

Moosebreath, Maine

By Bob Jensenius

Cast

June Midcalf- middle aged, businesswoman, coping with a teenage daughter, a divorce and own ethical standards

Kristel- a recalcitrant teenager; daughter of June

Meredith- middle aged, arrogant businesswomen; gets what she wants

Wilbur Nutts- 20 to 40 years old; large, obnoxious man; likes beer, women and septic tank trucks

Jayne Summers- twenties to thirties, dancer- trying to earn enough money to recover from a job threatening accident; street smart

Eli Bean- adult (any age) meek and weak former accountant

Mr. Smith- middle aged, arrogant businessman; gets what he wants

Scene 1

(The play opens in a fairly modest looking office. There is a desk located in the office. In front of the desk is one chair. There is also a couch across the stage from the desk. There are three signs in the office: Drug test required for employment, No Smoking, MBA on the Wall. There are up to three doors. One is to the outside, the

second is marked bathroom, and a third door that leads to more offices. If need be, the second door can be used to lead to both the bathroom and more offices. Located on the floor is an exercise machine, the Thighgooser 16000 [any "bike like" exercise machine will do; production note one]. Also located on the floor is a life size cardboard figure of a distinguished person [Meredith] in workout clothes, and a coat rack. A pile of résumés is lying on the desk.)

(The door opens and JUNE MIDCALF and her daughter KRISTEL enter the office from the outside door. When JUNE and KRISTEL enter, the wind howls. JUNE struggles to close the door. JUNE walks briskly to the coat rack removing the first layer of winter clothes. She is a middle age professional-looking lady. Kristel is a recalcitrant teenager.)

June

Kristel, let me check to make sure I have a spare set of keys and then you can take the car to school.

Kristel

This has got to be the worst time of my life. How could this happen to me?

June

(still removing layers of clothes and looking for keys)

I know that things have changed but I'm sure we'll be able to work them out.

Kristel

Work them out... Do you know what my life has been like since Dad developed a mid-life crisis and ran off with some bimbo. I'm the only teenager who'll have a stepmother whose bust size is larger than her IQ.

June

Although it's tempting let's not make fun of your soon to be step mom. Besides your father said he was attracted to her critical thinking ability.

Kristel

Well I hear that her "critical thinking abilities" are silicone breast implants. Sort of gives new meaning to words artificial intelligence.

June

Oh look I've found my keys. Give me a kiss and you can head to school. We'll talk about this tonight.

Kristel

School, you call Moosebreath High a school.

June

Kristel we just got here, why don't you give it a chance.

Kristel

The Moosebreath High Mooses and Moosetts! Give me a life.

June

Well as I recall your old school in New York was know as the Shining Knights.

Kristel

Don't you remember anything. Our class voted to change the name to something more meaningful. Something

symbolizing our place in the world. Not some dumb animal.

June

And what would that be?

Kristel

The Shining Volvos.

June

The Shining Volvos...Well it sounds to me like being in a school with some traditional values won't be so bad.

Kristel

I just can't understand why Aunt Meredith would do this to me. Just because Dad dumped you.

June

Kristel you're starting to test my patience. Remember your Aunt Meredith promised me we'd only be here long enough to hire a sales division. Let's just try to get along.

Kristel

Mom that's your problem, you just want to get along. Meanwhile you're nothing but the doormat of the world being trampled on by Aunt Meredith and Dad. When I grow up I'm not going to have people walk all over me. I'm a shining Volvo.

June

I'll see you tonight. Love you and please give it a chance. "OK"?

Kristel

(KRISTEL walks out the door)

I'd do anything to get back to New York.

(Phone rings)

June

Moosebreath, Maine division, Thighgooser 16000- the stimulating way to lose weight- June Midcalf speaking.

(lights go up on a corner of the stage. A middle-aged lady is on the phone, see production note 2)

Meredith

(voice full of airs and a little whiney)

Hello June, this is Meredith. How are you doing?

June

Why Meredith how nice of you to call.

Meredith

How are things in a --- where is it that you are?

June

I'm in Moosebreath Maine, Meredith. Remember you told me starting a new sales division would help me get over divorcing your brother. What's up? (rather short)

Meredith

The reason I called is to remind you of the type of employees I want in my company: dominantly female, athletically trim, well spoken, with a background of jobs that merchandise to an upscale market.

June

Meredith you know I'll only hire the cream of the crop.

Meredith

There's one more thing, our annual sales contest starts in one week and lasts for six months. This year's prize is \$30,000 and three trips for two to Barbados.

June

That sounds interesting. When will I be getting the information?

Meredith

Oh you'll be getting it realllly soon. Good luck June.

June

Goodbye Meredith. Always a pleasure to talk with you.

Meredith

Goodbye June...(firmly puts down phone, picks phone up immediately and dials)

Meredith

(said with a touch of meanness)

Is this the Roe Detective Agency. I want her out of my life, out of my company and my niece back with my brother. Now what are you going to do about it?

Meredith

A what?

Meredith

Great idea, great idea. (Meredith hangs up the phone)

I've got to get to work.

(area goes dark around MEREDITH)

June

(sighs)

Between recalcitrant teenagers and getting divorced, I'll be glad when this chapter of my life is over.

June

(Phone rings)

Moosebreath, Maine division, Thighgooser 16000, the stimulating way to lose weight, June Midcalf speaking.

June

What? Who are you? What do you mean I can't win the contest.? Because she's going to fire me as soon as my replacement is trained? Downsized? That's why she sent me to Moosebreath! Get even? Hello, hello ?

June

Hmmmmm...rigged contest, fire me, replace me...maybe Kristel has something ... maybe I am a doormat... maybe I'm not going to stand by and get downsized out of my job and my marriage. Maybe I will get even! ...Now if I could only figure out how.

(There is a knock at the door and a large unkempt man enters. The man slams the door as the air howls.)

Wilbur

Hey, are you June?

June

Yes, I'm June Midcalf.

Wilbur

I'm Wilbur Nutts. Some lady down at the unemployment office told me I had to apply for some jobs to keep my unemployment... so here I am.

June

May I call you Wilbur?

Wilbur

My friends call me "Big". You may call me anything you like. It don't matter to me.

June

I'll call you Wilbur if you don't mind. Please, have a seat and tell me about your last job.

(WILBUR takes a seat)

Wilbur

Well, I was a lead helper on a septic pumping truck. You know it don't get no better than that. Driving around all day, opening up septic systems- discovering what's inside. You'd be surprised at all the things that float to the top.

Do you want to hear? There was...

June

Please Wilbur. Tell me, if you liked the job so much, how come you're not working there any longer?

Wilbur

It was my boss.

June

What was wrong with your boss?

Wilbur

The boss accused me of having too many beers—and I was on my own time.

June

If I may ask ... exactly how many beers did you have?

Wilbur

Two.

June

(Stated somewhat guarded)

That seems reasonable for a man of your size.

Wilbur

You got that straight honey--- ain't nobody tells
Wilbur Nutts what he can drink for breakfast.

(Belches) Only had one this morning.

June

Wilbur if you must belch say pardon me. Now, please
continue..

Wilbur

Let me show you, because this is the good part. Let's
say that this is the septic tank. (WILBUR walks in a
big circle) Now let's say this is the boss. (WILBUR
brings the figure of MEREDITH). But you know the boss
man don't look like that lady; he's a big, fat, ugly,
crude man. Ain't got no sophistication—know what I
mean?

June

I can just imagine.

Wilbur

The boss man says, "Big, have you been drinking" got
right in my face you know. He invaded my pleasure
zones.

June

Pleasure zones?

Wilbur

Yeah, got right in my pleasure zones.

June

Don't you mean personal space?

Wilbur

Whatever, anyhow he started to say things like: Last week you told a lady customer that if she wouldn't eat so much she wouldn't flush so much, and the system wouldn't get clogged so much. Now you come to work with alcohol on your breath.

(WILBUR jumps to the other side of the imaginary circle)

June

I shouldn't ask, but what happened next?

Wilbur

Why I just grabbed him by the waist and threw him in the septic tank!

(WILBUR throws the figure of MEREDITH in the imaginary septic tank)

June

That's disgusting !!

Wilbur

Disgusting-I'll tell you what's disgusting - when the boss man went in the septic tank he splashed all over my boots and pants.

(puts his foot on the desk)

See!

June

Please get your foot off my desk!

(WILBUR sits down)

Wilbur, a few more questions to measure applicant flow.

What's your gender?

Wilbur

My what?

June

Well I guess I'm going to have to make you a male. How would you describe your physique? Trim, average, stout.

Wilbur

My what?

June

Stand up Wilbur.

June

Now try to put your shoulders back and suck in your stomach. Close enough--average- you can sit down now.

Wilbur

Hey, I'm not sure what part of my body my physique is, but honey I can tell you that ain't nobody has ever called Wilbur "Big" Nutts average.

June

I can believe that. Just one more question--Did you work with upscale customers?

Wilbur

I can answer that one-- I sure did. I've pumped out some of the finest septic tanks in Moosebreath. In fact the richer they were the happier they were to see me. Do you know why?

June

(growing a little impatient)

No Wilbur.

