

M*A*S*H

"HAWKEYE ON THE DOUBLE"

by

Stanley Ralph Ross

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CAST LIST

HAWKEYE

TRAPPER

FRANK BURNS

HOT LIPS

HENRY BLAKE

RADAR

LIEUTENANT NANCY STEVENS

LIEUTENANT LISA TURNER

SET LIST

INTERIORS

"THE SWAMP"

SHOWER TENT

MESS TENT

PRE-OP

HENRY'S OFFICE

HENRY'S OUTER OFFICE

NURSES' TENT

POST-OP

EXTERIORS

HEAVILY-FOLIAGED AREA

COMPOUND

NURSES' TENT

MINE FIELD

"HAWKEYE ON THE DOUBLE"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. HEAVILY FOLIAGED AREA - DAWN

HAWKEYE is with LT. NANCY STEVENS. Both are in fatigues. Nancy is a pert, bright and fairly attractive in an outdoorsy way. As they speak, Hawkeye twists a lock of her hair, makes lazy circles around her ear lobes with his fingers.

HAWKEYE

With the bombs falling, the shells flying; knowing we might be killed, what's the difference if we - I mean, who would know?

NANCY

I'd know.

HAWKEYE

Yeah, but you'd be dead! And I certainly wouldn't tell anyone.

He moves a bit closer; she moves a bit away.

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

(after a pause)

Have you ever been told that your eyes are like glowing coals?

NANCY

Often.

HAWKEYE

(another try)

Did anyone ever tell you that you had the most succulent mouth since mouths were invented?

NANCY

Major Connors told me that.

HAWKEYE

Hmmm. Did anyone ever tell you that you were the smartest girl they'd ever met?

NANCY

(eyes widen)

You really think so?

HAWKEYE

No question about it.

NANCY

(animatedly)

I am hoping to go to medical school when I get home. Dad's the leading druggist in Montpelier, Vermont and he always wanted a doctor in the family.

HAWKEYE

You'd sail right through. Straight 'A's,' top of the class.

NANCY

Gosh, I hope so.

HAWKEYE

(with phony admiration)

What a rare combination you are, Nancy. Brains, beauty...

NANCY

(glowing)

Hawkeye.

HAWKEYE

(husky voice)

I've known many women...but with you...I'm afraid.

(kisses her gently)

I want you to have something, Nancy. It's my most prized possession. Because I value it so highly, I want you to have it.

NANCY

Oh, Hawkeye.

Hawkeye reaches into a bag and brings out a tattered book.

HAWKEYE

It's my one and only copy of 'The Prophet' by Kahlil Gibran. It's yours...forever.

They kiss again.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. POST-OP - DAY

Hawkeye and Nancy ENTER. She carries the book.

NANCY

When can I see you again?

HAWKEYE

Not for a few days. I've got some double shifts coming up; need all the sleep I can get.

NANCY

I wish we could be together more.

HAWKEYE

(referring to book)

As the Prophet says on page twenty six: 'Let there be spaces in our togetherness.' Don't you agree?

She nods her head understandingly. FRANK BURNS walks IN, shows Nancy his watch.

FRANK

Can you tell time, Lieutenant Stevens?

NANCY

Sir?

FRANK

Can you tell me exactly what time it is?

HAWKEYE

It's not hard at all, Frank. When the small hand is on the six, that means...

FRANK

I know how to tell time! You're seven minutes late, Lieutenant.

HAWKEYE

I accept all the blame.

FRANK

May I remind you that we are running a surgical hospital, not a dating service?

HAWKEYE

Yeah, you can remind me of that if you like.

NANCY

'Bye, Hawkeye.

She EXITS.

FRANK

You're going to get in a lot of trouble messing around with people you work with. Officers have lost their ranks for less.

HAWKEYE

What are you gonna do, Frank? Bust me down to civilian?

He walks o.s.

OUT

CUT TO:

INT. "THE SWAMP" - MORNING

TRAPPER is practicing his putting as Hawkeye ENTERS, sits on his bunk and reaches under for a box.

