

# MASHIE'S CANDY STORE



A Comedy in Two Acts  
by  
Zalman Velvel

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## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Mashie - 75, Jewish woman, never married (pronounced Mah – shee)

Henry - late 20's, from Laos, computer wizard

Bobby - mid 20's, from N.Y.C., career criminal

Cathy - 18, Bobby's sister, as good as he is bad

Latisha - early 30's, cop, Afro-American, single mother

In addition, there are the following character voices, heard only offstage

Playwright

Reporters

T.V. announcer for Lottery

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## **TIME**

The play takes place in the present.

The first act takes place on a Saturday night, and ends just after the announcement of the winner of the 100 million dollar lottery at 10 PM.

The second act takes place the next day, around noon.

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## **PLACE**

The play is set in Mashie's Candy Store, in Queens, N.Y. There is a candy counter, a lottery-machine, a magazine and newspaper rack, a luncheon counter with a coffee pot, and a few tables and chairs.

The front door is downstage left, and the rear door is upstage right.

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# Mashie's Candy Store

## Act One

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MASHIE

(walks into the audience)

Hello you beautiful young people! How are you?  
Did you have a nice trip over here to Mashie's?

Are you thirsty? You want a soda? Yes? No?

Maybe you got a sweet tooth? How about a candy bar? Yes? No?

Maybe a magazine for later, yes? No?

I have a little something for everyone at my candy store.

Maybe you need cigarettes? I have.  
You smoke, mommalah?  
You shouldn't darling, it's not good for you.  
But, if you want, I have.

Are you hungry tottalah? You want maybe a sandwich?  
I got roast beef, turkey, tuna fish, pastrami, corned beef, and salami, even.  
It's all kosher.  
Don't worry, Kosher won't hurt you darling, even if you're not Jewish.

You think I embarrassed those young people?  
I think so. Look at me. I'm 75 and I forget how it is to be embarrassed.  
When I see such beautiful young people, I think, how happy they must feel ... how  
exciting it must be to be so young and healthy.

Look, young people, Mashie is sorry if she embarrassed you.  
Here ... have a candy bar. It's a Hershey's.  
Please. Take it kindala minst. Say you forgive old Mashie.

To tell you the truth, tonight I'm not myself. I'm a little nervous.  
These lights give me a headache.  
This time of night, my feet hurt, and my back aches.

I told that writer, that Mr. Velvel, "Go somewhere else. Leave me alone.  
I'm an old Jewish woman, nothing special. My life wouldn't make a noodle bend.  
Better you should go find a pretty young girl and put her in front of the audience.  
Then you have a handsome young man fall in love with her.

MASHIE (cont'd)

Give them problems, some real tsuris, and see what they do.  
Now that, people will pay to see. “

But the writer knows I can't say no a nice young person like himself.  
So what can I do? He wants me and my candy store, so here I am.  
And he likes this neighborhood and the people who live here.  
Why?

I thinks he's mashugah, that's why ... mashugah means crazy, tottalah.

But who am I to question? What is Mashie? An old woman no one listens to.

And my memory isn't so good no more. Something comes up, I get distracted.  
Like this ... look, a major distraction.  
The lottery is up to 100 million dollars! 100 million dollars ...  
You'd think there was nothing else on people's minds.  
Everyone in the neighborhood is playing, spending money like there is no tomorrow.  
It's their money, and they got a right to spend it, but I don't know ...  
Is it right to spend money you need for food or rent on this ... this ... dream?

BOBBY(offstage, singing)

"Bad to the bone, baby.  
I'm bad to the bone.  
I'm b..b.b.b.b.b. bad, baby. I'm b.b.b.b.b.b.b..b.b .bad, baby. " (Howls)

MASHIE

(taking money from the cash register)

Uh, oh. Here comes trouble. This one you should keep an eye out for.  
He starts with you, ignore him. He goes away.

**[BOBBY ENTERS]**

BOBBY

Hey Mashie, what it is.

MASHIE

Yeah, sure ... whatever that means.

BOBBY

You got the new Playboy?

MASHIE

If I got it ... it's in the back of the rack, with the brown paper around it so nice people  
shouldn't see it. I don't like carrying them, but some people around here want it.

BOBBY

This is the old one.

MASHIE

Old one, new one, how would you know? They all look the same after a while.

BOBBY

I know, Mashie. I know.

MASHIE

You think, mister, you could buy one? Just one time?

The man who sells them gives me such a look when he takes them back.  
He says Mashie has the most beat-up returns he's ever seen.

BOBBY

When I see the right one, I'll buy it.

MASHIE

Yeah, sure ... sure ...

BOBBY

In the meantime, give me 5 lottery tickets, Mashie.

MASHIE

That, you buy?! Better you should buy a girly magazine.

BOBBY

Hey, it's a hundred million.

MASHIE

So they tell me.

BOBBY

Can you imagine me with a hundred million bucks? I can.  
I'd get me a fancy car, expensive clothes, a beautiful house.  
The best drugs. Women would be pouring off of me!

MASHIE

Maybe then, you'd spend a little money for a magazine, too?

BOBBY

Mashie, you think like a Jew.

MASHIE

So? I was born a Jew. For 75 years, I've lived like a Jew.  
Soon, I'll die like a Jew. Who else can I think like?

BOBBY

You should stop thinking about money all the time.

MASHIE

Oh, like you, Mr. Hundred-Million-Dollars-With-Women-Pouring-Off-Him?

BOBBY

Yeah, like me.

MASHIE

Like you, I should think all the time about naked girls?

No, I don't like to think about such things.

I look at myself in my underwear and I want to plotz.

BOBBY

Plotz? What's plotz?

MASHIE

Plotz! It's when you ... plotz ... you .. you ... you ... you plotz!

BOBBY

You people got some weird expressions.

MASHIE

Me? I got weird expressions?

I don't say "What it is?" What what is? Who can understand you?

I say I am going to plotz. It sounds like what it is. I plotz.

BOBBY

Yeah, well what it is, again, Mashie. I gotta go.

See ya!

**[BOBBY EXITS]**

MASHIE

See ya!? I don't like the way he says that.

Modern expressions! Feh!

Maybe Mashie should do a little inventory while the store is quiet.

Where is my pencil? I left my pencil here, and it walked away.

Excuse me, I got to go in the back for a second, get a new pencil.

Would you mind watching the store for me? Thank you, darling.

**[MASHIE EXITS]**

**[BOBBY ENTERS. He opens the register and takes money]**

BOBBY(to the audience)

Five ... six ... seven ... eight ... big deal. A lousy eight bucks.

Hey, what are you looking at?

You say something and you're dead!

I'll pop a cap in you, and laugh while you die. That's right, so dummy up.

Hey, don't look at me like that. This ain't stealin'. This is re-distribution.

She don't need it. You see that old lady? She ain't bought a new dress in years.

What's she got to spend money on?

Look man, it's Saturday night. I need something to speed things up.

Saturday night! Time to par-tay, baby! Boogie! Get down!

Check out these steps, Momma!

Hey, man. Don't give me no looks! I said, don't gimme no looks.

You give me looks and I'll smack your face.

Turn that look away from me, man! Turn it away or ...

You're lucky that old bag's comin'.

You say something and I'll come back for you. I know where you live!

**[BOBBY EXITS]**

**[MASHIE ENTERS** carrying a new pencil]

MASHIE(To the audience)

Such a fine new pencil.

Thanks for watching the store. Did someone come in?

What's the matter, darling?

Did Bobby came back? Did he scare you Mommilah?

You shouldn't worry about him. He talks big. Mr. Big Talker.

Ignore him and he goes away.

Here, have a candy bar.

Go ahead. It'll make you feel better.

What?

Oh, I know about him taking money.

He thinks he's fooling me. I know how much he takes. I count it before he comes in.

It's not so much. I leave him a few dollars.

What? You think I should maybe call the Police on him?

You think jail would cure him?

Jail hasn't cured him yet. It only makes him sicker.

When he stops coming around, we know he's in there.

MASHIE (cont'd)

For a while, we have a little peace.  
He starts coming around again, we know he's out.

Someday, he'll get killed ... and stop coming around altogether.  
To the neighborhood it will be a relief.  
To Mashie, it'll be a shame.  
To waste a human being like this is a shame ... a shonda.

Did you look in his eyes? There is not much left anymore behind his eyes.  
Only God knows what he smokes or swallows or puts up his nose.

In my day, I'd tell his father, that's what I'd do, and he'd put an end to it.  
But this is not my day anymore. It's your day, now. You go figure.

[LATISHA ENTERS wearing her Police uniform]

LATISHA

Mashie, wasn't that Bobby I saw leaving here? That boy been botherin' you?

MASHIE

Bobby? Feh! He likes to look at girly magazines, so he comes here.

LATISHA

Well, he bothers you, press the silent alarm I put in. I have the key to your back door, and I'll be here in a NY minute.

MASHIE

Sure, Latisha. I'll let you know.

LATISHA

Mashie. Let me have a pack of ...

MASHIE

Newports, 100's, box. Two, Latisha?

LATISHA

Yes, two, Mashie.

Better throw in ....

MASHIE

Two Butterfingers and an Almond Joy for the kindala.

LATISHA

Yes. And maybe ...



MASHIE

A Hershey bar for you.

Anything else, Latisha?

LATISHA

You tell me, Mashie. You know everything else about me.

MASHIE

You want, maybe, a magazine? The new Ebony came in.

LATISHA

I'll take a look.

MASHIE

Yes, darling. You take a look.

LATISHA

You got any Afro-American blood in you, Mashie?

MASHIE

I don't know. Whatever blood I got is stuck to my veins, like glue.

LATISHA

Just the same, you got soul, Lady.

MASHIE

A soul I got. Soon God will take it back. Then maybe he'll find a better use for it.

LATISHA

Mashie, you'll probably dance on my grave.

MASHIE

Shah! Don't say such a thing! Why would a person dance on another person's grave?

LATISHA

For the pure pleasure of living.

MASHIE

So, nu? You take no pleasure in living, Latisha?

LATISHA

This sure ain't the life I dreamed of.

MASHIE

Nu, it's not so good, sometimes. But, sometimes it's not so bad, either.

LATISHA

When the good times come, Mashie, you tap me on the shoulder and wake me up.

MASHIE

Sure, mommilah.

LATISHA

In the meantime, I'll go sleep-walkin' through this poor excuse for a life.

(To herself) Working all day.

Only thing worse than workin' all day is workin' all night.

Then I'm walkin' around dead tired.

Paycheck don't cover what I need without overtime.

Maybe once a year there's enough left over for a nice dress, or new shoes.

Kids don't appreciate nothin' 'cept things I can't afford and they ain't got.

God damn sneakers is over a 100 dollars!

Kids take it all. Ain't they fault. They need things.

I swear, they're growing up by themselves.

Out in the damn streets all day when I'm out workin'.

I try to watch over them, but I can't be watchin' every second.

God damn drugs are everywhere.

Caught Terryl with a joint, hidin' it under his socks.

God damn twelve years old and he's smokin' dope!

I beat him so bad my hand hurt for a week.

Drugs don't get 'em, sex will. God damn AIDS is everywhere, too.

That little girl friend of his, Shana, been comin' over while I'm out workin'.

She's ain't no little girl no more. She be sproutin' out and loves showin' it off.

Oh yes, gonna be trouble there soon, too. Gonna have to talk to that boy.

Younger ones gonna be followin' his lead. Can't have that. No sir. Can't have that.

Look at these people in the magazine. They havin' a picnic.

A Sunday afternoon picnic. Eatin' chicken and ribs. Laughin'.

Look at me. I'm havin' a God damn picnic.

It's a God damn picnic wakin' up to a job that's wearin' me down.

It's a God damn thrill comin' home, my head splittin' wide open, and bein' greeted at the God damn door by a wolf pack of noisy kids and a messy apartment.

Wake up Latisha and smell the coffee. It's another God damn day.

Another God damn sink full of God damn dirty dishes.

Another God damn laundry basket full of God damn dirty clothes.

Another God damn bag of trash to put out in the street.

Just another God damn day.

LATISHA (cont'd)

Why ain't that me in that picture, going to Sunday picnics in the park?  
They take a picture of me on Sunday, they see me goin' to work, half dead and angry.

