

FOREVER FERNWOOD

EPISODE #407

by JOHNNY BONADUCE

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

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PRODUCTION

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#407

1.

JOHNNY BONADUCE

ACT ONE

INT. MAJOR LIVING ROOM - DAY

ELEANOR IS ALONE, DANCING AROUND THE ROOM,
SINGING LOUDLY TO HERSELF. THE SONG: "THE CONTINENTAL"

ELEANOR

(SINGING AND DANCING) "The Continental....
its so exciting.... da,da,da,da...da-da-da-da
da-da-da-da!"

(SHOUTING) Double-shuffle!

Da-da-da-da,da.... Da-da, Da, Da-da...

(SHOUTING) Two step!

HER SINGING IS INTERRUPTED BY THE OPENING
OF THE FRONT DOOR. SHE HOPS QUICKELY IN HER
CHAIR AS MERLE ENTERS.

ELEANOR

Hello, Merle.

MERLE

Hello, Eleanor. I got some spare
keys made here. There's your original.

HANDS HER THE KEY.

ELEANOR

I hope having your own key will
convince you that ~~you~~ my home is
~~in~~ your home.

MERLE

...and Wanda's home. ~~_____~~

ELEANOR

(SUDDEN GASP)

Oh! Merle, what's going on?

MERLE

Huh? What?

ELEANOR

There it is again! An unmistakable sensation of pain in my left thigh!

MERLE

Oh, God ^hat's horrible.

ELEANOR

No, Merle you don't understand. I can feel pain ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ Human sensation flowing through my LEGS. THAT'S A GOOD SIGN. it started the moment you entered the room.

MERLE

You... want me to come in again?

ELEANOR

No. Lift me ^{up}.

MERLE LOOKS AROUND AWKWARDLY.

~~_____~~. Get me out of this contraption. I want to lie down on the floor.

MERLE STARTS TO LIFT HER UP, SPEAKING AS HE DOES.

MERELE

Eleanor...

ELEANOR

Shhh.... Just ~~say~~ *let me look at you.*

AFTER A FEW BEATS.

Again, that tingling sensation
in my left leg... the tissues....
answering to your clarion call...

MERLE IS MASSAGING HER LEFT ~~THIGH~~. THIGH.
AS WANDA ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM. SHE'S
ON HER WAY OUT BUT STOPS TO LOOK AT THIS
HOMEY SCENE.

MERLE

(GETTING INTO IT) ~~...~~ go with that
feeling Eleanor. My hand... is
in communication with your leg
and its saying, "I'm here, everything
is all right... " Its saying, "Come
Alive..."

WANDA

(BREAKING IN) "You're in the Pepsi-Generat~~ion~~on."

MERLE

(SITTING UP) Wanda,

WANDA

Let me think... Is it outside the
realm of conventional Western Mores?

ELEANOR

Somehow, your husband has become
a medium of strenght and renewed
sensation for my entire body.

*Do you have any idea what's
happening here?*

MERLE

Honey.... I felt her flex.

WANDA

(BRAVELY) Oh, Gee, wonderful. Getting flex on a first date. Unprecedented.

DOORBELL RINGS. WANDA GOES FOR IT AS MERLE GETS TO HIS FEET.

WANDA

Let me. I seem to be the only one in the room with an unoccupied **BODY**

~~.....~~

SHE ALLOWS JERRY HUBBARD AND HIS ASSISTANT ED INTO THE ROOM. HE CROSSES RIGHT OVER TO MERLE WITHOUT SEEING ELEANOR ON THE FLOOR.

JERRY

Merle, how's it going? In the face of political ammageddon I mean?

MERLE

Fine, babe.

JERRY

People are running scared, Merle. This is not a happy town. All they seem to talk about is the disappearnaces Who's behind it? Where are the victims?

MERLE

You got me, jer.

~~.....~~

~~.....~~

~~.....~~

~~.....~~

JERRY

People have the feeling you don't care Merle... that you have other things on your mind.

WANDA

Jerry.

JERRY

Yeah.

WANDA

Did you ever get the feeling that someone was staring up your nostrils?

ELEANOR'S VOICE (FROM THE FLOOR)

Will someone please help me?

THEY ALL LOOK DOWN, ED AND MERLE START LIFTING ELEANOR ONTO HER WHEEL CHAIR.

ELEANOR

Thank you.

MERLE

You just slipped my mind a mo, Eleanor.