TRAPPER

What's happening?

HAWKEYE

Trying to hit the daily double.

He brings out two books, both the same, both new.

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

Remind me to write home and have my father send me another dozen 'Prophets'.

He throws one on the floor, dirties it, then bends the pages to remove their stiffness.

TRAPPER

Aging it?

HAWKEYE

Within seconds it'll go from brand new edition to a rare, prized possession.

TRAPPER

Hawkeye, who was it that said: 'Man cannot live by breads alone'?

HAWKEYE

Probably Oscar Wilde. He was always promoting his cause.

(takes a swig of martini;
then)

And now for the second half of the parlay.

TRAPPER

I wish I had your stamina.

HAWKEYE

(sighs)
So do I.

He EXITS.

OUT

CUT TO:

INT. HENRY'S OUTER OFFICE - DAY

Hawkeye ARRIVES as LIEUTENANT LISA TURNER APPEARS. She is a knockout.

HAWKEYE

Hi.

LISA

Hi. I was wondering if you'd be here.

HAWKEYE

I'm never late when it really counts.

LISA

Buy me some coffee? It was a rough shift.

HAWKEYE

The mess hall? They get such a low type in there; full of servicemen.

LISA

My tent?

HAWKEYE
What an adorable idea.

He kisses her cheek, as Frank ENTERS SCENE.

FRANK
Do you mind???

HAWKEYE
No, I don't mind.
(to Lisa)
Do you mind?

LISA
Do I mind what?

HAWKEYE
(shrugs)
I don't know. Whatever he's got in
mind.

FRANK
Do you know how to tell time,
Lieutenant Turner?

HAWKEYE
Frank, are we going to do that bit
again?

FRANK
This is none of your concern.

HAWKEYE
(yawns)
If I could only yawn with my mouth
closed, you'd have no idea how
boring you really are, Frank.

LISA
I left early to meet Captain
Pierce. There were no more cases to
look af---

FRANK
That is no excuse.

HAWKEYE
I thought it was pretty good.

FRANK
In the future, you will work your
full eight hour shift. That goes
for you too, Pierce. A full eight
hours or you won't work at all.

HAWKEYE
I don't mind collecting
unemployment.

He EXITS with Lisa.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSES' TENT - MORNING

Hawkeye and Lisa are alone.

HAWKEYE
Don't you realize that we could all
get killed tomorrow if there's a
bombing raid?

LISA
They've never even come close to
here.

HAWKEYE
Ah, but it could happen, couldn't
it? They're very sneaky, you know.

He kisses her cheek; she moves away a bit.

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)
Did anyone ever tell you that you
were very, very smart?

LISA
Lots of people.

HAWKEYE
(moving closer)
You have eyes like glowing coals.

LISA
Major Connors told me I have the
most succulent mouth since mouths
were invented.

HAWKEYE
(simultaneously)
...since mouths were invented. I'm
going to have to talk to the Major
about that.

He strokes her neck.

LISA
Mmm. That's nice.

HAWKEYE

Isn't it?

LISA

When did you learn to do that?

HAWKEYE

Just now.

LISA

Mmm.

HAWKEYE

What a rare combination you are,
Lisa. Beauty, brains...

(beat)

I've known many women...but with
you...I'm afraid.

(kisses her gently)

Lisa, there's something I want to
give to you; it's my one and only
copy...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. "THE SWAMP" - DAY

Trapper is pouring two drinks, hands one to Hawkeye. They
CLINK glasses. Still bubbles in b.g.

TRAPPER

Skoal.

HAWKEYE

L'chaim.

TRAPPER

Chin-chin.

HAWKEYE

A votre sante.

(beat)

Keeps the doctor away.

They drink. Hawkeye looks at the glass.

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

It's a precocious martini.
Intelligent, witty and yet it knows
its place.

TRAPPER

Lisa dropped by. She's working overtime, won't get to see you tonight.

HAWKEYE

Lovely. I can be with Nancy twice in one day.

TRAPPER

Three months now; you're a great little tightrope walker.

