

[THE SCENE BEGINS WITH THE SOUND OF DRILLING -- SIMILAR TO THE SOUND OF SOMEONE'S TEETH BEING DESTROYED. WE ARE IN WHIT'S WORKSHOP AT WHIT'S END. EUGENE IS HARD AT WORK ON A LITTLE "TRAP".]

BERNARD:

(APPROACHING) Whit? Whit!

EUGENE:

(PANICKED) Where?!?

BERNARD:

I don't know.

EUGENE:

Oh! You startled me, Mr. Walton.
I thought you might be him.

BERNARD:

Why would Whit be calling his own name all the way down the stairs? (This place gets loonier all the time.) Where is he?

EUGENE:

Out running errands. Now, if you'll excuse me: time is of the essence.

BERNARD:

(GESTURING TO WORK TABLE) What in the world is this contraption?

EUGENE:

(PROUDLY) Well . . . just between us . . . I've come up with a plan to capture the one who's been stealing money from the register.

BERNARD:

(MOCKINGLY) Really?

EUGENE:

I'm going to hook this cable here --
(BEAT) would you hold it for a
moment please? --

BERNARD:

Sure.

EUGENE:

I'm going to hook this cable to a
small car battery and this other
cable to a bell beneath the
register. If someone tries to open
the register without my knowing it,
they'll get zapped and set off the
bell.

BERNARD:

Mighty inventive.

EUGENE:

I used to do this to my parents when
they were dieting. It kept them
away from the refrigerator.

BERNARD:

You must've been a joy to have
around as a child. What about Whit
and Connie?

EUGENE:

I'll tell Mr. Whittaker as soon as
he gets back from his errands.

BERNARD:

And Connie?

EUGENE:

Well . . . ah . . . I'll just make sure I run the register today. I've made a switch to turn it on and off.

BERNARD:

It's none of my business, but -- are you telling me you think Connie took the money?

EUGENE:

These are desperate times, Mr. Walton. We're all capable of behaving as we shouldn't. I don't blame her -- I should like to see her get help.

BERNARD:

I think you all need help.

EUGENE:

I beg your pardon?

BERNARD:

Nothing.

EUGENE:

I have to figure out how to get Connie to leave for a short time while I set this up.

BERNARD:

Why don't you send her to the bank for some quarters?

EUGENE:

That's a brilliant idea, Mr. Walton! Thank you! (BEAT) Now, did I leave

this switch on or off? I better
 test it.

[WE HEAR THE CLICK OF THE SWITCH FOLLOWED BY A LENGTHY ZAP OF
ELECTRICITY -- THROUGH BARNARD. HE REACTS.]

 BERNARD:

 Yeoww!

 EUGENE:

 I guess that was the "on" position.

 BERNARD:

 (PAINED) I guess it was.