storeroom door.)

She ran out the back just now.

BODKIN

So your star witness is a young girl that no one knows. A girl known to have been afflicted with amnesia that has now run away somewhere? I think you'll need a bit more evidence if you want to pursue a case against me, Sheriff Ranger.

GENE

(Grabs BECKY, looking deeply into her eyes.)

Becky, I love you! Please! Can't you see that?

(GENE tries to kiss BECKY and their lips coming very close just when BODKIN pulls him away.)

BODKIN

Are you deranged or something? Stay away from Becky, Sheriff Ranger.
(*aside - Akkk! What happened to the Sheriff's love potion spell? I may be FORCED to use stronger measures!*)

HICKORY

Oh, look Charlie. The poor Sheriff.

CHARLIE

Un-reaquainted love!

BECKY

Yes, Sheriff Ranger, please stop this silliness! I want to remain friends with you, but with the way you're behaving I'm not sure about that. I'm in love with Bodkin and, well, I hope that someday you'll find true love too. Now please, if you value anything we've ever had before, stand aside.

BODKIN

Well said my dear!

(CARL gently pulls GENE toward bar, whispering in his ear and patting him on the back. GENE sits at bar.)

BECKY

How do you like my veil? Just picked it up at Martha's dress shop.

CHARLIE

Oh, Hickory. Isn't she stunning! Simply stunning!!!

HICKORY

Uh...yeah. Very pretty.

CHARLIE

The veil frames her face so nicely, don't you think? Not sure about those shoes with that dress.

BECKY

Oh Lacy, Carl! Bodkin and I would love for you to be our witnesses.

LACY

Oh, gee Becky. The veil is pretty and all but don't you think this is a bit fast? You've only just met.

CARL

Perhaps you should wait a couple of days...to be sure.

BECKY

Oh, I'm sure. It may be fast but when it's true love you know it, you feel it. You feel it deep down inside and there is just no good reason to wait.

CARL

(Nodding to himself, thinking of LACY.)

No good reason to wait. Did you hear that Lacy? There's no good reason to wait.

LACY

Yes, I heard. No good reason to wait.

(CARL and LACY gaze into each-other's eyes. CHARLIE gazes into HICKORY'S eyes. BECKY gazes into BODKIN'S eyes. MAXWELL bursts in front door.)

MAXWELL

Heard there was a wedding going on over here and I had to see it for myself, I say see it for myself!

(MAXWELL looks back and forth between each of the three “couples”, CARL and LACY, CHARLIE and HICKORY, BECKY and BODKIN and is not sure just which “couple” is getting married, confused by CHARLIE and HICKORY, and eyes finally rest on BECKY and BODKIN.)

MAXWELL (Cont.)

Now Miss Trueheart, you wouldn't happen to be trying to pull another fast one on the government of the U.S. of A., would you?

BECKY

Oh no, Mr. Foreman. I can assure you that this marriage is legitimate and based on true love.

LACY

Oh brother.

CHARLIE

Here!

(Raises hand like for roll call in school.)

BODKIN

Quite right, my dear. True love!

CHARLIE

(sighing) True love! Ain't true love the best Hickory?

HICKORY

If you say so...I guess?

MAXWELL

Well, if it's all the same to you I'd like to stick around as a witness myself. Got to make sure everything is on the up and up. I say, on the up and up!

BODKIN

By all means Mr. Foreman. In fact I can sign those ranch documents Becky was telling me about right afterwards! No need to keep you in town longer than necessary.

MAXWELL

That'd be just fine. I've got the paperwork right here in my bag.

BODKIN

Wonderful!

(aside – A couple of “I do”s and the ranch will be mine, (evil laugh) mine, all mine!)

GENE

(Unable to hold back any longer, bursts forward.)

Reverend Prathier! Don't let this scoundrel make a mockery of the sanctity of marriage!

DOUGLAS

Lordy, Lordy. Well I don't know. This is highly unusual.

