

FINAL DRAFT  
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# FOREVER FERNWOOD

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EPISODE #455

by

PEGGY GOLDMAN

A  
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PRODUCTION

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

TOM . . . . .	GREG MULLAVEY
LORETTA . . . . .	MARY KAY PLACE
CHARLIE . . . . .	GRAHAM JARVIS
MARTHA . . . . .	DODY GOODMAN
CATHY . . . . .	DEBRALEE SCOTT
HEATHER . . . . .	CLAUDIA LAMB
GRANDPA . . . . .	VICTOR KILLIAN
MERLE . . . . .	DABNEY COLEMAN
WANDA . . . . .	MARIAN MERCER
MAC . . . . .	DENNIS BURKLEY
PENNY . . . . .	JUDY KAHAN
ELEANOR . . . . .	SHELLEY FABARES
MEL . . . . .	SHELLEY BERMAN
BARTENDER . . . . .	ROBERT STONEMAN
REV. BRIM . . . . .	

SETS

ACT I  
(Page 1)

JEETER MOTEL ROOM - DAY  
(Loretta, Merle, Wanda, and Mac)

ACT II  
(Page 9)

TOWN SQUARE - MEANWHILE  
(Tom, Charlie, Martha, Heather, Cathy  
Grandpa, Wanda, Penny, Eleanor, Mel,  
Bartender, and Rev. Brim)

ACT III  
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JEETER MOTEL ROOM - MEANWHILE  
(Tom, Loretta, Charlie, Martha, Cathy,  
Heather, Grandpa, Merle, Wanda, Mac,  
Penny, Eleanor, Mel, and Rev. Brim)

ACT IV  
(Page 29)

CAPRI LOUNGE - NIGHT  
(Tom, Loretta, Charlie, Martha, Cathy,  
Heather, Grandpa, Merle, Wanda, Mac,  
Penny, Eleanor, Mel, and Bartender)

ACT ONEJEETER MOTEL ROOM - DAY

WANDA IS STILL BOUND TO HER  
WHEELCHAIR. MERLE IS TRYING  
TO SPOONFEED HER. SHE REJECTS  
A MOUTHFUL.

MERLE

Wanda, I may be a kidnapper, but I  
only have my victim's best interests  
at heart. Please, you've got to eat  
something.

WANDA

I don't want any. I'm going to go  
on a hunger strike.

MERLE

Oh, and you couldn't have told me that  
before I went to the grocery store  
and bought these expensive gourmet  
frankfurters?

WANDA

Merle, you've had me here two days now,  
don't you think you've fulfilled your  
obligation to this ludicrous plan of  
yours?

(MORE)

## WANDA (CONT'D)

Surely you must realize that keeping me a prisoner at the Bide-A-Wee Motel is not going to bring us back together.

MERLE

So you're saying I should let you go.

WANDA

That would be a treat.

MERLE

It seemed such a good idea at the time, Wanda. I thought you'd come around.

WANDA

Well, Merle, c'est triste but it's true -- I haven't come around nor do I have no intention of ever doing so.

MERLE

Well, then I guess I'll have to make it to the top alone. You won't be there to share the glory of power and success with me. You standing right by my side behind me.

WANDA

Just out of curiosity, Merle...  
(INDICATES ROOM) ...is this exemplary of the kind of glory you had in mind?

MERLE

Wanda, this room is very dear to me,  
as I'm sure Lincoln's log cabin was to  
him. Call me a sentimental fool,  
but I have wonderful memories of this  
place.

WANDA

I have my memories too -- remember  
when I caught you in here with Eleanor  
Major.

MERLE

I'm gonna untie you, Wanda. I'm  
gonna let you go. (UNTIES HER) One  
of the marks of greatness is when a  
man knows when to give up the things  
he loves.

MERLE UNLOCKS THE DOOR. WANDA  
STARTS THE CHAIR TOWARDS IT.

MERLE (CONT'D)

And does it with dignity.

MERLE CAN'T FACE IT, TURNS.  
WANDA STOPS AT DOOR.

MERLE (CONT'D)

Just tell me one thing, Wanda -- is  
there any chance for us at all? Must  
this be for keepsies?