Look at me! God damn Saturday night, and I'm reading a magazine!  
Rest of the word is out partying, and I'm reading a God damn magazine!  
You know these people in this magazine? I don't. Ain't like no people I know.  
They's just some dream people made up to sell this God damn rag.

Dreams! Yeah, I got dreams.  
I dreamed of having a fine life, sharing it with a fine man. A fine black man!  
God damn! Where the hell they keepin' all them fine black men?  
What happened to those strong arms that were supposed to be helping' me out?  
Men I meet act worse than my kids. What I need another kid for?

They think they give me a little sex, they can live off of me. They can keep they sex.  
Sex? Can't remember the last time I was with a man.  
God damn thing gonna clamp shut I don't use it soon.  
Can't remember the last time I was worried about missin' my God damn period.

MASHIE

Latisha, darling ... are you all right?

LATISHA

What?  
Oh my gracious! Look at me!  
I'm standin' here talkin' to myself outloud, like a crazy person.

Did you hear what I was sayin', Mashie?

MASHIE

Some things, maybe, a person couldn't help but hear.  
Nu, you have enough Tampax at home? I carry Supers if you need.

LATISHA

Yeah Mashie, I need. Periods still come and go.  
I swear, I'm getting meaner and nastier with each new one.

MASHIE

You wait long enough, Latisha darling, they go away.  
You know, darling, you wait long enough, everything goes away.  
And then you wish you had it all back.

LATISHA

Mashie, I'll take the magazine, too.

MASHIE  
Something else, Latisha?

LATISHA  
I was thinkin' about the Lottery. It's up to ...

MASHIE  
... a hundred million. I know.

LATISHA  
Give me 20 tickets, Mashie.

MASHIE  
20!? So many? Are you sure?

LATISHA  
Only hope I got for a better life.

Mashie, make it 16 Qwick-pics, and 4 with these numbers.

MASHIE  
Another one with special numbers. Let me get my glasses. Here they are.  
So what's so special about these numbers?

LATISHA  
Just some birthdays. And one special day.  
The day I kicked out that no-good sorry-assed mother-f... sorry, Mashie.

MASHIE  
Feh! Here are the tickets for your better life, Latisha.

LATISHA  
First, I have to kiss them for good luck.  
Please God, smile down on this sister and bless these numbers.  
Make this sister rich and happy. She deserves it. Lord knows she deserves it. Amen.

MASHIE  
Amen.

LATISHA  
Well, Good night, Mashie.

MASHIE  
Good night, Latisha. Kiss the kindala for me.

**[LATISHA EXITS]**

MASHIE

A mother alone with three children.

In my day, the only time a woman would be left alone with children is when, God forbid, her husband died. Then the family would take her in.

Brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles. They took you in. They helped you out.

Family stuck together.

Today, your brothers and sisters have their own problems. They don't want yours. Your mother and father ... feh!

Today there's half a family - a tired working mother and children with no fathers.

Today, a woman is free. What freedom?!

A tired mother is free? Free to do what? Watch her children run wild in the streets?

You think it's better?

Ah, I'm an old woman. Who listens to Mashie?

[HENRY ENTERS carrying a portable computer]

HENRY

Good evening, Mashie.

MASHIE

Good evening, Henry!

HENRY

Excuse me, Mashie. I must back up data before battery runs down.

MASHIE

You want, maybe, a soda, Henry?

HENRY

Yes, please, Mashie.

MASHIE

A sandwich, too, maybe? Henry? Henry? I have some nice turkey.

HENRY

Excuse me, Mashie. What did you say?

MASHIE

You want a nice turkey sandwich, Henry?

HENRY

Yes, please, Mashie. With just a little ...

... mayonnaise.	MASHIE
And a little ...	HENRY
... sliced tomato.	MASHIE
Thank you, Mashie-san.	HENRY
Mashie-san? What's a Mashie-san?	MASHIE
Japanese say as sign of respect. It was custom I like most when in Japan.	HENRY
Nu, so you liked Japan? Henry, maybe it's better Mashie-san should be quiet so you can concentrate.	MASHIE
No, no. It is now automatic. Please, what you ask?	HENRY
I asked if you liked Japan?	MASHIE
No, I not like it.	HENRY
And why not?	MASHIE
People I met looked down on people from my country.	HENRY
Looked down? Nu, you are all Asian, no?	MASHIE
Yes.	HENRY
You have the same eyes, no? The same color skin, no?	MASHIE

HENRY

You have same eyes and color skin as most Americans, Mashie-san.  
Why you not get respect because religion is different?

MASHIE

Henry, darling, I'm not so wise I can answer that.  
Maybe if I was a little wiser I would understand what you do with that little box?

HENRY

You see this thumb drive, Mashie?  
It now has list of numbers with best chance of winning lottery. Right here. Best numbers.

MASHIE

That machine tells you that?

HENRY

With only 14% chance of error.

MASHIE

So what's the problem? Play the numbers and become a millionaire. A 100 millionaire.

HENRY

Problem is lots of probable numbers.  
Half a million.  
Now if I had dollar for every number, I have 86% probability win 100 million dollars.

MASHIE

So, nu? To spend a half a million dollars to make 100 million is good?

HENRY

Who has half million dollar? If I had half million dollar, I not need to play Lottery.

MASHIE

Henry, here, darling. Your turkey sandwich.

HENRY

It looks beautiful, Mashie-san. Too beautiful to eat.

MASHIE

Then here, here is a pickle. (Pronounced pee - kell) to make it look human.  
Nu, eat! Eat! You're too skinny.  
When was the last time you had a good meal?

HENRY

Not sure.

MASHIE

Henry, darling, you need someone to take care of you.  
You have a sweetheart, maybe? A girl friend?

HENRY

I not have time for such things.

(to himself now)

I not have time for a life. Look at me?  
At work, they laugh behind my back. Call me no-life.  
That's what I am. A no-life.  
I have green card, but no life.  
I come to the United States to get a life. Good life.  
There is no life for me back in Laos. Only misery.

Here, I spend 10 hours each day soldering condensers onto circuit boards.  
One condenser every 10 seconds. 6 condensers every minute.  
360 condensers every hour. 3,600 condensers every day.  
18,000 condensers every week.

"So what you do today Henry?"  
"Oh, I soldered another 3,600 condensers."  
"How was your week Henry?"  
"Oh, you know, I soldered another 18,000 condensers."  
"How is your life in America, Henry?"

What life? I have no life. I am no-life.  
I come home at night to tiny apartment that costs too much, where no one waiting.  
No one waits for the no-life.  
I sit at computer and try to figure way to win lottery.  
My head will pop open from all the mathematics I read.  
I must win soon or brain will explode.

I watch t.v.. I see everyone else has life. They have new car. They have nice clothes.  
They have friends and even girl friends. They have families. They have fun, together.  
I am by myself in strange country with no life. I must get a life!  
I had humble, but proud life, in Laos. I had family ... parents ... 3 brothers and 2 sisters.  
Uncles, aunts. Cousins. Many cousins. We poor, but we had life.

Then Communists take over, and we escape to Thailand.  
Put in refugee camp. Nothing worse than refugee camp. Many die in camp. Many.  
I escape to Japan. I learn English. I come here.

American women not want no-life like me.  
I not have fancy car. I not have nice clothes. I have small apartment.  
I just common man. They not want common man.  
They want money. Much money. I don't have much money.



MASHIE

Henry ... Henry? Henry, darling ...

HENRY

Hmmm? I am sorry, Mashie-san. I was, how you say, dreaming in the day.

MASHIE

You know, a fine young man like you should have a family.

HENRY

Mashie-san, where is your family, if I may ask?

MASHIE

Mostly dead. Some are missing.

HENRY

Ah, I sorry to ask.

MASHIE

No, I don't mind. It's not so painful to think about them now.

What the Nazis did not take, God took later.

I am an old woman, and you lose people as you get older. You learn to live with it.

My customers are my family now. People like you, Henry.

It gives me pleasure to take care of you, in my own little way.

Nu, you were hungry? One minute there was a beautiful sandwich, now there are crumbs

Henry, if I may ask ... do you have any family?

HENRY

I not sure ... there are some, how you say ... missing.

But I am not so wise as you ... I still think about the ones who are gone.

MASHIE

Nu, you are still young, yet. There is time to start another family, no?

HENRY

Maybe it's better we not talk about such things.

MASHIE

Sure, darling. Maybe you'd like some dessert, now, Henry?

HENRY

No thanks, Mashie. I have to get back to my studies.

MASHIE

Studies? It's Saturday night.  
Come, Henry. I have an apple pie so delicious you'll plotz.

HENRY

It does look good.

MASHIE

So sit and enjoy! There's always time to study.

HENRY

Maybe one small piece.

MASHIE

There is no such a thing as a small piece of pie at Mashie's Candy Store ... here ... enjoy!

HENRY

Mmmm ... it's wonderful, Mashie. Mashie? Mashie?

MASHIE

I'm sorry, Henry. I didn't mean to stare while you're eating.

HENRY

Is there some food on my face?

MASHIE

No, it was just an old lady noticing what a nice-looking young man you are Henry.

HENRY

Please, Mashie. You embarrass me.

MASHIE

Tell me something, Henry, you like black people?

HENRY

Some, yes.

MASHIE

And black women? Nu? You like them, too?

HENRY

Why you ask, Mashie?

MASHIE

No reason. It was just a thought. Just an old lady's tired brain thinking.

HENRY

Mashie, pie was delicious. How much I owe you?

MASHIE

Let's see ... 75 cents for the soda, 2 dollars 25 cents for the sandwich, and 1 dollar for the pie. That makes 4 dollars even.

HENRY

Here five dollar, Mashie.

MASHIE

And here is your one dollar back.

HENRY

Wait a minute... I have idea. Let's take dollar ... invest it.

MASHIE

Invest? A dollar. Nu, we will buy the Brooklyn Bridge with it?  
What are you doing, Henry?

HENRY

I ask computer choose most probable number from half million numbers.  
Here it is. Mashie, make lottery ticket with these numbers, please.

MASHIE

You need to be so fancy?  
Just pick a few birthdays, like everybody else.  
Okay, here it is, Henry.

HENRY

No, this for you, Mashie.

MASHIE

What?! It's my store. You don't tip the owner.

HENRY

No, Mashie, it's gift, not tip.

MASHIE

You think, nu, I should keep it?

HENRY

Please.

MASHIE

Then I will keep it. I'll put it right here, next to my coffee machine, so I don't forget.

HENRY

Have a good night, Mashie-san.

MASHIE

You have a good night, too, Henry darling.

**[HENRY EXITS]**

MASHIE

(to herself) Such a fine young man. Maybe he works too much.  
I hope he doesn't wind up old and alone like Mashie.

Maybe I should try to fix him up with Latisha?  
It's not so terrible an idea. He has no one. She has too many.

Maybe it's better I should mind my own business?

No one ever got hurt minding their own business, nu?  
Yet, once the world minded its business too much,  
and six million of my people were killed.

Maybe it's good to mind your own business a bistle, but not too much.

**[CATHY ENTERS. She turns around the OPEN sign to be CLOSED]**

CATHY

Mashie? Who were you talking to?

MASHIE

Cathy, darling!  
I was talking to no one. It was just an old woman thinking out loud at the end of the day.

CATHY

How was your day?

MASHIE

Feh, it was a day. And how was yours, kindala minst?

CATHY

How do you do that?

MASHIE

Do what?

CATHY

That fay, or faigh, or ...

MASHIE

What, the feh?!

CATHY

That's it!

MASHIE

I don't know. I've been doing it since I was a young girl.  
What does it sound like to you?

CATHY

It sounds like ... like ... like Mashie.

MASHIE

It's another plotz word, nu?

CATHY

You did it again. You did that "plotz". And you did that "nu."  
I love when you do that.

MASHIE

Pretty soon you'll hear me qvetch, and that you won't love so much.

CATHY

(hugging her) Oh Mashie, you're an original.

MASHIE

It's worth it to be so original to get a hug like that.

CATHY

Should I clean the same tonight?

MASHIE

Of course, the same. For forty years, it's the same.  
First, the counters, then the stove, then the dishes, then sweep and mop the floor.  
I'm going to sit down and finish this glass hot tea.  
Then, when the plotz is out of me, I'll help you, darling.