Wilbur

Because they won't use no tree. Yep, won't use a tree.
(shakes head) Oh sure maybe it's a little inconvenient
to use a tree when there's three feet of snow on the
ground and a 40 mile per hour wind. But hey who cares.
Ain't nothing going to fall off.

June

Please Wilbur.

Wilbur

(on a roll)

Here's the best part. If I pulled up and the
homeowners looked like they'd been holding it for a
long time, you know, really dancing around a lot, I'd
tell them the truck was broken, just to watch them
dance some more. (laughs) I just can't wait to get
enough money to get my own truck.

June

One more question in this area. How would you rate
your ability to qualify a buyer?

Wilbur

Qualify a buyer?

June

Let's see if I can relate it to something you would
understand. Hmmm, Here is the best example I think you
can relate to, and Betty Friedan if you are listening,
please forgive me. You know when you go into a bar
looking for, how should I put this, action?

Wilbur

Yeah I can relate to that.

June

You know how you look at each girl to determine which one to ask out based on how easy she looks. That way you won't waste a lot of time.

Wilbur

Wow, you're smarter than I thought.

June

Well Wilbur, in business qualifying a buyer works the same way. You try to size them up to make sure they're a good match for your product and can afford to pay. That way you don't waste a lot of time on hopeless causes.

Wilbur

So you want to know if I can tell if someone is sophisticated and has a lot of bucks? Why didn't you say so in the beginning?

June

Well ...

Wilbur

That's easy, in the septic business we call it the tree test.

June

The tree test?

Wilbur

Yep, to apply the tree test you look at the person and ask yourself this question. If there were three feet of snow on the ground, a wind at 30 miles per hour, 6 below, and the septic tank was clogged, would he or she use a tree?

June

What are you talking about?

Wilbur

If the answer was yes, we'd charge them the regular rate. But, if the answer was no, we'd charge them 20% more. The boss man thought that if they were too dumb not to use a tree, they were also too dumb to realize we were charging them 20% more!

June

I hate to admit it but that's an interesting take on how to qualify a buyer.

Wilbur

(still on a roll)

Well, the next time you're out in public, like at a play or professional wrestling match, look around to the people next to you and ask yourself this question. (WILBUR faces the audience) Would he or she use a tree? If the answer is no, I'd move to another seat.

June

(disgusted)

Do you use drugs?

Wilbur

You won't catch me using no drugs. (WILBUR belches)

June

Didn't you have beer for breakfast?

Wilbur

Don't start messing with my pleasure zones!

June

(under her breath)

I think I've just figured out how to get even.
Corporate image uh ...Well Meredith, as they say in the
beer business, "This one's for you".

June

Wilbur, you're my type of man. I think you'll make a
nice fit in our corporate culture.

Wilbur

So you like what you see in the Big Nutts. Well I ain't
surprised. Maybe we could have a couple of six packs
together. Normally, my women are younger, but hey,
it's 9 am on a Monday and after a few six-packs, who
cares.

June

Wilbur, this is strictly a business relationship. And
in this business we have policies on sexual comments.

Wilbur

Hey, no sweat, I thought a couple of conceptional
adults could have some fun- oh well, there're fresher
fish in the sea.

June

That's consensual adults. Take this employment form,
go over there and complete it.

(WILBUR heads for the couch and belches)

June

And Wilbur, please, when you belch, say pardon me.

June

I can't believe I've lowered myself to take a drug test
for someone just to get even.

(JUNE pulls out envelope marked in big letters-- Drug Testing Kit, takes cup from kit. Looks at cup and starts to get up from behind desk. There is a knock on the door. The door opens, and wind can be heard. A young shapely lady enters. She is dressed in jeans and a long coat. Underneath she is wearing a sweater. She struggles to close the door. After some effort, she gets the door closed).

Jayne

Is this Thighgooser 16000?

June

(walks over to greet Jayne)

Yes it is.

Jayne

Hi, I'm Jayne Summers. I'm here to apply for the job.

June

Hello, I'm June Midcalf. Please hang-up your coat and we can talk.

(WILBUR watches intently, JUNE puts the cup to the side and walks to desk)

Jayne

Here's my resume'. (Pulls out a wrinkled piece of paper)

June

Jayne, I see from your resume that you worked at a place called Twin Topless Towers Two. Can you tell me what you did?

Jayne

I was a dancer.

June

Jayne the job you're applying for is in sales. It involves building client relationships, not dancing. Do you have any work experiences that brought you in close contact with upscale customers?

Jayne

The closer the better.

June

Tell me about your attitude toward customer service.

Jayne

Always give the customer what he wants, and more, but never, never screw him.

June

That's a bit of a pejorative answer, but overall acceptable. Jayne, I know we've only talked for a very brief time, and you're very impressive; but, this is a unique job and you may not be a good fit in this organization--- you are sort of, ah, normal. I'll be in touch.

Jayne

Wait a minute, can't we talk? I only need to work long enough to get my boobs repaired.

June

Excuse me.

Jayne

That's right my boobs burst and I need to get them repaired so I can go back to my old job. Do you want to hear more?

June

(done like Joe Friday of Dragnet)

Just the facts ma'am. You say your boobs burst?

Jayne

(in a matter of fact manner)

That's right, I was riding my bike and my boobs burst.

June

Where were you riding your bike when your boobs burst?

Jayne

My boobs burst while I was riding my bike in Boston.

June

What caused your boobs to burst in Boston while riding your bike?

Jayne

I lost my balance riding my bike, hit a bus and my boobs burst in Boston.

June

What happened after you lost your balance riding your bike, hit the bus causing your boobs to burst in Boston?

Jayne

I lost my balance on my bike, hit a bus, fell on my butt, bounced on my boobs and they burst in Boston.

June

What were you doing in Boston, on a bike, where you lost your balance, hit a bus, fell on your butt, bounced on your boobs and they burst?

Jayne

Buying baked beans.

June

Let's get this straight- while riding your bike to buy baked beans in Boston, you lost your balance, hit a bus, fell on your butt, bounced on your boobs and they burst?

Jayne

Bingo... and now I am saving for new ones.

June

I'm really sorry to hear about your misfortune, but what does that have to do with your previous employment?

Jayne

It's like this: no big boobs, no big bounce, no big bucks.

June

What kind of dancer were you anyway?

Jayne

Topless, what kind did you think?

June

Well I certainly didn't think that kind. How could you do such a thing?

Jayne

What'd you mean, "How could I do such a thing?" It's a living and a good one.

June

It's not my definition of a good living.

Jayne

And what gives you the right to decide what's a good living? An MBA on the wall?

June

(Points to sign that says "MBA on the Wall")

I do have an "MBA on the Wall", see, but that's not the point. The point is we all make choices in life and in my opinion that's a pretty poor choice, and very risky.

Jayne

Right, like I had a lot of choices. Besides, what do you mean very risky?

June

I mean Aids, Herpes, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis A, B...

Jayne

Wait just a minute, you may have a MBA on the wall but let me remind YOU of my definition of customer service. Always give the customers what he wants, and more, but never, never screw him." Bet they never taught you that in your fancy MBA School.

June

They did but it took twelve courses and thirty thousand dollars. Look, I guess I got too judgmental. I still don't approve of what you did, but that's not what're here to talk about.

Jayne

Maybe I got too defensive about my profession, it's just that I grew up on the Lower East Side of Moosebreath and had to be street smart to survive. June you asked the question and I gave you an honest answer. Now, do I have the job or not?

June

Just a few more questions. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?

Jayne

Misdemeanor or felony?

June

Felony.

Jayne

No.

June

Good, Jayne you seem to meet the corporate profile-right gender, good physique, etc. One more hurdle we have to get over for me to offer you the job.

Jayne

What's that?

June

Would you be willing to take a drug test?

Jayne

How about in 48 hours?

June

On second thought don't worry about it. Why don't you go over there and complete the rest of this employment form.

(JAYNE walks over to the couch as WILBUR eyes up JAYNE. JUNE gets out another drug test kit, takes out the cup, and exits to bathroom)

June

I can't believe how low I'm sinking (heads to the bathroom with cup).

Wilbur

(gets up)

Boy you really stuck it to the boss woman. You remind me of John Wayne toilet paper.

Jayne

What?

Wilbur

Yep, John Wayne toilet paper all right.

Jayne

What are you talking about?

Wilbur

In the septic truck business we say people like you remind us of John Wayne toilet paper.

Jayne

And just why do I remind you of John Wayne toilet paper?

Wilbur

(done like John Wayne)

Because you are rough, and tough, and don't take no crap off of nobody!

Jayne

Are you nuts?

Wilbur

(The first part is done like: Bond, James Bond, in a deep voice)

Why yes, ... My name is Nutts, Wilbur Nutts. My friends call me "Big". I guess you've heard about my reputation with the babes. Maybe we can grab some beer at the Moosebreath Inn and Gun Emporium.

Jayne

I'd rather grab a barbed wire fence you...

Wilbur

Yeah well I think you're...

(JUNE exits the bathroom and clears throat JAYNE and WILBUR grumble and sit. There is knock at the door; the door opens, and the wind howls. A man starts to fall through the door. He struggles to shut the door)

June

Will someone shut the door.

