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## **THE CUCKOO'S NEST CASINO**

### **By Ron Grant**

Time: Early morning on a weekday, present day

Place: The Cuckoo's Nest Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is a small casino located off the Las Vegas strip. It has no gaming tables, just a row of slot and video poker machines. There are several tables in the casino along with a small counter with a cash register. In back of the counter is an entrance to the kitchen as well as a small stock of beer, wine and alcohol bottles.

#### CHARACTERS

**ELAINE CHOI:** A very pretty wife in her forties. She's the mother figure for all the customers. She just smiles a lot and takes in all the money. However, she can explode when she feels like it, especially at her husband.

**DAI CHOI:** He is Elaine's husband. He is in his fifties. He's temperamental but a very good cook. He has an alcohol problem. He speaks with a fast, strong Asian accent when he has had a few drinks. He likes to gamble at his own bank of slot machines because he always wins. They're his machines.

**DOC HOLLIDAY:** He is in his sixties. He really believes that he is Doc Holliday, the infamous gunslinger/dentist, reincarnate. He wears a pearl handled silver plated gun in a holster on his hip. He prides himself in being a fast draw and can do all kinds of showman tricks with the gun. He "knows" that someday he will need to use his gun against outlaws, specifically, Ike Clanton. Doc is a permanent fixture at the casino. He dresses in cowboy clothes including cowboy boots, string tie and flamboyant shirts.

**DON "COUNT BASIE" SINATRA:** He is in his late fifties. He uses the Count Basie and Sinatra names so people won't forget him. Sometimes they do anyway. He knows everybody in Las Vegas and has worked almost everywhere in town. He is always "on".

**RON "MOZART" KENNEDY:** Ron is a songwriter who had some success in the movie soundtrack and recording business. Everybody calls him, "Mozart". Ron is always stoned on pot. An old friend once told him that his creativity would be much better if he smoked a joint every day along with his morning coffee. Ron believed him and has been stoned ever since.

“SHOWGIRL LIZ”: Liz is pushing forty or more. She is a showgirl but doesn’t know how much longer she will be because of her age. She’s scared because being a showgirl is all she knows. She really loves Don “Count Basie” Sinatra.

CANDY DELICIOUS: Candy is absolutely adorable and just as dumb. She would make Goldie Hawn appear to be a rocket scientist by comparison. Candy thinks that “Mozart” is the most talented guy she’s ever met. Besides, “Mozart” said that she could record some of his songs as soon as she gets a recording contract with a big record label.

HELMUT GERTLER: He is in his late thirties. Helmut is a film school graduate who has never done much with his college learned film knowledge. He is a small man who was born in Germany and still has a slight German accent. He is at the casino to do a filmed documentary on small Las Vegas casinos. (Think a young Jason Alexander, George on the TV show Seinfeld)

TONY “THE ATOM BOMB” DASARO: He’s forty years old. He is a huge man and is a professional wrestler. He’s very sensitive and reminds us of Lennie in the Steinbeck book, “Of Mice and Men”. He is also gay although you wouldn’t know it when you first meet him.

YOUNG PUNK: A young, longhaired, disheveled looking man with a gun in hand.

## ACT ONE

(The casino lights flicker on as Elaine emerges from the back room kitchen)

ELAINE

Good morning, nobody.

(She looks at herself in a wall mirror and primps a little. She takes out a letter from a previously opened envelope. She looks at the letter and cries a little.

Dai enters from the back room. He’s hung over as usual.)

DAI

Why you cry? Is he here yet? I thought I heard you say good morning to somebody. Ohhh my head.

ELAINE

Never mind your head. Look at this. If you're head hurts, make yourself a virgin Mary.

DAI

I no virgin! What in letter make you cry?

ELAINE

These doughnuts are burned to a crisp. How am I supposed to sell them in this condition?

DAI

They OK. I put some extra glaze on them. Nobody know difference. What time you say he be here?..... I have world's worst hangover. What make you cry?

ELAINE

I'M NOT SELLING THEM LIKE THIS. PERIOD! Do you want to lose all of our customers? We're about to lose our business. This is from the gaming commission. They're going to close our casino.

DAI

We get lots more customers after we on TV. You still don't tell me when he be here. I thought he say he be here first thing in morning. Besides, being on TV give us enough customers to satisfy gaming commission. Customers not let casino close.

ELAINE

Yeah. Your words to God's ears. Now cook these doughnuts again.

DAI

Why do I have to do cooking? You an excellent cook. You cook some of best fried rice I ever taste.

ELAINE

Shut up! I never learned. They don't have doughnuts in California.

DAI

They not have doughnuts in Japan either. But, I learn.

ELAINE

That's why you cook the doughnuts.....cause you learned. Besides, I think selling doughnuts in a casino is ridiculous.

(Dai searches for something)

DAI

They pay rent here! What happened to my Sake bottle? I not find it.

ELAINE

How would I know? I don't drink the stuff.

DAI

Somebody steal my Sake bottle. I shoot son of bitch when I find out.

ELAINE

Well, don't look at me. I told you, I don't drink the stuff.

DAI

I know that. But, last time you hid bottle from me. I not tolerate that again. You hear? Not tolerate!

ELAINE

Maybe you should try looking when both of your eyes are open. You hear?

DAI

It be miracle that you have name on business license. Otherwise I fire you for insubordination. Now where in hell my Sake bottle?

ELAINE

Don't curse at me, you poor excuse for a jellyfish.

DAI

Jellyfish?

ELAINE

Jellyfish, that needs seawater to hold it up.

DAI

Sake not sea water, you poor excuse for a cash register.

ELAINE

Cash register? Do I look like a cash register, you Pocono's excuse for a gambler.

DAI

I always win.

ELAINE

Sure, cause the machines belong to us.

DAI

Don't care. Where my Sake bottle? You hide it again?

(Elaine reaches way inside the cash register drawer and produces the half empty Sake bottle.)

DAI

I know it. I know it all the time. Give me. I thirsty.

ELAINE

You're thirsty?

DAI

Yes, please give me Sake bottle or I die of dehydration.

(Elaine pours the remaining Sake into the sink.)

ELAINE

Too bad.

DAI

Oh, no. Very mean woman.....very mean. I not know why I marry her.

(Dai disappears into the back room. Doc Holliday enters the casino. He is looking spiffy.)

ELAINE

Hello, Doc. Don't you look good.

DOC

I want to look great on TV. Is he here?

ELAINE

Who?

DOC

The cable TV guy.

ELAINE

He said sometime before noon. By the way, thanks to you and the other regulars for being here when the TV guy is here. It will make us look busy.

DOC

Glad to help out. Besides, when Ike Clanton sees me on TV he'll shake in his boots, the lily livered coward. Did I ever show you how fast I am with a gun?

(Doc does a fast draw of his gun.)

DOC

See what I mean. That's fast. I mean really fast. Ike Clanton would be dead before he even got his hand on his gun.

ELAINE

He's already dead.

DOC

That's what everybody says but I know better. People think that I died in a sanitarium in Colorado but I'm here. So, if I'm alive, so is that snake, Ike Clanton. Besides, I just got word from a good source that he's boarded a train in California and is headed for Las Vegas.

(Doc again does a fast draw with his gun.)

ELAINE

When's he supposed to get here?

DOC

I don't know exactly and neither did my informant. But, when he gets here I'll be ready.

ELAINE

Doc, have you ever thought of seeing a psychiatrist?

DOC

About what?

ELAINE

About your fantasy of Ike Clanton.

DOC

It ain't no fantasy. You'll see how real he is when I put a bullet right between his eyes. Besides, those head shrinkers are pansies. They couldn't cure olives, let alone take away the truth in a man like me. Do you understand, pretty woman?

ELAINE

Of course.

DOC

Where's Dai?

ELAINE

Looking for another Sake bottle. He thinks I wouldn't find the second one.

DOC

What happened to the first one? Did he drink it?

ELAINE

I finished it for him.

DOC

You drank it?

ELAINE

No, I poured it down the sink.

DOC

Mean woman. Yeah, I remember a woman who was just like that. Her name was Kate. People called her Big Nose Kate, but not to her face.....I saw her good side that nobody else could see. She rewarded me by sharing my bed with me. One time she helped me tie down a Sheriff in the dentist chair so I could pull out all his teeth.

ELAINE

All of them?

DOC

They didn't need to all come out but why stop at one or two? Beside, he thought he was really tough. He had the stupidity to arrest me once. That cost him all his teeth.