CATHY

No, Mashie, please. You just sit and relax. Let me do it.  
Please? You look so tired.

MASHIE

You want me to argue about cleaning?  
Feh, you win. You can do it.

CATHY

I'll get the washcloths.

[CATHY EXITS to the back]

MASHIE

(Out loud) Cathy, darling! While you're back there, I left your pay by my desk!

CATHY

(offstage) I see it! Thank you. Mashie.

MASHIE

Such a nice girl!

So polite. So helpful. Everything is please and thank you.

How she has a brother like Bobby must be one of God's little jokes.

I wonder, is she too young for Henry?

[CATHY ENTERS]

CATHY

Were you talking to me, Mashie?

MASHIE

No, darling. Just thinking out loud again.

CATHY

Is the lottery machine still on?

MASHIE

Yes, darling. The switch to turn it off is in the back.

CATHY

Mashie, how do I buy a lottery ticket?

MASHIE

You, too?

CATHY

It's up to ...

MASHIE

100 million. Yes, I know ... You push the red button, it makes a ticket.

CATHY

Every time I want a ticket, just push the red button?

MASHIE

Yes, darling. It's so smart it makes up numbers for you, if you want.  
Cathy darling, just push it once!  
What are you doing! How many are you buying already?

CATHY

I'm buying 50.

MASHIE

50 ?! What are you, meshuga?

CATHY

Mashie, please. No lectures. I've thought this out and I want to do it.

MASHIE

To waste almost a whole week's work on Lottery tickets is a sin!

CATHY

Then I'm a sinner.

MASHIE

So nu! Now you have 50 pieces of paper instead of a little spending gelt.  
It is not so difficult, right? Doesn't take an Einstein to play the Lottery.

CATHY

What time is it, Mashie?

MASHIE

We still have time before 10 o'clock. Then you will know whether you were smart or ...

CATHY

Stupid. Go ahead and say it.

MASHIE

You, stupid? Never. A little foolish, maybe, sometimes. But never stupid.

CATHY

Mashie, it's a hundred million dollars. A hundred million!  
That's a one with 8 zeros.

MASHIE

That's a lot of zeros, nu?

CATHY

That's five million dollars a year for 20 years.  
Five million dollars a year.

CATHY (cont'd)

Why that's .... that's ... almost 100,000 dollars per week!

Who can spend 100,000 dollars per week?

Who can spend \$100,000 a year?

MASHIE

It's a lot of work, nu, to spend that much free money?

CATHY

Are you making fun of me, Mashie? You are making fun, aren't you?

MASHIE

Darling, my feet feel like boiled potatoes.

With aching feet like these, who can make fun?

CATHY

Mashie, put your foot here, in my lap.

MASHIE

Why should I do that?

CATHY

Come on, up with it.

MASHIE

What?! ... No ... no ... oh, guzunta dine pupick! You would rub this ugly old foot?

CATHY

I rub my father's feet, and they are really ugly.

They smell like dead rats. Yours are not so bad.

What is a pupick, by the way?

MASHIE

It's a belly button. I was blessing it ... don't ask me why ... it's a Yiddish custom.

Oh, my God. I'm in heaven. Oh ! Oh!

God should have made feet better. Put a little pillow or something down there.

Hey you?! Mr. God. Would it have hurt to make feet that didn't hurt so much?

CATHY

Mashie, it's not right to poke fun of God.

MASHIE

What?! This is not poking fun, this is kibitzing.

It's a privilege of getting old, darling.



MASHIE (cont'd)

Old people have seen God's miracles, and His mistakes, so that we can kibitz together.  
We are old friends, God and I. We know each other's sense of humor.

CATHY

Give me your other foot, Mashie.

MASHIE

Oh, such a girl! Such a blessing!

Again, the long, serious face. What's the matter, darling?

CATHY (begins crying)

I know it's a sin to think about myself so much, but I can't help it!

MASHIE

There... there ... darling.

CATHY

I mean, can't a person have their own dreams, Mashie?  
Does a person have to take care of people who refuse to take care of themselves?  
Do we have to, Mashie?

MASHIE

There ... there .. darling. Now what brought this on? My ugly old feet?

CATHY

No, this letter. (she takes out an envelope from her back pocket)  
I was accepted to the University of Missouri ... with a scholarship.

MASHIE

That's wonderful, darling. Congratulations!  
Nu, now you don't want Mashie to hug you?

CATHY

Hug me for what? I can't go.

MASHIE

Of course you can go. You must go!

CATHY

I can't leave my father and brother.

MASHIE

Feh, the world goes on! They'll get along.

CATHY

How? Bobby won't take care of my father.  
When I leave, Bobby will leave. He's like a cat.  
One day the food bowl isn't left out and he's gone forever.

MASHIE

Then there are places that can care for your father. You can visit when you have time.

CATHY

He won't go. I tried to show him a nursing home, but he won't go look at it.  
He won't leave the apartment.

MASHIE

Then you make him go and look.  
If you have to, you tie him up with rope and drag him out to look.

CATHY

He won't go! I tried! He won't!

MASHIE

If not, Cathy darling, I think maybe he will have you tied up for the rest of your life.

CATHY

If I win the lottery, I can hire a private nurse to watch him.

MASHIE

And if you don't?

CATHY

That's why I've been praying so much. I can't think about anything else.  
I've been praying so hard my head hurts.

[CATHY LOOKS UP AND WALKS INTO THE AUDIENCE]

God, please. I need help.  
I prayed for Momma, but You took her anyway.  
I prayed for Daddy but he doesn't get better  
I pray for You to make Bobby a better person, but he's still cold and mean and selfish.  
God, once, could You do something for me? Let me have my own life.

In the morning, I look inside the medicine cabinet ... I see Daddy's pills ... the pain pills ...  
I wonder what it would be like to take one, to stop the pain for one day

Then I wonder how many more to stop the pain for tomorrow  
To take so many that it stops forever ... To drift off like Daddy, and stay that way ...  
At first, I just looked ... now I take the bottle out ... I open the top ... I count the pills ...

CATHY (cont'd)

I imagine swallowing them one at a time ...

There are 58 left in the bottle now ... 58 would be enough to sleep forever ...

God, please ... help me ... give me strength .. please ...

MASHIE

Cathy, darling... Cathy? .... Mommilah ...

CATHY

What? Mashie, what happened to me?

MASHIE

You were praying.

CATHY

Was I doing it out loud, like a crazy person?

MASHIE

Well, maybe an old yentah like me couldn't help but hear something ...

CATHY

I would be so embarrassed if anyone except God heard my prayers.

MASHIE

Cathy, I think God hears a lot of crazy prayers, so don't think you're so different.

CATHY

Look at the time! I've got to finish and get home before the Lottery show comes on!

MASHIE

Feh, you don't finish in time, you can watch here. I got a television in the back.

CATHY

Mashie, will you watch with me tonight when they call the Lottery numbers?

I think you'll be lucky for me.

Please, Mashie!?

MASHIE

Sure, darling. We can turn on my little television and watch together.

I'm an old woman. What else would I be doing that's better?

CATHY

Look at the time! And I haven't started on the oven yet!

MASHIE

I'll start on the oven, you clean the counter and finish the dishes out here.

CATHY

Mashie?

MASHIE

Yes, darling.

(Cathy kisses and hugs her)

Nu, such a nice kiss and hug. Thank you, darling.

CATHY

I wish you were my mother.

I love you, Mashie.

MASHIE

And I love you, Mommilah.

Now, come, let's finish up. And then we'll watch the miracle of the 100 million dollars.

[**MASHIE EXITS** while Cathy begins cleaning dishes]

[**HENRY ENTERS**]

CATHY

Hello.

HENRY

Hello ... is Mashie here?

CATHY

She's in the back, cleaning ... we're closed now.

HENRY

Please ... is very important ... I must speak to her!

CATHY

Oh ... okay I'll go get her.

HENRY

Yes, thank you.

CATHY

Are you okay?

HENRY

Well ... is urgent I speak with Mashie!

CATHY

Okay. You stay right here. I'll get her.

**[CATHY EXITS, and then MASHIE and CATHY ENTER]**

MASHIE

Henry, darling! Two times in one night you visit. Is something wrong?

HENRY

Mashie, can we speak privately?

MASHIE

Certainly. Cathy, darling. Would you finish cleaning the oven for me?

CATHY

Will you be okay out here?

MASHIE

Okay? I'm with Henry, of course, I'll be okay. Won't I, Henry?

HENRY

Yes, Mashie.

CATHY

Then I'll be in the back if you need me.

**[CATHY EXITS]**

MASHIE

Nu?

HENRY

Mashie, I make terrible mistake! Need help.

MASHIE

Henry, darling, whatever I can do, God willing, I will do.

HENRY

I made error of huge proportions! So little time to fix!

MASHIE

What error, Henry?

HENRY

I need 93 dollar ... all I have is seventy. Can I borrow 23 dollar?!

Please Mashie-san!

I pay you Thursday. I promise.

I never borrow money from you ... I promise I pay back.

MASHIE

And that's it? That's the big emergency?! You want 23 dollars?

HENRY

Yes. Need now. Right now!

MASHIE

Henry! Whew! I was plotzing so bad my heart almost stopped!  
No, I was beyond plotzing. What a scare you gave me!  
I thought maybe you killed someone!

HENRY

Mashie, please! I would never do that.

MASHIE

It's always the quiet ones, Henry. Here, let me get you the money.  
Maybe if I move a little, my heart will come back to normal.  
Oy vays-mere!  
Here. Twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two , and twenty-three.

HENRY

Thank you, Mashie-san.

MASHIE

Feh! It is my pleasure to help... Nu, what is this?

HENRY

These are new winning numbers! We must hurry. Lottery closing soon!

MASHIE

Henry, you almost gave me a heart attack for lottery numbers?!

HENRY

These not any numbers! These 93 numbers with 66% chance winning.  
When I return to apartment, I look over program, and there it was!

MASHIE

What Henry? What?!

HENRY

I make statistical assumption that incorrect.  
I reduced Theta function to alpha subroutine, which everyone know, is big mistake. Big!

MASHIE

Oy! A theta to an alpha? Sure. A BIG mistake.

HENRY

Can you believe such a thing is possible?

MASHIE

Henry, the thought amazes me.

HENRY

I correct and rerun. Out pop 93 number with 66% chance. We must get them in!

MASHIE

Henry, my hands are not so good no more I could type in 93 sets of 6 numbers.

HENRY

But Mashie, time running out!

MASHIE

So excited you get.

Relax, Henry. Come around here. Come!

HENRY

Why?

MASHIE

I'll show you how to do it, and you can put in the 93 numbers.

HENRY

Mashie, you so kind.

MASHIE

Here, you see this keyboard. Well ... Henry, nu, you figured it out for yourself.

HENRY

Mashie-san, here is 93 dollar.

MASHIE

I hope you win, Henry.

HENRY

Thank you, Mashie-san.

MASHIE

I have to go in the back, Henry. Is it okay to send out my little helper, now?

HENRY

Yes, Mashie. Sorry to disturb you.

**[MASHIE EXITS and CATHY ENTERS]**

CATHY

Hello again.

HENRY

Hello.

CATHY

Mashie says you are a computer genius.  
You figured out how to win the lottery.

HENRY

I only figure, how you say, to narrow down odds, that is all.

CATHY

Am I disturbing you? How silly of me, of course I'm disturbing you.

HENRY

What?

CATHY

Never mind. I don't want to bother you.

HENRY

No ... please ... you stay ...

CATHY

I bought 50 tickets myself.  
But I let the machine pick the numbers for me.

HENRY

Yes, has random number generator.

CATHY

Would you like me to help?

HENRY

Excuse please?

CATHY

I asked if you would like me to help?  
I would like to see someone from this neighborhood win, even if it's not me.

HENRY

Well ... if you hold ruler under line I input, I go faster.



I'll get a ruler ... here's one!

I have four minutes and still so many numbers to enter.

Where should I put it?

Right there.  
When I hit red button, move down one line ... yes, like that.  
Again .... and again ...

By the way, my name is Cathy.

Yes ... and I am Henry.

It's nice to meet you, Henry.

