

ALL IN THE FAMILY

ACT ONE

FADE UP:

(GLORIA IN DINING ROOM SETTING TABLE.)

MIKE ENTERS FRONT DOOR.)

MIKE

Gloria -- I hurried back.

GLORIA

Good, you can take out the garbage.

MIKE

Garbage is not exactly what I had
in mind. Come here.

GLORIA

Not now, Michael.

MIKE

Why not?

GLORIA

I want everything ready for when
the folks get back from church.

(COMES D.S. TO TABLE)

It's different, isn't it, an
anniversary brunch.

MIKE

Yeah, well I think your mother
will love it, but your father --

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

he doesn't care about anniversaries.
You hadda buy the present for him
to give your mother. And I had to
get the card. And he doesn't even
know about any of this. What do you
think he's gonna say?

GLORIA

He'll have a fit. But then he
wouldn't get her anything and it'll
make Mom's day.

MIKE

What are you running from me? Come
here.

(HE KISSES HER)

Gloria, we've been living with your
folks since we're married. We don't
get the house alone that much!

GLORIA

We're not alone. Lionel's upstairs.

MIKE

Lionel? Why?

GLORIA

He's fixing the portable TV for Dad.

(MIKE REACTS)

(MORE)

GLORIA (CONT'D)

And later he's gonna take the
present, get some fresh-cut
flowers and deliver them together,
just to make it more romantic.

LIONEL

(ENTERING)

Set's good as new, Gloria. Hey.
How's it going, Mike?

MIKE

Hey, Lionel, how are you?

GLORIA

I'll get the present.

(GLORIA EXITS)

LIONEL

Hey what's new on the campus with
all you angry white social democrats?

MIKE

Oh, we're shaking them up.

LIONEL

(LAUGHS)

Okay.

(LOOKING AROUND)

Where's your father-in-law?

MIKE

Oh, he's at church.

LIONEL

Good.

MIKE

Why? Is he still giving you a hard time?

LIONEL

Oh, I'm used to him by now. You know his latest kick? -- Asking me what I'm gonna be when I get to college. He likes to hear me say: "Ahm gwana be a 'lectical ingineer."

MIKE

And you say it for him?

LIONEL

Give the people what they want, man. How else do I get to become an electrical engineer?

GLORIA

(ENTERING WITH SMALL PACKAGE)

Here's the present and the card. Mom likes just about any kind of flowers, so - will a dollar be enough?

LIONEL

Crazy! Where I get my flowers this represents a buck profit!

(MORE)

LIONEL (CONT'D)

(TO MIKE)

See ya', man.

(HE EXITS)

MIKE

See ya', Lionel.

GLORIA

(TURNS INTO HIS ARMS)

All right, now, Michael, please.

Promise me something. For today.

For their twenty-second anniversary.

No fighting with Daddy. Okay?

MIKE

Okay.

GLORIA

Thank you.

(THEY KISS. HE NODS "YES" AND SHE NODS "NO")

GLORIA

No, Michael. Not now. I don't
have any time.

MIKE

They won't be out of church 'till
eleven thirty; it's a ten-minute
walk; we got time to spare.

GLORIA

Not now, Michael. I've got too
much on my mind.

(SHE EXITS INTO KITCHEN. HE FOLLOWS)

MIKE

One little thing more, it's not
gonna hurt --

(URGENTLY)

Gloria, we may never have the
house alone again!

GLORIA

But we have to be downstairs to
yell 'surprise.'

MIKE

They'll be downstairs. Let them
yell 'surprise.'

GLORIA

For their own anniversary!

MIKE

Come here.

(HE STARTS KISSING HER, MUTTERING

"YEAH, FOR THEIR OWN ANNIVERSARY" --

AND SHE RESPONDS)

(CUT TO: FRONT DOOR AREA)

(TWO OTHER VOICES ARE HEARD COMING

TOWARD THE APARTMENT FROM THE OUTSIDE)

ARCHIE'S VOICE (O.S.)