ELAINE

You're something else.

DOC

Then there was my friend Wyatt.....Wyatt Earp. He took off for California but I know he's around someplace just like me. I miss him. Wyatt and I and Wyatt's brothers cleaned up the town of Tombstone, Arizona. Did you know that?

ELAINE

I read about it someplace in a book. It was a gunfight at the OK corral in Tombstone, Arizona.

DOC

Yeah but somehow we missed that chicken, Ike Clanton. He took off down a back road and was never seen again in Tombstone. But, I know he's around somewhere. When I find him, I'm going to scalp him and give his hair to the Apache Indians.

ELAINE

I'm sure they'll be glad to hang it up in one of their gambling casinos.

DOC

They got casinos? I didn't know that.

ELAINE

Some people are slow, very slow.

(Dai appears from the back room. He has a bottle of Sake in his hand. He's livid with anger.)

DAI

Guess what I find.

ELAINE

Where did you hide that? I looked all over the room and couldn't find it. Did you slip outside and buy another bottle?

DAI

I not tell. I not tell mean woman. I think I give Doc permission to shoot her.

DOC

Do what? I was reading the sports page of the newspaper.

ELAINE

That's yesterday's paper.

DOC

I thought I already knew that the bull riding championships were over.

DAI

Shoot her!

DOC

Well, if I'm going to shoot someone I have to have a clean gun.

(Doc begins to clean his gun.)

DAI

What? You crazy? Gun gets dirty after you shoot it anyway.

DOC

A clean gun is the sign of a clean mind.



DAI

Sometime I think maybe I buy gun and shoot customers.

(Dai goes to the bank of slot machines.)

DAI

I think maybe I play slot machines.

(Dai opens his bottle of Sake and pours himself a hefty drink.)

DAI

Ahhhh. Good stuff. It help me win jackpot.

ELAINE

Not again. When are you going to learn?

DAI

Learn what?

ELAINE

Those are our machines. If you win, you just keep money away from the customers. Do you get it?

DAI

Don't care. Winning is everything. Watch this.

ELAINE

Why don't you go to a strip casino and win some real money?

DAI

Those machines fixed. Besides, they have hidden arm that reach into my wallet and take my money before I can win.

DOC

The gun is clean. Shall I shoot her now?

DAI

Never mind. You can't hit anything anyway.

DOC

Oh, yeah? Watch this..... right between her eyes.

(Doc fires the gun and shoots a doughnut right off of the tray.)

DAI

See. I told you.

DOC

This sight must be a little off. I'll have to fix it.

ELAINE

You two are nuts.....certifiably nuts! I'm going to go in the back and recuperate from you two.

DAI

Yeahhhhh! I win jackpot! You pay me now.

ELAINE

I'll get the money out of the safe.

(Elaine exits.)

DAI

Easy to win here. No trouble at all.

DOC

I don't know. I've never won anything here.

DAI

You have to play first.

(Dai exits to the back room.)

DOC

Oh.

(DON "COUNT BASIE" SINATRA enters the casino. He is hung over and looks very tired.)

DOC

Mr. Don "Count Basie" Sinatra as I live and breathe. How do you do?

DON

Not good. Not good at all. Give me lots of coffee and a dozen doughnuts. I'm wasted. I've got to find someplace else to work besides a Las Vegas brothel. That place is wearing me out. I'll probably never live to be an old man.

(Elaine hands Don a very large coffee and a box full of doughnuts. Don gulps down the coffee and devours several

doughnuts. God, these taste good. I'm ravaged with hunger.)

DOC

Did you get too many requests last night?

DON

Yes, but not song requests. Liz hasn't been around today, has she?

DOC

Not yet. Haven't seen her.

DON

Thank God.

DOC

What do you mean?

DON

I stood her up for a breakfast date this morning. I couldn't handle another woman. I mean I'm really wasted.

DOC

A little too much of Mr. Jack Daniels, huh?

DON

No, not that.

DOC

What then?

DON

Too much Viagra.

DOC

What do you mean, "Too much Viagra"?

DON

Well, there weren't many customers last night. It all started with some of the girls asking me to play and sing some love songs. I guess they were feeling unwanted cause of the lack of customers. Anyway, I was really feeling the music last night, I mean deep down with all my soul. Pretty soon a couple of the girls were sitting down beside me on each side of the piano bench. That inspired me, so I put even more feeling into the love songs. The two girls sitting next to me began to cry. They told me how lonely they were for love. Then I noticed a hand from each of the two girls resting on my leg. Some of the other girls had also started to cry.

Then one of them knelt down between my legs and started to give me some serious attention. I stopped singing for a moment but the girls said that would ruin the atmosphere if I stopped. So, on I went trying to concentrate on the music. Do you know how difficult it is to sing a love song when your fly is unzipped?

DOC

No, I don't. But I wouldn't mind finding out.

DON

It was unconscionable. Horrific! Yes, horrific. But I kept on singing and playing the piano. Pretty soon I was worn out. Then one of the girls slipped me a little blue pill telling me all the while that it was a benny. You know, a wake up pill. She lied. I realized after a little while that it was a Viagra pill. Well, to make a long story short, I wound up taking four of them. I had to, to make all those girls happy. I stumbled out of the place in the morning and headed straight for here. God this coffee is good!

DOC

Do they need a bouncer in the place?

DON

I don't know. All I know is that was my last night performing at that place.

(Showgirl Liz enters the place. She's furious.)

LIZ

Where is that rat? Where is he?

(Don hides under his table.)

LIZ

When I get my hands on him I'm going to rip out his heart, along with his dick.

(Don coughs uncontrollably.)

LIZ

There you are, you low life poor excuse for a human being.

(Liz pulls Don out from under the table. She has him by the ear.)

DON

OWWW! OW that hurts. That really hurts.

LIZ

That's nothing compared to how you'll hurt when I'm through with you.

DOC

Don't kill him, Liz.

LIZ

Why not, the lily livered skunk?

DOC

You might want him for another day....or night.

LIZ

Hmmm. I didn't think of that.

(Liz lets go of Don's ear.)

DON

Thank you, Doc.

LIZ

Don't thank him yet. I'm not through with you.

DON

Honest, Liz. I was true to you. I just had to work late.

LIZ

Can't you do better than that? I'll bet if I took off your clothes I'd find black and blue marks all over your body.

DON

No, no....of course not.

LIZ

Of course not. I know what those girls like to do when they're all hot and bothered. Do you have any lash marks on your body?

DON

Just a couple.

LIZ

Just a couple.

DON

Well, I had to keep my job. There just isn't the work in town like there used to be.

Uhhuh.

LIZ

Don

If it will make you happy, I quit my job anyhow.

LIZ

You did?

Don

Yes, I did.

LIZ

Ohh. Poor baby. Now you're out of work. Let's go over to my place and I'll draw a warm bath for the both of us and I'll make you feel well loved.

Don

I feel well loved right here.

LIZ

They don't have bathtubs in casinos, not even small ones.

Don

The warmth of your smile is more than enough for me.

LIZ

Awww. That's more than enough for me. Put your head in my lap.

Don

Why?

LIZ

Just do it.

Don

OK, but my head is sore. My hair got pulled a lot.

LIZ

Shut up!

(Dai rushes into the room. He's out of breath.)

DAI

He come down alley. He have mean look in his eye. I see him through back window of store room

Who? DOC

Your friend. DAI

What friend? All my friends are here....in this casino. DOC

Your friend Wyatt Earp.....that have shoot out at OK corral. DAI

Wyatt is outside in the alley? DOC

No. His friend, Mr. Clanton. DAI

Ike Clanton is in the alley? DOC

Yes.....he not very far away. DAI

(Doc spins his gun cylinder.)

That's just like that lily livered snake, to come in the back door. He's going to get a big surprise. DOC

(Doc struts to the back door of the casino.)

Don't hurt him, Doc. He maybe only want to play video poker machine. ELAINE

Not in this casino. DOC

(Doc exits the casino. Everyone freezes as there is a long moment of silence.

A series of intermittent gunshots are heard. Doc enters the casino, his gun still smoking. He holsters the gun.)

ELAINE

Are you all right?

DAI

Is Mr. Clanton dead?

DOC

The coward sneaked into the shadows where I couldn't see him. Maybe he's wounded, though. I aimed to right where I last saw him.

DAI

Whew. We don't want no killings around here. I go in back room and keep an eye open for him.....maybe two eyes if he go into shadows again.

(Dai exits to the back room.)