Yes ... very nice to meet you Cathy.

You type so fast.  
I want to be a journalist, but I can't type that fast.  
I'm sorry. I'll try to be quiet so you can concentrate.

Three minutes and 25 ticket to go.

Wow, look at your fingers fly!

But still so many left!

I'll put the tickets in a pile for you.

Yes, thank you ... What happen?

CATHY

HENRY

CATHY

HENRY

CATHY

HENRY

CATHY

HENRY

CATHY

HENRY

CATHY

HENRY

CATHY

HENRY

I don't know. I didn't do anything!

CATHY

MASHIE-SAN! COME QUICK!

HENRY

(offstage) Coming!

MASHIE

**[MASHIE ENTERS]**

Why blinking?

HENRY

It means the lottery closes in 2 minutes.

MASHIE

But will not take more numbers from me!

HENRY

Did you push the blue button?

MASHIE

What blue button?

HENRY

Right here .... now how is it?

MASHIE

It fixed!

HENRY

Hurry, Henry!

CATHY

Eight ticket to go.

HENRY

One minute!

CATHY

Four ticket left. How much time?

HENRY

Twenty seconds. You can do it, Henry!

CATHY

HENRY  
Two ticket left. How much time?

CATHY  
Ten seconds. Hurry, Henry!

HENRY  
One left.

CATHY  
Five .... 4 .... 3 .... 2...

HENRY  
Done!

CATHY(hugs Henry)  
I knew you could do it!

HENRY(hugs her back)  
I not so sure.

MASHIE  
Nu, you like each other, now?

HENRY(embarrassed)  
I sorry, Cathy.

CATHY  
(untangles herself) I don't know what came over me.

MASHIE  
When you figure it out, you can tell me. In the meantime, I have a dirty oven back there.

**[MASHIE EXITS]**

HENRY  
Well, must also go home to see who win.

CATHY  
No!  
I mean, no. You don't have to go.  
You can stay here and watch them call the numbers on Mashie's TV ...  
If you want?

HENRY  
Not right. You work and I disturb you.

CATHY

You're not disturbing me. I work better when there is someone around to talk to.

HENRY

Mashie would not like it.

MASHIE (offstage)

Mashie does not mind, Henry!

[They look at each and laugh]

HENRY

Well, if Mashie not mind ...

CATHY

(after a long silence) You can take a magazine and read it until the program comes on.

HENRY

Too excited to read now.

Can you imagine 100 million dollar? 100 million!

What you do with money if you won?

CATHY

I would go to journalism school.

HENRY

Cathy, with 100 million dollar, you not have to go to school.

CATHY

But I want to be a journalist.

It wouldn't be like a job. It would be ... like ... a career.

A wonderful career.

I would meet so many interesting people ... visit exotic places.

HENRY

With that much money, I not work again. Ever.

CATHY

Don't you want to do something important with your life?

HENRY

Important? My life?

What could I do to make my life important?

Work?

No ... I not work.

I work enough.

HENRY (cont'd)

No I take trip around world!

I start in London ... then Paris ... then Rome.  
Then tour Middle East ... also Africa ... then India.  
I spend year in Japan. A year! As a rich man, a man of importance.

Look at me! I am, how you say, living in dream world.

CATHY

It's a nice dream.

HENRY

Cathy, let me help you. I too excited to sit still. What can I do?

CATHY

Well, if you want, you can do the silverware.

HENRY

Yes, show me how I must do silverware.

CATHY

Here, let's get you an apron.

HENRY

How do I do this? Like this?

CATHY

No silly. Here. You better let me tie it around back for you.

HENRY

Now, what I do?

CATHY

You take this scrubber in your right hand.  
Then you dunk the silverware with your left into the soapy water.  
Then you scrub them.  
Then dunk them again. Scrub again.  
One more dunk, then into the rinse water.  
Then the second rinse.  
Then you put them here, to dry.  
Now, you try it.

HENRY

Scrubber, in right hand ... silverware, in left ... dunk ... scrub ... dunk again ... scrub again  
... third dunk ... rinse ... second rinse ... in rack to dry!

CATHY

Very good, Henry.  
I have been doing this for five years. Since I was 13.  
Right after Mashie caught me stealing a candy bar.

HENRY

You stole from Mashie-san?

CATHY

I saw my brother do it, so I did it.  
Mashie grabbed me, and he ran out.

I was so embarrassed. I cried and cried - "Please don't call the police."  
Mashie just stared at me, then she emptied my pockets.  
She saw I only had 15 cents.

She said, "Darling, would you like to earn a candy bar, or steal one?"  
So she put me to work.  
It's only part time. 2 hours a night. I help her clean up after closing ...

HENRY

What if you have appointment?

CATHY

Appointment?

HENRY

That is wrong word. It's, how you say, a ... a ... date?

CATHY

I don't go on dates ... I don't get asked.

HENRY

No? Pretty girl like you? How can that be?

CATHY

You're embarrassing me ...

HENRY

Sorry... I did not mean to ...  
Cathy, I have thought it over, and if I win, I want to share with you for helping me.

I could not input all numbers if you not help me.  
I will give you ... one million dollars of my winnings.  
That will take care of father for long time.

CATHY  
One million dollars?!

HENRY  
Is not enough?

CATHY  
Not enough. Henry, it's wonderful!

[Cathy hugs Henry. **MASHIE ENTERS**. She watches them, quietly, smiling]

HENRY  
Yes, wonderful ... to be held like this ... again.

MASHIE  
So you like each other, nu? Every time I come out here, you are hugging.

HENRY  
Sorry, Mashie-san.

CATHY  
I am so embarrassed.

MASHIE  
Feh! ... What's to be embarrassed about?  
Me, I'm going to sweep the floor. Don't pay attention to me.

Uh oh, here comes trouble.

[**BOBBY ENTERS**]

BOBBY  
What it is, Mashie.

MASHIE  
We're closed, Mister.

BOBBY  
Yeah, well how come he's in here?

MASHIE  
He's helping your sister.

BOBBY  
Yeah, well maybe I'll help her too.

MASHIE  
Your kind of help she doesn't need.

CATHY  
Bobby ... please ... we're closed ... just go home.

BOBBY  
If you're closed, then everybody should be gone.  
Hey, you!  
You!  
Yeah, you!

HENRY  
Yes?

BOBBY  
Are you doggin' my sister?

HENRY  
Excuse please? Where is dog?

CATHY  
Bobby, leave us alone.

HENRY  
Yes. You leave.

BOBBY  
Now you're giving me orders, are you, Charlie Chan?

MASHIE  
Look Mister, don't make trouble.

BOBBY  
I ain't makin' trouble. I come by to walk Cathy home.  
And what do I find?  
I find her uptight with Mr. Moto here.  
I don't like this.  
I know my old man won't like it.

CATHY  
Bobby, I'm fine.  
You don't have to wait around for me.  
Henry will walk me home.  
Won't you Henry?



HENRY

Yes.

BOBBY

I don't want him walking you home. People will see.

MASHIE

Nu, what will they see?

BOBBY

They'll see my sister with a chink.

MASHIE

No, that's what you see. Other people will see a nice looking young couple.  
Now, off you go, Mister! We have work to do. (she whacks him with her broom)

BOBBY

Get that broom off of me, old woman!

CATHY

Bobby, you're embarrassing me!

BOBBY

No, little sister. You got it backwards. You're embarrassing me with that chink.

MASHIE

Shah, Mister! Shah your mouth! (she whacks him again)

BOBBY

Get that broom off of me!  
(he grabs broom away and breaks handle in half over his knee)

MASHIE

Look at this boolvon, he breaks Mashie's broom.

CATHY

Mashie, if he's quiet, and he doesn't make trouble, can he stay?

MASHIE

That boy was born making trouble. You should know, darling.

BOBBY

Trouble. Who's making trouble? I'm just going to sit here and read a magazine.

MASHIE

You think maybe you could read a better magazine?

BOBBY

Yeah, well, it's a free country.

MASHIE

But it's not a free magazine. If you're not buying it, you're not reading it.

BOBBY

Hey, gimme that!

MASHIE

Here, Mister. Read the newspaper. You might learn something.

[LATISHA ENTERS]

LATISHA

Mashie, is everything alright?

I went downstairs to put out the garbage, and I saw your lights on.

Isn't it kind of late?

MASHIE

Maybe we should ask Bobby is everything is alright.

BOBBY

Everything is cool.

LATISHA

Better stay cool, too!

You sure *he* ain't bothering you?

BOBBY

I ain't botherin' no one. I'm reading the paper, getting an education.

LATISHA

Yeah, well I think I'll hang around awhile, too.

The kids are jumpin' all around after the candy I gave 'em.

I need a little peace and quiet.

MASHIE

So sit!

Get some peace and quiet.

Did you eat?

LATISHA

Yeah, I caught some dinner before my shift ended, but that pie does look good.

	MASHIE
You want?	
	LATISHA
No, don't bother yourself. You're cleaning up.	
	MASHIE
What bother? Here, let me get you a nice piece.	
	LATISHA
Ummm mmmmm! I can smell it from here.	
	MASHIE
Here you go.	
	LATISHA
How much do I owe you?	
	MASHIE
Feh!	
	LATISHA
Mashie?	
	MASHIE
FEH!	
	LATISHA
How much is a FEH?	
	MASHIE
It means nothing, so quit asking already.	
	LATISHA
I hope that boy does something. I got a bad case of PMS. I need something to beat on.	
	MASHIE
Better you should eat. Nu, the pie is good?	

LATISHA

Oh yeah, it's wonderful. Mashie, what's with those two?

MASHIE

How should I know?

LATISHA

Hey look at the time - they're gonna announce the winner soon.

MASHIE

Cathy, darling, get my little tv from the back. It's almost time.

CATHY

Yes, Mashie.

[CATHY EXITS then CATHY ENTERS carrying an old tv]

LATISHA

Wouldn't it be something if I won?

MASHIE

I hope you do, darling.

BOBBY

But you won't.  
Cause I got the winning ticket right here.

LATISHA

You ain't gonna win nothin'.

BOBBY

Oh yes I am.

LATISHA

Oh no you're not!

BOBBY

Oh yes I am, and don't go givin' me any of your bad luck voodoo.

LATISHA

Don't need no voodoo. Don't need nothin'.  
There is a God, and He don't let scum like you win.

BOBBY

Yeah, well, I'm gonna win. I can feel it.  
I'm gonna win the 100 million, and then you know what I'm gonna do?

LATISHA

No, and we don't want to know.

BOBBY

First, I'm gonna ...

LATISHA

Lord, help me, he's gonna tell us ....

BOBBY

... leave this crummy neighborhood and move to Hollywood.  
I'm going to buy the biggest house I see.  
And then you know what's gonna be sittin' out in my driveway?

LATISHA

I hope it's a dog with a serious intestinal problem.

BOBBY

No, smart mouth. It's gonna be a red Ferrari. A Test - er- o -sa!

LATISHA

Yeah right. You're gonna need all the testerosa you can get!

BOBBY

And then you know what I'm gonna do?

LATISHA

Lord help me, he's gonna tell us that too.

BOBBY

I'm gonna make movies. Hot movies. With the hottest actresses ...

LATISHA

He's gonna make movies, now. Movies!

BOBBY

... who are all going to want to sleep with me so they can be in my movies.  
I'm going to go out with the most beautiful women in the world...

LATISHA

... gonna have to be deaf, dumb, and blind too, to want to go out with the likes of you ...

BOBBY

With chests out to here. Gonna go out with nothin' but women with big tities.

Hey, you know you got a nice rack ... for a cop, that is ...

LATISHA  
Oh, that does it! Stand up, boy.

BOBBY  
I ain't no boy.

LATISHA  
I SAID STAND UP!  
You better move those legs and feet ...

(Bobby stands up and Latisha walks over to him)

Now let me see your hands?  
Hands tell everything about the size of a man.

BOBBY  
I got BIG hands.  
[Bobby extends his hands, and Latisha grabs one and twists it ]  
Hey! What are you doin'? You're breakin' my arm!

LATISHA  
Repeat after me, big man ... I am a low scum-sucking tadpole and I don't know diddly.

BOBBY  
Go to hell!  
Ow! Hey, this ain't right!

LATISHA  
I am ...