WANDA

Merle, don't think it hasn't been an  
interesting and valuable, if not also  
terribly weird liason we've had. Au revoir.

MERLE

Well, instead of "worthless," why  
don't you say --

WANDA

(INTERRUPTS) Mac, let's talk this  
over....

MAC

You're the finest woman in the world,  
Wanda, just look at the way you're  
trying to save that low-down, no-good  
life... but I'm gonna think for us  
both now. (TAKES AIM AT MERLE)

MERLE

Hang on there a sec, Mac ol' buddy.  
Let's talk.

MAC

Let's not. (COCKS TRIGGER)

WANDA WHEELS HER CHAIR BETWEEN  
THEM. MAC WHEELS HER TO ONE  
SIDE AND REMOVES THE BATTERY.

MAC (CONT'D)

You're a real saint, Wanda, trying  
to save the man who's done you dirt  
like he has, but I'm lookin' for  
justice. (AIMS)

WANDA

But you'd be killing the man I love.

MERLE AND MAC BOTH STOP SHORT.

MAC

MERLE

You do?

You do?

WANDA NODS YES.

MAC

MERLE

(CONFIDENTIAL) Is

(CONFIDENTIAL) Is

this a trick?

this a trick?

WANDA NODS NO.

MAC

But if I get him and his terrible  
evil influence out of the way, Wanda --  
then you'll learn to love me.

WANDA

No, Mac -- I think it's his evil influence  
I love most. There's no getting away  
from it. (SINGS A PHRASE OR TWO FROM  
A DIETRICHY LOVE SONG)

MAC IS WAVERING, BUT THE GUN  
STAYS ON MERLE.

MERLE

I wonder, Mac, if I've ever come  
right out and actually told you how  
much your friendship means to me...

MAC LETS THE GUN POINT LOWER  
A LITTLE AND WANDA SEIZES THE  
MOMENT -- SHE JUMPS FROM HER  
WHEELCHAIR AND GRABS THE GUN  
FROM MAC. BOTH MEN ARE AMAZED.

MAC/MERLE

Wanda! You can walk!!

WANDA

I can? (REALIZES) I can! Oh my God!  
I can walk! Tears of joy would stain  
my face if I were a sentimental sort.

MAC

I'm not through with you yet, Jeeter!

MAC LUNGES AT MERLE, WHO TRIES  
TO HIDE BEHIND WANDA WHO TRIES  
TO CALM MAC DOWN. AND THEN,  
THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR, STUMBLES  
LORETTA. SHE COLLAPSES ON THEIR  
FLOOR. SHE IS VERY MUCH IN  
LABOR. EVERYONE ELSE STOPS  
WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND RUNS  
TO HER.

LORETTA

(GASP, GASP) I didn't think it would  
come so soon. (GASP, GASP) I just  
needed a place to be alone and  
think -- what with my daddy telling  
me I'm gonna give birth to an axe  
murderer and all.

MERLE

Right now?! Right here?!

LORETTA

If it's the Lord's will.

MERLE

Forget about the Lord, let's get  
you a taxi!

LORETTA

(GASP, GASP) Please, somebody go get  
Charlie. And somebody else, go get  
a doctor... (GASP)

WANDA

Mac!

MAC

I'll get the doctor! (EXITS ON DOUBLE)

WANDA

And I'll get Charlie! (EXITS)

LORETTA

(GASP) Hey, she can walk!

MERLE

I hope she can run. (THEN) You  
don't feel like you're about to give  
birth or anything...?

LORETTA MOANS.

MERLE (CONT'D)

You just rest easy there, Loretta.  
Everything's gonna be fine. And  
whatever you do, you hold that little  
sucker inside, you hear.

LORETTA

I hope I can.

MERLE STARES AT HER AS IF AT  
A CREATURE FROM OUTER SPACE.  
LORETTA GASPS. WE:

FADE OUT.

ACT THREEJEETER MOTEL ROOM - MEANWHILE

LORETTA IS ON THE BED, DEEP IN  
LABOR. MERLE PACES, CHEWS HIS  
KNUCKLES. LORETTA SINGS  
THROUGH HER PAIN.