If you don't like what I do, then
what the hell did you bring me there
for anyway?

EDITH'S VOICE (O.S.)

I ain't gonna quarrel with ya',
Archie.

(AS THEY ENTER)

It's maybe the fourth time in
twenty-two years you been to church
with me, so I'm grateful for the
half'a sermon we sat through.

ARCHIE

Half a sermon was plenty. He said
all I wanted to hear. And I've
been to church with you more than
four times in twenty-two years, too.

EDITH

Well, maybe it's six times, seven
if you want to include the married
in church.

(SHE TAKES OFF HER HAT)

Look, I don't wanna make no World
War Three out of this...

(ARCHIE SEES THE TABLE SET AND THE PARTY
STREAMERS)

~~ARCHIE~~

Waddya call all this?

EDITH

The table's all set with the good

(MORE)

glasses and all -- Oh, it's for
our anniversary! Look, Archie.
Gloria and Mike, they made us a
brunch!

ARCHIE

A "what?"

EDITH

A brunch.

ARCHIE

"BRUNCH."

(HE PICKS UP MAGAZINE)

It figures. She's reading
Cosmopolitan again!

(AT THIS MOMENT, MIKE ENTERS, CARRYING
GLORIA. THEY ARE LOCKED IN A KISS AS
THEY HEAD FOR THE STAIRS. ARCHIE AND
EDITH REGARD THEM WORDLESSLY. GLORIA
AND MIKE SUDDENLY SENSE ARCHIE'S PRESENCE)

GLORIA

Hi.

MIKE

You're early.

ARCHIE

So are you.

MIKE

(HE PUTS GLORIA DOWN)

We were just gonna go sit down.

ARCHIE

Eleven-ten of a Sunday mornin'.

(GATHERING THEMSELVES TOGETHER, GLORIA
AND MIKE BEGIN TO SING:)

GLORIA AND MIKE

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY DEAR MOM AND DAD

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU

EDITH

Oh, my, Archie. Ain't this nice?

ARCHIE

Five more minutes and we would've
got it remote from the bedroom!

GLORIA

Gee, Mom, tell him it's normal!

(EXITS)

EDITH

(SHE GOES TO ARCHIE)

Why do you wanna pick on them,
Archie, when you've just had such
a nice surprise?

ARCHIE

They was the ones that had the
surprise! Used to be, the day-
light hours was reserved for the
respectable things of life.

MIKE

Come on, Archie, certain
things're no different now than
they ever were.

ARCHIE

Whaddya talkin'! Get your feet
off the furniture! In my day we
was able to keep certain things
in the proper suspective.

(TO MIKE)

Take keepin' company, for instance.
When your mother-in-law and me was
goin' around together -- it was two
whole years -- we never -- I never
-- I mean there was nothin' -- I
mean absolutely nothin' -- not 'till
the wedding night.

EDITH

Yeah, and even then...

(GLORIA BRINGS A TRAY OF ORANGE JUICE
AROUND. SHE SPEAKS GAILY TO CHANGE
THEIR MOOD)

GLORIA

Now -- here we are -- we have
the juice in here -- then we go
in there for brunch.

EDITH

My, my, how fancy.

ARCHIE

Alright. Leave it there, huh.

Cosmopolitan!

GLORIA

Oh, stop it, Daddy. I think it's
very today.

EDITH

That's right. The "in" crowd
never has a whole meal in one room
anymore.

(ARCHIE LOOKS AT HER)

That's what they say.

ARCHIE

You're a pip, you know that. A
real pip!

GLORIA

You're married twenty-two years
today, Daddy, so talk real nice to
Mom. Okay?

ARCHIE

(TO GLORIA)

Listen, little girl -- you just go
on and mind your own beeswax.