Wilbur

Yeah I can.

(With one hand WILBUR slams the door. The man falls flat on his face with a large bang as he hits the floor. WILBUR dust off his hands and walks back to this seat)

Wilbur

What a wimp.

Eli

Ohhhh.

June

Are you all right?

Eli

I think everything is all right except for my face, left shoulder, right knee, both shinbones and small interior toe on my left foot.

June

Hi I'm June Midcalf. (takes Eli's coat)

Eli

(ELI sits on the couch and struggles with his rubbers)

Hi I'm Eli Bean; (continues to struggle) I always have trouble getting my rubbers off; will somebody help please?

Jayne

(JAYNE walks to ELI's feet)

Here let me see what I can do.

Wilbur

Looks like you got two pros helping you in that area.

June

Wilbur I've warned you once before about those types of comments.

June

(JUNE holds ELI's shoulders and JAYNE holds the rubbers)

Now on the count of three: One, two, and three.

(JUNE pulls one way and JAYNE pulls the other.

ELI's pants come flying off in JAYNE's hand. ELI is wearing boxer shorts and socks up to his knees. ELI is immediately embarrassed and starts to cover up.)

Jayne

Three weeks out of the business and I still have my touch. Not bad, not bad at all.

Eli

Give me my pants back; I do have my self-respect. (ELI grabs the pants out of JAYNE's hands and puts them in front of him) This is embarrassing—

Wilbur

If I looked like that I' d be embarrassed too.

June

Mr. Bean just ignore him, why don't you come over to my desk and we can talk.

(ELI trembles as he walks, pants covering his front or, if time permits, he puts them on)

June

Tell me about your previous employment?

Eli

I'm an accountant and owned my own accounting agency.

June

What happened to your business?

Eli

Too much excitement.

June

Too much excitement in an accounting firm -could you elaborate?

Eli

Excuse me a minute.

(ELI stands, takes out a nose inhaler, and proceeds to breathe in and out.

As he exhales his total body trembles)

I'm sorry but every time I think about my accounting firm I start to hyperventilate.

June

Are you "OK"?

Eli

I think so. It's all those 1044's. They just got to be too much. I started to gain weight and take on aggressive characteristics. I hope it doesn't show too much in this interview.

June

No, I don't think you have to worry about that. Eli this is a sales job. For me to better evaluate how you'd do as a salesperson I'd like to do a little role-playing. Let's pretend that I'm a potential customer and I want you to try to sell me your accounting service. Understand?

Eli

I'll do my best.

June

And remember, I want to see how you handle and overcome objections. Now go ahead get up and let me see you pretend that you are going to make a sales call.

Eli

Well fine.

(ELI walks around, makes a knocking noise)

June

Who is it?

Eli

(in a timid voice)

This is Eli Bean.

June

(loud)

What do you want Bean?

Eli

Well, ah, I own the "Eli the Bean Counter Bean Accounting Service" and wanted to know if you needed any accounting?

June

You're the third sales person that's called today, now go away and don't ever come back!!!

Eli

"OK" (ELI turns, head drooped, proceeds to quickly walk to the door)

June

Eli come back . Eli, that was very well done.

Eli

It was?

June

Yes Eli, today there are so many salespeople that just push, push, push. But you Eli, sized up the situation immediately, and went away.

Eli

Why thank you! I pride myself on knowing how to handle tricky situations.

June

Just a couple more things to complete
Physique - trim is the word
Communication skills - excellent
Upper class - in Moosebreath Maine, you bet
Gender - Hmmm. If female is what Meredith wants, female is what she gets!

June

Eli, I'm getting a little tired going to the bathroom. I don't think you'll have any problems passing a drug test, do you?

Eli

NO.

June

Thank Goodness!

Eli

Because I only take prescription drugs.

June

Prescription drugs. What kind?

Eli

I only have a few prescriptions.

(ELI reaches in his pocket and starts to pull out pill bottles)

For instance I have high dose Pepcid for my ulcer, (plops down bottle) twice a day.

(pulls out another bottle) Prozac for my nerves, four times a day.

(pulls out another bottle) Sudafed as a decongestant, as needed.

(pulls out another bottle) Doxycycline Hyclate for my irritable bowel, once a day.

June

Stop Eli, I get the picture.

Eli

But I want you to know I don't take aspirin, bad for my stomach.

June

That's fine Eli, please go over there and have a seat on the Thighgooser 16000.

(JUNE walks over to the water cooler up and gets a drink)

I didn't spend this much time in the bathroom when I was nine months pregnant.

(ELI walks over to the Thighgooser 16000, and gets on. WILBUR and JAYNE walk over to the Thighgooser 16000, June follows)

June

(going into an obvious sales pitch; ELI starts the workout)

This is the Thighgooser 16000 the stimulating way to lose weight. As Eli swings into action you can see the calories leaping off his taut body. Every motion of the Thighgooser is designed to maximize efficient calorie loss. After only two and one-half weeks the average weight loss is well over 17 ounces.

Many of you are asking yourself, How is this different from the hundreds of exercise products you see advertised ad nauseam on TV every day of your life?

Eli

Ms. Midcalf I'm starting to get tired.

June

Just wait, I've saved the best for last. The secret power button for the ultimate workout. This button has seventeen different patents and is what makes the Thighgooser 16000 the ultimate stimulating workout machine.

(JUNE presses the button).

Eli

(jumps out of seat)

Ohhh... Ahhhhhhhhhhh - (smiles and starts to peddle faster)

(phone rings)

June

Thighgooser 16000, the stimulating way to lose weight-
June Midcalf speaking.

(lights go up on the side of the stage)

(MEREDITH has her hand over the mouthpiece of the phone)

Meredith

(yelling)

How was I to know she'd quit. Now I have to keep June on until I can train someone. That detective agency's plan better work. (removes hand, pleasant voice) Hello June it's Meredith, I'm afraid I have some bad news.

June

(covers phone and mumbles to herself)

She couldn't even fire me in person. And what might that bad news be?

Meredith

Well, I am afraid we've had a restructuring and its going to affect you...

June

Excuse me Meredith. (covers the phone, glares at WILBUR who trying to push ELI off the Thighgooser 16000 while JAYNE struggles to keep him on)

June

All of you stop! (removes hand from phone)

(WILBUR has made a fist toward JAYNE; JAYNE has made a fist toward WILBUR and ELI is in the middle with his hands over his head ducking)

(somewhat mockingly)

I hope it doesn't effect me adversely, because I've assembled one of the most sophisticated, pleasantly aggressive sales teams in the history of Thighgooser 16000. In fact they've just started to gel into one great (pausing for a second) fighting unit.

Meredith

Well, that's good to hear, because you're going to be in Moosebreath, Maine for the foreseeable future.

June

I knew this was going to happen! I've got the meanest employee rights lawyer and I (a change in voice as she realizes what was just said,) am, am, going to be in Moosebreath, Maine for the foreseeable future?

What do you mean I'm going to be in Moosebreath, Maine for the foreseeable future?

Meredith

Why yes June, I know you were planning to come back to New York, and you don't know how disappointed I am that things didn't work out the way I wanted. But for the time being you are our main person in Moosebreath.

June

This is a joke, right?

Meredith

June, you just told me you have one of the most unique sales teams a manager could want. I think you said, a real fighting unit. Now go out there and sell the Thighgooser 16000.

(MEREDITH hangs up)

June/Meredith

(In unison)

Great, not only do I have to put up with her for the near future, but the Moosebreath, Maine division has a real fighting sales team. Great, Just Great!

End of scene one.

Scene Two

Six months later

(KRISTEL is talking on the phone)

Kristel

I can't talk long, Mom's in the next room. Aunt Meredith you promised me that if I cooperated you'd get me back to New York. I can't stand this place much longer.

Meredith

Kristel I told you to keep your mouth shut. I'll get you back to New York. You know the plan.

Kristel

Well, which employee is the spy?

Meredith

Look I've got to keep my distance so when things happen, and I promise they will, it can't be traced

back to me. I don't know them and they don't know me.
That's why I'm using a detective agency.

Kristel

In the end you're sure this won't hurt my Mom.

June

(off stage)

Kristel

Kristel

Got to go. Bye

(JUNE comes in the room from the interior door)

June

Kristel thanks for waiting. Before you leave for
school here's a check for the senior trip.

Kristel

Mom the trip's to Boston to look at tall buildings and
a baseball stadium. Let me try to contain my
excitement.

(JUNE finishes writing the check, hands to

KRISTEL)

Mom I don't want to go. Even half-dead people who went
to school in the dinosaur days of the 70's wouldn't
want to go.

June

Just take the check and sign up for the trip.

Kristel

Why would you let yourself get in this position?

June

(starting to lose her cool)

I've told you the reasons a million times: I'm middle
aged, divorced, raising a teenage daughter, and have

worked with the same company for twenty years.
Opportunities just don't come knocking at my door.

Kristel

Well!!

June

Really things are getting better. And besides, working here has helped me to get out of the shadow of my ex-husband and Meredith.

Kristel

That's easy for you to say... I'm off for another exciting day as a Moosebreath Moosette.

June

Give me a kiss. Drive carefully. See you tonight.