BODKIN

Just sour grapes, Reverend. Please begin.

DOUGLAS

Well then, OK. As I often say, the Lord, much like the government of the U.S. of A., works in mysterious ways. Now, will the bride and the groom stand here in front of me. Any witnesses, praise be, can stand over here.

(BECKY and BODKIN step up and stand before DOUGLAS. GENE stomps away, arms crossed, angry and worried. CARL and LACY reluctantly move to where DOUGLAS indicated and MAXWELL sits at a table. CHARLIE pulls a chair next to him facing the ceremony and pats it for HICKORY to move and sit next to him which he reluctantly does.)

DOUGLAS (Cont.)

Ok, by the grace of (*optional "8 pound 6 ounce"*) little baby Jesus, we'll get started now.

(DOUGLAS produces a Bible and puts down then produces a verse book and puts down, puts on glasses, picks up and opens verse book to a page marked with a slip of paper with handwritten notes, and begins to read. During ceremony BODKIN becomes increasingly agitated at the mispronunciation of his name and impatient with the slowness of DOUGLAS.)

DOUGLAS (Cont.)

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in the presence of these witnesses...and the rest of these...umm...

(Gestures to audience.)

rabble rousers...to join Becky Elizabeth Trueheart and Bumpkin...

(Squints at the handwriting on the slip of paper.)

Ummm...Pumpkin...

BODKIN

Bodkin! My name is Bodkin Shamley.

DOUGLAS

...and Bodkin...any middle name Mr. Shamley?

BODKIN

NADA! Can we please get on with it Reverend?

DOUGLAS

Right. Heavens, me. Now where was I?

BODKIN

Oh for heaven's sake Reverend!

DOUGLAS

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in the presence of these witnesses, to join Becky Elizabeth Trueheart and...Bodkin

(Clears throat.)

NADIA Shamley in holy matrimony, which is commended to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, discreetly, advisedly...

BODKIN

Oh for God's sake, Reverend, the short version, ok? And NIX

(Makes a "cutting of the throat" sign - meaning get rid of it - with his hand.)

the middle name!

DOUGLAS

Well bless my soul. Alrightie. Do you, Bodkin

(Clears throat.)

NICK Shamley, take this woman, Becky Elizabeth Trueheart, to be your wedded wife, to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish, 'till death do you part?

BODKIN

(aside – Of course that death part may come sooner, for dear Becky, rather than later! Ha ha!)

I do. Until death do us part. And for heaven sake, Reverend, LOSE the middle name!

DOUGLAS

Okie Dokie! And do you, Becky Elizabeth Trueheart, take this man, Bodkin

(Clears throat.)

LOU Shamley...

BODKIN

JUST Bodkin Shamley! Oh, forget it. Get on with it, man!

DOUGLAS

Well...having a little trouble with your name, are we? Well then, Becky do you take

(Clears throat.)

DOUGLAS (Cont.)

JUSTIN Bodkin Shamley to be your wedded Husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, and to obey, till death do you part, according to God's holy ordinance?

LACY

Hey! Not sure about that “obey” part.

BECKY

Oh I sure do! I didn't know your first name was Justin!

(BODKIN scowls, hands fisted, ready to explode.)

DOUGLAS

As God has thought fit to bring these two people together, let us reflect upon his glory by careful review of First Corinthians, chapter 13, versus 4 through 8.

(Slowly closes and puts down verse book, picks up, opens and begins reading bible.)

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude...

BODKIN (angrily)

Geeze, Reverend! SKIP TO MAN AND WIFE!

DOUGLAS

Well! Perhaps it is rude sometimes. OK. Alright. Looks like we're going to skip the fun stuff. Now, if there are there any witnesses who object to this union let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

GENE

(Again can no longer hold his peace, bursting forward.)

I object! This wedding is a farce! Becky doesn't love this man. She loves me! Becky, Bodkin is tricking you. You've taken a love potion and are under his spell. Can't you see that?