LIZ

Maybe if you're not going to go to my place right now.....maybe we could talk about our future.....you know.....what you and I are going to do together.

DON (playing dumb)

What do you mean? We do things together.

LIZ

I know, sweetie, but I mean our long time future together. Do you know what I mean?

DON

I haven't got a clue.

LIZ

Bright lights and white dresses?

DON

There aren't any bright lights here except on the strip and white dresses get dirty to easy. Maybe we could move to Virginia City and I could get some work there in one of the lady establishments.

LIZ

Don't play dumb with me! I'm not getting any younger, you know. The show won't hire anyone much past forty.

DON

So?



LIZ

So I won't be known much longer as, "Show Biz Liz" I can't go from showgirl to coffee shop waitress. I would die.

DON

How about hostess at the place up in Virginia City where I'd be working?

LIZ

Some day I'm going to shoot you.

DON

You don't know how to shoot a gun. The last time you tried you put a hole in the bathroom mirror because you didn't like the way your makeup looked.

LIZ

Doc will teach me.

DOC

Don't bring me into this. I've got enough problems trying to hit Ike Clanton.

LIZ

You better get your gun sight fixed.

DOC

Yeah. That's why I missed him out in the alley. I remember the good old days when I was king of the fast draw mountain. I could shoot the eye out of a grasshopper even when he was jumping. It must be a sign of old age.

LIZ

What's that?

DOC

Letting that snake Clanton disappear into the shadows before I could hit him. Things aren't like they used to be. I remember when me and Wyatt were in Dodge. Hell, we could walk down the main street at night and nobody would even think of bush whacking us.....nobody.

DON

Why is that, Doc?

DOC

We were too fast .....way too fast. We always had each other's back ....and everybody in town knew it. They wouldn't even hold a fast draw contest in town cause everybody knew that me and Wyatt would win, hands down. One time in the saloon a drunk threw up a coin for us to shoot. Both of us fired at the same time and the coin wound up with two bullet holes in it. Things just aren't like they

used to be.....not even close. Well, I think I'll step outside for a breath of fresh air. What time did that TV guy say he'd be here, Elaine

ELAINE

Sometime before noon. He didn't say exactly when.

DOC

Well, then I'll have myself a nice long smoke.

(Doc exits.)

LIZ

I feel sorry for Doc.

DON

Why? He's happy with his life the way it is.

LIZ

He really believes he's Doc Holiday re-incarnate. That's a fantasy world, I mean that he lives in.

DON

Humor him. He doesn't hurt anybody and he won't unless he really thinks that he has run into the real Ike Clanton.

LIZ

That's what I mean. He really believes that Ike Clanton and Wyatt Earp are still alive. He's going to get himself into serious trouble someday if he doesn't stop trying to kill an imaginary Ike Clanton.

DON

Well, you live in a fantasy world part of the time.

LIZ

WHAT?

DON

You think that you can go on being a Las Vegas showgirl forever and you can't.

(Liz picks up a cloth table napkin and begins to strangle Don.)

LIZ

You think those hot girls at the whore house can be mean. You ain't seen nothing yet. I'm going to take your head right off your shoulders.

DON

Stop! You're killing me. STOP! I don't want to die young.

(Don manages to tear Liz's hands away from the table cloth napkin.)

LIZ

You're not young and in a minute you're going to be dead.....telling me I'm getting to old to be a showgirl.

(Liz tries to strangle Don again but Don dodges her and runs out the front door of the casino.

Liz chases after him.)

LIZ

Come back here, you mummified womanizer.

(Liz exits at full speed after Don

Ron "Mozart" Kennedy enters. He's a little shocked at what just went past him. He shrugs his shoulders, takes a last hit on a joint and flicks the roach out the front door behind him.)

MOZART

What caused the hurricane I just saw go by me? Did Liz need another massage?

(Mozart giggles at his silly little joke.)

ELAINE

It was just some trouble in sin city. How are you doing, Mozart?

MOZART

OK, OK. I just finished another song. It's called, "Flowers In Your Heart" but I'm thinking of changing the title to "The Medical Marijuana Blues".

ELAINE

Why?

MOZART

Somebody stole my medical marijuana card. I don't think I lost it. I wouldn't be that dumb, would I?

ELAINE

No, certainly not.....not someone with your concentration. No way.

(Dai comes crashing into the room.  
He's mad as a wet hen.)

DAI

Somebody stole my Sake bottle. Maybe Doc do it. He always outside smoking  
Hah! Smoking! Maybe he got drugs hidden in his cigarette case.....hmm, maybe.

ELAINE

Here we go again.

DAI

Not go anyplace 'til this robbery stop. I give call to my friend Ted Kazinsky. He  
send package that "tick" to thief that stole my Sake bottle. Someday I go back to  
Karate class and then I wipe out all thieves in this town like I used to do.

ELAINE

You're too old for that stuff.

(Dai strikes a Karate pose.)

DAI

Anyone want to try me now?

(Elaine comes up behind Dai and  
knocks him to the floor.)

ELAINE

See?

DAI

Not fair. You come from behind. Owww! You hurt my back.

ELAINE

Ho..hum. Your back is made of Jelly fish.

DAI

Mean woman.....has no sympathy.

MOZART

I've got another one of these medical cigarettes if you want one. It will give you  
lots of courage.

ELAINE

Don't smoke that stuff in here. They'll take my gaming license.

DAI

OK as long as not take my Sake bottle.

ELAINE

Ohhhh. I hate you!

DAI

I go into back room and watch out for Mr. Clanton. Don't want to disappoint Doc. He too nice a man so I help with his fantasy.

(Dai exits to the back room.)

MOZART

So, like I was saying, I've got this new song, "Medical Marijuana Blues" I got the idea after someone stole my medical marijuana card.

ELAINE

I figured that already.

MOZART

I'm thinking of putting it into a musical

ELAINE

Have you ever written a musical before?

MOZART

No, but with my talent it should be a piece of cake.

ELAINE

Sure.

MOZART

It would go something like this.....

(Mozart is interrupted by the entrance of Candy Delicious.)

CANDY

Ohh my head. I knew I shouldn't have gone drinking with those convention tourists. They have no scruples, no respect for a girl like me.

ELAINE

Did you tell them your name is Candy Delicious?

CANDY

Yes, but they were drunk at the time. I didn't think they would remember. Boy was I wrong!

(Candy notices Mozart sitting at a table in the casino.)

CANDY (is all "heart")

Mozart, baby, honey, sugar.

(Candy runs over to Mozart and throws herself onto his lap.)

CANDY

Where have you been, my darling composer? I've been looking all over town for you. I've missed you so much.

MOZART

I just heard that you had some help looking all over town

CANDY

Help? Oh, those conventioners. They were so rude. When one of them learned my name, he said that he knew where to get some edible underwear and would I like to wear it. Can you imagine that?

MOZART

And what did you say to him.

CANDY

Well.....I was a little tipsy.....and.....

MOZART

And...?

CANDY

Well, I don't know where it came from, but I suddenly said yes....they had plied me with liquor, you understand.

MOZART

I understand.

CANDY

Ohhh, you are so understanding, you wonderful man. What have you been composing lately? Anything for me?

MOZART

As a matter of fact, I just finished a new song.

CANDY

What's it called? I'm dying to hear it.

MOZART

It's called "The Medical Marijuana Blues"

CANDY

Oh, it's a drug song.

MOZART

Well, yes, but it's going into a musical.

CANDY

You're going to write a musical?

MOZART

I'm going to do my best.

CANDY

How big of a part are you going to write for me.....maybe the lead?

MOZART

There's one problem about that. You can't act.

CANDY

Yes I can. You just listen to this.

(Candy begins a terrible version of a speech from Romeo and Juliet.)

CANDY

Oh Romeo. Wherefore are .....uhhh...where fort are you.....where the hell have you been? I'm so messed up I'm about to commit suicide. This time I'll drink enough vodka to do the trick.

MOZART

They didn't have vodka in Shakespeare's time.

CANDY

I'm talking about last night. Anyway, how did I do?

MOZART

You were brilliant...just brilliant.

CANDY

I already knew that. So, do I get the part?

MOZART

It isn't written yet. Besides, you have to do a singing audition too.

CANDY

Next thing you'll say is I have to sleep with the composer.

MOZART

You already have.

CANDY

Yes, but that was an audition for another show.

MOZART

Are you going to do the singing audition?

CANDY

OK, but it's just for this musical.