WANDA PUSHES ELEANOR FROM THE ROOM.

JERRY

Merle, stop horsing around. I've got a proposition here I wanna ~~xx~~ zap you with. Now, ~~I want you to hear me out and be merciless in your praise.~~

PUTS HIS ARM AROUND MERLE.

A courage walk.

MERLE

Courage walk. ~~Wanda~~

*JERRY
Yeah. WHAT'D YA THINK? BE
MERCILESS IN YOUR PRAISE*

FLIGHT IT OUT. FOR MEY JERRY.
Merle?

MERLE JERRY

I want you to go to the town square
tonight at eleven, and after I hype
you just a bit on live camera, I want
you to start on a casual stroll through
the streets of Fernwood.

MERLE

At night!

JERRY

Unarmed.

MERLE

I think that's a unanimous no, Jerry.

JERRY

Merle... (TAKING HIM ASIDE) The
buck stops here.

MERLE

What?

JERRY

That was a little sign on Harry
Truman's desk. You know what that
means.

MERLE

Sure. I ~~got~~^{HAD} the same little sign.
Put it on my secretary's desk.

→ To Look up and see that thing sitting on
my roll-top used to scare the hell outa me.

JERRY

Merle, ~~xxxx~~ cut it. This could be
great P.R. for both of us. Somebody
has to prove that the streets of Fernwood are safe

~~WANDA~~ MERLE

A courage walk. That has a ring
to it.

~~WANDA~~

A courage walk.

JERRY

You like.

MERLE

~~WANDA~~ DAMN JERRY, I love it.

~~WANDA~~

~~It's nice.~~

JERRY

Symbolically it's right on.

MERLE

And its in the general area of
affirmative action.

~~Listen... I'll be there tonight
eat the sausage. You just have the
cameras rolling. (THEN, CATHICING HIMSELF)~~

Whoa. W^{it} a sec. No... no, prudence
is getting the best of me here....
No, I definitely want to think this
out.

JERRY

Fine. I'll make an announcement
on T.V. that you agreed and then
if you back out at the last moment
we'll just make that our story.

Newsworthy no matter how you look at it.

JERRY AND ED, EXIT.

~~W~~ JERRY

(CROSSING TO HIM) Whatever you decide...
I'll understand.

MERLE

(LOOKING MEANINGULLY AT ~~HE~~ ^{HIM}
~~W~~ ^{JERRY}.... I want to do this. Not for
myself, but for the men women and
children who sit behind shuttered
windows at night. ~~I think... I think~~
I wanna do it for them.

~~Merle~~

~~you~~ JERRY

I want to impress the pants off them.

AS ~~W~~ ^{they} SMILE WE

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

11.
ACT TWO

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

TRUSS IS LYING DOWN ON A COT AS
MEL, PULLING UP A CHAIR TELLS HIM
HIS UNHAPPY NEWS.

MEL

He didn't believe me, Bob. I
didn't expect him to, I guess. If
someone had told me last week I'd
be seeing flying saucers from another
planet... .

TRUSS

Flying Saucers? Isn't that just a
little on the nose, Mel?

MEL

All, I know is... I saw some kind of
space ship. And it wasn't American
it wasn't Russian... and that kind
of narrows it down ~~to~~ in my mind.
England doesn't have space ships.
France doesn't have spaceships. Or
Sweden, or Japan.... Canada. ;Bob....
the thing I saw was from the great beyond.

TRUSS

TURSS

Of course it was.

MEL

But no one will believe me.

TRUSS

Naturally. You are a prophet in
your own time.

HE GETS UP.

~~And~~ your old buddy George thinks
you're ~~a little~~ crazy. They thought
Columbus was crazy, ~~not to mention~~ Galileo,
~~and~~ all those others who dared to
look beyond the end of their
hopelessly parochial noses.

MEL THINKS A BEAT, SUDDENLY GETS UP
AND HEADS TOWARDS THE DOOR.

Where are you going?

MEL

I've got to ~~talk to~~ tell somebody,
Bob. This things just too big for
us to sit on.

TURSS

Mel, wait.

MEL

Wait, nothing. You can sit there
if you like ~~but~~ I don't know about you
but my country was just invaded by
alien beings from beyond...

~~MEL~~ TRUSS

Whoa!

MEL

I've got to tell someone.

TRUSS

Mel....