BECKY

Sheriff Ranger, please! Please don't ruin my wedding day! I told you, you and I are just friends. Bodkin...

(Turns to BODKIN.)

or do you prefer Justin?

(BODKIN looks down, rubbing his head as if he has a very bad headache.
BECKY turns back to GENE.)

BECKY (Cont.)

Justin...um...Bodkin loves me and I him. I hope you can find it in your heart to be happy for me.

BODKIN

Quite right, my dear. The Sheriff here is just suffering some sort of mental breakdown. Proceed Reverend.

MAXWELL

What is going on here? I say what's going on?

DOUGLAS

Oh dear heavens! Sheriff, I think I understand.

(Leads a hopeful GENE a step away from the proceedings.)

You are stinging from the pain of losing your childhood sweetheart but surely you don't intend to mar her wedding day by lodging an official objection?

GENE

But Reverend! You don't understand-

CARL

Gene...

(Leads GENE another step away from the proceedings, putting great emphasis only on the word "now".)

Perhaps, now is not the time. Perhaps, not now, but later you'll have an opportunity to show Becky how you feel. But not now.

(CARL nods at GENE knowingly and then GENE nods back, understanding that the word "now" will be his signal.)

DOUGLAS

I reckon that's sound advice. So then, if there are no further objections, we'll proceed. Bodkin Justin, err Justin Bodkin...um...Shamley and Becky Elizabeth Trueheart I now

CARL

(Yelling immediately after DOUGLAS says "now".)

Now!

(Rushes BODKIN holding his arms behind his back.)

DOUGLAS

pronounce you...Oh my!

(GENE grabs BECKY and kisses her.)

BODKIN

Get your hands off of me! Do you know who I am?

MAXWELL

What's This? I say...

DOUGLAS

Mercy Me!

HICKORY

Look at that!

CHARLIE

Holy Shmoly!

LACY

Well that's the first sensible thing that anyone has done today!

(GENE releases BECKY who slaps his face.)

MAXWELL

OK, now I'm really lost. I say lost!

BECKY

How dare you Sheriff Ranger! I will marry Bodkin...errr...Justin today and there is nothing you can do about it. I love...I love...

(Confusion spreads across her face.)

I love you!

GENE

I love you too, Becky!

(Hugs BECKY who hugs back.)

Thank goodness you're back! It's ok. It will all be ok now.

BECKY

Oh my goodness. What was I doing? How could I have almost married this man?

MAXWELL

What the heck is going on here? I say what the heck is going on?

DOUGLAS

Lord love a duck!

(EVERYONE, confused, looks at DOUGLAS. BODKIN takes this opportunity to make a break for it but CARL wrestles him into a chair and stands behind him holding him down with hands on shoulders.)

BODKIN

Unhand me you miserable, lying, no good, rotten, brainless, heathen quack!

LACY

I'll bet Doc's got all the answers.

CARL

Becky, the young woman from earlier, you were right. Her name is Sally, just like you thought. She and Bodkin schemed to break you and Gene up. Gene was under the influence of the love potion.

BECKY

Oh yes...I remember! Where is she?

(Looks around room for SALLY.)

BODKIN

(Stands.)

Lies! All Lies!

CARL

Sit!

(Makes BODKIN sit.)

MAXWELL

Love potion? Good grief! They should call this place Crazyville not Bagwell!

CHARLIE

Yup, Crazyville...just on the other side of Casterville. Cousin Orvil gots a pig farm there. Well, he only gots 3 pigs but-

GENE

Seems you got some of the same love potion, darling, which is why you were about to get married.

BODKIN

(Stands.)

Nonsense! It was my raw animal magnetism!

CARL

Sit!

(makes BODKIN sit.)

DOUGLAS

Lordy be...Highly unusual.

BECKY

But I don't understand. Why would he want to marry me?

GENE

For your ranch. Railroad expansion is coming and Union Pacific will pay a pretty penny for it.