(Candy does the worst version of "Over The Rainbow" ever heard by mankind.)

CANDY

Somewhere over the rainbow  
Skies are blue  
Birds fly over the rainbow  
Why then oh why can't I

(Elaine and Mozart hold their fingers in their ears. Candy is oblivious to this insult. She finishes the "song".)

CANDY

What did you think of that?

MOZART

Riveting. You should sing that for Phil Spector.

CANDY

He's in prison.....for life.

MOZART

Yeah.



Do I get the part?  
CANDY

I told you. It isn't written yet.  
MOZART

When it is.....written.  
CANDY

(Candy begins to take off her clothes one item at a time while singing to the song, "The Stripper".)

We'll see.....what are you doing?  
MOZART

(Dai enters.)

What are you doing?  
DAI

I'm showing all of you that I can also dance.  
CANDY

(Doc and Don enter.)

Doc, that woman Liz is certifiably nuts.  
DON

You don't say.  
DOC

Oh, I forgot to tell you. There is a wild west show in town. The end of the show is a gunfight between the Wyatt Earp character and the Ike Clanton character.  
DON

(Doc takes out his gun and twirls the bullet chamber.)

DOC

So that's where that skunk has been hiding out. Hiding in plain sight of everybody. I got to help out my friend, Wyatt. You don't know what dirty tricks that snake Clanton might have up his sleeve.

(Doc starts to exit.)



DON  
What's the matter, Candy?

CANDY  
That's such a sad story. You poor, poor man.

MOZART  
It's OK, Candy. I've heard that story before....lots of times.

DON  
Well, it's still effective. Audiences love it.

MOZART  
Yeah.

CANDY  
You rat. It's just part of your entertainer act. Phooey.

(Doc enters. He is dressed in a straight jacket.)

DAI  
What the hell happened? Why you wear that funny jacket?

DOC  
Help me out of this thing.

DAI  
Sure, Doc. Sure.

(Dai helps Doc out of the straight jacket.)

DOC  
Thanks, Dai. At least they didn't take my gun.

DON  
So, what happened?

DOC  
I went to the Wild West show with honorable intentions. I only wanted to help my good old friend, Wyatt Earp. I didn't want to hurt anybody except that snake in the grass, Ike Clanton. I decided to go to the back of the stage so I could get a clear shot at that yellow tailed varmint. Two big goons stopped me. I told them how Ike Clanton and his brothers had started a gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Arizona and how me and Wyatt had chased them out of town and

how I'd been looking for that lily livered snake ever since. And, now I've found him. They ask me when this gunfight happened, as if they didn't already know from reading the newspapers.

MOZART

Did they let you inside?

DOC

No. I showed them that I could handle myself in a gunfight.

DAI

How you do that?

DOC

I whirled around and put a hole in a beer can lying on the ground about thirty feet away.

DAI

Thirty feet, huh.

DOC

Maybe further. Anyway, they grabbed me by the arms and dragged me to a guard shack, put that darn jacket on me and through me out into the street.

MOZART

So how did you get back here?

DOC

A nice lady drove by in her car and ask if I needed a lift to the hospital. She thought that jacket was a Doctor's coat. Anyway, that's how I got back here.

DAI

So what you do now?

DOC

What do you think? I'm going to get that Ike Clanton or die trying.

ALL

Ohhhh.....ohhh.

FREEZE ACTION

END ACT I

## ACT II

(DON, LIZ, MOZART, CANDY and ELAINE are on stage. Candy is dressed in very short pants and a “show bra” that sparkles with costume jewelry. She sits on Mozart’s lap, caressing and kissing him on the neck.

Elaine goes into the kitchen in the back.)

CANDY

Ohhh, you are such a beautiful man, my talented composer.

MOZART

Yes, I am.....so is my music.

CANDY

Yes, I know.....I know. It’s very sexy, just like its composer. By the way, how is the musical coming along? Do you have a couple of show stopping songs in it for me? I could dress in a costume just like what I’m wearing now. I would be so sexy you could hear the men in the audience panting and drooling. Their wives would sit beside them and just pray that they could be as sexy as me. Can you visualize it? When the TV man comes I can talk about the show and how wonderful and sexy it is. Since it will be on TV, that will help the ticket sales. What do you think?

(The other characters roll their eyes in disbelief at the number Candy is running on Mozart.)

MOZART

It isn’t written yet.

CANDY

Well, what are you waiting for. I won’t be available forever.

MOZART

Oh, you’ll be available.

(Candy gets off of Mozart’s lap.)

CANDY

What do you mean, "I'll be available"? There are music directors and producers all over town begging me for my talents. They know talent when they see it.

(Mozart pats Candy on her ass.)

MOZART

They sure do.

CANDY

Then what's holding up the show?

MOZART

It isn't written yet.

CANDY

A man of your talents shouldn't put things off. My mother used to say, "A stitch in time saves nine." I never knew what that meant cause I didn't sew. But, it sounded important, very important.

MOZART

Your mother was a seamstress. She knew what it meant.

CANDY

That doesn't mean that I'm dumb just cause I can't sew. Does it?

MOZART

Not at all.

CANDY

After all, I am a very talented girl, but not in the way you think.

MOZART

Yes, I know.

CANDY

How could you know? You've never heard me sing or watched me dance. Have you? At least not when I'm doing a professional audition I think maybe I will do an audition for you in a little while. Then you will have no doubt, not one single doubt.

MOZART

Will I be warned?

CANDY

Warned about what?

MOZART  
That the audition is about to start.

CANDY  
Oh, you mean told when I'm about to start.

MOZART  
Uhhh, yes.

CANDY  
Of course silly, you're my main audience. I'll be right back.

MOZART  
Where are you going?

CANDY  
I have to prepare.

(Candy exits.  
Dai enters. He is covered with black soot.)

MOZART  
What the hell happened to you?

DAI  
I empty vacuum cleaner. It blow up on me

MOZART  
How could it blow up on you?

DAI  
When I empty, I forgot to turn it off. It get out of control and blow dirt all over me. I think I sue manufacturer.

MOZART  
I think you out of your gourd.

DAI  
Oh, I almost forgot. TV man call. He be a little late but will come for sure.

ALL  
Yaayyy.

DAI

I think I go back in kitchen and wash up. Nobody like soot in food.

(Dai laughs loudly.)

DAI

Get it? Soot in food. Ha ha ha.

(Dai exits.)

LIZ

What the hell is he talking about?

DON

It's some kind of Asian joke. I think he meant sand in food, or foot in soup.....I don't know.

LIZ

It could be. Nobody would like a foot in their soup.

DON

Just let it go.

LIZ

OK, sugar.

(Pause)

LIZ (cont'd)

I'm so proud of you taking that job playing piano in a warehouse so it will make the workers feel more relaxed and wanting to go straight home to their wives after work instead of going straight to the local beer bar.

DON

Thank you, honey.

(The door to the kitchen/back room slams open with a blast of another stripper song coming from a boom box carried by Candy. She is dressed in a full Las Vegas show girl costume complete with feathers.)

LIZ

What the hell....where did you get that dress?



CANDY

One of the conventioners bought it for me when I told him I was going to star in a Broadway musical extravaganza. Now everybody watch.

(Candy does a better job dancing and singing, unlike the first time.)

(She finishes and everybody claps enthusiastically.)

DON

I never thought you had it in you, Candy.

CANDY

That's why they call me Candy Delicious. Now I have to go and change back into my regular clothes.

(Candy exits.)

DON

What a change!

MOZART

I think I'll go outside for a smoke.

ELAINE

You'll die smoking those cigarettes.

MOZART

Not these kind.

(Mozart exits and Elaine exits to back room.)

DON

I'm really upset

LIZ

About what?

DON

Well, you know there are a lot of scam artists on the internet these days.

LIZ

So?

DON

I decided to look into one of them.....to get some new comedy material for the comedy lines I use when I'm entertaining.

LIZ

And you came up with what?

DON

I have to tell you the story of what kind of scam it was.

LIZ

I'm all ears.

DON

It was about a Russian who wanted to immigrate to America.

LIZ

Oh, the poor thing. It must have been someone in dire need.

DON

That's what I thought at first.

LIZ

No dire need?

DON

Oh yeah. There was need all right.....plenty of need.

LIZ

So go on. I'm beginning to die of curiosity.

DON

You'll almost die when you hear the whole story.

LIZ

Go on. Go on.

DON

Well, this poor person had worked very hard for several years to have enough money to come here. There was to be a trip to Moscow from the small home town and then on to the USA.