(GLORIA BENDS TO SET TRAY DOWN)

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

And pull down that skirt. Every time you sit down in one of them things, the mystery is over. What the hell is it nowadays! Will ya tell me! Girls wit' dresses up to here, boys wit' hair down to there! Gee. I stopped in a Gent's Room the other day. So help me, there was a guy in there with a ponytail. My heart turned right over in me -- I thought I was in the wrong toilet!

MIKE

Why do you fight it? The world's changing.

EDITH

That's right. That's what the Reverend Felcher was sayin'. You two should have heard him. Of course, Mr. Religion here wasn't seeing eye-to-eye with the sermon.

ARCHIE

What sermon! That was Socialist propaganda, pure and simple. And don't give me that look. You didn't think it was so hot, neither.

EDITH

I said it was different, that's
all. But I didn't curse the
Reverend from right there in the
front pew.

ARCHIE

He never heard. Besides, I ain't
sittin' still for no preacher
tellin' me that I'm to blame for
all this here breakdown in law and
order that's goin' on.

MIKE

Why not? We're all to blame.
Because we're not paying enough
attention to the cause of it.

ARCHIE

The cause of it? The cause of it
is all them sob sisters like the
Reverend Felcher. And the bleedin'
hearts and weepin' Nellies like
youse two!

MIKE

Like us?

ARCHIE

Yeah.

EDITH

I think we better eat now.

MIKE

No, wait a second. It's you.

ARCHIE

Me?

MIKE

Yeah, that's right, you -- you the property owners, with your twenty-four inch TV's and your four-slice toasters and your ice-maker refrigerators. That's all you care about, Archie, is what you got and how you can keep it.

ARCHIE

You'd care about it, too, sonny boy, if you had anything. If you wasn't livin' offa me -- without a pot to peel a potato in!

(ARCHIE CROSSES TO DINING ROOM AND
MIKE FOLLOWS)

MIKE

Wait a second, you're the one who said we could stay here while I'm in school --

ARCHIE

Yeah, but I thought you was gonna be for a year while you learn a trade

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

or something. I didn't think
you was gonna wind up in college
learnin' how to be a subversive!

MIKE

What are you talkin' about? -- I
just want to know something about
society so I can help people.

ARCHIE

People -- your mother-in-law an'
me is people -- help us, will ya'
-- go to work!

MIKE

I know what's bothering you --
you're upset because I was nailing
you on that law and order thing.

ARCHIE

You, nailin' me!

MIKE

Yeah, nailin', that's right. Now
I'm gonna tell you something.

GLORIA

Michael!

MIKE

Wait a second. I'm sorry, Gloria,

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

I know I promised -- But I feel
I have to say this. We got trouble
keepin' law and order in this
country, Archie, because we got
poverty, real poverty, and we got
that because guys like you are
afraid to give the black man and
the Mexican-American and all the
other minorities their just and
rightful hard-earned share of the
American dream.

GLORIA

Who said he wasn't smart? That's
beautiful, Michael. Beautiful.

ARCHIE

(APING HER)

Oh, that's gorgeous.

(GETS UP AND CROSSES INTO LIVING ROOM)

Now, let me tell you something.
If your Spades and your Spics want
their rightful share of the American
Dream, let 'em go out and hustle
for it just like I done.

MIKE

(FOLLOWING HIM)

Yeah, but Archie, you're forgetting one thing. You didn't have to hustle with black skin.

ARCHIE

No, and I didn't have to hustle with one arm and one leg neither. So what?

MIKE

So you're admitting that the black man is handicapped.

ARCHIE

Oh, no. No more'n me. He's just as good as me.

MIKE

Now I suppose you're gonna tell me that the black man has had the same opportunity in this country as you.

ARCHIE

More. He's had more. I didn't have no million people out there marchin' and protestin' to get me my job!

EDITH

No, his uncle got it for him.

ARCHIE

(AFTER A WITHERING LOOK TO EDITH)

All I'm saying is don't blame me
-- you and that Reverend Bleedin'
Heart Felcher up there in his
ivory shower.