(KRISTEL leaves; JUNE walks over and stands by the flip chart. JAYNE and ELI enter from the outside door. On the flip chart in big letters are "Six Month Sales".)

Eli

Ahhhh springtime in Moosebreath. (discouraged) What a morning, what a morning, 23 degrees and I've lost my mittens.

June

Where's Wilbur he's late.

(WILBUR burst through the door as the wind blows. WILBUR is in shorts, is happy and has a suitcase; puts suitcase by coat rack)

Wilbur

Ahhhhhh springtime in Moosebreath. What a morning!
What a morning! It was a level five Michael Jackson
alert...

Eli

What's a level five Michael Jackson alert?

Jayne

You had to ask.

Wilbur

You know how they classify earthquakes on that there
rectum scale. Well in the septic truck business we
classify non-tree users on the Michael Jackson scale.
A Michael Jackson level one looks like this.

(WILBUR crosses and arms)

And a full force level five Michael Jackson looks like
this.

(WILBUR starts dancing vigorously and doing the
moon walk)

Jayne

And I thought some of my customers were weird!

June

Wilbur you're late. Now take your seat. (WILBUR takes
his seat) I've called this meeting for two reasons.
First, tomorrow marks the end of the six-month sales
contest.

(JUNE flips the chart)

For reasons that are beyond my ability to comprehend,
The Moosebreath division is almost tied for first place
with the New York City Division. (USE THE NAME OF THE
COMMUNITY WHERE THE PLAY IS BEING PERFORMED) As of

today's date we have sold 4271 units and New York has sold 4281 units (the flip chart has two bar graphs showing Moosebreath and New York). I don't have to remind you that there's a cash prize and trips to Barbados for the winning division. Any questions?

(GROUP starts to get up and leave)

Group

No.

June

I'm not sure how to bring this up. Meredith has hired an industrial psychologist to analyze how sales divisions think. She wants us to take this physiological test.

Jayne

What business is it of hers how we think or if we think (looks at WILBUR), just as long as we sell?

June

I really don't want to debate this. "OK" Let's just take the test so we can get back out and win the contest.

(JUNE passes out the test and pencils the others take their seats)

We're going to be taking two types of tests this morning. The first one is analytical. Here's an example.

(She turns the next page on the flip chart-- the question is written on the chart. June reads the flip chart. The audience can see the flip chart)

Each player of a four-member hockey team John, Paul, George and Ringo, skates with the puck and then passes it to another player. The following is true about one play.

John passed the puck to George.

Paul received the puck from Ringo.

Ringo skated with the puck before John.

Now the question—who skated with the puck second?

(WILBUR starts to snore. JAYNE gives him a shove to wake him up)

June

Please, I know you don't do this every day.

Wilbur

What's this good for anyway?

Eli

I think I have the answer.

June

You do. (somewhat amazed)

Eli

Yes the answer must be Paul. (ELI laughs)

June

(JUNE looks at the side of the paper)

Good Eli that's correct. Now the last test is verbal. Wilbur, since you came in late today why don't you try this one.

Wilbur

Verbal is like words right.

(JUNE nods her head yes)

Wilbur

Wilbur the "Big Nutts" knows a lot of words.
Especially in the category of love words.

(JUNE hands WILBUR a chalk slate)

June

(flips the chart)

Today's final category is word association.

Here goes---Satellite is to Earth as:

- (A) belt: pants
- (B) glove: hand
- (C) escalator: store
- (D) bridge: bay
- (E) water: soil

And remember Wilbur you have 30 seconds to write down
your correct response.

(Lights dim with a spotlight on WILBUR. As WILBUR
scratches his head he starts to write. JUNE,
JAYNE, and ELI all hum the theme to Jeopardy for
around 30 seconds. About halfway through the song
Wilbur pulls out a washcloth and starts to wipe
his brow. After he wipes his brow he rings out
the washcloth. When the song is over...)

Group

Dong, Dong

June

Wilbur time's up. What is the correct response to the
final question.

Wilbur

(WILBUR holds up the slate that says—water: soil)

June

Wilbur says the correct response is water: soil. And the final answer is belt: pants

(JUNE flips up her own chart that says Belt:

Pants)

Sorry Wilbur you're wrong.

Wilbur

Big deal! What does this have to do with cleaning a septic tank or selling the Thighgooser 16000?

June

Please all of you—Meredith has paid this industrial psychologist a lot of money.

Wilbur

Well it sounds to me like Meredith bought the King's old clothes.

Jayne

Wilbur you bonehead, that's the Emperor's new clothes.

Wilbur

Ain't nobody calls Wilbur "Big" Nutts a name and gets away with it.

June

Both of you, please, it's 8:30 and we have to begin the test.

Wilbur

Wait, it's 8:30? The Smith account is coming in thirty minutes.

Eli

What Smith account?

Wilbur

The Smith account that wants to order 400 Thighgooser 16000 for his 60 Bronze and Beer clubs. Why that man is so rich he's got three septic tanks.

June

Wilbur, why didn't you say something ahead of time so we could prepare?

Wilbur

The sale is almost in the tank except for one thing.

June

What's that?

Wilbur

Mr. Smith don't like no women or sissies selling him sports equipment. Mr. Smith says it just ain't manly and don't fit the image of his customers. He likes strong, real men.

(WILBUR looks at ELI).

June

What are you saying?

Wilbur

What I'm saying is that I told him I worked with all strong, real men.

June

Why that's sexist!

Wilbur

Well, I don't know if he's sexy or not. All I know is I ain't getting no sale unless you're men.

June

I refuse. If he can't buy from women I don't want the sale.

Jayne

Don't we need the sales to push us over the top and win the sales contest?

Eli

Mrs. Midcalf if we don't get the sale we won't win the contest and get the trip to Barbados. My wife is counting on me winning the trip for two. She and her mother are so looking forward to going. Mrs. Midcalf (said meekly) if she doesn't get the trip she will get very, very nasty.

June

I may not have much in life but I do have my principles.

Wilbur

I've heard the way you talk about Meredith. You hate her slimy guts. Yet you kiss up to her (WILBUR makes a kissing sound) to make money. What's the difference?

June

She's the owner of this company; not a sexist man who looks down on women.

Jayne

(said emphatically)

She's a snob who looks down on both men and women who don't have money. In my mind there's not a whole lot of difference between this Smith guy and Meredith. I'm

happy to take BOTH their money. In fact, it makes **me** feel superior. .

June

I don't like this one bit, but I'll give it a try.

Wilbur

Now I brought some clothes from home.

Jayne

Wilbur, I want you to know that I'm doing this for the money, not for you.

(JAYNE and JUNE exit to change clothes)

(WILBUR grabs ELI by the neck, half knocking him off his feet)

Eli I'm going to teach you how to act like a man.

Eli

But I am a man.

Wilbur

What's your age?

Eli

(ELI stands very erect shaking slightly)

I'm 32.

Wilbur

Eli you're a disgrace. Thirty-two years old and you haven't started your beer gut yet. Why when I was your age I already had a fine beer gut going. Here take this and put it in your stomach.

(WILBUR hands him a small pillow, ELI puts the small pillow inside his shirt. WILBUR adjusts the pillow)

Here, make sure it hangs over your belt...Now, let's see you walk.

Eli

You want me to walk?

Wilbur

Yeah.

(ELI walks very erect across the room.)

Wilbur

Eli, you don't even walk like no man.

Eli

But my mother taught me to walk this way.

Wilbur

That's your problem Eli---it was your mother.

Eli

Well.

Wilbur

First, men don't walk with their shoulders like that. (grabs Eli's shoulders and pushes them around) And second, men walk with their feet pointed out so they can show off their bodies... now you try it.

(ELI walks back and forth with his feet pointed slightly out, shoulders drooped and fake gut hanging out, arms stiff)

Wilbur

Eli you have to swing your arms a little like you, sort of a, like you a, ... shot a big moose! Watch me.

(WILBUR walks with his hands swinging, gut hanging out, shoulders drooped and feet pointed)

Now Eli, you try it.

(ELI walks like before with his arms swinging)
Eli, that was pretty good. Let me see you sit in this chair and put out your hand.

Eli

Why?

Wilbur

This is what God intended man to do with his hands.

(WILBUR pulls out a beer from under his shirt, opens it, takes a slug and passes it to ELI; pulls from his other pocket a TV remote control and places it in ELI's other hand)

Eli

(ELI holds up the TV remote)

What's this?

Wilbur

It's a TV remote!

Eli

You carry a TV remote with you?

Wilbur

Boy, do you have a lot to learn. Every night across this fine nation real men sit in front of the TV and flip channels. The real pros can flip for hours.

Eli

WOW--and their wives don't mind?

Wilbur

Of course their wives mind Eli---that's why men do it.

Eli

(looks at other hand)

What's this?

Wilbur

Beer.

Eli

I don't think we should have beer at work. I'm sure that Mrs. Midcalf would think it violates company policy and regulations.

Wilbur

All I see around here are no smoking signs. Here, take a slug.

(WILBUR pushes the can of beer to ELI's mouth and forces him to take a slug)

Eli

(ELI swallows some beer and chokes on some as it spills on his shirt)

Please Wilbur, that was uncalled for.