LIZ

And....?

DON

The trip to Moscow took place and then there was a hang up.

LIZ

What kind of hang up?

DON

The bank in the home town wouldn't release the money for the plane ticket. There was some technical problem. Anyway, I was asked to lend a thousand dollars on a temporary basis to help out with the trip.

LIZ

You didn't do it did you?

DON

No, but I was sorely tempted to help. The "would be" immigrant picture almost did it. Here, I'll show you the picture and you can see for yourself.

(Don takes out a large envelope and takes out a picture of a young, gorgeous woman dressed in a bikini.

Liz freaks out.)

LIZ

YOU ALMOST FELL FOR THAT SCAM? YOU JERK!

(Liz slaps Don across the back of his head.)

DON

Well I just.....

LIZ

I can't believe you did that. You probably did it on purpose thinking you could get her over here and get laid. Ohhh!

(Liz hits Don again on his head.)

DON

Owww. Stop. That hurts!

LIZ

That's nothing compared to what I'm going to do to you when you're not looking.

(Liz socks Don in the stomach.)

Owww! I'm not taking this anymore.

DON

(Don tries to leave the place. Liz grabs him by his shirt. The shirt rips. Don manages to pull away from her anyway and heads for the door.

Liz is hot on his heels.)

LIZ

You're not getting away that easy. Russian woman immigrant my ass.

(They both exit.

Mozart enters at the same time. He shakes his head in disbelief.

Candy comes in from the back room.)

CANDY

Hello, Mr. Broadway composer. How did I do in my audition?

(Mozart pulls out a joint from a cigarette pack and lights it.)

MOZART

Good.....terrific....riveting.

CANDY

That good, huh?

(Mozart takes a long drag on his lit joint.)

MOZART

Uh-huh.

(Elaine comes flying out of the back room.)

ELAINE

What is that horrible smell?

(Candy grabs the joint and stuffs it into her bra.)

CANDY

Nothing. It was nothing. He forgot to brush his teeth this morning.

(Candy's bra begins to emit smoke.

She grabs a glass of water from the table and pours it on her bra

At the same time, Elaine heads for the back room.)

ELAINE

Dai, stop cooking hot dogs!

(Elaine exits.

Candy takes the soggy joint from her bra and tosses it into a waste basket.)

MOZART

I figured out the story for my musical.

CANDY

You did? Is my part really good?

MOZART

I just have an outline.....no written parts.

CANDY

I'll help you write my part. What's the story.

MOZART

Well, it's a love story.

CANDY

I love love stories. I'm so excited. So what are the characters? Is my part kind of a Juliette character like in Romeo and Juliette?

MOZART

You see, the young man was born with a birth defect. It has bothered him all his life.

CANDY

Oh, the poor man. What is the birth defect?

MOZART

He was born with a rat-like tail on his back side.

CANDY

That's terrible. Why didn't he have a doctor cut it off?

MOZART

They couldn't do it. It grew from inside his intestines. It would have killed him to have it removed. He would have starved to death cause he couldn't digest any food.

CANDY

So he has to go through life with a rat tail hanging out the back of his pants.

MOZART

Yes, that's right.....through all of his life.

CANDY

That's too bad. Anyway, what does my character look like?

MOZART

She also has a birth defect.

CANDY

And what's that?

MOZART

She was born with a horn growing out of her forehead.

CANDY

She's a female unicorn, right?

MOZART

That's right, the first of its kind in the world.

CANDY

That's OK. I can play a unicorn. Where do they meet?

MOZART

They both work in a freak show at state fairs.

CANDY

Then they fall in love and live happily after.

Yeah.....sort of.

MOZART

(Elaine and Dai come rushing out of the back room.)

ELAINE and DAI

He just called. He's on his way.

MOZART

Who?

ELAINE

The cable news guy. He's on his way to put us on TV.

DAI

We get lots of new customers.

ELAINE

Mozart, go tell Doc. He's outside having a smoke. Candy, go next door to the motel and bring Don and Liz over here.

CANDY

Isn't this just fantastic?

(Mozart and Candy exit.)

ELAINE

I'm so glad the cable TV station picked us to go on TV.

DAI

Why not? We beautiful people.....made for TV.

ELAINE

Now don't say anything dumb into the camera.

DAI

I always say smart words.

ELAINE

Yeah, like the time you told the health inspector that dirt is close to God since that's where we all end up anyway, buried six feet in dirt

DAI

That was the truth.

(Doc, Mozart, enter followed quickly by Don, Liz and Candy.)

DOC  
Where is he?

DAI  
Not here yet but on his way.

CANDY  
Ohhh, good.

(Helmut Gertler enters the casino. He drags a couple of suitcases of equipment behind him.)

HELMUT  
Hello, I'm Helmut Gertler. I'm from Bang TV.....uhh...the cable TV station.

DAI  
We really glad to meet you, aren't we, Elaine?

ELAINE  
Yes, we are. I'm Elaine. I own half of this place.

(Helmut begins to unload his equipment.)

HELMUT  
Who owns the other half? Let's see, camera, battery pack, bank of lights.

DAI  
Where bank of lights? I never heard of that bank.

(Helmut gives Dai a look of disbelief.)

DOC  
Hello, I'm Doc Holliday. I'm one of the regular customers here.

DON, LIZ, MOZART  
So are we.



CANDY

I'm Candy Delicious. I'm going to be a star in a New York musical so you'll have a celebrity to photograph while you're here.

HELMUT

Did you used to be a stripper.

CANDY

NO! NEVER! ABSOLUTELY NOT! How insulting.

HELMUT

Sorry, Miss Delicious. My mistake.

MOZART

People call me Mozart cause I'm the composer/writer of the New York musical.

HELMUT

When did it open?

CANDY

It isn't written yet.

MOZART

Shut up! It's almost finished, well, at least the outline.

DON

I'm Don Sinatra. I just did a substitute gig at the lounge in Caesar's palace.

HELMUT

Oh, I just did some filming at Caesars. When were you there?

DON

A couple of months ago.

LIZ

Hi, I'm Liz. I'm a show girl. I'm in the show at Bally's.

DON

She's the last girl in the back line.

LIZ

Ohhh. Do you always have to put everything in a negative light?

DON

I was just being complimentary so he'd know that they still put older girls in their show.

LIZ

Ooooooh Someday I'm going to push you over the side of the Hoover dam.

(Helmut puts his camera on his shoulder. He hands the bank of hand-held lights to Candy.)

CANDY

What do I do with these?

HELMUT

Just hold them. I'll tell you where to point them.

CANDY

Stars don't do that.

MOZART

You ain't a star yet

CANDY

I'm almost a star and you should know cause you're the one who made me.

MOZART

Yes, I did and you lived up to your name.....delicious. Step aside. I'm the one who's creating the show so I should get the publicity.

CANDY

Composers and writers don't get publicity, stars do.

MOZART

I repeat myself, you ain't a star.

CANDY

I will be pretty soon. I have a verbal contract with you and there are witnesses here to prove it.

DAI

Maybe we should start camera. We all eager to be on TV.

HELMUT

Yes, yes. Everybody have a seat.

MOZART

I'm not sitting down. No one will notice me if I'm sitting down. I'm the King of composers

(Candy pushes Mozart into a chair.)

CANDY

Sit, King.

MOZART

I'm not King of the dogs. I'm King of the composers.

HELMUT

Could we all just get along?

(Tony Dasaro enters.)

TONY

Sorry I'm late. I left my wrestling costume bag at the arena. I had to have it for tonight's match.

DAI

This be Tony "The Atom Bomb" Dasaro. He very bad man. I see him wrestle in person. He almost kill other guy in ring.

TONY

He deserved it?

DAI

Referee deserved it?

TONY

No, I couldn't see who it was. I forgot to wear my contact lenses that night. We've met before.

HELMUT

I don't think so. I've never shot a wrestling match before. However, you will look very good on camera.

(Helmut points his camera at Tony.)

HELMUT

Yes, you look exceptionally good.

CANDY

What about me? I look very good on camera.....sexy too.

MOZART

Sit down.

What?

CANDY

Let the man do his job.

MOZART

He's not doing his job if the camera isn't pointed at me.

CANDY

The story here for cable TV is about all the people in a small casino, not just a wannabe actress.

MOZART

Wannabe? Remember, I played a big part in a Hollywood pilot. It was called "Café Hollywood."

CANDY

You played an extra who was supposed to be working on Hollywood boulevard.....type casting.