LORETTA

"Babyboy...." (GASPS IN PAIN)

MERLE

Hey, Loretta, you just stay real calm  
now and hold that little axe murderer  
of yours in there a couple of minutes  
more now, cause Charlie and that  
doctor are gonna be here any minute now  
and you don't want to cheat them out  
of being in on the big moment now, do  
you? (TO HIMSELF) Dear Lord, please  
keep that little baby in there just  
till someone else comes to handle all  
this, would you please? It's not  
like I don't want to help, Lord,  
just call on me for something simpler.

LORETTA

(INTERRUPTS SONG WITH BIG GASP) Oh,  
Merle!!

MERLE

(WHIMPERS) Please, Loretta...?

LORETTA

Hey, Merle, don't you fret, now.  
Everything's gonna be just fine. We've  
got us the greatest midwife in the  
world lookin' over our shoulder.

MERLE

(CHECKING BEHIND HIS SHOULDER) Who?

LORETTA

Why, the Big One in the sky you're  
talking to, that's who. We're gonna  
be fine. (GASP -- CONTRACTION) So,  
why don't you stop wearin' a hole  
in that carpet -- it's already sad  
and threadbare.

MERLE

Then maybe I should go wait out in  
the hallway. I don't want to make  
you all nervous, but I can't stop  
myself from pacing. (STARTS FOR  
DOOR)

LORETTA

I've got a much better way to relax --  
you just listen to me, and see if  
you don't feel stronger and braver  
for it.

(MORE)

LORETTA

(SINGS) MY BABYBOY'S BABYBOY IS MAKIN'  
FOR THIS EARTH  
COULD BE HE'LL BE A GENIUS KNOWING ALL  
THE FACTS  
OR PRESIDENT OR ASTRONAUT OR JUST A  
NATURAL BIRTH  
COULD BE HE'LL BE KILLER SWINGIN'  
ROUND AN AXE  
BUT IT DON'T MATTER AT ALL TO ME.  
'CAUSE MY BABYBOY'S BABYBOY'S GONNA BE  
MY BABYBOY...

Feel better, Merle?

MERLE

Yeah. Great.

LORETTA

(GASP) I think this is it.

MERLE

(PANICKED) It?!?! You mean "it."  
Not "it"? "It" right now?!?! What'll  
I do?

LORETTA

Now just stay relaxed, there. I'll  
do most of the job myself, I promise.  
But I'm real sorry, I'm afraid I'm  
gonna need a little help from you.  
(GASP)

MERLE

(TERRIFIED) Fine.

LORETTA

Sorry, but when you gotta go, you  
gotta go.

MERLE, DUMFOUNDED BY TERROR,  
STARTS TO ROLL UP HIS SLEEVES.  
HE LOOKS AT LORETTA, TURNS  
AWAY, LOOKS BACK. SHE SMILES  
AT HIM.

LORETTA (CONT'D)

I've got faith enough for the both of  
us, Merle. (GASP) For all three of  
us.

DISSOLVE OUT, AS:

SFX: CHOIR SINGING.

THEN,

DISSOLVE BACK IN, AS:

LORETTA LIES QUIET ON BED. SHE'S  
BEAMING. WE PAN OVER TO MERLE, WHO  
WHO LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONE THROUGH  
WORLD WAR III. THERE'S A  
BABY IN HIS ARMS, WRAPPED IN  
A TOWEL, SO WE DON'T SEE IT.  
CHARLIE BURSTS IN.

CHARLIE

Loretta!!??! ? You okay?!!?

LORETTA

I'm fine, Charlie. I'd like you to  
meet your son. (INDICATES MERLE AND  
BABY)

ALL REACT, AS CHARLIE GOES TO  
BABY.

CHARLIE

(ADMIRE HIS SON) This ain't no  
murderer. This is a beautiful  
babyboy! (TO BABY) Hiya, son!  
(TO MERLE) Thank you, Merle.

MERLE, WEAK, GRUNTS. CHARLIE  
TAKES THE BABY TO LORETTA.

LORETTA

I couldn't of done it without Merle.

CHARLIE

I think we've got a name for this  
baby.

LORETTA

(HOLDS IT) Merle.