(EDITH CROSSES IN FROM DINING ROOM)

EDITH

Now, that's enough -- talking about
a man of the cloth that way. God
could punish you for that.

MIKE

God! What God?

GLORIA

Yeah. What God?

ARCHIE

What was that?

(TO EDITH)

Did you hear him? Did you hear her?

(TO MIKE)

What was that remark, sonny boy?

EDITH

(HEADING BACK TO DINING ROOM -

MIKE FOLLOWS)

I think we better eat now.

ARCHIE

Not yet.

(TO MIKE)

I wanna know what you meant by
"What God?"

MIKE

It's nothing, Archie. It's nothing.
You need God, so forget it.

(ARCHIE MOVES TO TABLE)

EDITH

That's no way to talk on the
Sabbath, Mike.

ARCHIE

Stifle, Edith.

EDITH

And no way to talk to your father-
in-law either.

ARCHIE

Edith, I told you to --

EDITH

I mean, you know Sunday's a day
of rest and peace. And you eat
a nice brunch.

ARCHIE

Edith, will you stifle.

EDITH

Archie, we're all hungry.

ARCHIE

Will you stifle!!

(ARCHIE MOVES TO HIS CHAIR. MIKE AND
GLORIA REACH FOR TOAST)

Don't touch nothing. Nobody eats
nothing around here until we get
this thing straight.

(WAITS A BEAT: SPEAKS TO MIKE)

Now, sonny boy, you made a certain
referential remark there a minute
or so ago along the following
lines: "What God?" you said. And
I heard your wife, my flesh and
blood, repeated it. So let's hear
it, okay? What does it mean by
"What God?"

MIKE

We just don't see any evidence of
God, that's all.

GLORIA

That's right, Daddy.

ARCHIE

"That's right, Daddy"...

(EXPLODES STANDING AND PACING D.S.)

Well, I knew I had a couple of pinkos

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

in this house; but I didn't know
we had atheists. Did you know
that's what we had -- a pair of
atheists under this roof, Edith!

EDITH

Maybe if we could just eat a little
something.

ARCHIE

Will you stifle, you silly dingbat!

EDITH

I don't want no more arguments.

ARCHIE

(SITTING)

We are not arguing, we are dis-
cussing.

EDITH

I don't care what you call it, it's
still arguing.

ARCHIE

What we're having is what we always
have around here -- a discussion.

EDITH

I don't see the difference.

ARCHIE

That's 'cause you're a dingbat!

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

Now -- will you stay the hell
outta this!

(EDITH PUTS HAT ON)

And get that ridiculous hat off
your head!

EDITH

So long as you don't argue.

ARCHIE

Edith! Stay the hell outta this!
(REACHES FOR COFFEE HANDLE AND GRABS
SPOUT INSTEAD)

Ow! Owwww! Oh my God!
(HE PACES UP AND BACK, WAVING HIS ARM,
CUPPING IT BETWEEN HIS KNEES, WHINING ALL
THE WHILE THE FAMILY CROSSES TO HIM)

MIKE

What's the matter?

ARCHIE

Get away from me, you meathead.
It's all your fault. You nearly
burnt the hand off of me.

GLORIA

What did he do?

ARCHIE

He helps himself to coffee then

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

he turns the handle around the
other way.

GLORIA

(MIKE AND GLORIA LEAVE)

Daddy, he didn't do it on purpose.

EDITH

(GOING TO HIM)

Let me see. It really hurts, huh?

ARCHIE

(ANSWERS WITH A GRUNT OF PAIN)

Yeah.

EDITH

Right about in there?

ARCHIE

(ANOTHER GRUNT)

Yeah.

EDITH

You know what I think we oughta
do?

ARCHIE

What do you think?

EDITH

I think we oughta eat.

(SHE HEADS FOR THE TABLE. CAMERA HOLDS
ON ARCHIE'S REACTION)

FADE TO BLACK

ACT TWO

FADE UP:

(THE TABLE. THE FAMILY IS EATING.