Wilbur

I'm only trying to make you a man.

Eli

(Belches quietly, gently pounds chest and quietly says)

Pardon me.

Wilbur

Eli what's wrong with you? (Shouting)

Eli

I said pardon me. I'm sorry, it's just the beer went down to quickly.

Wilbur

Eli, you don't even belch like no man.

Eli

I refuse, that's disgusting. Besides are you sure that real men belch?

Wilbur

When I was pumping out septic tanks I seen it a dozen times. The man comes home, unbuttons his polyester suit, goes to his chair, gets his TV remote in one hand and a drink in the other. Now if he's a real man, the type that would use a tree, the drink of choice is beer. If he's a wimpy non-tree using man he'll have some kind of a mixed drink like a, scotch and a, a, (WILBUR is trying to think of a drink)-- prune juice. And do you know what happens next?...He belches.

Eli

Oh my.

Wilbur

Now stand up and walk across the room. Eli you might call this your final exam.

(ELI looks very serious as he crosses the room to start his walk.)

Wilbur

Eli this is it, you really need to concentrate.

(ELI starts by slumping shoulders; then turns feet slightly out; tries to stick out stomach; then starts to walk swinging arms, rounds the chair and plops down in the chair; picks up TV remote and makes a motion to turn on TV; picks up the beer and takes a swig, then looks up)

Eli

Please forgive me mother. (a small belch) Ahhhhhhhh

Wilbur

Congratulations Eli you've made it; you're the cream-de-la-cream of men.

I hereby anoint you Eli "little nuts" Bean.

(ELI stands up and shakes WILBUR's hand)

While you're up why don't you get rid of that poster of Meredith. If Mr. Smith ever found out this company was owned by a woman he would croak. Besides he wants a poster of a macho man and a hot adoring woman to attract customers.

(ELI carries out two new life-size characters from off stage. They are draped. The poster should be of some well know person in the community.

WILBUR speaks as ELI places the life-size characters next to the Thighgooser 16000.)

I called the home office for posters and they referred me to the New York City (substitute the area of the performance, same as used in the flip chart) Division of Thighgooser 16000. According to NYC Division they've sent us the hottest couple in New York. Eli, show me New York 's idea of the sexiest couple in the city.

Eli

(undrapes the poster, looks at it, and shirks)

Ekkkkkkkkkkkk (It's a picture of Rudy Giuliani and Hillary Clinton). What happened?

Wilbur

Beats me! I told them I wanted two people that caused sparks to fly.

Eli

Oh Wilbur, for middle age people they're not bad looking, but if that's their definition of a hot adoring couple there must be some strange looking people walking around New York City. (CITY OF PERFORMANCE) But how do we explain it to Mr. Smith?

Wilbur

I don't know Eli; I ain't no rocket surgeon.

(JUNE and JAYNE enter dressed in male business attire)

Jayne

This is the first time I played "dress up" for a man and was expected to keep my clothes on.

June

I still don't like this. (Looks at ELI) Eli what happened to you?

Wilbur

Do you two need a lesson on how to be a real man?

June

I have an ex-husband who's supplied me with twenty years of lessons on how to be a real man. It's not exactly a DEMANDING ROLE. Where's my beer and TV remote. I'd love to help you around the house, it's just been a hard day and I need to unwind with some six packs (JUNE belches).

Eli

WOW, Wilbur was right.

(There is knock at the door, WILBUR goes to answer the door. Mr. SMITH steps through the door as the wind howls.)

Wilbur

I'd like to introduce you to Howard Reece Spaulding Smith the third. Mr. Smith's parents came to America on the Maypower (JUNE shakes her head) and he's the owner of the Bronze and Beer clubs.

Mr. Smith

(very arrogant attitude; throws coat to WILBUR to hang on coat rack)

I'm here to see the Thighgooser 16000, plus you promised me some posters.

June

(in a very masculine voice)

Hi, I'm John Midcalf.

Jayne

(raspy male voice)

Hi, I'm Chuck Summers.

Mr. Smith

Haven't I met you before?

Jayne

I don't think so.

Mr. Smith

I don't have much time. Let's see the machine and the posters.

Jayne

(turning to JUNE, speaking softly)

He was a customer in Boston, not a very good tipper.

Mr. Smith

The posters are perfect.

Wilbur and Eli

They are?

Mr. Smith

Yes, they are the perfect "before" posters.

Eli

Why didn't we think of that.

Wilbur

Mr. Smith I'd like you to meet ah, ah, Rock Eli. (ELI walks over to meet R. SMITH, starts to walk in his old style then WILBUR clears his throat,)

Eli

Oh.

(goes into a slump position, feet to the side, gut hanging out, arms swinging, Mr. Smith vigorously shakes hand as Eli gets a pained look on his face)

Mr. Smith

(turns away from WILBUR)

Who's in charge here? My time is valuable.

June

(Goes over to the Thighgooser 16000)

Mr. Smith let me show you our product that is guaranteed to, not only make you lose weight, but improve your mental attitude, thus improving the various relationships you have in the workplace, and with your fellow person, or I mean man.

Mr. Smith

I don't have time to fool with some psychobabble, touchy-feelie, feminine nonsense. Let's just cut to the chase. Here's my deal: I want 400 of those machines at 850 dollars per machine. You've got twenty-four hours to decide. Understand?

Wilbur

I understand sir.

Mr. Smith

I want you to know one more thing, I can order like machines from one of those info babes on TV. I like you, because I like dealing with men, especially when I am buying for men. The Bronze and Beer Club has an image to uphold. You got twenty-four hours.

(MR. SMITH, head held high, very arrogantly puts on coat and leaves).

June

He's the most disgusting person I've seen in my life.

(Phone rings)

(Lights go on a quarter of the stage with MEREDITH)

June

Thighgooser 16000 the stimulating way to lose weight-
June Midcalf speaking.

Meredith

Why, hello June, it's Meredith.

June

Hello Meredith. (Puts hand to head)

(WILBUR starts to make a kissing sound)

Meredith

I just wanted to mention that it looks like you're going to lose the contest.

That's too bad honey.

June

What do you mean? What are you talking about?

(WILBUR sensing a degree of concern in JUNE's voice stops the mocking)

Meredith

I mean the New York City division (use community where this play is being performed) has surpassed you in sales by 350 units and the contest is over at the close of business tomorrow.

June

(upset)

Look Meredith I think we're still in the running, in fact we may get a big order in the next 24 hours.

Meredith

(like JUNE two sentences before)

What do you mean?

June

I mean we have a big order that may come in tomorrow.

Meredith

Well...I can't believe that. I think I need to take a trip to Moosebreath to see if my policies are being followed. In fact, I'm coming tomorrow. Good Bye!

(puts down phone, redials phone, very mad)

I thought you told me your detective paid off one of the employees and there was no way that Moosebreath could win the contest.

Meredith

(pause)

Well there better be enough on her. Because either I fire her or I am going to fire you. But somebody is going to roll tomorrow.

(slams down the phone, goes dark)

June

(standing up wiping the sweat from her brow)

I need everyone's attention. Please, I need everyone's attention.

(ELI, JAYNE, WILBUR walk over to JUNE's desk)

June

We have a problem, Meredith is coming tomorrow.

Eli

What kind of problem?

June

Well, actually two problems. The first problem is that I was a bit disingenuous when I helped you fill out the employment forms. You see I had to put down that we had hired two women and one man. I'm sorry Eli, but according to your job application you're a woman.

Eli

What?

Wilbur

You mean you lied? The perfect June Midcalf lied. Weren't you the one that just called me on the rug for lying?

June

Wilbur I shouldn't have done what I did. And you shouldn't have told a customer she needed the Thighgooser 16000 because she had to work off her buffalo butt.

Jayne

It sounds to me like neither of you have been too honest. So what's the problem?

June

It's that Meredith strongly believes women have been discriminated against and wants the large majority of her employees to be woman. In order to accomplish this she's set up hiring guidelines. When you look at people like Mr. Smith, she's right about that.

Eli

Meredith's guidelines sound admirable, so what **is** the problem?

June

They are admirable Eli. It's just that--under her guidelines--well-- I wouldn't been allowed to hire you.

Eli

You mean you wouldn't have hired me just because I'm a man? Does that mean I'm going to get terminated?

June

No, Eli I won't let that happen to you... And there's another problem. It's not just women she wants, it's slim sophisticated women to project the wholesome look of Thighgooser 16000. It all comes down to corporate image.

Wilbur

Kinda of like Mr. Smith's Bronze and Beer clubs ...it's corporate image.

June

Meredith may be many things, but she has the best intentions.

Eli

I don't understand Meredith's or Mr. Smith's intentions.

Jayne

(turns sideways and puffs up chest)

Well my intentions are to win the contest, get the bonus and upgrade my corporate image.

June

All of you come here. Our bonus and trip are riding on her visit; she'll stop at nothing to disqualify us. The last thing I want is to lose to those people from New York City. (use city were being performed)

(as the curtain closes)

Eli

But I don't want to be a woman!