MOZART

You mean old man.

CANDY

(Candy hits him with a table napkin.  
Helmut is filming all of this.)

HELMUT

Good stuff. Good stuff. Don't stop.

MOZART

I'm going to get out of here before I become an axe murderer.

CANDY

Oh no you don't. You're staying here telling this nice man about my starring role in your New York musical. Now, start talking.

MOZART

My musical isn't written yet and she won't be the star when it's done.

(Mozart heads for the door and exits followed closely by Candy.)

CANDY (O.S.)  
Get back in here, you drug addict.

HELMUT  
Really good stuff.....really good.

DAI  
We not always have big conflict like that. It very peaceful casino here, very peaceful.

ELAINE  
Hah!

DAI  
It is except when you hide my Sake bottle.

(Helmut turns his camera on Dai and Elaine.)

ELAINE  
Or when you take all of the money out of the register because you hit a jackpot  
On ONE OF OUR MACHINES!

DAI  
No reason to yell. I win fair and square. Sometimes, though, you give me short count on jackpot payoff.

ELAINE  
What?

DAI  
That right.

ELAINE  
Don't you remember? The state gaming commission is going to take our gaming license away. We haven't done enough public service work.

DAI  
Oh, honey. I so sorry. I forget. Please forgive me.

(Dai takes Elaine in his arms and hugs her. Elaine cries.)

DAI  
Let's go in back room. I make up to you.

TONY

Now I remember. It was at the "No Tell Bar".....the gay bar on the west side.

HELMUT

I was just there to film a story on the gay life in Las Vegas.

TONY

Is that why you were dancing with some of the patrons? Do you remember dancing with me?

HELMUT

Oh my God.

(Helmut has grabbed his equipment case and camera and heads for the exit.)

TONY

You come back here, you sweet thing.

HELMUT

Not in a million years.

(Helmut exits followed by Tony.)

ELAINE

Oh, God. Now what do we do?

DAI

I have good idea for cable show. It will save casino.

ELAINE

First you'll have to get the camera man back here.

DAI

I fix everything. You watch.

END ACT II

ACT III (Scene I)

A little later the same day. Dai happily plays the video poker machine. Elaine is behind the counter.

Dai sings a convoluted version of "How Great Thou Art.")

DAI

How great I art and never, never loose. How great I art and give everyone the good news.

ELAINE

Will you stop that? You're driving me crazy.

DAI

I very happy man. I know how to do good for casino.

ELAINE

Well tell me the good news and I will help do good for the casino.....and maybe keep it open.

DAI

Not tell you. You very mean lady.

ELAINE

You'll think mean if this casino gets taken over by the Gaming Commission.

DAI

You not intimidate me. I very strong man.

ELAINE

The only thing strong about you will be how long you survive sleeping on the sidewalk in a tent. Now tell me your big secret.

DAI

I homeless once in Japan. I survive.... damn machine, not give me four aces.

ELAINE

I'll give you four slaps across you face if you don't tell me.

DAI

I not afraid of violence. I once win Karate contest in Japan.

ELAINE

Ohhhh!

(The video poker machine winner's bell goes off.)

DAI

Hah! I win in spite of mean talk from lady. Pay me.

ELAINE

Sometime in the next century you poor excuse for a Tasmanian Devil.

(Elaine storms into the back room.)

DAI

I wonder what got into her?

(Doc enters the casino.)

DOC

I heard Ike Clanton came back into town. He's wanted by the police and doesn't even know it, so my sources say. I hope I get to him first.

DAI

I have good idea to save casino. It also will draw in Mr. Clanton and you can get him.

DOC

Why do you call him mister? He's a no good, low life varmint.

DAI

In Japan, we always courteous to everybody.

DOC

This ain't Japan.

DAI

Not matter.

DOC

OK, what's your plan?

DAI

Well, everybody know how fast you draw your gun, right?

DOC

Yeah, so what?

DAI

Well, we advertise fast draw contest here at casino. Not use real bullets, of course.



DOC

No real bullets? Then how do you know who'se the fastest draw?

DAI

We use police speed gun. I have one.

DOC

Yeah, that' a good idea.

DAI

Speed gun very accurate.

DOC

Yeah.

DAI

Then I tell cable camera guy and he come back and film contest.

DOC

Not bad, not bad at all. What does Elaine think of this idea?

DAI

Not tell her till last minute. She very mean woman. She rip me off when I win last video poker game. I not tell her even if she torture me in back room. I not care. I once tortured by Yakuza and not tell anything.

DOC

Dai, you're a very brave man.

DAI

Thank you....what a wonderful world.

DOC

How so?

DAI

Back in Japan, I work very hard. I get paid like slave, almost nothing. Then, one day I get golden opportunity. The world open up for me.

DOC

What happened?

DAI

I get job on freighter ship going to America.

And.....?  
DOC

I get on ship and work very hard. We get to America after three weeks on ocean.  
DAI

Go on.  
DOC

I wait til everyone on board asleep.....then I jump ship.  
DAI

And didn't get caught?  
DOC

No, I go to oriental part of town. I buy false papers so I not get deported.  
DAI

This is fascinating.  
DOC

One day I accidently meet beautiful woman. She daughter of owner where I work. We fall in love. We get married. I now U S citizen. Her name Elaine.  
DAI

Great story.  
DOC

But she turn out to be very mean woman.....not pay me when I win fair and square on video poker machine.  
DAI

(Mozart enters. He's high as a kite. He's followed by Candy. She's so happy she's glowing.)

I think I made a mistake.  
MOZART

No, no.....not at all. It was beautiful  
CANDY

I don't mean having sex with you. I mean promising you the part in my musical I must have been out of my mind.  
MOZART

CANDY

You're always out of your mind when you smoke that stuff.

MOZART

You just don't get it.

CANDY

But you promised.

MOZART

I mean you don't understand my mistake.

CANDY

Sex is wonderful.

MOZART

I didn't say it was anything else

CANDY

Sex is what makes the world go round.

MOZART

And round and round.

CANDY

When I get married, I want to have sex two times every day.

MOZART

Don't marry someone my age.

CANDY

I could keep you interested. I already proved that. I could make you back into a young man. Then you could write lots of musicals for me to star in.

MOZART

You never give up.

CANDY

Of course not. I know how a woman gets what she wants.

MOZART

Lord, save me.

DAI

I know how you get lots of publicity.

CANDY  
How do you know that. You're not a PR man.

DAI  
I do a lot of thinking.

CANDY  
OK, I give up. What have you been thinking?

DAI  
I think camera man very lonely man.

CANDY  
So? Go on.

DAI  
Well when man very lonely he need companionship.....someone to talk to.

CANDY  
That's not an earth shaking discovery.

DAI  
You a very good talker.

CANDY  
Wait a minute. I'm in love with Mozart.

MOZART  
Now leave me out of this.

DAI  
Not need to be in love with camera man. Just pretend. You do good job acting.

CANDY  
I can do that.

MOZART  
Ohh, no. Here we go.

CANDY  
How would I get publicity out of acting that I am in love?

DAI  
He have very warm feelings about you. He like to give you lots of camera time.  
You could talk about your part in Mozart's musical.

IT ISN'T WRITTEN YET.

MOZART

CANDY  
Please be quiet. Now that I'm the star of the show, the writing will be easy.

MOZART  
Says you.

CANDY  
So when do I start?

DAI  
Right away. You go to cable station and tell them you want to talk to Helmut the camera man.

CANDY  
OK

DAI  
Then you tell Helmut how good camera man he is. You could see that when he was at Cuckoo's Nest Casino. He then want to come back and finish story on Casino.

MOZART  
Don't send her on this mission. She'll just muck it up.

CANDY  
I will not! I already know what to do to make it work. I'm on my way. See you later.

(Candy exits.)

MOZART  
Do you know what you've just done?

DAI  
I have faith in her. Now we have gun fight contest all set up when he gets here.

DOC  
I'm ready.

(Doc fast draws his gun but gets the barrel caught in the holster. The gun goes off just missing Doc's foot.)

DOC  
Well, almost ready.

(Don and Liz enter.)

DON  
What happened? We just heard a gun shot.

DOC  
A minor accident. My gun went off accidentally.

LIZ  
Did anybody get hurt?

DOC  
No.....nobody hurt. I think I'll go outside for a smoke.

(Doc exits.)

Elaine enters.)

ELAINE  
Have you calmed down?

DAI  
Not speak to you. You mean woman that rip me off.