BOBBY  
Go to hell!

LATISHA  
I AM ..

BOBBY  
OW! ... OW! All aright, all right ... I AM!

LATISHA  
A low scum sucking tadpole ...

BOBBY  
No way!  
OW! OW! Okay! .... a scum sucking tadpole ...

LATISHA

A LOW scum sucking tadpole. Say it right, now.

BOBBY

A LOW scum sucking ..

LATISHA

Louder ... I can't hear you.

BOBBY

OW! ALL RIGHT! I AM A LOW SCUM SUCKING TADPOLE!

LATISHA

And?

BOBBY

And I don't know diddly.

LATISHA

I still can't hear you ... and make that diddly SQUAT.

BOBBY

AND I DON'T KNOW DIDDLY SQUAT!

LATISHA

Now, put it all together.

BOBBY

I said it once, and I ain't sayin' it ag ... ! OW! OW!  
I AM A LOW SCUM-SUCKING TADPOLE AND I DON'T KNOW DIDDLY SQUAT!  
OKAY!

LATISHA

Now, don't you feel much better making that confession? I know I feel so much better.

BOBBY

You're gonna wish you never did that.

LATISHA

I'm already wishin' I did more.  
Now, you go back over there, sit down, and shut your mouth.  
You talk about any part of me again and I'll break your arm the next time.

MASHIE

Latisha, I shouldn't feel this good about what you did to him, but I do. God forbid, I do!

LATISHA

That boy ... he's a loser ... Can you imagine him winnin' the Lottery!?

MASHIE

Stranger things have happened.

LATISHA

Ain't no way he's gonna win. I'm gonna win before he wins.  
And you know what I'm gonna do with the money?

MASHIE

What, darling?

LATISHA

First, I'm gonna quit that damn job. Adios New York City Police.  
And then, it's hello, Latisha, the party girl.  
I'm gonna get me a nanny. I mean a full time, 24 - 7 nanny. And a maid!  
And then I'm going on vacation, girl!  
I ain't comin' back until I'm so mellow they got to check my pulse to see if I'm alive.

MASHIE

So where are you going on this vacation, darling?

LATISHA

First, Jamaica. (with accent) There's some friends, mon, I want to party with down there.  
Then, the Virgin Islands. I want to dance calypso and drink rum.  
(Singing) Day-O! Day-O! Daylight come and me wanna go home ...  
When I'm partied out Caribbean style, I'm going to drag my bones over to Acapulco.  
For some culture, mind you – Jose Cuervo and margaritas.

And after I soak up all the culture south of the border, I'm going to Europe.  
I heard them Euros love black woman.

I'm gonna start with an Englishman. "I say, how a spot of tea and a Nubian crumpet?"

And then I'm goin to Italy. Gonna get me an original Eye-talian stallion.  
"Hey, Rocky, baby, try some of this dark pasta!"

Gonna finish up with a Frenchman, and see how they do it. "Ooo la la!"

Yes, m'am. This girl is gonna get multi-lingualled.  
I don't know what that means, but it sure sounds hot, don't it?!

When I get back, I'm gonna move out of this neighborhood.  
We're just going to leave. Pack nothin'. Buy everything brand new.  
New furniture. New clothes. New pots and pans.



LATISHA (cont'd)

Only I ain't never gonna touch another pot or pan, dirty laundry, or trash bag as long as I live, 'cause that's what the nanny and the maid is for.

We're going to live somewhere you can go for a walk at night and not worry.  
Maybe we'll move back down South and buy a farm.  
Show the kids about growin' up free and easy in the country.  
Live the good life.

MASHIE

We'll miss you, Latisha.

LATISHA

Mashie, I'll build you a guest house, and you can come and stay with us whenever you want. Don't have to call. You just show up. Always be waitin' for you.

MASHIE

So who will run the store when I'm not here?

LATISHA

Close up. Take a vacation.

MASHIE

I can't do that. For 40 years, this store has never been closed. Not one day.

LATISHA

Girl, you ain't had a vacation for 40 years!

MASHIE

Vacation shma-cation. Who needs a vacation?  
I wouldn't know what to do on vacation. I don't like to sit around and do nothing.

Where will the people in the neighborhood get things?

LATISHA

They'll go to Lester's.

MASHIE

FEH! Who can walk through that neighborhood?

Who will remind Henry to eat?  
Who will give Cathy a job so she can have a little spending money for herself?  
Bobby? Well, never mind about him.  
Tell me, who will have a candy bar for the neighborhood kindela?  
People here need my candy store. It would be like walking out on family.

LATISHA

Mashie, they broke the mold when they made you.

MASHIE

Yeah, one old woman looking like me is enough, nu?

CATHY

Look, they're starting!

BOBBY

It's about time. I was gettin' sick to my stomach listenin' to all this bullshit.

ANNOUNCER on TV

What time is it, folks?

EVERYONE at MASHIE'S

IT'S LOTTERY TIME!

ANNOUNCER

That's right! It's Lottery Time. And this week, we have how much?

EVERYONE

ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS!

ANNOUNCER

That's right, ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS!

That's a one and eight zeros. Count 'em, 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 zeros.

LATISHA

If he doesn't get to the numbers, I'm gonna reach right into that picture tube and rip the lips off his plastic smile!

ANNOUNCER

And now let's see what the lucky numbers are.

[Everyone at Mashie's takes out their tickets, except Mashie, who resumes sweeping]

The first number is ... 12! The second number is 13!

The third number is ... 21! The fourth number is ..... 35!

LATISHA (rips up her tickets)

That's it for me! Good-bye vacation, hello overtime!

EVERYONE

SHUSH!

LATISHA

Sorry.

CATHY

(starts crying) I can't keep up. There's so many numbers to check. I can't see right. Look at my hands. I can't stop them from shaking. Henry, help me!

HENRY

Here, these tickets still good, Cathy.

BOBBY

Hey, I still got a ticket that's alive!

LATISHA

If he wins, I'm going to take this spoon, and I'm going to take out his heart with it. I could spend life in prison knowing I stopped him from spending that money.

ANNOUNCER

The fifth number is 39!

BOBBY

That's it .... I got 39!  
Hello, Hollywood, hello Testerosa, hello good times!

LATISHA

Let me see that ticket!

BOBBY

Hey! Give it back!

LATISHA

The second number was 13, not 18, juice head. And that ain't a 39, it's a 38.

BOBBY

Let me see!

LATISHA

Thank you, Lord, for not lettin' him win.

CATHY

Henry, how are we doing?

HENRY

Cathy, I'm checking...

ANNOUNCER

The last number is. Give me a drum roll, please ..... 40!  
Those are the six numbers folks ... 12 ..13 ...21 ... 35 ... 39 ... 40!

CATHY

Henry?

HENRY

I check. Cathy, you have 50 ticket - I have 93.  
It is lot of number. Please ... give me time.

ANNOUNCER

Let's ask our computer where the winning ticket was sold ...  
Our computer says that the winning ticket was sold at ...

CATHY

Please say Mashie's Candy Store.  
Please, God, make him say Mashie's.  
God, please .... Mashie's .... Mashie's ....

ANNOUNCER

... Mashie's Candy Store.

CATHY

Thank you, God.

EVERYONE

HENRY!?

HENRY

I STILL CHECKING!  
PLEASE ... GIVE ME TIME ....

## INTERMISSION

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# Mashie's Candystore

## Act Two

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MASHIE

(Walks into audience)

Hello again, you beautiful young people!

Nu, did you have a soda at intermission? No? You want, I have.

I have Coca-Cola, Pepsi, diet Coke, and root beer.

Here ... have a Coke ... go ahead ... You can pay me later, darling.

How about you, sweetheart? You want a candy bar, darling?

I have Baby Ruth, Butterfingers. Hershey's? Yes? No?

Have some gummy bears ... go ahead ... here ... pay me after. It's alright.

Tottalah, you want a pack of cigarettes, I got.

What? You smell like you had a cigarette at intermission? No?

Yes, you did, you Fibber McGee. Don't try to fool Mashie.

Look, we all know they're bad for you, but if I don't carry them, you'll go to Lester's.

And I couldn't live with myself if, God forbid, someone k-nocked you over the head while you were walking in that neighborhood. You know, k-nocking, like a hammer k-nocks a nail. K-nock! K-nock!

So darling, I got Marlboro, Newport, Winston. I even got cheapies with a funny name.

So, young lady, you like so far, this play? Yes? No?

Me, I got no opinion except my head hurts. I didn't sleep so good last night.

I woke up this morning and my brain was k-nocking inside my eyes.

I took two aspirin and still it k-nocks. It don't go away.

The writer and me, we had a big fight back there. Nu, you heard?

I said, "Tell the people, already, who won the lottery."

He said, "No, Mashie, not yet."

I don't agree, but I'm not the writer, so I can't tell you.

You know it's one of my customers. Which one, he won't let me say.

He used to let me say some extra things, like a person. Like a human being. A mentch.

Not no more. Now it's, "Please, Mashie, just read the lines." "Stick to the lines, Mashie."

I don't think he likes me so much anymore. I know he doesn't like some of my customers.

I mean, he likes them, but he thinks you don't like them.

Like who? Well, like Henry. We had a big fight over Henry.

He said, "Henry isn't exciting enough."

MASHIE (cont'd)

"Look," I said, "I know Henry isn't a mister Johnny Wayne with a gun and a horse. But you sit and talk to Henry, and you'll see that there's something special there."

I like Henry. He's a nice young man.

Things happens to people, terrible things, and it changes them.

It's not right I should tell you. Better Henry should tell you, if he wants.

Feh! Henry won't tell you.

He doesn't want to burden you. He's that way. Such a nice young man. Nu, I was 50 years younger, and he was Jewish, I would try to marry him.

That reminds me.

The playwright, Mr. Velvel, he forbid me to say why I was never married.

He said, "Mashie, I forbid it!".

Those were his exact words. I'm not making this up.

I said, "Mr. Playwright, you think you know me, and still you say the word 'forbid' to Mashie. Mashie loves you, and you don't 'forbid' a person who loves you. Somebody might do things out of spite, then."

So I'll tell you why I was never married.

Listen to me, Mr. Fancy Words.

You want to forbid me, you come out here and forbid me, like a human being.

Mashie is waiting ...

Nu, you don't want to come out here? So don't forbid a person!

Now, where was I darling?

You get to be 75, you lose your place sometimes. What was I talking about?

About getting married? Who's getting married, darling?

Me?! No, not Mashie. Mashie is too old to get married.

What? Help me out here ...

Oh! I was talking about why *I* never got married ... oh, that.

That's easy.

I never married because I was ugly.

What?! You think I didn't know? A girl knows, believe me she knows.

The young men, they bother you, you know you're good looking.

My sister Beth, they were all over ... like bees on flowers.

If the boys leave you alone, you're ugly. Me, I couldn't get arrested.

What? It's true!

MASHIE (cont'd)

One young man said my face would stop a clock.  
He was kinder than the other shmendrick.  
He said I couldn't attract flies, even if I was covered with horse manure.

What?! They said it. It's the truth! Nu, it's not so bad. I could live with it.  
Was it my fault I was not born beautiful like my sister Beth?  
For Beth, I was happy. For me, well, who has time to sit and complain. Not Mashie.

When Beth got married, she asked me to live with her.  
She didn't like the idea of me living alone.  
That's the way we did things then – family watching out for family.

Pretty soon, Beth had children. Two nephews she gave me. First Irving, then Conrad.  
Each one a prize package. A Mr. Big Shot, like the writer here.  
For 15 years, I raised those boys like they were my own, while my sister went out to business with her husband. They had a little sportswear shop on Ditmars Blvd. She liked business, and I liked children. It was a good arrangement.

Every now and then they gave me spending money.  
I saved a nickel here, a dime there. A dollar every now and then.  
After 15 years, it added up.

15 years! It went by like you blink your eye. Blink, they're babies. Blink, they're teenagers. Irving and Conrad didn't need Mashie anymore.

So Mashie sat around an empty house. Mashie can't sit still. I went crazy.

One day, a FOR SALE sign goes up on the window outside this store.  
It was Goodman's Candy Store then.  
Mr. Goodman was getting too old to run the store.  
His son wanted him to retire, move to Florida, and live with him.