BODKIN

Don't listen to a word they're saying. They're delusional!

LACY

That's right. Carl used Bodkin's own truth serum to get the whole story from Sally. We got the antidote for Gene, but there was none left for you.

BODKIN

(Stands.)

My diagnosis...Mass hysteria! A sociopsychological phenomenon of the manifestation of-

CARL

Sit!

(Makes BODKIN sit.)

GENE

Bodkin Shamley, I am placing you under arrest!

BODKIN

(Stands and gets in GENE'S face.)

Oh, now you get my name right. Fine. On what charge? I don't think you have any evidence at all, Sheriff. Don't think there is a law against trying to get married even if I did have my eye on the ranch!

GENE

Sally told us everything including the fact that you plan to get rid of Becky and marry Sally after selling the ranch. I would call that conspiracy to commit murder.

BECKY

Oh my goodness! Oh dear me!

(SALLY peeks in from storeroom door, listening. No one notices her.
BODKIN begins walking around the room, ranting, waving his arms.)

BODKIN

Are you insane? You can't believe anything she says. That woman Sally is certifiably unstable! Granted I did meet her some time back but I'm not with her! She just keeps following me everywhere I go! I can't get rid of her. Personality disorder I presume. She's like...like...like a bad rash! Can't get rid of her! I would never even consider marrying the likes of her!

(Ends up in front of the chair where he was originally sitting.)

CARL

Sit!

(CARL makes BODKIN sit.)

(SALLY enters all the way into the room. Everyone is shocked at her arrival.)

BECKY CARL GENE HICKORY&CHARLIE DOUGLAS LACY
 She's back! It's her! Hey you! Wow! Who's that? Back again!

SALLY (angry)

Certiifiably Unstable? (*beat*) Personality disorder? (*beat*) A bad rash. (*beat*) Really, Bodkin! Well isn't that interesting. You said you would marry me after you got the ranch from Becky. And now I'm a bad rash. Oh...To think of all the things I did for you because...because you made me believe...believe that...that you...that you loved me! But now...now I see the truth.

BODKIN

Obviously borderline personality disorder!

SALLY

I think I can give you all the evidence you need, Sheriff.

BODKIN

(Stands.)

Delusions of grandeur!

CARL

Sit!

(Makes BODKIN sit.)

SALLY

(Turns to BECKY, grabbing her hands.)

I'm so sorry. I've been a fool. You know, Becky, the only other way to break the love potion spell was with a kiss of true love. Gene risked never being able to love again by kissing you. That really is true love...

BECKY

True love...Then you do love me Gene, truly?

GENE

Of course I do.

CHARLIE

Awww.....he loves her.

(Scoots chair closer to HICKORY.)

HICKORY

Uhh...Yup. I recon so.

(HICKORY scoots chair further away from CHARLIE. GENE gets down on one knee and holds up ring to BECKY.)

LACY

Oh yeah. Here we go folks. This is the real deal.

GENE

Becky Trueheart. You are the love of my life. Will you marry me?

CHARLIE

The love of his life!

(Scoots chair closer to HICKORY.)

HICKORY

Uhh...Yup I recon so.

(Scoots chair further away from CHARLIE)

MAXWELL

Ok, what is going on here? I say what is going on?

BECKY (teasing)

(sly smile) Well, Gene, I don't know. You know, you've already given this ring to another girl today.

BODKIN

See! He doesn't know who he wants to marry! Schizotypal personality disorder – a mental health condition marked by trouble with relationships.

GENE

Becky! You must know that I...I...

BECKY

(Puts finger over GENE'S mouth to quiet him.)

I'm teasing you, silly. My answer is yes. I'll marry you. I love you Gene Ranger.

(Holds out her hand and GENE puts the ring on her finger.)

CHARLIE

Aww...Look Hickory. They really do love each other!

(Scoots chair closer to HICKORY and puts his head on HICKORY'S shoulder.)

HICKORY

Uhhh....Yup. I recon so.