(HE STARTS TO ALUGH)

MEL

What?

TRUSS

Excuse me. Hah, ha. Well, I guess
as you earthlings say... the jig
~~A~~is up.

MEL STARES UNCOMPREHENDINGLY.

Mel.... I'm one of them.

~~STILL NO RESPONSE~~

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ MEL

Them?

TRUSS

~~From~~. From the spaceship.

A LONG SILEN CE, MEL STARTS TO LAUGH.

TRUSS

~~I~~. I come from a planet
in the Galaxy you call Alpha Centuri.

MEL

(GOOD NATURED) Get outa here.

TRUSS

Specifically, the planet Carcon
which is sort of a suburb of Alpha Cenutruui.

MEL JUST STANDS THERE LAUGHING NERVOUSLY.

TRUSS

You're skeptical?

MEL

Sure.

TURSS

Why?

(AFTER A THOUGHTFUL BEAT)
~~You don't have an accent.~~ "What's your accent?"

TRUSS

What kind of accent were you expecting?

MEL

(NERVOUSLY) Come on, Bob... lets quit the leg pulling huh?

AS TRUSS JUST SMILES.

Bob... you're just an ordinary human being. You look ~~xxxx~~ normal. Very normal. You look like a model in the Sear's Catalogue for God's sake.

TRUSS

Thank you.

MEL

(EXPLODING) Will you please smile or laugh or something so I know you're only kidding.

TRUSS

Mel... I've noticed that you earthlings are impressed above all, by technology.

Very well... I will demonstrate a little specimen

TRUSS TAKES A COORS CAN OUT OF AN ICE BOX, HOLDS IT UP.

TRUSS

See? ~~This is the new~~ Its the can with the push in tab that seems impossible for the general public to open without cutting off their thumbs.

HE TAKES A TUBE WITH A PLUNGER ATOP IT, PLACES IT SQUARELY ON THE COORS CAN, AND PUSHES THE PLUNGER.

Here's your beer.

HE HANDS MEL THE OPENED CAN OF BEER. MEL STUDEIS IT.

MEL

That's amazing.

TRUSS

Convinced.

MEL

~~Amazing.~~ Bob!

TRUSS

Perhaps you'd like to see some more simple, but impressive gadgetry from Carcon. Say, a better mouse trap?

MEL

No. I think we should go ~~right now~~ ~~right now~~ to the city council and introduce you to the world.

TRUSS

Bad timing, Mel.

MEL

MEL

But why?

TRUSS

I'm only thinking of the earthdwellers
penchant for panic... not to mention
violence. No, Mel... you are to be
the liaison between Carcon and earth.

MEL

(AFRAID) Why me?

TURSS

You passed the test. You have proven
yourself to be a peaceloving man
interested in the cosmos and its
secrets. But you mustn't tell
a soul. Promise me, Mel. Promise
that our secret is safe with you.

MEL TAKES A SIP OF THE BEER, STUDIES
TRUSS.

Mel.

Anything you say.

~~TRUSS PATS HIM ON THE SHOULDER AS WE~~

~~FADE OUT.~~ MEL RELAXES JUST A BIT.

~~END ACT TWO~~ MEL

Carcon! Huh! Carcon... what does
Carcon mean in English?

TRUSS

(SHRUGS) Carcon.

AS MEL NODS WE

FADE OUT

END ACT TWO

ACT III

INT. HARTMANN KITCHEN - NIGHT

PENNY IS TRYING TO MAKE HERSELF USEFUL. SHE WEARS A LITTLE APRON AND GOES ABOUT WIPING THINGS. WANDA SITS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE WITH A BOTTLE OF TOM'S SCOTCH. SHE POURS HERSELF A GLASS.

HER APRON
READS
"GENUINE
WORK"

WANDA

Naturally I was concerned when I found the two of them on the floor together, He was feeling her thigh, no question, about that, but I didn't pick up any heavy sexual vibes. Of course, you know your sister better than I... Do you think she's the type to put the make on Merle?

PENNY

I'm sure it was all very innocent.

WANDA

(WARMLY) Wow. I really appreciate you letting me unburden myself at your expense. You're a great listener.

PENNY

You're easy to listen to.

WANDA

Sometimes all a woman really needs is...
another woman. - Penny, I like your nails.

PENNY

Yeah. (LOOKING AT NAILS)
OH, THANKS. I had them laminated last spring.