TABLE TALK. ONE CHANGE IN MOOD, THEY
ARE WEARING THE PAPER PARTY HATS.)

ARCHIE

Gimme over the ketchup there,
will ya'.

GLORIA

Ketchup on eggs? Daddy, really!

ARCHIE

"Daddy Really's" been eatin'
ketchup on eggs since before you
was born, little girl, so don't
let it concern you.

(HE BELCHES)

EDITH

Archie, that's terrible.

GLORIA

(GETTING UP)

Well, who's for more eggs?

EDITH

Sure I can't help you, dear?

GLORIA

Not today, Mom. Today you sit.

If I need any help, Michael can do it.

ARCHIE

Won't do him no harm neither.
The last time I saw him lift a hand
around here he was testing his
deoderant.

GLORIA

Mom!

EDITH

Archie -- leave him alone!

MIKE

What do you want from me, anyway!
I don't have time to do anything.
I'm in class six hours, I'm studying
six hours. Going to college isn't
easy, you know; it's hard work!

ARCHIE

For you, it's like building the
pyramids; I'll tell you, studyin'
sociology and all that welfare stuff
-- I don't call that no hard work!

GLORIA

Oh, leave him alone, Daddy; I
think it's beautiful that Michael
wants to help the underprivileged.

ARCHIE

He wants to help the underprivileged,

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

let him start with himself. he's
got no brains; he's got no ambition
-- and if that ain't underprivileged,
I don't know what is.

GLORIA

(STANDS)

That's it! Mother, we're moving
out of here. I'm not gonna stay
here another minute to see my
husband insulted like that.

EDITH

(AN ARM AROUND GLORIA'S WAIST)

Archie, say you're sorry! If she
leaves here, she'll be dead inside
a year.

ARCHIE

You don't have to worry. They
ain't goin' nowheres.

EDITH

You don't know what it is, Archie.
She can't be cleaning an apartment
and cookin' and marketing -- Dr.
Feinstein says she's anemic.

ARCHIE

Din't gimme that. For ten bucks

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

some of these doctors'll tell ya'
anything you wanta hear.

EDITH

He's the best there is when it
comes to blood. My own cousin
from the hospital said so.

ARCHIE

Your own cousin from the hospital
empties bedpans, don't make him out
no specialist. And, I know what
Dr. Feinberg said.

EDITH

Feinstein --

ARCHIE

Feinstein, Feinberg, it all comes
to the same thing, and I know that
tribe.

EDITH

I'm telling you, Archie, them kids
don't leave this house until Mike
can provide for her proper.

MIKE

Oh boy! Four years before I even
begin to make a living! It seems
like forever!

ARCHIE

Lemme tell you, sonny boy, the
same thought crosses my mind at
least once a day.

GLORIA

Mom!

ARCHIE

Gloria, you married the laziest
white man I ever seen.

MIKE

Alright, alright. It's bad enough
you gotta make fun of me, you don't
have to make it worse by attacking
a whole race.

ARCHIE

Who's attacking a whole race.

MIKE

You said I was the laziest white
man you ever met.

ARCHIE

What's wrong with that?

MIKE

White man you ever met?

ARCHIE

Yeah, you!

MIKE

Implying that the blacks are even
lazier.

ARCHIE

Now wait a minute, you meathead...
You said that, not me. I wouldn't
call your black beauties lazy. It's
just their systems is geared slower
than the rest of us, that's all.

MIKE

Aw, come on, Archie.

ARCHIE

If you don't believe me, look it
up!

GLORIA

There's just no fighting his
prejudice. There's no hope for
him. No hope at all.

ARCHIE

I'm not prejudiced! Any man
deserves my respect, he's gonna
get it. Irregardless of his color!

MIKE

Then why do you call them names
like "Btack Beauties?"