(Notices CHARLIE'S head on his shoulder and moves his chair further way from CHARLIE causing CHARLIE to fall out of his seat.)

BECKY

Oh Gene...this was your Mama's wedding ring wasn't it. I love it. It's just beautiful.

GENE

Becky, I'm sure you'd like a fancy wedding at the house with everybody there and decorations and all but I figured since we're here and you got that pretty veil and all...

BODKIN

(Stands.)

First she wants to marry me. Now the Sheriff! Multiple personality disorder!

CARL

Sit!

(Makes BODKIN sit.)

DOUGLAS

Oh Howdy Doody! This is highly unusual.

CARL

It's alright, Reverend. This time it's on the up and up. I can assure you that no bad medicine is to blame for this proposal!

DOUGLAS

Alrighty then, I suppose we'll begin again. Double my ceremony fee, you understand. Now, do you, Gene Theodore Ranger take-

GENE

I'll take it from here Reverend. Becky, though we've been courtin' for only a year, I've loved you since we were kids. Always knew I'd marry you. Ever since we pretended to get married, back when we were kids. Do you remember, under our special tree?

BECKY

Oh Gene. Of course I remember.

GENE

I, Gene Theodore Ranger, take thee, Becky Elizabeth Trueheart, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold forever, for better for worse, for richer for poorer because with your love how could I be any richer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish, 'till death do us part.

BODKIN

Dependent personality disorder!

CARL

ENOUGH of your medical babble for one day!

LACY

Well said, Doc!

DOUGLAS

Becky...

BECKY

For as long as I can remember, I've loved you, Gene. You were the boy of my dreams and now you're the man of my dreams. I can't imagine my life without you. I, Becky Elizabeth Trueheart take thee, Gene Theodore Ranger, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold dear, for better for worse though I imagine most of the time it will be for better, come what may, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish forever and ever.

DOUGLAS

Then by the power vested in me, by the Sears and Roebuck Catalogue, I now pronounce you man and wife. You may kiss your bride.

(BECKY and GENE kiss. Everyone cheers except BODKIN.)

CHARLIE

I do love me a good wedding. Don't they make a cute couple?

HICKORY

Uhh...Yup. I recon so.

CHARLIE (blubbing)

So sweet. Weddings...always make me cry.

(DOUGLAS gives handkerchief to CHARLIE who takes it and blows nose loudly. HICKORY tries to comfort CHARLIE, awkwardly patting him on back.)

BECKY

So now what, husband of mine?

MAXWELL

(Pulls paperwork out of his bag.)

Well now would be a good time to get that paperwork signed. I think I finally, I say finally, understand what's been going on here. Sorry I doubted you Miss Trueheart.

GENE

That would be Mrs. Ranger now.

MAXWELL

Rightly so, Sherrif. I say, Rightly so.

(MAXWELL, GENE, and BECKY sit at table while MAXWELL spreads paperwork out and hands GENE a pen who looks to BECKY for approval, she nods and he signs while MAXWELL speaks.)

MAXWELL

OK so if you would be so kind as to sign here. And here. And one more right here. Good. I think that we're all finished here. You can bring the final payment over to the hotel in the morning and the ranch will be yours for good. Good day! I say, Good day!

(MAXWELL exits front door.)

BODKIN

(Stands.)

No! No! The ranch should be mine! Mine! All mine!!!

(aside – All because that quack doctor and his idiot sidekick sheriff butted in!)

CARL

Sit!

(Makes BODKIN sit.)

GENE

So the ranch is safe. Now we start our new life together. But first I need to take care of these two.

(Points to BODKIN and SALLY.)

Alright Bodkin and Sally. We need to make a trip to the jail.

BODKIN

Sally, you see. They're going to arrest you too! Darling, don't be a fool. Just keep your mouth shut and everything will be fine.

SALLY

Not likely, *(sarcastically)* darling. Jail or not, I think I'll just keep on being that annoying rash that you just can't itch away. I've seen what true love is and anything less...