(WILBUR makes a kissing sound)

End of Scene 2

Act Two

Next day

(JAYNE is standing in the room; she is talking to the interior door)

Jayne

Did you get a dress?

Eli

(off stage)

It's my wife Bertha's. (throws dress to JAYNE; JAYNE opens dress) She weighs a few hundred pounds more than I do. It's a little big.

Jayne

Eli you need some of my clothes. They're next to the calendar. And Eli wear the smaller bra. It's the one I used after the accident in Boston.

(phone rings)

Jayne

Thighgooser 16000, the stimulating way to lose weight-
Jayne Summers speaking.

(silence)

Jayne

Why Mr. Smith I'm just the fill-in receptionist and Wilbur isn't here. Let me transfer you to Chuck Summers.

(silence)

(now in a deep voice)

This is Chuck Summers.

(Silence)

Hi Mr. Smith--- How are you hitten em ?

(Silence)

Of course you can stop by today.

(Silence)

What time? Anytime is fine with me.

(Silence)

See you later.

(JAYNE hangs up the phone as ELI enters, he is dressed in spike high heels; black hose; a tight, short, mini skirt; blouse; and the large bra. He puts one hand on his hip and one hand on the top of the door. ELI looks very sexy)

Eli

(said pensively)

Well, how do I look?

Jayne

(preoccupied, not looking at ELI)

Oh, I'm sure you look gorgeous.

Eli

Are you sure that sophisticated women dress like this? Isn't this a little wild?

(ELI starts to walk slowly and awkwardly as JAYNE does a double take)

Jayne

(surprised)

Eli you put on the wrong bra and skirt. I wore those professionally before my accident in Boston.

Eli

Do you want me to change? My guess is it's easy to get off.

Jayne

No, we don't have the time. Now can we get started.
Let's try walking.

(ELI walks in the manner that WILBUR taught him to walk, face down, legs out, etc.)

Jayne

ELI that's all wrong. I better start by showing you how to stand; put your shoulders back, and chest out.

(ELI stands in a slouch then rapidly jerks his shoulders and chest back. ELI loses his balance from the force of the chest going back and starts to fall backwards. JAYNE catches Eli.)

Eli

Boy, there's a lot of force when you get those things moving.

Jayne

Take it easy Eli. Now try to do it slowly.

(ELI moves shoulders slowly from a slouched position to an upright position)

Good---Now try walking.

(ELI walks swinging his hips in an exaggerated manner)

No Eli, walk like this

(JAYNE walks across the room in a lady-like manner)

Now, you try it.

Eli

All right, I'll try again.

(ELI walks across the room, as he approaches the end of the room, he says)

I think I'm getting the hang of this.

(While speaking ELI turns his head toward JAYNE and smiles. At that moment ELI trips. He falls on the couch and bounces back up.)

Jayne

Eli are you all right?

Eli

I'm "OK", at least these things (points to chest) broke the fall.

Jayne

I need to make a phone call. Why don't you go sit down.

(ELI goes over to the couch and attempts to sit down in the tight dress. ELI makes several attempts but gets stuck about halfway down.)

Eli

(said sheepishly)

Oh no, I think I'm stuck (looks at audience).

(makes several more desperate attempts to sit down but fails)

Well here goes nothing.

(ELI makes a rocking motion and then jerks back. His shoulders and chests fly backward propelling ELI backward in the couch. At that moment JAYNE hangs up the phone.)

Jayne

Eli how're you doing?

Eli

Boy, being a woman is a lot tougher than I thought.

(JUNE and WILBUR enter through the door, WILBUR is dressed in a dark conservative suit, cleanly shaved, hair neatly combed to the side)

June

Now Wilbur, you remember what I told you.

Wilbur

Yeah, yeah, act like the strong silent sophisticated type. (WILBUR belches)

June

How many times do I have to tell you when you belch say pardon me.

Wilbur

(Walks over to JAYNE and puts his arm around her)

Pardon me, Hey babe want a chance to have some fun with the strong silent type. How about you go down to the Moosebreath No-Tell Motel for some action with the Big "Sophisticated" Nutts.

June

Wilbur I've warned you in the past about unwarranted sexual remarks. I just don't know how to get your attention.

Jayne

I do.

(JAYNE puts her arms on WILBUR as if to kiss him,
turns him around and kicks WILBUR in the groin)

That's how you get his attention (rubs her hands
together). (looking at JUNE) Your problems are over.

(WILBUR doubles over)

June

Jayne striking another employee is against company
policy.

Jayne

Wilbur, do you understand that I think you're a pig and
I don't want anything to do with you.

Wilbur

(high voice, nods head)

Pardon me.

Jayne

Case closed.

June

I'll deal with both of you later. Now look, Meredith
will be here any minute now. We must make a good
impression. I don't want to loose to New York City (use
city were being performed)

(knock at the door)

June

That's probably her right now.

Meredith

(Door flies open, wind howls and MEREDITH steps
through.)

Would somebody please shut the door.

(JUNE gives WILBUR and JAYNE a quick look. WILBUR reacts by walking, feet out, and bent to the door. So does JAYNE. They shut the door. ELI, who is having trouble getting out of the chair, stays where he is).

June

Meredith welcome to the Moosebreath division of Thighgooser 16000.

(WILBUR, still bent over, starts to make a kissing sound, while ELI throws up his hands giving up on getting out of the chair. JAYNE shows WILBUR her fist and WILBUR stops.)

Meredith

(dressed very smartly; head held high; voice has an air of destination)

You mean welcome to my division of Thighgooser 16000. I'd like to meet MY staff.

June

Certainly, first let me introduce you to Jayne Summers.

Jayne

(Speaking in an English accent-- everyone else looks shocked)

Hello very sporting to meet you.

Meredith

Why it sounds like you're from England.

Jayne

Why, yes, I'm from London.

Meredith

(very suspiciously)

Why would a person from London be working in a place like this?

Jayne

My husband, Lord Summers, is here to study the relationship between the black fly and the moose population. I got so lonesome I had to take the job.

Meredith

If I'm not being too impertinent to a lady of your ancestry, what did you do while you were in London?

Jayne

I was working on my Ph.D. thesis.

Meredith

Oh, how nice to meet an intellectual. What's your Ph.D. thesis about?

Jayne

I was doing research on the involuntary reactions of men to modern impressionistic dancing.

Meredith

(first sentence said very slowly)

Hmmm, the involuntary reactions of men to modern impressionistic dancing- Wow, I bet that was a hard subject to research.

Jayne

(smiles)

You have no idea.

June

I think we can talk about your vocation at a later date. (gives JAYNE a dirty look) Now I'd like to introduce you to Wilbur Samson Nutts the second. We like to think of him as the strong silent type.

(when JUNE says silent she faces WILBUR and gives him a stern look)

(WILBUR walks very slowly, feet out, and bent over to meet MEREDITH)

Wilbur

(approaching MEREDITH and in a high voice)

Hi, my friends call me Wilbur -

(pauses, looks at the audience, then looks back to MEREDITH)

OneNutt!

Meredith

Hello Mr. OneNutt. You look like you're in some discomfort. Are you suffering from some sort of back pain?

Wilbur

Lower.

June

I'd like to introduce you to the last member of our sales staff, Eliza.

(ELI tries to stands up but it is no use)

(JUNE and MEREDITH walk over to where ELI is seated)

Eli

I'm sorry I can't get up. It's just that I'm too tired from selling all those Thighgoosers.

Meredith

Now that's what I like to hear. (MEREDITH turns to JUNE and in a loud whisper) She appears to be a little odd, but certainly has the figure we're looking for.

June

Yes there's certainly more to her figure than meets the eye.

Meredith

Now June I want to audit your personnel records, where are they?

June

They're in the top draw.

(MEREDITH walks over to the file cabinet and opens the top drawer; meanwhile JUNE signals to WILBUR to help get ELI out of the chair; WILBUR walks, bent over, to the couch where ELI is seated.)

Wilbur

(spoken in a whisper)

Eli, you've got to get up.

Eli

I've fallen and I can't get up.

Wilbur

Get up-- didn't I teach you how to be a man?

Eli

I'm not a man, I'm a woman and I can't get up!

Wilbur

"OK" we'll do it on the count of three. (WILBUR goes over to ELI and gets him by the hands) (still in a loud whisper) One, Two, Three!

(WILBUR yanks ELI to his feet; ELI loses his balance and falls behind the couch)

Eli

Oh no!

(ELI stumbles behind the couch and the sound of crashing noise is heard, then ELI is heard in a faint voice, moaning)

Ohhhhhhh!!

(WILBUR brushes his hands together and starting to get his voice back)

Wilbur

Little wimp- At least I don't have to worry about him retaliating.

Meredith

(turning from the file cabinet)

What was that?

June

It was only some moose mating. Don't worry about it.

Meredith

June, I want to know why the personnel records are completed?

June

Oh Meredith keep looking.

Eli

Ohhhhhh

(ELI proceeds slowly through the door or from behind the couch in obvious pain. His wig is out of place, his blouse is halfway out of his skirt, and he is walking with a limp. The biggest problem is his bra has shifted sideways so that one breast is on his back and one breast is in the middle of his front. When ELI first comes in he is bent over so the hump (or breast) on his back is apparent to the audience. ELI slowly stands erect so at the end he is standing straight with one breast in the middle of his body).