ARCHIE

Now, that's where I got you, Mr. Liberal. It just so happens a black guy works with me down the building's got a bumper sticker on his car that says "Black is Beautiful," so what'sa matter with Black Beauties?

EDITH

It's nicer than when he called 'em coons.

SOUND: DOORBELL RINGS

ARCHIE

If Black Beauties is kosher with them, it's kosher with me.

(MIKE GOES TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT TO REVEAL LIONEL, WITH A SPRAY OF WILD FLOWERS)

MIKE

Hey, Lionel. How you doin'?
Come on in. In a way we were just talking about you.

GLORIA

Michael!

ARCHIE

Talkin about prejudice, I'm glad you're here, Lionel.

(GETS UP AND GOES TO LIVING ROOM)

LIONEL

Yes, sir. Mr. Bunker, sir.

(HANDS FLOWERS TO EDITH)

These are for you, Mrs. Bunker.

A present from an admirer.

EDITH

(OVERWHELMED)

For me? Oh, my Goodness, I ain't
had a present for ten years.

GLORIA

I wonder who it's from.

ARCHIE

(COMING BACK TO TABLE)

Now listen, Lionel...

GLORIA

Wait a minute, Daddy. First let
her open her gift.

ARCHIE

She waited ten years; another minute
ain't gonna kill her!

(PUTS GIFT ON TABLE, TAKES LIONEL TO
LIVING ROOM)

Come here, Lionel. Let me ask
your opinion of somethin' there,
Lionel. When you started doin'

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

odd jobs in the neighborhood, one
of the first guys to throw a little
work your way -- by the way, didja
fix the TV up in the bedroom?

LIONEL

Sure did, Mr. Bunker.

(LIONEL NODS. ARCHIE SLIPS HIM SOME
CHANGE)

ARCHIE

Swell. Good boy....Here. Put
that in your pocket.

EDITH

Cheaper than a repairman, believe
me.

ARCHIE

Is anybody talkin' to you....Now,
Lionel, you could say by throwin'
you these little jobs, in a way I'm
helpin' you get some money so you
can get through college so's you
can become...

LIONEL

A 'lectical ingineer.

ARCHIE

(LOVES IT)

Yeah. Ya hear that?

MIKE

(IMPATIENT)

Archie, ask your question.

ARCHIE

Will you keep your drawers on?

Hey, by the way, that's a pretty
nice looking suit you got on there.

I mean, it's classy, it's quiet.

Where'd you get it?

LIONEL

Up in Harlem.

ARCHIE

(LOOKS)

Nah.

LIONEL

Now I got two more, but one's in
yellow with stripes, the other one's
in purple with checks. You know, for
when I'm with my people.

ARCHIE

Well, anyway Lionel, I'd say you
know me pretty good, wouldn't you?

LIONEL

Oh, yes, sir. I got a bead on you,
all right. I know you real good.

ARCHIE

Good, good.

MIKE

(CROSSING TO LIVING ROOM)

Alright, alright, let's get
to the point. Lionel, what he
wants to know, is if you think
he's prejudiced.

LIONEL

(FEIGNING INNOCENCE)

Prejudiced? Prejudiced against who?

MIKE

Against Black People.

LIONEL

Against Black People! Mr. Bunker!
That's the most ridiculous thing I
ever heard!

(ARCHIE TURNS PROUDLY TO THE OTHERS)

ARCHIE

There, you see that, wise guy.

(TURNS TO MIKE)

You thought you knew him. You
thought you knew me. Oh, these
liberals -- they're supposed to be
so sensitive. I'll tell you where
this guy's sensitive, Lionel -- in
his tochas.

(ARCHIE GOES TO DINING ROOM TABLE)

LIONEL

(SURPRISE)

Where?

MIKE

It's a Yiddish word. It means --

(POINTS)

LIONEL

Oh, I know where it's at. I was
just wonderin', Mr. Bunker --
What's with the Jewish word?

ARCHIE

I hear them. We got a couple of
Hebes working down the building.