ELAINE  
I left the door slightly open.

DAI  
So?

ELAINE  
I heard your crazy idea to bring back the camera man.

DAI  
Not crazy. I send Candy out to bring him back. She will do good job acting like she in love with him.

MOZART  
She'll muck it up. I swear she'll.....

DAI  
Not happen. She good actress.

ELAINE

Now I know you're crazy. I can't take it any more.

(Elaine heads for the back door.)

DAI

This time close door. No spying.

(Elaine exits.

Don and Liz enter.)

DAI

Did you two kiss and make up?

LIZ

Sort of. There are a couple of problems to work out.

DAI

Not good for relationship when there are problems. I know.

LIZ

How do you know?

DAI

Elaine not pay me when I win at video poker machine. I think now she going to rip me off. Not good for relationship.

DON

By the way, I just heard that they are having a video poker contest over at Imperial Palace casino. You might want to check that out.

DAI

It sound very interesting

DON

First prize is a ten year supply of Sake.

DAI

Now it sound VERY interesting. I go and enter right now.

DON

Good luck.

DAI

Oh, before I forget. We have fast draw contest tomorrow to bring back camera man. He film it and you provide music. I talk to you later. First things first.

(Dai exits.)

LIZ

Now, about that little problem of ours.

DON

Look, honey. Times are hard. I have to take what I can get.

LIZ

Now I've heard them all.

DON

What do you mean?

LIZ

You took a music job playing piano in a brothel up north in Virginia City.

DON

They heard about me from the Chicken Ranch over in Parumpf.

LIZ

I bet they did.

DON

All I have to do is entertain the customers. No more love songs for the girls.

LIZ

Uh huh. And who's going to watch you to make sure you play by the rules?

DON

Just me. I'm on my scout's honor while I'm entertaining.

LIZ

They don't let boy scouts into a brothel.

DON

Well, uhhh.....

LIZ

I have a solution.



What's that?

DON

I'll go to work there as one of the hookers.

LIZ

No, no. You can't. You're too old.

DON

Don't tell me I'm too old. I know the age limit in those places. Besides, then I can keep an eye on you. How do you like them apples?

LIZ

It isn't right. It just isn't right.

DON

Or, you could get a job at Walmart as a greeter.

LIZ

Oh, woe is me.

DON

Too bad, woe.

LIZ

Walmart doesn't pay as much as the job in Virginia City. Do you want me to starve to death?

DON

It would be better than me slitting your throat when I would find out about you and your love songs for the girls.

LIZ

(The phone starts ringing  
Elaine enters.)

ELAINE

Why doesn't Dai answer that.

(Elaine picks up the phone.)

ELAINE

Cuckoo's nest casino. Don Sinatra? Yes, he's here. Just a minute. It's for you.

(Elaine hands the phone to Don.)

Who is it?  
DON

ELAINE  
I don't know. Speak into the phone and you'll find out.

(Elaine exits to back room.)

DON  
This is Don. Oh, Charlie. How are you?..... A strep throat, huh.....yeah, I can do that for you.....tonight.....eight o'clock.....at Caesar's lounge. I got it. I'll be there..... I hope you get better. OK, goodbye.

LIZ  
What was that all about?

DON  
Charlie Grant. He's got a strep throat. He ask me to substitute for him at Caesars until he gets well.

LIZ  
Well isn't that the luck of the draw? No Virginia City for the both of us.

DON  
It's only for a few nights.....until he gets well.

LIZ  
They'll love you.....probably book you for a year.

DON  
Don't count on it.

(Tony enters.)

DON  
Why so glum, chum?

TONY  
I have a broken heart.

LIZ  
Did someone hit you to hard on the chest in the wrestling ring?

TONY  
Not that kind of broken heart. It's emotional.

LIZ

Poor baby. Who did this to you?

TONY

Helmut. I tried to contact him and he wouldn't even pick up the phone.

DON

Maybe he thought it was telemarketer.

TONY

No, he has caller I.D. He knew who it was.

LIZ

Poor baby. Maybe it will work out OK. Our problem just got solved. Don is going to work a substitute job at Caesars lounge.

TONY

That's great, but it doesn't solve my problem

(Elaine sticks her head out of the back room door.)

ELAINE

Dai sent Candy to bring back Helmut. I know. I left the door ajar and heard it all.

TONY

Oh, yeah? When's he coming back

ELAINE

As soon as Candy can persuade him.

TONY

To do what?

ELAINE

To fall in love with her

TONY

Oh, no.

(Tony buries his head in his hands. He sobs.)

LIZ

Poor baby. There, there. There are lots of other men in Las Vegas.

TONY

Not like him. We were dancing one time at the “No Tell” bar. He was wonderful. Now, all is lost.

(Tony sobs again.)

LIZ

Don't worry. It will all work out OK.

(Dai enters.)

ELAINE

Where have you been?

DAI

I not tell mean woman but I going to be rich.

ELAINE

Will you stop that mean woman stuff?

DAI

Not matter. I can have lots of Sake for ever.

ELAINE

Ohh, you're crazy. I married a lunatic.

DAI

You not only mean but you not even nice.

ELAINE

I'll work on the nice part.

DAI

Then you pay me for winning?

ELAINE

Not in this lifetime.

DAI

You not change. You still mean.

END SCENE I

## SCENE II

(The next day. Elaine, Dai, Doc, Don, Liz and Mozart are all on stage. Mozart has his laptop in front of him.)

Candy enters. She is disheveled looking.)

CANDY

God, what a man.

MOZART

What happened. Are you OK?

CANDY

Am I OK? I'm exhausted. I just learned how to speak German in one long lesson.

MOZART

You learned to speak German?

CANDY

When you have someone screaming "Oh Mein Gott" in your ear so many times that you think you're going deaf, you learn the language.

DAI

Did he tell you in German if he's coming back to film the gunfight?

CANDY

Oh, yeah, he's coming back. But, he said he hoped Tony would be here. I felt that was kind of strange.....after what we had been through. He spoke English, with a German accent. Another thing happened. I got a call on my cell phone from a Mr. Cowell. I don't remember anyone from the last convention named Mr. Cowell. Oh, well, I'll call him back a little later.

DAI

Did he say what time he get here for gunfight.?

CANDY

As soon as possible. Say, Doc, you sure look spiffy.

DOC

I plan on winning this here contest and I want to look really good on TV when they film the winner.

DAI

It make sense to me. I hope other gunfighters get here before camera man. I don't want him to have nobody to film except winner, who is Doc.

ELAINE

Personally I still think it's a dumb idea and nobody will show up.

DAI

See how you are? I think up great idea to save casino and you call it dumb. You still mean lady.

ELAINE

Dumb, dumb, dumb.

DAI

Just wait. You see.

LIZ

So, did everything go all right last night at Caesars?

DON

Yeah sure, no problems.

LIZ

For real.

DON

Well, some of the girls from the chicken ranch showed up.

LIZ

What?

DON

But I didn't sing them any love songs. I swear.

LIZ

OK, I trust you.....as long as you're playing at Caesars.

(Tony enters.)

TONY

Has anyone scene Helmut? I'm still looking for him.

CANDY

You're the one who was pounding on his door last night. I thought the door was going to break and fall in on me.

TONY

I got a little carried away. Love will do that to you, you know.

CANDY

Well I have good news for you. Helmut is on his way here with camera in hand.

TONY

Yayyy! When is he supposed to get here?

CANDY

As soon as all the gunfighters are here.

TONY

But no one is here except Doc and I'm not going to get involved in a fast draw contest.

ELAINE

Dumb, dumb, dumb.

DAI

NOT DUMB! You supposed to support husband not put him down.

ELAINE

He's already down.

DAI

Maybe should have put out some publicity.

ELAINE

Maybe should have thought of a better idea.

DAI

Still mean after all these years.

(Mozart is still riveted to his laptop.)

MOZART

I think I've got it. Yes, sir, I think so.

CANDY

Got what?

MOZART

The key to the success of my musical story.

CANDY

Ohhh, God. I'm really going to be a Broadway star.

MOZART

It isn't finished yet.

CANDY

No, but it's on its way.

MOZART

Just think, my name on a Broadway playbill.

CANDY

And my picture all over the front of it along with my pictures in all the magazines.

MOZART

It isn't written yet.

CANDY

Shut up. You get your kicks from stomping on a dream.

DAI

Where rest of gun fighters? I very worried.

ELAINE

I guess you just don't get it. Helmut has nothing to put on TV and we have no casino.

