

SCENE 4

*After getting the argument, Betty meets up with Queen Madge to betray Jenn by telling the Queen some information: Jenn's little secret.*

TEACHER COMMENTARY: PERSONALLY, OF ALL THE OUTCOMES IN THIS COURSE, THE ASCENDANCY OF BETTY DANDY, JEN'S YOUNGER SISTER, IS ONE OF THE MOST SATISFYING. THE COURSE, WHICH HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF REPEATED ATTEMPTS AT CANCELLATION BY MY COLLEAGUES (SO-CALLED PURVEYORS OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM), HAD ONLY SIX STUDENTS, FIVE OF WHOM WERE FEMALE. I MENTION THE GENDER BECAUSE THE SIM TAKES PLACE AMONG MOOONSHINERS AND RACERS IN HARLAN, KENTUCKY, A CULTURE DOMINATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY MALES. TO TOP THAT OFF, THE MALE STUDENT WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE CLASS WITH THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE. THE YOUNG WOMAN TRYING OUT FOR THE LEAD, JENNIFER DANDY, IS LATINA AND SPEAKS WITH A SLIGHT ACCENT. APPARENTLY, THE MALE STUDENT TOLD THE LATINA THAT, BECAUSE OF HER ACCENT, SHE MIGHT NOT BE CONVINCING—WHICH OF COURSE IS ABSURD. IRONICALLY, IT WAS THIS LATINA STUDENT, WHO'D BEEN MY TA THE PREVIOUS SEMESTER, WHO INSPIRED ME TO WRITE THE CHARACTER OF JENN! AND WHAT HAPPENED JUST CONFIRMS THE BEAUTY OF EXPERIENTIAL/TRANSGRESSIVE LEARNING; FROM THE SCENARIO SHE MANUFACTURED A CHARACTER, BETTY DANDY, JENN'S SISTER, AND VERY RESENTFUL OF JENN'S/JAMES'S ROMANTIC IMAGE. BETTY GOES TO THE "QUEEN," SEEKING TO GET RELIEF FOR THEIR FATHER, A FIERCE 'SHINE BREWER AND COMPETITOR TO THE QUEEN. IN THE FOLLOWING, BETTY TRIES BAMBOOZLE QUEEN MADGE, BUT BEING HOPELESSLY OUTCLASSSED, ENDS UP DIVULGING HER SISTER JENN'S "SECRET": THAT SHE, AS ALTER EGO "JAMES," IS HER FATHER'S PREFERRED 'SHINE RUNNER. AND THAT STARTS THE WHEELS IN QUEEN MADGE'S CORRUPT BRAIN TO-TURNIN'

**BETTY**

*(Knocks on door.)* Wow, this place is

breathhtaking!

**MADGE** Who is it?

**BETTY** (*No answer.*)

**MADGE** (*Sighs, annoyed.*) No, I ain't wantin' to buy nothing, and for Heaven's sakes, I ain't got time to talk about Jesus!

**BETTY** (*Looking up nervously.*) Hi, my name is Betty...

**MADGE** (*Visibly losing her patience.*) Betty who?

**BETTY** ...Dandy.

**MADGE** ("Aha!" moment.) Did you say "Dandy"?

**BETTY** Yes, I said Betty Dandy. Hello.

**MADGE** Sorry about that, I thought you were one of those neighborhood kids snooping. Betty Dandy. What can I do ya for?

TEACHER COMMENTARY: THE STUDENT WHO PLAYED MADGE WAS SO ADEPT AT THESE FURTIVE SELF-REALIZATION MOMENTS THAT ONE COULD TRULY SEE ON HER FACE BOTH THE EAGERNESS SHE COULD ENVISION OCCURRING AS THE RESULT OF HER PLAN, AND HER WILY CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE NEED TO FOSTER THIS FAKE GRANDMOTHERLY IMAGE SHE SPREADS ABOUT. THE DIALOGUE, BY THE WAY, MATCHES THIS PORTRAYAL PERFECTLY.

**BETTY** Well ma'am, I need some advice...about my sister, ya see...and I just thought, you being Queen Madge and all, I just thought you'd be exactly the person to come to.

**MADGE** I see. Well how 'bouts you come on in

and we'll have a little chat. (*Lets Betty in and sits her down.*) Care for some sweet tea?

TEACHER COMMENTARY: AT THE INSISTENCE OF TWO CLASS MEMBERS WHO WERE NATIVES OF SOUTHERN STATES, I AM ABJURED TO REPORT THAT "SWEET TEA" IS *NOT* REGULAR ICED TEA WITH SUGAR. IT'S SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, A PRIZED DELICACY IN THE SOUTH, AND OFTEN MISMARKETED. THERE: YOU HAPPY? :-)

**BETTY** Yes, ma'am, that would be nice.

**MADGE** (*Pours her some tea.*) How about some apple pie?

**BETTY** Thank you, ma'am, that does sound nice.

**MADGE** (*Brings some pie and tea to the table.*) I heard about your father. How's the family holding up?

**BETTY** It's been hard, ma'am, but he'll be back soon. I just wish everybody was doing their share of the work while he's gone.

**MADGE** Ah, I see...

**BETTY** Well, ma'am, that's what I came here for. You see...um...it's my sister, Jenn. Ever since Pa got himself caught by the Feds, she's had such an attitude. It's been up to us to take care of the business and keep food on the table. And Jenn... (*Anger. As she continues she gets more worked up.*) Ugh! She just doesn't take it serious! She wants nothin' to do with it! I swear she wants us outta the business, but we can't afford that! This is our livelihood! And Pa and I work hard, ma'am, we really

do!