WANDA

Yeah, ~~what?~~ Penny? THAT'S very odd.

PENNY

What ~~you~~ said.

WANDA

~~the way you look at your nails~~
A WOMAN LOOK AT HER NAILS THUSLY...
(DEMONSTRATES)

PENNY

~~"Sometimes a woman really needs is...
another woman"~~

BUT YOU DO IT
THIS WAY.
(DEMONSTRATES)
LIKE A
MAN.

~~Could you...
press~~

PENNY DROPS A PLATE SHE WAS HOLDING. IT SHATTERS ON THE FLOOR. WANDA COMES OVER TO HELP HER PICK UP PIECES.

PENNY

Wanda.. what are you inferring???

WANDA

(CALMLY) Honey, please don't expect to kid me with that little dowdy dress the "Genius at Work" apron... the wash rag you clutch so unconvincingly in your hand. (BEAT) Honey, you're repressed nature is written all of your face.
Not only that.... I heard.

PENNY

Hey, ~~Ixxxxxxx~~ I wasn't born yesterday,
Wanda. ~~Ixxxxxxx~~ And I don't mind
discussing these dkind of things with
you only...

WANDA

...only keep it on an abstract impersonal
level. Right?

PENNY

Just keep your distance.

WANDA

O.K. But all I'm trying to do
is explode some of the myths and
topple some of the taboos we've all
~~xxxxxxx~~ grown up with. What's
the image of an homosexual?

PENNY

An homosexual?

WANDA

Yes.

PENNY

Shoujdn't that be a homosexual.
I mean I think you've got the wrong,
what-do-you-call-it, indefinite article
there.

WANDA

Honey... I think this is a pathetc
way of trying to change the subject.

WANDA STPS PENNY FROM WIPING DISHES.

WANDA

I'm only trying to help. You mus.
feel so alone... ~~Whix~~ And you don't have
to feel ~~PENNYx~~ alone. because these
inverted feelings you feel are perfectly natural.

PENNY

They are? I mean assuming for a minute
that I actulally felt these feelings....
they are?

WANDA

Homosexuality is a basic part of nautre.
Why don't I start with the primates and
work my way up to household pets and
gardener snakes?

PENNY

All I know is that there are two sexes
on this planet. ~~Thax~~ Mean and Women.
And they seem togo together pretty well.

WANDA

You're forgetting that we live in an age
when relations between the sexes are strained
to the breaking point. Roles are changing.
Women are in transition, Penny and the
reules have been trampled into the dust.
When the going gets rough, a lot of us
retreat, Penny, into our own camp, as it
were, to be among our own kind. Just look
areund you, baby. W're all booked a one

TOM ENTERS.

TOM

Hi Wanda. Penny.

Interrupting?

PENNY

Wanda was just exploding some
myths and toppling some taboos for me.

TOM

Sorry I messed it.

WANDA

That's O.K.

(BEAT) I can see you two want to be
alone.

HEADS TO DOOR STOPS.

And one of you is very much alone.

SHE EXITS.

TOM

What did she mean by that?

PENNY

You know I haven't the vaguest idea.

TOM

Penny...

PENNY

Tom...

TOM

...about our conversation the other
night. Penny... I don't know how
I'm supposed to feel. Don't
get me wrong. I accept you completely.

PENNY

But Tom...

TOM

Don't make it harder for me, Penny.

I... I have a twelve year old daughter
who's very impressionable and....

PENNY

Sure. I know. Like everyone else
in town, you'd like me to move.

TOM

I guess so.

PENNY

Well at least I'm not being lulled
into a false sense of security...

HE TURNS TO GO WHEN HE GRABS HER AND
TURNS HER TOWARD HIM.

TOM

Maybe we can deal with it, Penny. I read
in Newsweek... this guy thinks homosexuality
is a factor of diet. Maybe you
need more iron, or protein.... or
sugar... and spice.... and everything
nice....

(TENDERLY) Cause that's what little girls
are made of.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ PENNY

That's... what I'm made of too, Tom.

Tom... I lied to you. I'm not... that way.

TOM

What do you--???

PENNY

(TURNING AWAY) It just came out.
What else could I say?

TOM

You're not gay, Penny?

PENNY

No.

TOM

Then why--?

PENNY

Beacuse I was so afraid of my
own female desires, Tom. And I
just couldn't bring myself to admit
that I'm a vir-vir-.... Virg, Virg...