June

(JUNE is the first to notice the problem)

Jayne why don't you help Meredith look for the test.

(JUNE motions to WILBUR about the problem. WILBUR looks perplexed then catches on. He walks over slowly, still bent over, to help ELI. Both men struggle to get his bra on straight, the struggle is somewhat disorganized. At the moment that WILBUR pulls the bra on straight MEREDITH speaks)

Meredith

(Loudly)

What's going on?

June

What'd you mean?

Meredith

Do you always allow your employees to fondle each other?

(all eyes turn to WILBUR and ELI, WILBUR looks down at his hands, realizes what has happened and removes them in an exaggerated manner)

Eli

(with a voice full of airs, and trying to muster up courage)

Excuse me.

Meredith

Eliza (Eli) you don't have to put up with that; stick up for yourself. I think such behavior is deplorable. The only way to get that type of man's attention is to fire him.

Eli

(getting more courage)

You're right, I'm tired of being pushed around. But I know a better way to get, not a man, but a bully's attention.

(ELI kicks WILBUR in the groin, WILBUR doubles up)

(There is a knock at the door)

Jayne

(yells)

Who is it?

Mr. Smith

It's Howard Reece Spaulding Smith the third.

Jayne

Uh oh- June I forgot to tell you Mr. Smith is coming over sooner than we thought-

Mr. Smith

Come on it's getting cold out here!

Meredith

Who's that yelling?

June

Oh, it's just one of the common street people. Pay no attention to him.

Mr. Smith

(bursts through door and throws coat on couch)

I'm no street person, I'm coming in. Now where is Wilbur Nutts?

Wilbur

(Walking over in pain)

Wilbur Nutts couldn't be here today, he sent me in his place. I'm his cousin Wilbur ...NoNutts

Mr. Smith

Mr. NoNutts time is money and I need to leave. Can you consummate the deal?

June

Oh I'm afraid that Mr. NoNutts won't be consummating anything for longggggg time.

(WILBUR exits shaking his head)

Mr. Smith

Get me the man who's in charge.

Meredith

(very indignant)

Man... I'M THE PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF THIS COMPANY.

Mr. Smith

What'd you mean you're the president.

Meredith

(walking toward Mr. SMITH)

My name is Meredith Loosegut. What's yours?

Mr. Smith

I'm Howard Reece Spaulding Smith the third. (they shake hands) Did I understand you correctly that YOU are the owner of this company?

Meredith

I am indeed.

Mr. Smith

I guess you probably inherited it from your husband.

Meredith

(indignant)

I beg your pardon. I started Thighgooser 16000 from scratch. Worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week and never needed a husband-- WHO ARE YOU?

Mr. Smith

(very pompous)

I'm the president and founder of the Bronze and Beer Health clubs. I worked 17 hours a day, seven days a week .

Meredith

(mockingly)

Did you inherit it from your wife?

Mr. Smith

I never needed a wife and I certainly don't need you!

June

(Walks briskly over to where Mr. SMITH and MEREDITH are arguing)

Meredith, Mr. Smith wants to buy 400 Thighgooser 16000 from us. Maybe it'd be more productive if you talked about the sale.

Mr. Smith

Wait a minute, I thought you were a man. What happen to your voice?

Meredith

Why would you think a silly thing like that?

Eli

(ELI now speaks in his regular voice to Mr. SMITH)

Well, she is a man because you wanted her to be!

Meredith

Wait a minute, I thought you were a woman. What happen to your voice?

Wilbur

(enters through door; getting his voice back)

Well, he's a woman because you wanted him to be.

Meredith and Mr. Smith together

WHAT ARE YOU?

Meredith

June I want to see all the employees down front. I have to know what's going on in my company.

(All the employees assemble in a straight line facing the audience, WILBUR is bent over, ELI is wearing the long coat trying to cover his dress, and JAYNE comes from the back up to the front)

Mr. Smith

I want to know what's going on, too. I'm very particular with whom I do business.

Meredith

Could you kindly introduce yourself to me and tell me who or what you are.

Mr. Smith

I agree.

June

I'm June Midcalf and very proud to be a female. (Steps forward and smiles)

Jayne

I'm Jayne Summers (smiles) I'm not English, nor am I working on a Ph.D., although the subject is of interest to me. I'm very proud to be a female. (steps forward and smiles)

Eli

(standing in line, his full coat is covering his skirt, stockings and blouse)

I'm Eli Bean and I am very proud to be a man. (With that ELI steps forward, flings his coat open exposing his short skirt, stockings and large chest. ELI looks straight ahead smiling from ear to ear)

Wilbur

I'm Wilbur; my friends call me "Big" Nutts. I'm proud ---to have been a man. (steps forward slowly)

Kristel

(Kristel burst in from the outside door. Shouting out the door)

No Bucky that's not a hearse it's my Aunt's limo. Now stop following me, I'm not going out with you, I don't care how big the tires are on your truck. (slams door, turns to Meredith) Ohhh, I thought people like that only lived in New Jersey.

June

Kristel you got a ride in Aunt Meredith's limo? How did you know she was coming?

Kristel

I don't have to tell you all the people I talk to.

(Kristel walks over and gives Meredith a hug.)

Meredith

It won't be long now.

June

And just what do you mean by that?

Meredith

Well June I have a little surprise for you. One of your employees has been working surveillance for me and has a full report on your poor performance as a manager. And when I get the report you're fired and out of the contest.

June

What're you talking about?

Mr. Smith

It sounds like an internal company spy.

Meredith

I'll thank you to mind your own business.

Mr. Smith

Some people will do anything to make money.

Meredith

All right, I want to know who works for me and I want the inside information. Expose yourself.

(WILBUR starts to shake)

June

Wilbur it must be you. I should've known.

Wilbur

It ain't me, honest, I promised the judge I wouldn't expose myself no more.

June

Wait a minute. That voice on the other end of the phone, the one that told me I was going to get fired six months ago, that voice was yours, wasn't it Meredith?

Meredith

So what.

Jayne

But why?

Kristel

I can tell you why. Aunt Meredith knew you were so straight laced that you wouldn't violate company policies unless you were provoked. That's why she called. No violation of company policies, no easy way to fire you and void the contest.

June

Kristel you were spying on your own mom. How could you?

Meredith

Quiet Kristel if you ever want to see New York and that private school of yours.

Kristel

I wasn't the spy, only the beneficiary of the spy. You see, if you got fired from this job Dad could use it in court to get custody of me. I didn't want to hurt you Mom, I just wanted to go back to New York and be a shining Volvo. Besides, Aunt Meredith said she would get you a better job.

Mr. Smith

I'm starting to see how it all comes together. Transfer June up here so you can spy on her, and send Kristel up here so she will be so desperate to go back to New York she'll do and believe anything you say.

Meredith

None of you have anything on me. In fact you're all fired. Now I want my spy to come forward so I can finish the job.

(WILBUR, JANE and ELI look at each other)

Jayne

Wait, don't do it... she fired all of us...including the spy...

Eli

I'd like to have a meeting with Jayne and Wilbur to discuss this situation.

(ELI, JAYNE and WILBUR huddle stage left)

June

(JUNE gets KRISTEL by the arm and speak as they exit)

Kristel we need to have a serious talk. I think you've been tricked.

Kristel

Don't you understand what kind of stress I'm under? For six months I've been trying to change the school mascot to something more meaningful. Do you know what the student body choose? They have now gone from the Moosebreath Mooses and Moosettes to the Moosebreath Rusty Ford Broncos. I'm no rusty Ford Bronco, I'm a shining Volvo!

Eli, Jayne, and Wilbur

Break (clap hands and leave)

Jayne

(said quietly to Mr. Smith)

Mr. Smith could I see you a minute... I happen to know a little about bars, and isn't it a fact that to keep your liquor license for your Bronze and Beer Clubs you can't associate with known members of organized crime.

Mr. Smith

So?

Jayne

Ever hear of a place called Twin Topless Towers Two in Boston?

Mr. Smith

Maybe...

Jayne

Ever frequent a dancer called Carrie "two ton" Cleavage?

Mr. Smith

What are you talking about...(surprised) Why that's you!!!! (now said suspiciously) Wait a minute... What happen to the two tons?

Jayne

I was riding my bike in Boston to buy baked beans, hit a bus, fell on my butt, bounced on my boobs and they burst.

Mr. Smith

Boy what a bummer... no big boobs, no big bounce, no big bucks.

Jayne

Bingo.

Mr. Smith

Let's back up a minute. Are you trying to tell me that the Twin Topless Towers Two in Boston is controlled by the dreaded Moosebreath Maine Mafia?

Jayne

Bingo again, and unless you want me to go public you better buy the Thighgooser's.

Mr. Smith

So if I buy the Thighgooser 16000s you won't talk.

Jayne

You got it.

Mr. Smith

(Speaks to all)

I've made a decision. I'm going to buy the Thighgooser 16000 from Meredith.

Jayne

What?

Wilbur

Why

Mr. Smith

Because the way you tried to cheat me was womanly.

Jayne

(very mad)

I thought we had a deal.