HAWKEYE

War's not enough to make me feel endangered; I've got to have a bit of action going as well. How about another drink? The liquor flows like glue around here.

Trapper moves to pour two more.

CUT TO:

INT. POST-OP - DAY

HENRY BLAKE finishes checking a patient. RADAR ENTERS and stops Henry before he can exit.

RADAR

Excuse me, sir. Would you please sign these forms?

HENRY

(as he does)
What're these forms for?

RADAR

To order new forms, sir.

HENRY

(signing)
Do we need them?

RADAR

At the rate you sign 'em, we do, sir.

Radar EXITS. Lisa ENTERS, her nose buried in a book. She brushes past Henry; he reaches out, stops her.

HENRY
What's that you're reading,
Lieutenant?

LISA
(sighs)
The greatest book ever written,
sir. 'The Prophet.'

HENRY
'The Prophet'? You're reading a
book about business?

LISA
(still mesmerized)
Not that kind of profit, sir. It's
a book about everything.

HENRY
Everything; what a good idea.

Nancy ENTERS from the opposite direction, also nose-deep in a book; walks into Henry, drops it. Henry is pushed into Lisa, who also drops her book. Both bend down to retrieve them, look from the books to each other.

NANCY
I think you may have my book there.

LISA
(looks at hers)
No. This is mine.

NANCY
'The Prophet'?

LISA
'The Prophet'.

NANCY
(frowning)
What are the odds on two of us
having the same book? That book.

LISA
Astronomical.

NANCY
At least.

HENRY
Have you two met officially? You're
both on different shifts and...

NANCY

We may even be somewhat related.

LISA

Uh-huh.

NANCY

You wouldn't happen to have a the rare combination of brains and beauty?

LISA

I have the rare combination of beauty and brains.

NANCY

(breathily)

I've known many women...

LISA

(same)

But with you, I'm afraid.

They nod soberly, walk OFF together.

HENRY

(to himself)

Must be some sort of new code.

CUT TO:

INT. "THE SWAMP"- LATE AFTERNOON

Hawkeye, alone, is sewing his socks. Nancy ENTERS.

NANCY

That's nice. You're domestic.

HAWKEYE

No...actually, I'm imported.

NANCY

Mind if I sit down?

HAWKEYE

Mi tent es tu tent.

Nancy sits next to him.

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

To what honor do I owe this unscheduled appearance?

NANCY

I was just wondering what you might be doing on July twenty-second?

HAWKEYE

I'll have to check my appointment book but I do't usually schedule trysts that far in advance.

NANCY

Be serious, Hawkeye.

HAWKEYE

How should I know what I'll be doing six months from now?

She takes the sock and needle from him and darns.

NANCY

Knitting needles would be more appropriate. Would you guess pink or blue yarn?

Hawkeye is speechless. He fumbles into his breast pocket, takes out a pack of cigarettes.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Not for me, thank you. I've given them up... It's best to at this time, you know.

Hawkeye nods sadly in agreement.

CUT TO:

INT. SHOWER TENT - HAWKEYE AND TRAPPER - DAY

They soap themselves as water showers them.

TRAPPER

You decided what you're going to do?

HAWKEYE

No question about it. I'm going to marry her.

TRAPPER

Marry her? You married?

HAWKEYE

Well, my folks were. It can't be all bad.

(MORE)

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

I have to do the right thing, Trap. I'm a little surprised myself. But that told me I was an officer and a gentleman and I guess I believed them.

CUT TO:

INT. "THE SWAMP" - DAY

Hawkeye and Trapper playing gin. Hawkeye is doing his best to keep his mind on the game.

HAWKEYE

So she's not the greatest-looking girl in the world. Looks aren't everything. When looks fade away, there's always companionship, right?

TRAPPER

You want to four of clubs?

HAWKEYE

Take it.

(beat)

She's going to be a doctor, did I tell you that?

TRAPPER

Uh-huh.

HAWKEYE

That counts for something. Smartness is very important, when it comes to intelligence. And her father is the biggest druggist in Montpelier, Vermont. We could have a medical cartel and get the people coming and going.

