

MAX

Oh my God, will you look at that. There's a great big gorgeous blonde stepping out of a white Rolls Royce limo.

*(flinging open the French door and shouting out to the street below)*

That's it, baby, when you got it, flaunt it! Flaunt it! Ha ha.

*(closing the French door and stepping back into the room)*

Start Here



LEO

Mr. Bialystock.

MAX

Yeah?

LEO

May I speak to you for a minute?

MAX

A minute?

LEO

Yes, a minute.

MAX

*(pulling out a pocket watch)*

Okay. One minute.

LEO

In glancing at ....

MAX

Go. You have 58 seconds left. You've wasted two seconds.

LEO

Well, in glancing at your books, I notice that in the columns marked...

MAX

You have 48 seconds left, hurry, hurry.

LEO

*(flustered)*

Oh! Uh, in the columns marked monies received ...

MAX

28 seconds. You're running out of time.

Tick-tock. Tick-tock. Tick-tock. Tick-tock

17 seconds. 15 seconds.

LEO

There's a discrepancy between the figures

I can't make the figures add up...

If I can have a moment...

I think I can explain

*LEO, beyond the point of endurance, pulls a piece of blue material from his pants pocket.*

LEO

Mr. Bialystock, I cannot function under these conditions. You're making me extremely nervous.

MAX

What is that? A handkerchief?

LEO

No, It's nothing. It's nothing.

MAX

*(grabbing the material from LEO)*

If it's nothing, why can't I see it?

LEO

*(reaching for the material to get it back from MAX)*

My blanket! My blanket! My blue blanket. Give me back my blue blanket!

*(mumbling, moaning)*

MAX

*(giving the blue blanket back)*

Shhh. Here, here, here, here. Don't panic. Don't panic.

LEO

Ahhhhhhh. I'm sorry. It's just I don't like people touching my blue blanket. It's not important. It's a minor compulsion. I've had it ever since I was a baby and I find it very comforting ... I need to lie down for a minute.

*(HE gets down on the floor and curls up in the fetal position, moaning to himself)*

MAX

They come here. They all come here. How do they find me?

*(crossing to stand over him, leaning down to help him up)*

Oy, would you look at this... How can I help you?

LEO

*(terrified)*

Ahhhhhh!

MAX

What now?

LEO

You're going to jump on me!

MAX

What?

LEO

You're going to jump on me. I know you're going to jump on me and squash me like a bug! Please don't jump on me!

MAX

*(jumping up and down)*

I'm not going to jump on you! I'm not going to jump on you! Will you please get a hold of yourself?

*(once again putting out a hand to help him up)*

LEO

*(scrambling to his feet and backing away from MAX: hysterical)*

Don't touch me! Don't touch me!

MAX

Stop that! What's the matter with you now?

LEO

I'm hysterical. I'm having hysterics. I'm hysterical. I can't stop. When I get like this, I can't stop. I'm hysterical.

MAX

I can see that.

*(MAX rushes to his desk, pours a cup of water)*

Hold on. I'm coming. I'm coming.

*(MAX rushes back, tosses water in LEO's face)*

LEO

I'm wet! I'm wet! I'm hysterical and I'm wet!

*(MAX slaps LEO across the face.)*

I'm in pain! I'm in pain! I'm wet! And I'm still hysterical!

MAX

What can I do? What can I do? You're getting me hysterical!

LEO

You're too close. Go away. Go away. You frighten me. Sit down over there.

MAX

*(crossing to sit at the desk and giving LEO a forced nice-guy twinkle-eyed touchy-feely smile)*

I'm sitting! How's this?

LEO

That's good. That's very nice. I think I'm coming out of it now.

## LEO (CONT'D)

*(MAX flashes even broader and phonier smile)*

Thank you for smiling, that helped a great deal.

MAX

Well, you know what they say, "Smile and the world smiles with you." Heh, heh, heh, heh.

*(to himself)*

This man should be in a strait jacket.

*(again flashing his phoniest smile)*

Feeling better?

LEO

*(calmed down, putting away his blue blanket)*

Yes, I'm fine now. Thank you. May I speak to you?

MAX

Yes, Prince Miskin, what can we do for you?

LEO

This is hardly the time for levity, Mr. Bialystock. I've discovered a serious error here in the accounts of your last show, "Funny Boy!"

MAX

Where? What?

LEO

Well, according to the backers' list, you raised a hundred thousand dollars. But the show only cost ninety-eight thousand. There's two thousand dollars unaccounted for.

MAX

So I went to a Turkish bath, who cares? The show was a flop. Bloom, do me a favor, move a few decimal points around. You can do it. You're an accountant. You're part of a noble profession. The word "count" is part of your title.

LEO

That's cheating.

MAX

It's not cheating. It's charity.

**Stop** *(holding his stickpin close to LEO's eye)*

Bloom, you see this stickpin? This once held a pearl as big as your eye. I used to wear hand made Italian shoes, \$500 dollar suits, and look at me now, look at me now ... I'm wearing a cardboard belt! You've got to save me. I'm reaching out to you. Don't send me to prison. Help!