And all Jenn does is read and the only time she offers to help is when we need to make a run! I know we gotta get the product to the customer but 'shining is more than driving fast cars! Sometimes when she goes out on a run, I wonder if she'll come back! I swear, one of these days she's just gonna take off with Little Bastard and never come back to us.

**MADGE**

*(Has been taking everything in. Now she seems a bit confused by the idea of Jenn doing runs.)* I see. I didn't know your sister ran 'shine...

TEACHER COMMENTARY: WE HAD A SPIRITED DISCUSSION ABOUT REALISTICALLY CONSTRUCTING THE CHARACTER OF QUEEN MADGE, WITH A MINORITY HOLDING THE OPINION THAT A PERSON OF MADGE'S REACH COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE IN THE DARK ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH AN ODDITY AS A CROSS-DRESSING FEMALE 'SHINE RUNNER. SOME PUSHBACK CAME FROM THE ANOTHER CONTINGENT, OPERATING FROM FEMINIST THEORY, ARGUING THAT PEOPLE'S MINDS IN THE 1955 SOUTH WOULD HAVE BEEN SO SATURATED WITH IRONCLAD IDEAS ABOUT SEX ROLES THAT EVEN AN INFORMED AGENT LIKE MADGE MIGHT NOT HAVE THE *HUMINT* INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENED WITH DANDY'S EMPLOYEES. YOU WANT THE REAL KICKER? THIS IS THE ONLY SIM I'VE RUN TWICE, AND THE SECOND GROUP READ THE PROBLEM PRETTY MUCH EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE! BEAUTIFUL, JUST BEAUTIFUL... :-)

**BETTY**

*(Kind of realizing she's said too much, but she came here for help, coming clean may be the way Madge can help.)* Oh, um, yes ma'am.

**MADGE**

I just knew that those Watson boys ran for ya...James and Johnny...

**BETTY**                   *(Looking down at her pie.)* Yes, well...James is really...Jenn.

**MADGE**                   *(A bit shocked but seems impressed by Jenn and the Dandys.)* I see. Well, that my dear is somethin' I ain't ever heard of before, and considerin' how long I've been in the business, that's saying somethin'. James, well I guess *Jenn*, is a real good driver from what I hear.

**BETTY**                   Yes, ma'am. And if only she could help out around the house as well as she drove, we'd be wantin' nothing.

**MADGE**                   I see. Well Betty, some people ain't made for 'shining. You said she likes to read? *(Betty nods.)*

**MADGE**                   She do good in school?

**BETTY**                   Yes, ma'am. She's the brightest of all us Dandy kids. Straight A's!

**MADGE**                   Well, maybe, you ever think, she wants to go to college? Maybe get herself outta here?

**BETTY**                   Maybe. But, ma'am! We need her here! How can she be so selfish!?

**MADGE**                   Now, I know it may seem like that, but she wants what's best for herself, and maybe the family, too. You and I both know how hard of work 'shining is. But, I don't disagree with you. She needs to be doing her fair share. *(Takes a sip of tea and thinks to herself.)*... Maybe I could help you and your family out a bit, til your Pa gets home at least.

**BETTY** Oh, ma'am! You don't need to do that, I wasn't looking for charity!

**MADGE** No, no, I know you wasn't. And I don't offer charity. But if you help me out, I can help you out. How'd you like to work for me part of the time? Odd jobs and the like.

**BETTY** That's awfully kind, ma'am. It would really help us out.

**MADGE** Betty, I think you can call me Auntie Madge, now that we've gotten to know one another and you'll be working for me. And if you ever need advice, don't you hesitate to come to me, ya hear? Now, try just talking with your sister. Maybe she is just a lazybones, but I have an inkling, she's got her head up in the clouds. And it is alright to want better for you and yours, but she does need to be picking up the slack, 'specially while your Pa is doing his time. And I know how quick siblings can get ya boilin' but the trick with anyone difficult is to keep your cool.

TEACHER COMMENTARY: ONE OF THE THINGS I MOST APPRECIATED ABOUT THIS, THE FIRST INSTANCE OF THIS SIM, WAS THE ATTENTION PAID TO THE VERY COLORFUL PATOIS OF THE SOUTH. THEY AVOIDED THE EASY TRAP OF STEREOTYPICAL "HOLLYLOGUE" IN REPRESENTING "SOUTHERN TALK" DUG INTO THE VARIOUS STREAMS OF CULTURAL LINGUISTICS. IN THE SECOND SIM ITERATION, NOT SO MUCH ATTENTION WAS PAID THE COMMON LANGUAGE OF ADULTS, BUT MORE BY THE YOUTH IN HIGH SCHOOL.

**BETTY**

*(Nodding, accepting the advice.)*  
Alright, ma'am...Auntie Madge. I will  
try that. Thank you for...everything.

*(BOTH get up. Madge starts to show Betty the door.)*

**MADGE**

Not a problem dear. And remember, if ever  
you need something, to talk about your  
sister, or anything, never hesitate to  
come and visit. *(Hands her a dollar bill.)*  
And you go get yourself somethin' at  
Harry's store.

**BETTY**

*(Takes the dollar.)* Oh, thank you, Auntie  
Madge! And, I won't forget, I promise!  
You have a good day!

**MADGE**

You too, dear. *(Shuts door.)* Well, if  
that wasn't the queerest thing...James  
Watson...Jenn Dandy...hmmm...