TRAPPER

You want the three of clubs?

HAWKEYE

Did I give you the four?

TRAPPER

(negatively)

Uh-huh.

HAWKEYE

All right, take it.

Trapper takes the card, lays out his hand.

TRAPPER

Gin.

Hawkeye looks at Trapper's cards.

HAWKEYE

You said I didn't give you the four!

TRAPPER

I lied.

HAWKEYE

What kind of best friend are you?

TRAPPER

Not a very good one.

HAWKEYE

(stands; restlessly)
I'm going to propose to her right now and get it over with.

TRAPPER

(checks score)
You had eight points and I had gin. You now owe me eighty thousand dollars.

HAWKEYE

I'll give it to you later; all in pennies. I have to get over there.

TRAPPER

One more game, double or nothing.

HAWKEYE

(sadly)
It's just prolonging the agony.

TRAPPER

Does the Prophet have anything to say about situations like this?

HAWKEYE

I guess we didn't leave enough spaces in our togetherness.
(sigh)
See you.

CAMERA FOLLOWS Hawkeye, a solemn procession of one.

EXT. COMPOUND - DAY

As Hawkeye continues his "last mile" walk, Lisa moves quickly across the compound, catches up with him.

LISA
Hawkeye?

HAWKEYE
Hi.

LISA
Can I talk to you a minute?

HAWKEYE
Can it wait? I have something to do right now.

LISA
No, it can't, I'm afraid.

HAWKEYE
(stops)
Okay.

He reaches into his breast pocket and takes out a pack of cigarettes, offers her one. She shakes her head.

LISA
(demurely)
I've given them up. It's best at certain time, y'know...

The blood drains out of Hawkeye's face. His heart pounds, he can't swallow. On this classic case of anxiety, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. HEAVILY FOLIAGED AREA - DAWN

Hawkeye and Nancy are together again. He listens glumly as she prattles on.

NANCY

It's really not all that cold up in Vermont. During the winter it goes ten below every so often but most of the time it hovers around zero. You like cold weather, don't you?

No answer.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Don't you?

HAWKEYE

(automatically)
Love it.

NANCY

Hawkeye, are you all right?

HAWKEYE

Oh, I'm in fine fettle. Never felt fettle.

NANCY

You don't seem very happy.

HAWKEYE

I am. Actually, I'm twice as happy as I don't seem.

NANCY

I love children. I want to have ten.

HAWKEYE

Large families are self-indulgent.

NANCY

I love large families.

HAWKEYE

Only the very rich and the very poor can afford them.

(MORE)

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

If you want a large family, you're going to have to do it without my help.

NANCY

I don't think that's possible.

HAWKEYE

(unhappily)

I didn't think this was, either.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NURSES' TENT - DAY

Hawkeye is with Lisa, helping her wind a skein of knitting yarn into a ball.

LISA

You're going to love it in Calusa, I just know it.

HAWKEYE

Calusa?

LISA

My home town.
(proudly)
It's the cement capital of Southwestern Kansas.

HAWKEYE

A real garden spot.

LISA

And we need a good doctor to clean up after the Saturday night bar brawls.

HAWKEYE

Besides getting stoned and then bruised, what do they do down there for excitement?

LISA

(thinks a minute)

I can't remember anything exciting ever taking place.

HAWKEYE

That's exciting.

LISA

Oh! Wait a minute. About three years ago, my friend Lucy Ann's dog had an infected ear!

Hawkeye smiles weakly - how did he ever get into all this?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MESS TENT - NIGHT

The hall is crowded as Nancy and Hawkeye sit at a small table. At the next table are Frank and HOT LIPS.

TWO SHOT - NANCY AND HAWKEYE

NANCY

What do they have tonight?

HAWKEYE

(squinting o.s.)

Veal Parmesan, Chop Suey, fruit salad...

NANCY

Okay.

HAWKEYE

Okay what?

NANCY

I'll have them all.

(beat)

On the same plate.