TOM

Virgo? I love Virgos.

PENNY

Virgin! There, I said it! Its true.
I'm a ship that's never sailed, Tom.
A violin unplayed. Yes, yes, an unplayed
violin full of music, ~~but so deep and~~
~~afraid of the bow.~~ *unplayed.*

TOM

Penny, for Christ's sake...

PENNY

I know, I know. ~~ixxxgxxxxxxxixxxxx~~

~~txxxxxxxxxixxxxixxxxx~~ (BEAT)

Oh, Tom.

THEY RUSH INTO EACH OTHERS ARMS. PENNY
DRAWS BACK DELIBERATLY AND KISSES TOM.
ITS A LONG KISS.

TOM LOOKS AT HER REASSURINGLY.

TOM

We're gonna take this very slow,
Penny. Don't get me wrong. Its
not that I'm so patient...
it's just that you're wort h it...

THEY KISS AGIAN ~~AS WE~~
AT HER AND SMILES.
~~FADE OUT~~

TOM STOPS, LOOKS

END ACT THREE

PENNY

(SHYLY) What?

TOM

An unplayed violin.

PENNY

Yeah.

TOM

I guess that makes me your baau.

PENNY LAUGHS SHYLY AS WE .

FADE OUT

END ACT ~~TWEX~~ THREE

ACT IVINT. MAJOR LIVING ROOM - EVENING

MERLE HAS LEFT FOR HIS COURAGE WALK AS
ELEANOR SITS READING A BOOK. WANDA
ENTERS IN A MODEST NIGHTGOWN.

WANDA

El? Staying up for the courage
walk?

ELEANOR

YEs. And I'm so curious how Merle
will look on television.

WANDA

As I reaall he looks very slim,
and rather married.

ELEANOR

YEs.

WANDA

PICKS UP A SKETCH PAD.

Why don't we kill an hour looking
at my latest designs, Eleanor.

ELEANOR

(IRKED) Oh, please...

WANDA

What? I thought that's why Merle
and I moved in here with you--to
help you create these new fashions...

ELEANOR

And you're already making designs.
Some people study fashion design
for twenty years but you managed
to pick it up over night.

WANDA

(GETTING THE HINT) I can't help
feeling that I'm being fazed out
of your plans here. Call me paranoid
but that's how I feel.

ELEANOR

What's really wrong, Wanda?

WANDA

Really wrong? I think I covered it.

ELEANOR

Forgive me, for prying. I saw this
unarticulated grief in your eyes
just then. But of course I could be
mistaken. Any woman married to Merle
Jeeter should consider herself very
lucky indeed. He's a fine brave man.

WANDA

Thanks.

ELEANOR

Has this got anything to do with you and Merle? Wanda.... you're not worried about your marriage are you?

WANDA

(AR:USED) No.... Merle and I have nevr been happier. We're a little exhauste right now....

ELEANOR

... and many fears are born of fatigue.

WANDA, FED UP, GETS UP AND HEADS FOR BEDROOM.

WANDA

Look, just call me when the Courage Walk starts.

ELEANOR

Wanda...

WANDA

Yes.

LEANOR

You were right. You should be more involved in ~~the fashion~~ our joint venture. It would be ashame to let your talents lie fallow.

PULLS A TICKET FROM HER POCKET.

WANDA

A bus ticket?

ELEANOR HANDS WANDA THE TICKET.

ELEANOR

A ticket to Dayton. There was a big fire in a fabrics warehouse and the damaged bolts are going for pennies. Why don't you check it out.

(AT NO RESPONSE) Honey... we're trying to get a business off the ground And this is a once in a life time opportunity.

wanDA

Couldn't I fly to Dayton? Or take a train? This just seems so tacky for a fashion designer.

ELEANOR

Wanda... I thought you wanted to be more involved.

WANDA

Yes... that's true. (SHRUGS) You're right. I guess I really should go. But I want sole responsibility for fabrics, O.K.

ELEANOR

On your own....

WANDA TAKES A GOOD LOOK AT ELEANOR AND EXITS.

(TO HERSELF) ...and so's your husband.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

JERRY AND MERLE STAND IDLY WHILE TWO
CAMERAMEN SET UP THEIR VIDEO EQUIPMENT.

MERLE

and after you frisk me to
prove I ain't carrying any from
of protection... I turn and walk
down the street.