Mr. Smith

My deal was to buy the Thighgoosers, you never said who. I'm buying them from Meredith.

Meredith

If this is some ploy to cajole me to ...

Mr. Smith

No it's not, I like your management style. Plant an industrial spy, hire a detective agency, fire your former sister-in-law, psychological profiles to manipulate employees, it just doesn't get any better than that. You're my type of man.

Meredith

Hmmm- if you buy the Thighgoosers from me that means I won't have to pay off on the contest to Barbados or the thirty thousand. Maybe we can do business.

Jayne

What about the employees in New York?

Meredith

(points to the poster of the persons)

Do you honestly think that anyone who looks like that is savvy enough to figure out that they've been fooled. Kind of reminds you of politicians (vocation of person in the poster) with hemorrhoids.

Eli

(takes out two tubes)

Wait a minute, I used to be politician with hemorrhoids. See I have Preparation H in the full strength (small tube) and the supersized extra full strength (use large Caulking gun). Even with hemorrhoids I looked better than that.

Jayne

(walks over to the poster)

I sort of like their looks.

All

Them, the couple from New York City.

Jayne

Yeah I hear they're so hot, that steam flies when they're in the same room.

Mr. Smith

Meredith I don't care about the posters anymore. But I do admire how you handle your employees; now you're trying to cheat them out of their trip. That's how a man cheats... straight up. Not some womanly dress-up game with a bunch of androgynous weirdo's.

(looks at WILBUR)

Wilbur

Hey I don't know what part of my body my androgynous is but ...

Mr. Smith

(ignores WILBUR)

It's not that Howard Reece Spaulding Smith the third needs female companionship, because I've got plenty, it's just I thought maybe we could take the trip to Barbados.

Meredith

(getting interested)

Mr. Smith I can see that you and I think alike. In the end it's the bottom line that counts and, a, I kinda like your end. It's not that I need male companionship, but a trip to Barbados with you may be a good business decision.

Kristel

(KRISTEL and JUNE enter)

I know, I know. Look I'm sorry, I honestly thought that things would be better. I can't imagine that someone actually outsmarted me. I'm sixteen you know.

June

Believe me, I know. Meredith I'm a different women from the one you sent up here six months ago. I've learned to take care of myself, and I want Mr. Smith's order, custody of Kristel and an iron clad contract.

Kristel

Either that, Aunt Meredith, or I go to divorce court and spill my guts.

Mr. Smith

It seems we have a bit of a standoff from whom I buy the Thighgoosers.

Wilbur

Too bad we don't have a sudden death tie buster like they do in sports.

Mr. Smith

I like that idea Wilbur, a contest, winner take all.

June

Before I agree, I want know what's going on.

Mr. Smith

Here's the deal, if your side answers the question right I buy the Thighgooser 16000's from you.

June

What if we lose?

Mr. Smith

Then I buy the Thighgoosers from Meredith.

Meredith

That's means, no trip, no money, no lawsuit and no Kristel. I'll get the questions from the test. (Walks over to the file cabinet)

Jayne

Wait a minute, before we agree we want a key word and the ability to pick our person, or else I remember our days in Boston.

Mr. Smith

It's a deal.

June

I don't feel real good about this, but it's a deal.

Meredith

(Meredith goes over and pulls the question)

Just our luck, they must have gotten the easiest question on the test.

Mr. Smith

What is it?

(MEREDITH and MR. SMITH look at the question. MR. SMITH in a loud whisper)

Great, everybody knows that to avoid jail over Watergate President Richard Nixon received amnesty from President Ford.

Meredith

We don't have much of a chance.

Mr. Smith

Wait, I think I have an idea... June the key word is Ford.

June

Ford, "OK"...Eli do you know anything about Fords?

Eli

Not me, I have a Yugo.

Jayne

Don't look at me I only ride in limousines.

June

Kristel.

Kristel

You must be kidding me. I may have lowered my standards since moving up here, but American made cars, I don't think so.

(All eyes turn to WILBUR, WILBUR is slapping his beer gut)

June

Wilbur that leaves you?

Wilbur

I know a lot about Fords, 289's, 302's, the Shelby Mustang.

June

Wilbur it looks like we go with you. And Wilbur you have to get this correct.

Wilbur

So, when the chips are up you call on Wilbur "Big" Nutts. Well I'm ain't surprised. Use to be people just admired my body, but now people admire my critical thinking stability.

(walks over to the area he used for Jeopardy)

Jayne

That's critical thinking ability. Nothing like betting the ranch on a motorhead.

(JUNE talks like a game show host. JUNE and WILBUR are center stage with a single spotlight on them. As JUNE speaks she walks stage right as a second spotlight goes on ELI, JAYNE and KRISTEL.)

It all comes down to this...if Wilbur answers the question correctly Mr. Smith places the order with me; I get a lifetime contract and Kristel; Eli gets to send his wife on the trip, Jayne gets her boobs back; and Wilbur gets his septic truck.

(all three characters react as their name is called)

On the other hand...

(As JUNE speaks she walks over to stage left as a spotlight goes up on MR. SMITH and MEREDITH)

If Wilbur gets the questions wrong, Mr. Smith places the order with Meredith; Meredith gets to keep the money; fire Eli, Jayne, Wilbur and me; and find out who is the spy.

(JUNE walks over and gets the question from MR. SMITH)

Wilbur are you ready?

Wilbur

Hey Wilbur Big Nutts is always ready.

June

Tonight' s final category is History. Wilbur remember you have 30 seconds to come up with the correct response. Good Luck.

And the question... To avoid jail what did President Nixon ask President Ford to do about Watergate?

(everyone on stage hums the theme to Jeopardy.

About halfway through JUNE, JAYNE, ELI pull out towels and wipe their heads then ring them out on the floor. WILBUR is looking around in space)

All

Bong, bong

June

Time's up, Wilbur, what's your final response?

(WILBUR looks perplexed)

Meredith

It's so much fun to toy with the underclass why don't you give him one more clue so I can watch them sweat some more.

Mr. Smith

Sure, What did Marc Rich ask President Clinton to do about his legal problems?

June

(very concerned)

Wilbur one last time and please think, we need the jobs and money... To stay out of jail what did President Nixon and Marc Rich ask the former Presidents to do for them?

Wilbur

(WILBUR throws his hands in the air, JUNE, JAYNE and ELI all put their heads down and start to look discouraged. Mr. SMITH and MEREDITH are very happy)

Well... (WILBUR belches)

Eli

How could you belch at a time like this?

Wilbur

All right, all right, pardon me

June

What did you say Wilbur?

Wilbur

I said Pardon Me!

June

(holds up card)

And the correct response is " Pardon me", Wilbur you did it.

(JUNE, JAYNE and ELI all hug: WILBUR; MEREDITH and Mr. SMITH shocked)

(if possible balloons and confetti fall from the ceiling)

Wilbur

I did!!

Meredith and Mr. Smith

Oh no!!!

Curtain closes

End

Performance rights must be secured before production. For contact information, please see the *Moosebreath, Maine* information page (click on your browser's "Back" button, or visit www.singlelane.com/proplay/moosebreath.html)

Production Notes

Production note 1—page five

The Thighgooser 16,000 can be any exercise machine that has a seat (bike, rowing machine, etc). A big red button should be added (the power button).

Production note 2—page seven

Meredith's dress can vary. As the play progresses she can be dressed in more revealing outfits, or various athletic or business attire. Another strategy is to have Meredith facing away from the audience when she is on the phone, and the first time the audience sees her is in the second act. This is up to the director.

Production note 3—page 39

Wilbur

While you're up why don't you get rid of that poster of Meredith. If Mr. Smith ever found out this company was owned by a woman he would croak. The new poster we talked about is in the corner.

(ELI carries in a new life-size character from off stage. It is draped. WILBUR speaks as ELI places the life-size character next to the Thighgooser 16000. **The life-size character is PeeWee Herman**)
Wilbur

I called the home office for a male figure and they referred me to the "York, Pa". (substitute the area of the performance, same as used in the flip chart) division. This is their definition of a hot, sexy, man. It seems that every woman in "York" yearns to have a man this handsome and strong. And every man prays to look like this when he grows up. Mr. Smith wants to put the figure in his workout centers to draw customers. He's looking for a poster of a man's man. This is very important to the sale.

Eli

(undrapes the poster, looks at it, shirks,)

Ekkkkkkkkkkkk That's PeeWee Herman

Production note 4—page 63

Meredith

Do you honestly think that any community whose men want to look like that is smart enough to figure out they've been fooled. Kind of reminds you of someone who sat in the (name of the theatre where this play is being performed) theatre too long and got hemorrhoids.

Eli

Wait a minute, I use to sit in the (theatre name) theatre for hours on end and I got hemorrhoids. See I have Preparation H in the full strength and also the super sized extra full strength. (pulls out tubes). Even with hemorrhoids I never wanted to look like those men in York.

Jayne

I sort of like the looks he symbolizes.

All

Him

Jayne

Yeah it's my business to know men and I think he is really, really cute.

All

The guy that represents the men in New York?

Jayne

Yeah I hear all the men in New York (town where the play is being performed) are hot.