(beat)

With some horseradish on the side.

TWO SHOT - FRANK AND HOT LIPS

FRANK

Did you hear what she ordered?

HOT LIPS

Barbaric.

FRANK

(nods eagerly)

It can only mean one thing.

HOT LIPS
 (nodding in agreement)
 Uh-huh.

FRANK
 A gastroenterological attack around
 two in the morning.

WIDER ANGLE - MESS TENT

Hawkeye walking toward the steam table; Lisa JOINS him.

TWO SHOT - HAWKEYE AND LISA

HAWKEYE
 (uncomfortably)
 Lisa...I thought you were working
 tonight.

LISA
 I switched my shift. I know how you
 hate to eat alone.

HAWKEYE
 Oh. Well, actually I'm not eating
 alone.

LISA
 Oh?

HAWKEYE
 Not now that you're here I'm not --
 Why don't you find a table and I'll
 get your chow. What would you like?

WIDER ANGLE

Hot Lips, with an empty cup, is walking by to refill it.

LISA
 See if they can make me a couple of
 soft-boiled eggs...and tell them to
 chop up a side order of olives,
 onions and licorice.

Hot Lips does a take, walks past.

LISA (CONT'D)
 (looks around)
 There's no empty tables.
 (MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

Oh...we can sit by that skinny nurse over there.

(indicating Nancy)

She's all by herself. Maybe she'd like company.

HAWKEYE

I think she'd rather eat alone.

LISA

Why do you say that?

HAWKEYE

Just a feeling.

LISA

She's smiling at you.

HAWKEYE

Guess she knows a joke when she sees one.

LISA

Hawkeye, were you two having dinner together?

HAWKEYE

I'm afraid we were.

LISA

Why, then I will sit with here. It should be real cozy.

HAWKEYE

You have a wonderful way with words.

TWO SHOT - FRANK AND HOT LIPS

They are leaning in conspiratorially and watching o.s.

FRANK

They've been sitting there for thirty minutes and he hasn't said a word to either of them.

HOT LIPS

But they've both been talking to him. Something fishy going on here. I've seen him in the presence of both those nurses on may separate occasions.

(fishing)

(MORE)

HOT LIPS (CONT'D)

They are pretty though, aren't they?

FRANK

We've been together long enough, Margaret, for you to know I don't care for pretty girls.

She smiles weakly at his reassuring words.

THREE SHOT - HAWKEYE, NANCY, LISA

The girls eat heartily as Hawkeye picks at his food.

NANCY

You're not your talkative self tonight, Hawkeye.

LISA

You certainly seem to be.

NANCY

Mind your own business.

LISA

Whatever you say, beanpole.

And with that exchange, Hawkeye cringes.

NANCY

Beanpole? Figures like yours went out with Lillian Russell.

LISA

Sour grapes.

HAWKEYE

All right, girls, settle down.

NANCY

Nobody asked you anything, Captain Pierce.

LISA

That's right.

HAWKEYE

Listen, two lieutenants don't equal one captain; I order you to clam up.

NANCY
I never thought it would come to
this.

LISA
Me either.

NANCY
Neither.

LISA
Thank you.

NANCY
You're quite welcome.

LISA
(to Hawkeye)
You should be very happy sitting
with the two of us. There are boys
at the front who haven't been this
close to any women for a year.

HAWKEYE
(grimly)
Right now, I may be the happiest
man in the world.

CUT TO:

INT. PRE-OP - DAY

As Frank and Hot Lips adjust their surgical gowns and masks:

FRANK
Did either of them have a stomach
ache last night?

HOT LIPS
No. I didn't take my eyes off them
once while the movie was on. He
took turns holding hands with them
and I don't think either one
noticed what was going on. But I
did.

FRANK
Something must be done about this.
We can't allow the ugly specter of
sex to interfere with our jobs.

HOT LIPS
There's no place for it here.

FRANK

Two things that don't mix are
medicine and sex.

HOT LIPS

(atremble)

Frank, stop using that word.

She is moving much closer to him, he is leading her behind a standing screen.