CHARLIE NODS HIS AGREEMENT.  
BURSTING IN NOW ARE MARTHA,  
MEL, WANDA, CATHY, GRANDPA,  
AND HEATHER. ALL REACT TO BABY.  
MAC ENTERS, OUT OF BREATH.

MAC

Doctor'll be here in half an hour.  
(SEES BABY, THEN, TO SELF) Probably  
doesn't have to hurry now. (THEN)  
Now where's that Merle!

MAC LOOKS AND SEES MERLE ON  
BED, WITH WANDA MINISTERING  
TO HIM, WIPING FOREHEAD, ETC.,  
ALL LOVEY-DOVEY, THE TWO OF  
THEM ARE ALL WRAPPED IN EACH  
OTHER. MAC REACTS.

MAC (CONT'D)

Oh well, you win some, you lose all  
of 'em.

TOM, PENNY, AND BRIM BURST IN.

TOM

You need help!?!?

CHARLIE

It's all right, Tom. We had your help when it counted. Come 'round and meet Merle Hagers.

TOM SHOUTS WITH JOY AND STARTS OVER, WITH PENNY. REVEREND BRIM STOPS THEM.

REV. BRIM

One second. Do you Tom, take Penny to be your lawful wedded wife?

TOM

I do.

REV. BRIM

And do you, Penny, take Tom to be your lawful wedded husband?

PENNY

I do!

REV. BRIM

Then I now pronounce you man and wife.

TOM AND PENNY EMBRACE. EVERYBODY CHEERS. ELEANOR ENTERS, STILL DRUNK.

ELEANOR

Stop the ceremony! I'll make you people suffer.

TOM

(TO ELEANOR) You're a little late,  
Eleanor.

REV. BRIM

Gee, I got lucky.

ELEANOR COLLAPSES IN A DRUNKEN  
STUPOR.

LORETTA

(MOANS LOUDLY) Merle! Charlie!

It's startin' again!

CHARLIE

It can't be!!

LORETTA

(MOANS, GASPS) I'm telling you,  
it's happening again! (STARTS TO  
SING)

CHARLIE

C'mon, Merle! You're the only one  
here with delivery experience.

MERLE

(MUMBLES) Oh my Lord. (STUMBLES BACK  
INTO ACTION)

CHARLIE

Yahoo! With another baby those evil  
genes are gonna be so spread out. they  
ain't gonna do nobody no harm!

MEL

Don't worry, Martha. We'll be happy  
even without babies.

MARTHA

Especially without babies.

HEATHER

Amen to that.

GRANDPA

What's wrong with babies?

TOM

Hey, everybody, it's two!

LORETTA

Two babyboys!!

CHARLIE

Look, there's another one!

MARTHA

That's three!

WANDA

This is getting tacky.

ALL

...Four... Five...

ALL AD LIB EXCITED REACTIONS.

CHARLIE

Five baby boys... and I'm gonna love  
'em all.

TOM

Me too!

AS AD LIBBED JOY CONTINUES,  
WE ANGLE ON CATHY AND PENNY.

PENNY

Quintuplets for the Hagers. How nice.

CATHY

Congratulations on being Mrs. Tom  
Hartman. I know you'll be real  
happy.

PENNY

Thanks, Cathy. Thanks a lot. I  
thought I'd never be married... "Mrs.  
Tom Hartman"... What a housewife I'll  
be. Cathy, I'm going to keep everything  
absolutely spotless.

FADE OUT.

ACT FOURCAPRI LOUNGE - NIGHT

TOM, LORETTA, CHARLIE, MARTHA,  
CATHY, HEATHER, GRANDPA, MERLE,  
WANDA, MAC, MEL, PENNY,  
ELEANOR, AND BARTENDER WILL  
ALL BE IN THIS SCENE AND  
PARTICIPATE IN A JAM SESSION.  
NO DIALOGUE. SO, UNTIL THE  
ORDER OF ARRIVAL, WHICH  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, AND WHAT  
MUSIC HAVE BEEN DETERMINED,  
THAT'S IT.

GOOD LUCK, EVERYBODY.

FADE OUT.

THE END.

END OF EPISODE #455