So again, I start blinking.  
I give Mr. Goodman \$3,000 for his business.  
Then it's Mashie's name on the candy store, not Goodman's anymore.

I blink again, it's 40 years later. The neighborhood, it's not so nice anymore.  
You can still make a living, but rich, I'm not, and never will be. But it keeps me busy.  
I sleep on a cot in the back.  
I'm an old woman. I don't bother nobody.

My sister, Beth, and her husband passed away eight years ago.  
First one, then the other. Six weeks apart. Like they couldn't live without each other.  
For 21 years, I don't see the boys, then each one twice in 6 weeks at the funerals.

MASHIE (cont'd)

Oy vay! I almost didn't recognize them. They're not my boys anymore. They're men.  
Irving, he became a dentist. Conrad, a businessman.  
Come closer, and I'll tell you a secret.

I should be proud of them, but I'm not.  
I haven't seen them since the funerals. Eight years.  
Not a card, not a phone call. Nothing.  
I don't think I'll see them again while I'm alive. Nu, they don't need Mashie anymore.

Only her customers need Mashie.  
I tell my customers I have no family ...it hurts to think the boys don't want to see Mashie  
anymore. It hurts, but not so much I can't live with it. I'm like Henry, that way.

In case you're wondering, Henry, didn't win the 100 million. He got 5 numbers and ...

See what happens what you 'forbid' a person, Mr. Playwright!  
I didn't do it on purpose!  
When I told them why I never married, THAT I did on purpose!  
Henry, he slipped out.

Don't worry, Mister Playwright, I won't tell them about Cathy!  
(Whispers to audience) She won \$43. That's all. \$43. Poor bubblah.  
She wanted to win so badly.

I DIDN'T SAY NOTHING, MR. VELVEL!

**[THERE IS BANGING ON THE FRONT DOOR]**

Look, I got to go now. We'll talk later.

**[THE BANGING BECOMES MORE INSISTENT]**

Okay, already! I'm coming! I'm coming!

I had to lock the door on account of the newspaper and tv people outside.

**[CATHY ENTERS.** When the door opens, we hear shouting from reporters.]

REPORTERS

(offstage)Miss, do you know who won? Is it someone in the neighborhood?  
Where is Mashie! Miss! Miss!

LATISHA

(offstage) Move aside and let the girl pass! MOVE ASIDE, DAMN IT!  
Look, buster, would you like to see what a hard nightstick can do to your soft little head?

CATHY

Look at all the reporters! U.P.I., the Times! Newsday!  
Mashie, there are lots of television people out there, too. They want to talk to you.



MASHIE

Feh! I got nothing to say.

CATHY

Why is it so dark in here? Mashie, you still have the shades down.

MASHIE

Cathy, darling, please leave the shades down. I don't like people staring in at me.

CATHY

They just want to know who bought the winning ticket.

MASHIE

So, I should know? Everyone in the neighborhood bought a ticket.  
Please, Cathy, you go out and tell them Mashie knows nothing. Then they'll go away.

CATHY

It's better if you tell them, Mashie.

MASHIE

What?! Mashie doesn't know how to talk to these people.  
Cathy, darling, you want to be a newspaper person, nu?  
So you go out there and talk like a newspaper person to them.  
Tell them to please go home. There's no story here.

[**CATHY EXITS** and we hear the voices of reporters when the door opens and closes]

MASHIE

I need this like I need a hole in the head.

LATISHA

(offstage) **QUIT BLOCKING THE DOOR! STEP BACK AND LET HER BACK IN!**  
Go ahead, Cathy.

[**CATHY ENTERS** and locks the door behind her]

MASHIE

You told them, nu?

CATHY

I told them.

MASHIE

So why are they still here?

CATHY

They say they're going to wait for the winner to show up.

MASHIE

The winner doesn't have to show up here, don't they know that?

They're mashuginah. Completely mashuginah.

Look at that Latisha! Such a friend!

Here, Cathy Darling. Bring Latisha a glass tea. She looks like she could use it.

CATHY

Latisha looks like she could also use some aspirin.

MASHIE

So here, give her some aspirin, too.

**[CATHY EXITS]**

MASHIE

I got to start dusting or I'll never get it done ... there's too much excitement here today.

Where is my duster? There it is.

LATISHA

(offstage) You! Yeah you! How many times to I have to tell you to step back?

NOW ... STEP BACK!

If this tea spills, one of us is going to have his blood spilled on the sidewalk along with it.

Can you guess who that is?

**[HENRY ENTERS]**

REPORTERS

(offstage) What are you going to do with the money, Henry?

Are you going to quit your job? Are you going to get married again?

HENRY

Please, no more questions. Sorry ... sorry ...

Hello, Mashie.

MASHIE

Look who is so happy today, Mr. I-Won-Three-Thousand-Dollars-in-the-Lottery.

HENRY

(he hands her an envelope)

Here, Mashie-san. For you.

MASHIE

What is this?

HENRY

The money you lent me.

MASHIE

Now, you should pay me back? You didn't have to do it, now.

[CATHY ENTERS]

HENRY

How are you, Cathy?

CATHY

Fine.

MASHIE

What is going on here with this money?

Henry, there is more than 23 dollars here ... much more.

Henry, why is there a thousand dollars extra in this envelope?

HENRY

That for you, Mashie-san. For helping me.

I split winnings with you and Cathy.

I not win without her help, or you not lend me money.

MASHIE

No, this is not necessary.

Cathy, tell him to take this money back. I can't take this.

CATHY

Henry, why did they ask you about getting married ... Henry?

Why did they say 'again', Henry?

Were you married, Henry?

HENRY

Cathy .... please ...

CATHY

Were you?

HENRY

Yes.

CATHY

Henry, I can't believe you didn't tell me you were married

And now you're divorced, right?

HENRY

Not exactly divorced.  
It is not something I like to talk about.

CATHY

(she hands him 2 envelopes)

Then here, I can't take any of this money, now, either.

HENRY

Cathy, is not what you think.

CATHY

How is it, then?

HENRY

Please ... we can talk later about this?

CATHY

Good bye, Henry.

HENRY

Wait! Cathy ...

MASHIE

Cathy, darling. Let him talk.  
Listen, a bistle, before you get angry.

CATHY

Okay ... I'm listening ...

HENRY

Please ... sit down ... this is ... so difficult ...  
Yes, I once married.... wait ... but wife is dead. She die in refugee camp.  
Our child ... also dead. He die there, too.  
Mother and father die there, too.

Reporters check green card ... it is all there.

CATHY

Henry ... I'm sorry.

MASHIE

Nu, sometimes it pays to listen after you ask a question.

Now, you young people take the money and go out and enjoy yourselves.

HENRY

No, Mashie. Cathy and I want you to have it.

MASHIE

What would I do with it?

CATHY

Buy some new dresses, for one thing.

MASHIE

I like my old shmatas. They're comfortable.

CATHY

Then buy some new shoes. A pair that won't hurt your feet.

MASHIE

Cathy, darling, these old shoes are fine. Worn in just perfect.

What's inside the shoes is worn out.

Now, if I could buy new feet, I would take the money.

Henry, darling, don't look so serious. I was joking.

You take the money. Take Cathy somewhere nice.

A fancy restaurant, maybe, where they serve something besides turkey sandwiches.

Afterwards, go see a happy play. Something with music.

Is Fiddler on the Roof still playing?

I love it when he goes "If I were a rich man, a biddee biddee bum biddee bum!"

CATHY

I don't think it's playing anymore, Mashie.

MASHIE

No? What a shame. Such a nice play.

Well, see something else. Enjoy the money. Have fun.

You want to make Mashie, happy? Do that.

Mashie likes seeing young people have fun.

CATHY

(kissing Mashie) Why are you so impossible to do something nice for?

MASHIE

Such a kiss! That's worth a million dollars, easy.

CATHY

Go ahead, Henry.

HENRY

(kissing Mashie) Thank you, Mashie-san.

MASHIE

Look at that! Another million dollar kiss. I'm a rich lady.  
So go ahead, Henry .... ask her out, already!

HENRY

Cathy, would you ... like appointment ... I mean date ... tonight?

CATHY

Yes. Very much.

HENRY

Is okay I come by for you at 6?

CATHY

Yes, it's okay.

MASHIE

Now, go, you two! Have some fun.

CATHY

Will you be all right here by yourself?

MASHIE

I'll be fine. For 40 years I've been fine here by myself. I can be fine for a little longer.

CATHY

Can we go out the back door, Mashie? I don't feel like talking to the reporters again.

MASHIE

Sure, darling.

**[CATHY, HENRY and MASHIE EXIT. MASHIE ENTERS again]**

[Mashie straightens up the store while someone bangs on the front door]

MASHIE

Who is it? You? Nu, you gonna buy a magazine, or look?

BOBBY

(Offstage) Come on, open up!

LATISHA

(Offstage) Get away from that door, you!

BOBBY

(Offstage) Hey, I need something inside for my old man!  
Mashie, come on. Open up!  
I gotta get something for my old man.

[Mashie opens the door. **BOBBY ENTERS**]

LATISHA

(offstage) You take one step to that door, little Ms. Sneaky face, and I'll cuff you!  
That goes for you too, baldy! Then you can write about going to jail in your paper!

MASHIE

Nu, what do you need for your father?

BOBBY

I don't need nothin' for him ... I need somethin' for myself ...

MASHIE

You know where the girly magazines are.

BOBBY

Yeah, I know where they are.

MASHIE

So go. Read. Try not to wrinkle them too much.

BOBBY

I ain't in a reading mood right now.

MASHIE

Nu, another kind of mood you got, then you're in the wrong store.

BOBBY

What's that supposed to mean?

MASHIE

It means you go to Eddie's for the other things.

BOBBY

What about Eddie's?

MASHIE

What, you don't think I know about Eddie?  
Someday, he'll get put in jail for selling what he sells out the back.  
You get caught buying what he sells and you'll go to jail again, too.

BOBBY

Look, I just came by to talk.

MASHIE

Talk? You mean speak and listen, like a real person?

BOBBY

Yeah, that's right. Like a real person.

MASHIE

So tell me, what should you and I talk about?

BOBBY

We could talk about the lottery.

MASHIE

Feh! I got no time to talk about that.

BOBBY

Hey, I thought we was going to talk?

MASHIE

Please don't touch Mashie.

BOBBY

Kind of funny, somebody in the neighborhood winnin' the 100 million, huh?

MASHIE

You think it's funny, so it's funny. Now, let Mashie go.

BOBBY

Where're you going? Stay around and talk.

MASHIE

Look Mister. I got nothing to say to you about the lottery.

BOBBY

Bet you know who won, don't you?

MASHIE

How should I know? I sold thousands of tickets. Everyone in the neighborhood bought.

BOBBY

Yeah, but you know.  
And I know you know.



MASHIE

Bobby, you want something to read, I can help you.  
You want something to eat, I can help you.  
Anything else, you got to go someplace else.

BOBBY

I think you won the lottery, Mashie.

MASHIE

Yeah, sure. Mashie won the lottery.

BOBBY

I think you won cause you're Jewish, and Jewish people get all the luck.

MASHIE

Yeah, we were real lucky with Hitler.  
Before that the Cossacks were such a joy.  
Lately, The Arabs have been a real blessing, too.

BOBBY

I don't know about none of that stuff. I just know you won.

MASHIE

This is what happens when you take the things Eddie sells. They make you meshugah.

BOBBY

I'm not so high I can't see what's happening.

MASHIE

Look at your eyes ... How can you see anything out of them?

BOBBY

Where's the ticket, Mashie?

MASHIE

Look in the trash. There's plenty of tickets.

BOBBY

Mashie, I'm not fooling around with you. Where's the ticket?

MASHIE

Again, with the touching ... Please, Bobby, go and leave Mashie alone.

BOBBY

Mashie, I'm serious. (pulls out his gun)

MASHIE

No, you're mashuganah!  
You threaten Mashie with a gun, and 2 policemen and a 100 reporters are outside,

BOBBY

They can't see nothin' cause you got the shades pulled down.

MASHIE

Nu, they can't hear when you shoot a gun?  
Go home, Bobby, before you do something stupid. Mashie will forget what ...

BOBBY

Get away from the door!