BODKIN

(aside – No help from that idiot Sally! Oh, what I could do with a little Cyanide, Ricin, or Hemlock but at this point I may have to

(Opens coat, revealing a gun, then using Scarface movie accent for the following words only.)

say hello to my little friend

(Closes coat, hiding gun.)

to get out of this jam!)

BECKY

Oh Gene, don't you think that perhaps Sally is a bit of victim herself? I think that she may have fallen under Bodkin's spell in one way or another.

BODKIN

(Stands and storms around the room.)

What, not true! This was all her idea! I'm a simple peddler! Are you all blind? She's the one that should be behind bars. She's a menace to society! She's the one you want!

(Ends up back in front of the same chair and looks at CARL.)

I know! I know! Sit!

(Sits.)

Happy?

GENE

Your lady friend will be more valuable as a witness than behind bars. Yes, I think you're going to be quite lonely in the cell that's waiting for you.

SALLY

Becky, Sheriff. I can't thank you enough. I have been awful and I promise to be the best witness you've ever had.

GENE

Ok, let's get going. I have a jail cell to fill and a statement to take. I'll be right back...Mrs. Ranger! Don't leave without me!

(Grabs and kisses BECKY.)

BECKY (breathless)

Never without you.

GENE

Come on Bodkin!

(GENE grabs BODKIN from his chair and begins to usher him toward the front door.)

BODKIN

You can't do this to me! I'm an important medical professional! Get your hands off of me!

(Breaks away from GENE and pulls out his gun.)

EVERYONE EXCEPT BODKIN EXCLAIMS SOMETHING OF FEAR

Oh my! Dear me! Lord save us! He's got a gun! What's happening? He's going to kill us!

BODKIN

(Storms around the room waving the pistol, pointing at each person in the bar, shouting.)

You have no idea who I am and what I'm capable of! You'll be sorry. You'll all be sorry!
 (Stops in front of BECKY, the gun trained on her heart.)
 Especially you, Nurse Trueheart! Say goodbye to true love!

(GENE grabs BODKIN'S gun hand, pulls it to point at ceiling, and a shot rings out. GENE wrestles gun from BODKIN and points it at BODKIN.)

GENE

That's it Bodkin! You're done here! I think we can add attempted murder and assaulting an officer of the law to the ever growing list of offences.

BODKIN

Done here! Done here! I haven't even begun! You'll never keep me in jail! I've administered medical care to kings, queens, dignitaries from Europe! Heads of State, the President! They'll get me out and you'll be sorry! You'll all be sorry!

(Taunts audience as he makes his last round.)

(GENE grabs hold of BODKIN and steers him toward front door, gun in his back, and exits with SALLY trailing behind. BECKY notices CARL gazing at LACY who is standing behind the bar, hands cupping chin, elbows on the bar, and gazing back at CARL.)

BECKY

Well this day is one for the books, wouldn't you say?

CARL

I'll say!

BECKY

True love really saved the day, wouldn't you say Carl?

CHARLIE (sighing)

True love!

CARL (sighing)

Yes, it did.

BECKY

But I don't think true love has finished its work here, do you Carl?

(Nudges CARL toward LACY.)

Go on Carl!!!

(Pushes CARL over to LACY.)

CARL

Hey Lacy. Um...well...

BECKY

Remember...No good reason to wait!

CARL

Ok, here's the thing Lacy. I'm no good at romance and I've never been good talking to beautiful women.

LACY

You think I'm beautiful?

CHARLIE

Told ya so sis!

LACY

Charles Raymond Hamby! Hush up! *(to CARL)* So...you were sayin...something about...me being...beautiful...or-

CARL

The most beautiful woman I've ever known. After I lost my wife, I never thought I would find love again but I did. And it scared me. But I'm done wasting time being scared. I love you Lacy. Have for some time.

LACY

(Stares at CARL for a moment, pulls out the red love potion bottle from behind the bar and looks at it.)