LIONEL

Does he use words like that very
often?

MIKE

Now and then.

ARCHIE

I told ya, I work with a couple of
Jews.

LIONEL

Beggin' your pardon, Mr. Bunker,
but you wouldn't happen to be one
of them, would you?

ARCHIE

(NO HUMOR ABOUT THIS)

What??

LIONEL

I mean, people don't use Jewish words just like that, do they, Mike?

MIKE

(CROSSING TO TABLE, SITS)

No, not in my experience.

ARCHIE

Maybe people don't, but I do!
And I ain't no Yid!

LIONEL

Come to think of it...when your father was visiting last year... wasn't his name Davie, or somethin'?

ARCHIE

David, my father's name is David.

MIKE

Yeah, David. And your mother's name...uh...Sarah, wasn't it?

ARCHIE

(TO LIONEL)

Sarah, my mother's name is Sarah
-- So what?

LIONEL

David and Sarah, two Jewish names.

ARCHIE

David and Sarah. Two names right out of the Bible -- which is got nothin' to do with the Jews.

LIONEL

You don't wanna get up tight about it, Mr. Bunker. There's nothing to be ashamed of being Jewish.

ARCHIE

But I ain't Jewish!

MIKE

See the way he uses his hands when he argues. A very Semitic gesture.

ARCHIE

What do you know about it, you dumb Polack.

MIKE

All right, I'm a Polack.

ARCHIE

You sure are! You're a Polack Joke!

MIKE

Okay, I don't mind. I'm Polish.
I don't mind, I'm proud of it!

LIONEL

There you are, Mr. Bunker. Now

(MORE)

LIONEL (CONT'D)

you oughta be proud that you're
Jewish.

ARCHIE

(WHINING)

But I ain't Jewish.

EDITH

I didn't know you was Jewish.

ARCHIE

What the hell are you talking about?
You, of all people should know that
I ain't Jewish.

EDITH

You are talking with your hands.

LIONEL

See, the Jews tend to be emotional.

ARCHIE

(BLOWING)

Now, listen to me, Lionel. I'm
going to give it to you just once
more -- I'm not Jewish.

LIONEL

Yes, Sir, Mr. Bunker. But even if
you are, it doesn't change things
between you and me. I mean, I'm not
gonna throw away nine years of

(MORE)

LIONEL (CONT'D)

friendship over a little thing like
that. So long, everybody.

(HE EXITS)

ALL

Bye, Lionel!

(ARCHIE WATCHES HIM GO AND TURNS TO OTHERS.
THEY RESUME EATING QUICKLY)

ARCHIE

Well, I hate a smart ass kid, no
matter what color he is!

(APPLAUSE)

FADE TO BLACK

(TAPE STOP)

TAG

FADE IN:

(FAMILY AT TABLE)

ARCHIE

(RISING)

I think I'll go and lay down and
watch a little TV

GLORIA

Wait a minute, Dad. Mom's gotta
open her gift. Open it now, Mom.

MIKE

Yeah, Mom, go ahead.

(FEIGNING IT)

GLORIA

I wonder who it's from!

EDITH

(OPENING GIFT)

I can't hardly believe it. Look,
my hands are shaking. Oh! My!
Lace hankies! Look, Gloria, two
beautiful lace hankies!

ARCHIE

Is that all?

(HE STARTS TO WALK AWAY)

MIKE

Wait a minute, don't you want to
know who it's from?

GLORIA

Yeah, sit down, Daddy. There's a
card there -- open it!

(ARCHIE SITS)

EDITH

(AS SHE PUTS ON GLASSES TO READ IT)

Oh, these are the most beautiful
lace hankies. That's real nice. And
flowers. I just never seen such --

(READS THE CARD NOW)

My glory!

ARCHIE

Come on Edith....Who are they
from?

EDITH

They're from you, Archie.