FRANK

I'm going to report this to Colonel
Blake.

After a quick, surreptitious glance around:

HOT LIPS

Kiss me first!

FRANK

Please, Margaret. This is a medical
ward and I'm sterile.

HOT LIPS

Oh, Frank!

She grabs him, they kiss passionately through their masks.

CUT TO:

INT. HENRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Henry at his desk; Radar behind him, Hawkeye opposite.

HENRY

And that's it? The whole truth?

HAWKEYE

And nothing but the.

Henry shakes his head sadly.

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

How'd you find out?

HENRY

Let's just say this is a very small
base, and something like this is
hard to keep secret.

HAWKEYE

Hto Lips and Frank?

HENRY
 (shakes his head "no")
 I'm not at liberty to say.

Radar nods his head "yes" as Henry shakes "no." Radar pulls Henry's chair back as Henry stands, walks to Hawkeye, placing his hand on his shoulder paternally.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Looks to me like you only have a few possible choices.

HAWKEYE
 And what are the possible consequences?

HENRY
 Court-martial, dishonorable discharge, civil suits, child support for life, the stockade...

HAWKEYE
 I thought it might be something serious.

HENRY
 Dismissed.

Hawkeye EXITS. Henry turns to Radar.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 What I don't understand is, how did he ever find the time? I never have time for anything like that.

RADAR
 He gave up golf.

HENRY
 Oh...oh, I see. Well, each man to his own pleasures, I suppose.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NURSES' TENT - DAY

Hawkeye is standing before Nancy and Lisa, seated next to each other on a bed.

HAWKEYE
 Okay, I'm a rat! A fink! I'm everything you want to call me.

NANCY
(near tears)
How could you?

Lisa puts her arm around Nancy's shoulder comfotringly.

LISA
Oh, Nancy.

HAWKEYE
Look, there's no use crying. What's done is done.

NANCY
But now that it's done, what do we do?

HAWKEYE
Well, not having slept for two weeks, you can imagine that I've had a lot of time to think. And I've come to a decision.
(beat)
One of you has to step aside.

NANCY
Why?

HAWKEYE
Because I can't marry both of you, that's why. Unless I establish a new religion.

LISA
The decision is not ours to make, it's yours.

HAWKEYE
But I can't. I feel the same way about both of you.

NANCY
Well, I'm not going to give you up.

LISA
Me either.

NANCY
Neither.

LISA
Thank you.

NANCY

You're wel --

HAWKEYE

(cuts in)

Look! Flip a coin, draw straws, arm-wrestle, whatever. I can't divide myself in two because one of you would always be complaining that you didn't get the good part. The ball is in your court, ladies.

NANCY

You don't love us. You just wanted us for our bodies.

LISA

What kind of girls do you think we are, anyhow?

HAWKEYE

Those are all moot questions. Let's look at the facts. When we get home from here I'm going into business as a physician. If all goes well and people keep getting sick, I'm liable to make a good living. I'm quite willing to marry one of you and support the other. But the choice is yours to make. In this case, all I am is a guilty bystander. So you decide and let me know. I'll be around somewhere, you'll find me. This is a small base. Oh, is this a small base.

He walks out.

EXT. NURSES' TENT - DAY

Hawkeye walks a few feet away, stops, thinks, takes out a coin, looks at it, flips it up in the air. It lands. Obviously, he's made a decision. He picks up the coin, walks back toward the tent. Suddenly, he HEARS the two girls LAUGHING. What in the world are they laughing about? Rather than walk right in, he peeks inside surreptitiously.

INT. TENT - SHOOT ACROSS TENT TOWARD ENTRANCE

Nancy and Lisa, their backs to the entrance, are both smoking cigarettes. Hawkeye's head is seen peeking halfway inside the flap.

NANCY
 (laughing)
 The ball is in your court...

LISA
 (laughs)
 Guilty bystander...

NANCY
 (settling down)
 Well, what's our next move?

LISA
 It's so much fun, I don't want it
 to end.