MASHIE

What are you doing?! Let go of me!

BOBBY

You got to start listenin' to me better old woman!

MASHIE

Such a big macher ... to knock an old woman down.

BOBBY

I didn't knock you down! I pulled you and you fell.  
You got to start takin' this serious.  
Now get yourself up and start payin' attention. Mashie, I'm not foolin' around here.

MASHIE

Oy, gevalt! Look at my dress!  
You tore my dress, you boolvon!  
How can I have people see me like this?

BOBBY

You think I'm crazy?  
You're crazier than a bedbug! Who cares about an old dress?  
Mashie, stop wastin' time. Where's the ticket?

MASHIE

I ain't got no ticket, Mister.  
Again, with the touching?! Are you going to knock me down again?

BOBBY

Would you cut the crap already?! I didn't knock you down.  
I swear, you give me a pain with your exaggerations.

MASHIE

You got a pain, I got an aspirin.  
You want a 100 million dollar lottery ticket, I can't help you.

BOBBY

Mashie, you need to understand me. Listen real good, now.  
If you don't give me the ticket, I'm going to take you in the back.  
Then I'm going to put this gun to your head, and I'm going to blow your brains out.

MASHIE

And then you'll have the ticket? You're mashugah!

BOBBY

I think you'll stop me before I do it.

MASHIE

I haven't stopped you up to now. Why should I change?

BOBBY

Because you don't take dying serious yet.

MASHIE

Bobby, mashuginah tottalah, I'm 75 years old.  
My Mother is dead. My father is dead. My sister and her husband are dead.  
I have two nephews who treat me like I'm dead.  
Everyone I have loved is dead.

Before I go to sleep, each night, I pray to God. I tell him how tired I am.  
I tell him how much I hurt. I ask him to take me, if he needs me the slightest bit.  
I close my eyes and wait...

Then I wake up in the morning. I feel myself to see if I am still here.  
I look around, and I know this sure isn't Heaven, so I must still be alive.  
Then I look up and ask why?  
God don't give me no answers .. just another day.  
And you think I don't take dying serious enough?  
Nu, put down that gun and go home.

BOBBY

Okay, then we'll have to do it the hard way. Get in the back!

MASHIE

You don't have to push me. I'll go in the back.  
Then you'll kill me and my feet will finally stop hurting.

**[THERE IS A KNOCKING ON THE DOOR]**

Oh, for Christ's sake!

BOBBY

Now what, Mister?

MASHIE

They'll go away.

BOBBY

**[THE KNOCKING GROWS LOUDER AND MORE INSISTENT]**

They're not going away.

MASHIE

They will.

BOBBY

Soon Latisha will wonder why I'm not answering.  
Then she'll wonder what you're up to.  
Then she'll knock. When I don't answer, she'll break down the door  
Tell me, Mister, what are you going to do then?

MASHIE

Oh Christ! Will you shut up!

BOBBY

What?! You don't have to shout! Why are you shouting at Mashie?  
I was just asking a question.

MASHIE

Look, just shut up!  
I got to think this out, and I can't think with all your questions!  
Sit down there, where I can see you.

BOBBY

Sitting down I can do.

MASHIE

(Goes to the door) What do you want?

BOBBY

(offstage) I need to speak to Mashie.

HENRY

She's busy right now. She can't talk to you.

BOBBY

[Bobby walks away and **HENRY RESUMES KNOCKING**]

HENRY

(Offstage) LET ME IN!

BOBBY

Can't you hear good? Don't you understand English?  
Mashie's busy and can't talk to you.

HENRY

(Offstage) Then I'll wait for her to finish. Let me in!

BOBBY

Hey Mashie !? He still wants to come in ...  
Mashie says come back later.

HENRY

(Offstage) No ... I not go away. This important.

[**HENRY KNOCKS EVEN LOUDER NOW**]

BOBBY

Christ, I'm surrounded by crazy people.  
Okay, you want in, you got in.

[Bobby opens the door. **HENRY ENTERS.** Bobby shoves him next to Mashie]

Now you can go sit next to Mashie while I figure out what to do with both of you.

MASHIE

Henry, darling, I think maybe you should have listened to Bobby.  
The shmendrick has a gun.

HENRY

(stands up)

Gun! What you do with gun?!

BOBBY

Didn't I say for you to sit down?

[**Bobby hits Henry, and Henry gets knocked down**]

MASHIE

Stop it! STOP IT! You don't have to hit!  
Talk, like a person, and we'll do something. Talk!  
Henry, are you all right!

BOBBY

Sit back down, Mashie!

MASHIE

Mashie will sit back down as soon as she sees Henry is alright.  
Henry?

Are you okay, darling?

HENRY

Yes, Mashie. Am okay.

BOBBY

There's more coming your way, Henry, if I don't get that ticket.

MASHIE

Still with the ticket.

BOBBY

That's the reason he's here, ain't it? He knows you have the ticket.

MASHIE

(winking) Henry, this mashuginah thinks I have the winning ticket.  
Tell him I got no such ticket, then maybe he'll leave me alone.

HENRY

(stands back up)

Mashie, what wrong with eye?

MASHIE

What wrong ... I think I'm getting an infection ... to tell the truth, I woke up this morning  
and my eye started blinking. All by itself, it blinked ...

BOBBY

You dumb chink! She was winking at you.  
And I know why she was winking at you!  
Cause she knows that you know that she has the ticket.  
No more games ... where is it, Mashie?!

MASHIE

Henry, darling, don't they wink where you come from?

HENRY

Only when dirt is in eye, Mashie.

BOBBY

Where's the ticket, Mashie?

MASHIE

First, you let Henry leave.  
You let Henry go and I'll give you the ticket.

BOBBY

No, first you give me the ticket.

MASHIE

Sorry, Mister. This I will not do.  
You want to hurt Mashie again, then hurt Mashie again ... go ahead ... I'm waiting ...

BOBBY

No, I gotta better way.  
Henry, I gotta hit you again so Mashie believes me.

MASHIE

NO!

BOBBY

Where's the ticket, Mashie?

HENRY

I sorry, Mashie.

MASHIE

For what? It's not your fault he's mashuginah?

BOBBY

Where are you going?

MASHIE

You want the ticket. I'm getting the ticket.

BOBBY

I'll get it. Where is it?

MASHIE

You won't find it. I put it in a secret spot.

BOBBY

Don't try anything funny.

MASHIE

Funny? Feh! I wish I knew what to do funny. This situation here needs funny.  
Maybe when you start laughing, you'll start seeing straight.  
Oy vay! My back when I bend down. Here, Mister...

BOBBY

What's this?

MASHIE

What you wanted. Mashie's ticket.

BOBBY

But it's all wet!

MASHIE

So I spilled some coffee on it and it got wet.

BOBBY

I can't read the numbers.

MASHIE

Nu, now you see why I didn't claim the money?  
Nobody can read the numbers. Nobody would believe me,  
Everyone would laugh and say Mashie is playing a joke.

BOBBY

How could you spill coffee on a 100 million dollar ticket?!

MASHIE

Henry, he plays with his computer box, and he gives me this ticket.  
Nu, it was the first tip I got in a long time.  
I didn't know what to do with it, so I put it by the coffee machine. Didn't I Henry?

HENRY

Yes, near coffee machine.

MASHIE

Last night, with all the excitement of Henry winning \$3,000, I forgot about my ticket.  
This morning, I'm cleaning by the machine, and I remember.  
Next thing I know, I knock over the coffee pot and it spills all over the counter.  
The ticket is on the counter and it gets drenched.

I think maybe Henry remembered the ticket, too, and that's why he came back?  
Is that right, Henry?

HENRY

Yes.

MASHIE

So now I got a wet ticket. Like mush it is.  
You want to kill me for a bunch of mush, go ahead.



BOBBY

Okay, so when it dries up, we'll see the numbers.

MASHIE

I don't think so. What do you think, Henry?

HENRY

I think numbers wash out.

BOBBY

No! They'll come back when it dries out!

MASHIE

Me, I agree with Henry.

BOBBY

Get me some paper towels!

MASHIE

Nu, you got the ticket. Take it home and try to unmush it.  
You need to do it now, in front of us and a 100 reporters and 2 policemen?

BOBBY

It may not be the right ticket.

MASHIE

That's the only ticket I have.

Henry, darling, such a look on your face!  
Do you feel all right? You want, maybe, something to eat?  
A sandwich ... some potato salad. I got fresh potato ....

BOBBY

Mashie, get out from behind the counter. You're not making any food now!

HENRY

This so confusing!  
My program wrong. Completely wrong!  
The number I gave you, wrong. Calculated wrong.  
But still win!

BOBBY

Look, both of you sit back down and shut up.  
I'm going to dry this off and see what happens.  
You got a blow dryer or something, Mashie?

MASHIE

Look at my hair. Do I look like I use a blow dryer?

HENRY

This makes me so angry! You ... you ... Mashie what is word?

MASHIE

Mashuginah?

HENRY

No, other one.

MASHIE

Shmuck!? You think he's a schmuck?

HENRY

Yes, that's it. Smuck! You are smuck!

BOBBY

Yeah, well this smuck is going to have a 100 million dollars, soon.

MASHIE

No, you'll just have a little pile of mush.

BOBBY

Yeah, you'll see.

HENRY

Smuck!

BOBBY

Henry, I have a gun, and I'm comin' down from a serious high.

I'm gettin' kinda of irritable now.

You gotta stop callin' me Jew names that you can't pronounce right.

It makes you sound irritating, and it gets me pissed off.

***You don't wanna get me more pissed off than I already am.***

MASHIE

Henry, it's not smuck. It's shmuck!

Like shoe, only with a muck at the end. Shmuck! Now you try it.

HENRY

Shhhhh .. uck.

MASHIE

Not shuck. Shmuck! Say shoe, then muck. Shoe ... muck. Shmuck.

HENRY

Shoe ... muck. Shoe ... muck ... Shh ... muck! Shmuck!

MASHIE

That's it! Shmuck!

BOBBY

Hey!

MASHIE

Henry, darling, you better stop saying shmuck because Mr. I'll-Shoot-You-If-You-Don't-Shut-Up is getting irritated.

**[THERE IS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR]**

BOBBY

Oh Christ! Now what?  
What do you want?

CATHY

(offstage) Let me in, Bobby.

BOBBY

What for? It ain't time to clean up yet?

CATHY

(offstage) I have to talk to Henry and we're supposed to meet inside.

BOBBY

Henry? What do you want with the chink?

CATHY

(offstage) Bobby, let me in!

BOBBY

Hold on, a second, will ya? Hey, Henry!? ... She wants to talk to ya! ...  
Henry's busy right now talkin' with Mashie.  
He says he'll talk to you later.

CATHY

(offstage) Let me in, Bobby!

BOBBY

Can't you hear right? Come back later!

**[SHE KNOCKS AGAIN, EVEN LOUDER]**

CATHY

(offstage) No! Henry would never say that. Now let me in or I'll get Latisha ...

BOBBY

Okay! Okay! Calm yourself down.

LATISHA

(offstage) Stand back, people. Nobody's goin' in unless they're from the neighborhood. Yeah, well you want cigarettes, go down to the Lester's supermarket. You ain't buying nothin' from Mashie's unless you're from the neighborhood.

[Bobby opens the door and **CATHY ENTERS**]

CATHY

What's going on, Henry? Why did you ask me to meet you back here?

HENRY

Ask brother.

CATHY

Bobby! What are you doing with that gun?!

BOBBY

Look, sis ... do you know what this is?! This is the winning ticket! This is 100 million dollars!

CATHY

It is! How can you tell? It looks like mush.

HENRY

And it's Mashie's mush.

BOBBY

Shut up, you! I think I can see some numbers now.

CATHY

Where?

BOBBY

There.

CATHY

This? That's not a number. It looks like a ... it is ... a coffee ground.

HENRY

Shmuck!

CATHY  
Bobby, is it true? It this Mashie's ticket?

BOBBY  
No. It's my ticket. Mashie gave it to me.

CATHY  
Mashie, you really won!

MASHIE  
Henry did it, really.

CATHY  
(hugging both of them) Oh, I'm so happy for you!

BOBBY  
You're happy for the wrong people, little sister. It's my ticket now.