(ARCHIE COUGHS)

EDITH (CONT'D)

Archie, I can't hardly believe it.
I ain't seen an anniversary gift from
you since the first --

(ARCHIE COUGHS)

EDITH (CONT'D)

Pound his back, Mike --

ARCHIE

Keep away from me, meathead.

(HE CROSSES TO HIS CHAIR)

EDITH

(WHO HASN'T STOPPED TALKING)

I know what I'm going to do --
I'm going to try using one. See
how I look with it. Some people
don't look natural with fancy things.

(SHE CROSSES TO HER CHAIR AS SHE TALKS
AND DABS HER NOSE DAINTILY. THE KIDS
APPLAUD HER)

GLORIA

You look wonderful, Mom.

MIKE

Perfectly natural.

ARCHIE

Just don't blow in it; it'll go
right through.

EDITH

(WARMLY)

Oh, Archie. I just don't know
what to say. Except -- thank you,
sweetheart. Oh, I do thank you,
Archie dear.

(GETS UP AND KISSES HIM)

ARCHIE

(NOT ALTOGETHER UNTOUCHED)

All right, Edith. You're getting
me all wet.

(MIKE AND GLORIA INTO LIVING ROOM)

GLORIA

(HANDING HER THE CARD)

Read the card, Mom.

(ARCHIE THROWS THEM BOTH A LOOK)

EDITH

Oh, Archie, I'll bet it's a
Hallmark.

(LOOKS AT THE BACK OF IT)

Well, pretty near. Oh -- and
inside there's a verse inside.

(SHE CLEARS HER THROAT)

"Together. Through all the years
I've been with you we've had our
ups and downs, 'tis true. But life
with us has just begun -- we've yet
to have all of our fun -- as long
as we're together."

(A LONG BEAT AS EDITH LOOKS WARMLY TOWARD
ARCHIE AND HE LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLY OVER AT
THE KIDS. THEY LAUGH)

ARCHIE

What are you looking at?

(HE SHOOTS THEM A LOOK, THEN HE STARTS TO
RISE -- AND EDITH CATCHES HIM OFF-BALANCE
BY STARTING TO READ A SECOND VERSE)

EDITH

"And when, my dear, we're old and
gray, and life for us is sunny
weather, We'll look back on our
lives and say It's been a gay,
gay lark together."

(ANOTHER LONG MOMENT. EDITH DABS AT HER
EYES WITH A HANKY. ARCHIE CLEARS HIS
THROAT. THEN PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER)

ARCHIE

Alright, Alright -- Come on, the
party's over. Let's clean this
mess up. Them eggs over there
are starting to foment.

EDITH

Archie, I don't know what to say.
That was so beautiful.

(AFRAID SHE MIGHT CRY, EDITH HURRIES FROM
THE ROOM)

ARCHIE

(NOTICING MIKE AND GLORIA KISSING)

Do you always have to be doing that?
It's as if she was a hamburger.

GLORIA

Mom!

(EXITS)

MIKE

The card kinda got to you, eh?

ARCHIE

What do you mean it got to me?

It got to your mother-in-law. Women.

MIKE

It got to you, too, right where you live. I never knew before you were so soft and sentimental.

ARCHIE

Well, you don't know much anyhow. I want to tell you something about yourself. You are a person of very little quality. You got no appreciation for some of your finer things.

MIKE

Archie, we're talking about a greeting card.

ARCHIE

They got some damn good writers writin' for them cards.

MIKE

Come on.

ARCHIE

Some of your best song lyrics come right off them cards.

MIKE

Alright, alright, I don't know
what you're so excited about anyway!
One stinkin' little poem on a greeting
card. It's not like you wrote the
thing!

ARCHIE

No, I didn't write it. But who had
the good taste to pick it out!

(MIKE JIGGLES HIS THUMBS INDICATING
HIMSELF. ARCHIE REACTS)

Go on, will you, meathead.

(HOLD ON ARCHIE)

(APPLAUSE)

FADE TO BLACK