Both begin LAUGHING again. CAMERA ZOOMS to EXTREME CLOSEUP of HAWKEYE just before he pulls his head OUT OF FRAME.

CUT TO:

EXT. MINE FIELD - FULL SHOT - SIGN - MORNING

No one about. Sign reads: "DANGER, MINE FIELD." PULL BACK to reveal Hawkeye. Satisfied he is alone, he pulls sign out of the ground, walks some distance SCREEN LEFT where Trapper waits holding a field pack shovel, having just dug a small hole. Hawkeye puts the sign into it and begins filling in the dirt. Trapper scratches his head in bewilderment.

TRAPPER
 It's a dangerous tactic.

HAWKEYE
 We'll replace it in ten minutes.

TRAPPER
 Wish you'd tell me what your plan
 is. This is a little scary.

HAWKEYE
 Do not be of faint heart, my liege.
 In the end, truth, justice, beauty
 and bravery will triumph over the
 forces of evil.
 (finishes sign business)
 Now, get Lisa; have her back in no
 less than five minutes. Let's
 synchronize our watches.

TRAPPER
 I don't have a watch.

HAWKEYE

Here, wear mine.
 (gives him his)
 See you on this spot at 0625.

TRAPPER

Roger.

Hawkeye smiles, makes a fist, glances an affectionate blow against Trapper's jaw.

HAWKEYE

You make a guy want to reenlist.

They walk OFF together. CAMERA MOVES IN TO MED. SHOT OF SIGN, HOLDS for a few seconds. Suddenly, a hand is laid on it.

NEW ANGLE - FRANK AND HOT LIPS

Frank's hand is on the sign.

FRANK

This sign is in the wrong position.

HOT LIPS

So are we. Let's get back to my tent. We only have twenty minutes before we go on duty.

FRANK

Everything at its proper time, in its proper place.

HOT LIPS

Stop being such a Virgo, Frank. Forget the sign. Let's go!

FRANK

Someone's liable to get maimed here.

HOT LIPS

Frank, please...

Frank pulls sign out of the ground, walks back in the other direction. CAMERA TRUCKS WITH him and Hot Lips.

HOT LIPS (CONT'D)

Frank, we only have eighteen minutes.

FRANK

Patience is a virtue, Margaret.

Hot Lips lets her shoulders slump.

CUT TO:

EXT. MINE FIELD AREA - MORNING

Hawkeye is approaching with Nancy, who tubs some of the morning out of her eyes, in a robe over her nightgown. He carries a copy of "The Prophet" and a martyred look.

HAWKEYE

I have looked deeply into my heart,
Nancy, very deeply. The questions
of what to do reverberated through
my being and I have finally found
the answer.

NANCY

Couldn't you wait until after
breakfast? What a ridiculous hour
you picked.

Hawkeye flips open the book, pretends to read.

HAWKEYE

'Time discovers the truth.'

NANCY

(leans in)
Where does it say that? I've read
that book...

HAWKEYE

(closes book)
In just a few moments, we will have
reached a just solution.

MED SHOT - MINE FIELD SIGN

Trapper and Lisa are already waiting. Lisa is in uniform, having obviously just tossed it on; buttons not buttoned, hair not in place, etc. Hawkeye and Nancy walk INTO SCENE.

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

You ladies may wonder why I've
called you both here.
(deep breath; then)
I make one last plea for your
forgiveness and throw myself at
your feet groveling for mercy.

LISA

The only grovel I'll accept is marriage.

NANCY

The same goes for me.

HAWKEYE

(the martyr)

That being the case, there is but one thing left to do.

Both girls fold their arms across their chests in a "show me" stance. Hawkeye walks to Trapper, shakes his hand.

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

Every man should have at least one friend in his life. As far as I was concerned, you were that friend.

He clasps Trapper to his bosom, pats him on the back. Trapper returns the move, still wonders what it's all about. Hawkeye turns to the two girls, looks very hard at them.

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

I forgive you.

NANCY

Forgive us? For what?

HAWKEYE

For what I'm about to do, I hope you'll forgive me.