You didn't have any of this potion did you?

CARL

(Takes the red love potion bottle from LACY and puts it aside and grabs her hands.)

No. It's not the potion, Lacy. It's love. True love. *(pause)* Please, Lacy, say something!

LACY

Oh Carl...I never expected to get a second chance at love either. Thought for sure it would be just me and my little brother Charlie 'cause God knows he was never going to get married...

(CARL grabs LACY'S shoulders and brings her close to him. It looks like he is going to kiss her. LACY is mesmerized, looking up into CARL'S eyes, speaking slowly, and waiting for the kiss.)

LACY

...but then you came to town and I just knew you were the one for me.

CARL

Lacy. Do you love me?

LACY

Yes, I love you.

(LACY and CARL kiss.)

LACY (Cont.)

(sassy) Took you long enough to come around, Doc.

CARL

Lacy McKinney. I don't have a ring just yet but would you be my wife?

LACY

I would. I will. I do!

CARL

How about a spring wedding?

LACY

Why, Carl, that sounds just lovely. Just what the doctor ordered!

CARL

Reverend Prather...you free this spring for another wedding?

DOUGLAS

Well I'll be a chicken on a stick! Like my Daddy used to say...Make hay while the sun shines!

(EVERYONE looks at DOUGLAS, confused. Before exiting LACY hugs BECKY, CARL shakes CHARLIE'S hand. CARL, LACY, and DOUGLAS exit the front door. GENE enters front door, sweeps BECKY off her feet and kisses her.)

GENE

Come on Mrs. Ranger...we've got a wedding night to get to!

BECKY

(shocked by his forwardness) Gene!

HICKORY & CHARLIE

(spoken like George Takei) Oh my!

GENE

Well, Becky, I have been waiting my whole life to...to...

HICKORY & CHARLIE

(spoken like George Takei) Oh my!

BECKY

(shocked by his forwardness) Gene!

GENE

...to marry you!

BECKY

Oh Gene!

(GENE and BECKY kiss and hurry out front door.)

CHARLIE

Well how 'bout that! True love saves the day!

HICKORY

Yup. Struck two times in one day! What are the chances?

CHARLIE

No...Hickory. I think it's three times in one day.

(CHARLIE grabs HICKORY'S hand. After a moment the meaning of what CHARLIE said sinks in HICKORY pulls his hand back stands, upsetting his chair, and backs toward the storeroom door.)

CHARLIE

Hickory! Where you going? I love you!

(HICKORY turns and runs toward storeroom door. CHARLIE follows. CARL rushes in front door, sees HICKORY running out storeroom door and runs after him calling...)

CARL

Your tooth, Hickory! Hickory! Your tooth!

END

Prop List

CARL – Stethoscope, Doctor’s Bag, Smelling Salts Bottle, Cotton Balls, Numbing Medicine Bottle

BECKY – Nurse Hat, Nurse Apron with red cross on it, Picnic Basket, Long Wedding Veil, Flowers

GENE – Gun Belt, Gun, Sheriff Badge, Diamond & Pearl Wedding Ring, Pocket Watch

BODKIN – Carpet Bag, Assortment of Makeshift Medicine Bottles and Jars with variety of Tags including a Tall Red Bottle (fill with red liquid) with “Love” Tag, Small Clear Bottle (fill with clear liquid) with “Truth” Tag, Small Blue Bottle with “Awake” Tag, Handkerchief, Gun

SALLY – Very Small Green Bottle (filled with green liquid) with “Antidote” Tag

LACY – Whiskey Bottles, Glasses, Cards, Poker Chips, Wet Rag, Telegram

MAXWELL – Old fashioned Brief Case, Loan Documents, Crescent Filler Fountain Pen (or similar)

REVEREND PRATHER – Verse Book, Bible, Handwritten Paper, Reading Glasses, Handkerchief

HICKORY – Bandages, Cold pack, Bottle of Shanghai Juice with Chinese Label