~~MERLE~~ JERRY

Yeah, yeah, but remember. As
you pass each streetlight, I want
to see you turn and wave goodbye
to the camera. ~~like Jimmy Durante~~ Th
effect should be Jimmy Durante-esque.

MERLE

(TO CAMERAMEN) Will you hurry
up there, boys. Your mayors gonna
take a little walk here and I wanna
be right on the button.

CAMERAMAN #1

I ain't even supposed to be here.
This is Ed's job. He...

JERRY IS SIGNALLING THE CAMERAMAN TO FUCK OFF.

MERLE

(SUSPICIOUSLY_ Ed? Where is Ed anyway?

JERRY

Merle... he disappeared. Without a trace. Just like the others. I was gonna tell you but I didn't want you to chicken out and spoil this media event.

MERLE IS REALLY THINKING NOW.

MERLE

You know something... Jerry.

JERRY

What?

MERLE

I'm not this brave.

JERRY

Of course you are.

MERLE

No sir. No... You been pumpin' sunshine into my head, that's all. I can't go through with this... because there's a real fine chance I won't come back.

JERRY

But the P.R. aspects of this...

MERLE

(ANGRY, BITING) Don't tell me the "P.R" aspects of this. I know damn well I could be the man of the hour here. But I don't mind admitting I don't know if I can do it.

XMERKE JERRY

(SHRUGGING) O.K.

MERLE

All I said was, let me think it over.

JERRY

You got two choices. The courage walk, or the cowards way out. There's no inbetween.

MERLE

Yes there is. I could walk down to the end of the block, you shut off your cameras and announce that I am out of sight. Then, you come pick me up, drop me off at my house for the night. No one's the wiser.

JERRY

~~That's xxxxxxxx~~ You wanna fake it.

MERLE

Isnt' that the magic of Television, Jer
WE CREATE ILLUSIONS THROUGH SPACE-AGE TECHNOLOGY.
And remember ... its the symbolism
here that's important and not reality.

JERRY

Not buyin' Mr. Mayor. You gonna take the walk?

MERLE STANDS THERE DEEP IN THOUGHT. MUTTERING..

MERLE

(MUTTERING) Damn good P.R. D^Amn good
(LOOKS UP)

Yup. Lets get the show on the road.

JERRY

(SLAPPING HIS HAND) Terric, Merle. An
you won't regret this.

(PICKING UP A MIKE)

...and remember Merle for the
next few hours ~~therex~~ the attention
of this entire town will be fixed on you...

CAMERA MAN TWO

We're rolling....

JERRY

(ONE LAST TO MERLE) This is your
moment in the sun, Merle.

(TO CAMERA L:UDLY) We're here to
witness one's man's walk into the jaws
of danger. Merle Jeeter is a man wit
something to prove. to each and every
~~residen~~ panic-stricken resident of
Fernwood Ohio. Five disappearances
in the last five days, do not a happy
hamlet make. And that's why Merle
is here at the Gazebo; to begin a
courage walk through the streets
of night-time Fernwood. proving once
again that htere is nothing to fear
but fear itself. Ladies and

MERLE TAKES MIKE

~~XXXXX~~
~~LADIES~~ MERLE

Ladies and Gentlmen. What Jerry said about fear is something I've always felt. And I dont mind telling you I'm a little scared. I don't mind telling you that I'd like to have my old 4-10 with me on this littl journey. And yet... I go unarmed. Except for a picture of my wife... and one of her rape whistles.
X Jerry. I'd like you to frisk me.

JERRY

Come on, Merle. That's not neccessary

MERLE

Go on.

JERRY

But everybody tursts you. Oh, OK if it'll make you feel better.

WHILE JERRY FRISKS HIM MERLE CONTINUES TO SPEAK TO CAMERA.

MERLE

.... And ladies and gentlemen, I'm gonna take this same walk every night at eleven until this mystery is cleared up.

JERRY

Clean, Merle.

MERLE

Sure.

JERRY

Its that time... Merle...

MERLE IS STILL A BEAT.. THEN HANDS MIKE TO JERRY, TURNS TO LOOK AT THE DARKNESS... AND STEPS INTO THE STREET. AS HE WALKS AWAY WE SEE HIM STOP UNDER EVERYX STREET LIGHT AND WAVE LIKE JIMMY DURANTE.

JERRY

(INTO CAMERA) He's a better man than I am...

END ACT FOUR

End of Episode #407