CANDY

I was going to wait and tell you this but I've changed my mind. I'm going to tell all of you now, especially my dear composer, Mozart.

MOZART

Tell all of us what? You don't have any secrets.

CANDY

Yes I do. I really do.

MOZART

About what?

CANDY

About my talent, my undiscovered, star talent.

MOZART

Well, OK. Lay it on us. I'm dying to find out what I've been missing.



OK. Here it is.

CANDY

(Helmut enters, camera in hand.)

HELMUT

Hello, everybody. I decided to come back and finish the film.

CANDY

I told you he was coming back. So there, Mr. Composer.

ELAINE

The gun fighters haven't shown up.

HELMUT

The gun fighters?

CANDY

I forgot to tell him about the gun fight.

MOZART

Now you tell us. Is that your secret?

CANDY

No. I'll tell you when I'm ready.

TONY

Hello, Helmut.

HELMUT

Hello, Tony.

TONY

I guess I owe you an apology.

HELMUT

For what?

TONY

For coming on to you so strong..... I couldn't help myself. I was infatuated with you at the moment.

HELMUT

It's OK. I've reconsidered.

TONY  
I just got carried away.....you what?

HELMUT  
I've reconsidered. I'd like to go out on a date with you.

TONY  
I'll be damned.

MOZART  
The devil works in mysterious ways.

CANDY  
Shut up. Can't you see that this is the beginning of love?

MOZART  
Right.

HELMUT  
Well. Let's get going with the film.

ELAINE  
But the gun fighters aren't here.

HELMUT  
We don't need gunfighters with all these interesting people here.

DOC  
Yes we do. How can I show off my skills without more gun fighters?

HELMUT  
Are you really fast?

DOC  
The fastest gun in the west. I'm even faster than Wyatt Earp.

MOZART  
He's dead.

DOC  
No he's not and neither is that coward, Ike Clanton.

MOZART  
OK. Have it your way.

HELMUT

All right, everybody stand back. Doc, you draw your gun real fast as if they are all going to shoot you.

DAI

We don't have any guns.

HELMUT

You don't need any. I'm just going to film reaction shots after Doc draws his gun.

CANDY

What's a reaction shot?

MOZART

You were in the TV show, Café Hollywood and you don't know what a reaction shot is?

CANDY

I was too busy with my close ups to bother about technical stuff.

(Helmut readies his camera.)

HELMUT

OK, Doc. Get ready to draw

DOC

I'm ready.

HELMUT

Draw

(Doc fast draws his gun and it accidentally fires and hits Mozart's laptop computer.)

DOC

Damn! I didn't mean to do that.

MOZART

Oh, God. There goes my story line.

CANDY

It doesn't matter. Film me and I'll tell the story line into the camera so everybody on the cable network will know how great it is.

MOZART

I'm not giving away my story line until it's produced on Broadway.

CANDY

OK, then I'm going to tell my secret into the camera.

(Helmut turns his camera on Candy.)

CANDY

I got a call today from Mr. Cowell. You know the one who has those talent shows on TV.

MOZART

You what?

CANDY

That's right. He ask me if I would like to be on his new show, "America's Singing Talent". Naturally, I said yes. So there.

MOZART

I'll be damned. The devil sure does work in mysterious ways.

HELMUT

That's some good footage.

ELAINE

This doesn't solve our problem. We're going to lose our casino.

HELMUT

Lose your casino? Why?

ELAINE

It's the gaming control.

HELMUT

Maybe all this exposure on TV will help.

ELAINE

I don't think so.

DON

Maybe we could do a benefit here.....that is me and Liz and some of our entertainer friends.

HELMUT

Are you an entertainer?

DON

Yes, and my girlfriend is a showgirl. She works in the show at Bally's.

(Helmut turns his camera on Don and Liz.)

DON

I'm doing a substitute gig at Caesars right now...in the lounge. Then I've got another gig at a place in Virginia City.

LIZ

Oh no you don't. You're not talking about that job on TV.

DON

I've got to have some work, times being hard now like they are. I won't slip again. I promise.

LIZ

I've heard that one before. I told you what happens if you take that gig, didn't I?

DON

Yes, but if I'm faithful, you don't have to take a job as one of the girls who work at the place.

LIZ

That's the deal. Take it or leave it.

DON

Are those all my options?

LIZ

Those are it, period.

DON

OK, I'll take the deal.

LIZ

What? Why you insensitive jerk. What the hell did I ever see in you?

(The phone rings. Elaine answers it.)

ELAINE

Cuckoo's Nest Casino.....Don Sinatra? Yes, he's here.

(Elaine hands the phone to Don.)

DON

Don Sinatra here..... You're who..... You're kidding me.... You're not kidding. Yes!, I'm playing there.....in the lounge..... I'm substituting.....You what? Yes, of course I'm interested.....I'll be at your office first thing tomorrow.....yes, the one in Vegas.....thank you....thank you so much.....goodbye.

LIZ

What was that all about?

DON

That was a guy from the William Morris agency. He caught my music last night and wants to book me into a show room.....He really liked me.

LIZ

So, Virginia City is off the table?

DON

Yes, of course.

LIZ

Hallelujah. I got my man back.

HELMUT

This will make a very good part of the show.

MOZART

Well, since this is good times happening, I have some good news.

CANDY

Your musical will be finished ahead of time.

MOZART

No.

CANDY

Well, what then? You've decided to make my part bigger?

MOZART

Not that either.

CANDY

Nothing could be more important than those ideas.

MOZART

Maybe. Anyhow, I got a call last night from Cher's musical director.

(Helmut turns his camera on Mozart.)

CANDY

She's not going to take my part in the musical.

MOZART

No. She got a couple of my songs from my publisher and she wants to put them on her new CD.

ELAINE

That's terrific, Mozart

CANDY

Can I sing one of them as a guest artist?

MOZART

You'll have to ask Cher.

CANDY

You make everything as hard as you can, don't you? I'll still be a star. You'll see.

(There is a knock at the front door of the casino.)

FEDEX MAN (O.S.)

Fedex. Overnight letter for Mr. and Mrs. Choi.

DAI

Come in. Door open.

FEDEX MAN (O.S.)

Oh no. I'm a good Mormon boy and this is a house of sin I don't go into a house of sin.

DAI

OK, I come out.

(Dai exits and returns with a Fedex envelope in hand.

He hands the envelope to Elaine.

She opens the envelope.

She reads the letter out loud.)

ELAINE

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Choi. We are happy to inform you that a grievous error has occurred on our part. We sincerely apologize for erroneously informing you that your gaming license was in jeopardy. The fact is that the letter was intended for the Cockatoo Casino on Las Vegas Boulevard and not for the Cuckoo's Nest casino that is co-owned by both Mr. and Mrs Choi. Your gaming license is not in jeopardy and we, once again, regret our error. Sincerely, Alvin Dumas.

DAI

His name is dumb ass?

ELAINE

No, I just miss-pronounced it.

DAI

Well, it should be dumb ass. Anyway, I glad this crises all over. Now I play video poker machine and maybe get paid.

HELMUT

I'm finished filming so I'm going to leave. Thanks for the footage. It should be on the air in about five days.

TONY

Uhhh, would you like to go have dinner with me at a five star Las Vegas restaurant? It's on my dime.

HELMUT

Sure, let's go.

(Helmut and Tony exit arm in arm.

Doc goes over to the drinking fountain in the dark part of the Casino.

The Young Punk enters the casino. He brandishes a gun.)

YOUNG PUNK

Everybody freeze. This is a robbery.

DAI

No good. We not have money. Lady not have enough to pay me when I win at video poker machine.

YOUNG PUNK

Shut up, slant eyes. Give me the money, bitch.



(Doc, unseen by the Young Punk, draws his gun and slowly walks to the back of the Young Punk.)

He puts his gun at the back of the head of the Young Punk.)

DOC

Drop the gun, punk unless you wasn't to see daylight through the back of your head.

(The Young Punk drops his gun.)

DOC

Elaine, call the police.

(Elaine begins to dial the police.)

ELAINE

What's your name, Mr. robber?

DOC

Tell the lady your name, punk.

YOUNG PUNK

It's.....uhhh.....Ike Clanton.

(A look of shock comes across all the faces of the people in the casino.)

FREEZE ACTION

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

THE END

Performance rights must be secured before production. For contact information, please see the *The Cuckoos Nest Casino* information page (click on your browser's Back button, or visit <http://singlelane.com/proplay/cuckoosnest.html>)