LISA

What are you...?

She stops, afraid to finish the question.

HAWKEYE

Since neither one of you is willing to give me up, I'm going to have to divide this adorable and wonderful body into little bits and pieces so that everyone who ever loved Hawkeye Pierce will have a portion of him to take home in a doggy bag. Farewell...I hope the world is kinder...on the other side.

And with that, he walks right past the sign and into the mine field. Both girls are thunderstruck. Trapper is wide-eyed with amusement.

LISA
Hawkeye!

NANCY
Come back!

THEIR P.O.V. - HAWKEYE

He holds a copy of "The Prophet" to his heart and walks slowly and gingerly through what he thinks is clear ground.

TWO SHOT - LISA AND NANCY

LISA
Don't do it!

NANCY
Hawkeye!

ANGLE ON HAWKEYE

He turns, smiles misty-eyed and benignly, nods sagely.

HAWKEYE
Better leave, girls. I want you to remember me as I once was. Whole, hale and hearty...but mostly whole.

He turns, continues walking.

TWO SHOT - LISA AND NANCY

The tension is unbearable. Finally, Nancy breaks.

NANCY
(screams)
Hawkeye! It was a trick!

LISA
(chiming in)
We were trying to get even with you!

ANGLE ON HAWKEYE

HAWKEYE
(turns, sternly)
What? You mean I've been deceived?

Trapper stifles a smile.

INTERCUT:

ANGLE ON LISA, NANCY, HAWKEYE

LISA

Don't kill yourself for us.

NANCY

Please! Don't move! We'll get the mine detectors and...

HAWKEYE

(reflectively)

I wonder if I shouldn't just go on anyhow. To think of what a fool I've been made.

(thinks)

No...no. Despite what you say, life holds no further meaning for me.

He walks, extracting every bit of drama out of it.

LISA

It's all our fault, Hawkeye.

NANCY

Yes, we've been so wrong.

HAWKEYE

(stops, turns)

Would you ever do anything like this again?

NANCY

Oh, no.

LISA

Never, I swear!

HAWKEYE

I'm not talking about me, I'm talking about anyone.

NANCY

I'd never do it again.

LISA

Me, either.

Nancy looks at Lisa, decides this is no time to correct her grammar, continues on.

HAWKEYE

Then we've all learned a lesson.
I'll never do the same thing again
either. And neither. And neither
neither.

He begins to skip lightly across the mine field back toward them.

TWO SHOT - LISA AND NANCY

They are terrified at this cavalier move.

WIDER ANGLE - HAWKEYE

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

Ah, it's good to be alive.

He tosses the book up in the air and it falls to the ground about twenty feet to his left.

CLOSE SHOT - BOOK

It hits the ground and EXPLODES as it contacts a mine.

CLOSE SHOT - HAWKEYE

He now realizes what happened! He's been in a mine field all this time. His expression changes, and he and Trapper exchange the sickliest of smiles.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN

INT. "THE SWAMP" - DAY

Hawkeye and Trapper are relaxing, having a drink. Radar ENTERS with some mail and a biggish carton.

RADAR
You guys got mail.

He hands a couple of letters to Trapper.

TRAPPER
(smells one)
Hmm, perfume. Must be from my
strange nephew.

RADAR
This package is for you, Hawkeye.

He puts it on Hawkeye's cot.

RADAR (CONT'D)
Real heavy. Is it books?

HAWKEYE
(ala Oliver Hardy)
It cointinly is, Stanley.

As Hawkeye starts to open the box:

TRAPPER
Some more copies of 'The Prophet'?

HAWKEYE
(negatively)
Uh-uh. As far as I'm concerned,
'The Prophet' is a loss.
(takes out a couple of
books)
These are cookbooks.

TRAPPER
(puzzled)
Cookbooks?

HAWKEYE
Yep. I think I need a new hobby.
(leafing trough book
pages)
(MORE)

HAWKEYE (CONT'D)

What kind of trouble can I get into
with a chicken?

FADE OUT.

THE END