CATHY  
No! You're giving it back to her!

BOBBY  
No way!

CATHY  
You can't steal her ticket!

BOBBY  
Jesus Christ! You're my sister! I'm gonna give you something, too!

CATHY  
I'm your sister? Now, I'm your sister!

BOBBY  
We're blood, ain't we?!

CATHY  
Ever since I could stand next to the sink, I've been washing dishes and cooking for you  
I've been cleaning your clothes, washing out your dirty underwear.  
I'm sick to death of doing it, but I do it because I promised Momma I would.  
And NOW you notice I'm your sister? NOW I'm your blood!  
Go to hell! You give Mashie back her ticket right now!

BOBBY  
How's about a million dollars to say I won? How's that, sis?

CATHY

Give it back to Mashie!

MASHIE

Nu, better you should take what he offers, sweetheart.

CATHY

It's your ticket, and you're asking me to help him steal it from you?

MASHIE

Better to let him take the money than take someone's life.

BOBBY

See, Mashie understands. You all better understand too.

Now everybody sit down and shut up! We're goin' see if any numbers show up.

[**LATISHA ENTERS silently from the back door.** Mashie is the only one who sees her. Laticia puts her finger to her lips, then hides behind the counter.]

MASHIE

Nu, Cathy it's a little warm in here? Do you feel warm?

CATHY

No, Mashie.

MASHIE

Look at me. I'm shvitzing like a pig.

BOBBY

SHUT UP!

MASHIE

Normally I would be quiet, but I think I'm starting to plotz again, again.

CATHY

Henry, Mashie doesn't look right!

MASHIE

Henry, darling, maybe you could open a window and let in some fresh air?

BOBBY

Sit down! Nobody's opening any windows.

MASHIE

My heart is k-nocking again .... Cathy ... darling ... maybe I could lie down ...

**[Mashie falls down on the floor]**

CATHY

MASHIE! Henry do something!

HENRY

She not breathe good. Cathy, please, move away and give air.  
Mashie! Mashie, do you hear me? Mashie?

BOBBY

Now what?!

HENRY

I think Mashie have heart attack. Mashie, can you hear me?

BOBBY

Oh Christ! What's next?

CATHY

If anything happens to her it's your fault!

BOBBY

Yeah right! I made her into a weak old woman.

CATHY

Mashie? Mashie, answer me ... please ... Mashie, please answer. Oh Mashie ... Mashie ...  
(she begins crying) Henry do something?

HENRY

I call ambulance.

BOBBY

Nobody's calling any ambulance!

CATHY

Bobby, she's going to die!

BOBBY

She's going to die anyway. She's old. Now or later won't make a difference.

CATHY

You bastard! You low-life!

HENRY

I call ambulance.

BOBBY

You pick up that phone and you can call the coroner - for yourself.

HENRY

I not sit here and watch her die!

I not watch someone I love die slowly again. Not again.

BOBBY

Put down the phone!

HENRY

No!

BOBBY

PUT IT DOWN!

HENRY

NO!

CATHY

Bobby, please don't shoot! Please!

BOBBY

Make him listen then!

HENRY

NO!

CATHY

HENRY!

MASHIE

(weakly) Cathy, mommalah, darling, what's happening ... don't cry, darling ....

CATHY

Oh Mashie! We thought you were ...

MASHIE

Dead? Oy vays-mere, my throat feels dry like a dead person.

You think maybe I could have a glass water?

HENRY

I'll get it.

BOBBY

Stay where you are!



MASHIE

You, Mr. Giving-Orders-With-The-Gun.  
You think maybe you could get me glass water?

BOBBY

God, you're a pain in the ass.

[Bobby goes around the counter and Latisha stands up]

LATISHA

HANDS UP!  
HANDS UP OR YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!

BOBBY

What? ... How did .... I knew it was a trick...

LATISHA

What's it gonna be? Hands up, or dead!

BOBBY

I don't know ... I got to think this out ... I got to think about this ...

LATISHA

Will you think better with a bullet in your brain?

BOBBY

I don't think you'll do it ...

LATISHA

Oh, really. Then try me. I really wish you'd try me.

BOBBY

There's too many people around ... someone might get hurt ... you might shoot the old lady ... you might shoot my sister ....

LATISHA

PUT THE GUN DOWN, BOBBY, AND START THINKING RIGHT!

CATHY

Listen to her, Bobby!

BOBBY

No, I don't think so ... I don't think she ...

**[LATISHA FIRES A WARNING SHOT INTO THE CEILING]**

LATISHA

The next one is right between your eyes.

CATHY

BOBBY!

MASHIE

Bobby, darling, stop acting like a shmuckilah and give Latisha your gun.

HENRY

Shmuckilah? What is shmuckilah?

MASHIE

It's a little shmuck, Henry.

BOBBY

(Pointing the gun at her) You better stop calling me Jew names!

LATISHA

Point that gun away from them! DO IT!

BOBBY

No ... I don't think so ...

MASHIE

Bobby, normally, I don't like to interrupt a person ...

BOBBY

Look, you, don't talk to me anymore. You got nothing but tricks.

MASHIE

Look, you tell me to shut up, and then you point a gun at me, normally, I would shut up. Mashie is not mashugah. She would stop talking. But this is not normally. No. I got to say something ...

BOBBY

SHUT UP, I SAID!

LATISHA

Mashie, I don't think this is helping!

MASHIE

Bobby, tottalah. Stop and think. You know there's a lot of reporters outside ...

BOBBY

SHUT UP!

MASHIE

I would like to ... I'm lying here, and I want to rest.  
My feet are killing me, and my back, it's not much better.  
And my heart is k-nocking so loud.

BOBBY

SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

**[He fires a shot into the ceiling]**

MASHIE

Oy vays mere! So loud your gun is.

Bobby, tottilah, I will shut up. I promise. Mashie will be quiet, like a little mouse.  
Just one thing I want to ask. One thing.

I keep thinking of how the newspaper will read tomorrow .

Man Gets Killed over ... Mushy Lottery Ticket?

I think that kind of headline would embarrass a person. Nu? What do you think?

BOBBY

Why don't you ever shut up when I tell you to?

MASHIE

I will shut up, I promise, but you still got to answer the question, tottalah.  
Bobby look at the ticket ... it should be dry now ...  
Bobby, can you see any numbers?

BOBBY

No.

MASHIE

Nu, so what are you prepared to die for?

HENRY

Smuckilah!

BOBBY

Shut up, you!

MASHIE

Henry, it's shmuckilah ... shmuckilah ... like shoe ... then muck ... then ila.

BOBBY

If he says it one more time, I'm gonna pop a cap in his ass!

MASHIE

Henry, maybe it's better we do the Yiddish lesson later, huh?

LATISHA

Bobby!

BOBBY

Don't rush me! I'm thinking!

LATISHA

Think about putting the gun down on the counter ...

You don't, then your brains are going to be there next.

(she puts the gun to his head)

Do you feel the barrel of my gun on the back of your head?

It's going to be very messy in here, real soon.

BOBBY

Okay ... Okay ... yeah ... okay ... I can do that ...

LATISHA

Okay ... now turn around ...

BOBBY

Okay ... okay ... I'm turning around.

LATISHA

Now, on the floor with your hands behind your back. I said, on the floor!

(she trips him and he falls down)

BOBBY

Okay!

LATISHA

If you move your hand away one more time while I'm trying to cuff you, I'm gonna bang you upside the head with my nightstick.

You hear me!

BOBBY

I hear you.

LATISHA

Now, that we got him cuffed, someone want to tell me who set off the silent alarm?

CATHY

I didn't do it.

HENRY

I don't know ... what is this ... silent alarm?

MASHIE

I did it. When I gave him the ticket ... I pushed the button.

BOBBY

You sneaky lying bastard bitch.

LATISHA

SHUT UP, YOU!

MASHIE

Please, Latisha. I don't mind so much you kick him.  
Personally, I'd like to kick him too.  
But it's not right to do it in front of his sister like this.

CATHY

Mashie, what are you doing?  
You better stay put until a doctor checks you out.

MASHIE

Feh! What doctor? Who needs a doctor? I'm fine.

HENRY

Mashie! Let me help you.

LATISHA

Look, I'm going to bring him out back to my partner.  
Bobby's gonna go for a ride downtown. Aren't you, Bobby?  
Then I'm going to come back inside and start on my report. Y'all stay for statements.  
Come on, you! Time to go downtown!

**[LATISHA AND BOBBY EXIT, Latisha pushing him out the back door. ]**

CATHY

I still think we should call a doctor and have you checked out, Mashie.

MASHIE

Feh!

CATHY

Mashie!

MASHIE

I said, Feh!

CATHY

Henry, say something!

HENRY

Okay. I say ... FAY!

MASHIE

Close enough, Henry.

[LATISHA ENTERS carrying a notepad]

LATISHA

Okay, now, somebody want to tell me who's mushy ticket this is?

CATHY

It's Mashie's.

HENRY

Yes, it Mashie's. Winning ticket.

LATISHA

No lie! It was the winnin' ticket?

MASHIE

It was. But now it's just mush. Worthless mush.

LATISHA

What a damn shame! I would have liked to see you win all that money.

MASHIE

Maybe I don't think so ... what kind of blessing was this?

I almost got killed. Henry almost got killed.

Bobby almost got killed. Not that anyone would mind too much about that ...

Nu, maybe it's for the best. That's what I think.

LATISHA

Mashie, I swear I don't understand you.

But look, I gotta get goin'. There's paperwork to fill out ... lots and lots of paperwork.

I'm going to need you people to come downtown with me and give statements.

Anyone got a problem with that?

HENRY

No.

CATHY

No.

MASHIE

Latisha, I got, maybe, a problem.

LATISHA

Here, I can help you into ...

MASHIE

No it's not with walking I have a problem.

I can't close my store. It's too early. It's Sunday and sports is on tv.

I got hungry customers that come down for sandwiches and soda and chips ...

Maybe I could come after closing time?

LATISHA

Sure, Mashie. We'll have plenty to get started with from Henry and Cathy here.

CATHY

(hugging Mashie ) Oh Mashie, I'm so sorry.

MASHIE

A hug is good. A kiss even better.

HENRY

(hugs both Mashie and Cathy) Me, too.

LATISHA

Okay, let's go out the back way.

CATHY

Mashie, we'll come see you when we get back.

Just to make sure you're all right.

MASHIE

Feh, Mashie is all right.

CATHY

But, we'll still come and check. Won't we, Henry?

HENRY

Yes.

MASHIE

So, you'll come and check. Mashie will still be here.

**[HENRY, CATHY & LATISHA EXIT]**

MASHIE

(comes out and talks to audience)

So, nu, what you think?

You think, maybe, Mashie can go back to dusting now?

Nu, you wonder, maybe, what was with that mushy ticket?

What do you think?

Nu, what's this in Mashie's pocket?! Looks like a lottery ticket.

So what is this ticket I have here?

Nu, you help me. You have young eyes.

What does this ticket say?

12 ... 13 ... 21 ... 35 ... 39 ... 40 ... right?

Nu, you think I'm crazy?

Mashugah or not, Mashie thinks if she gave this ticket, this good ticket, to Bobby, he would have killed somebody to keep it.

100 million he would have killed for. 100 million he would have died for.

Better I gave him mush.

He was not such a mashuginah he would have died for mush.

So now what do I do?

Maybe I should share with everyone here?

100 millions is a lot to share, no?

How about next time we do the play, I'll share with everyone in the audience.

Then maybe you'll come again, tomorrow night, and see what I do?

Mashie likes to see beautiful young people have a good time, getting together.

And even if they're not beautiful, I like seeing them.

That's one of the nice things about getting old. Beautiful, it's not so important anymore.

Beautiful woman and ugly women look the same when we get old.

At my sister's funeral, people came up to me and said:

"You know, we never saw it before, but you and Beth looked a lot alike. We could tell you were sisters."

I got more to say to you young people.

I want to say that yes, darling, it's nice to be young and beautiful.

But don't expect it to last.

Looks fade ...

Your body shrinks ... while your nose and ears get bigger ...

As you can see, I didn't need any help in that department.

And parts of you start to hurt and wear out ... like feet ...



MASHIE (cont'd)

But other things, little things, become important.  
I had no talent except doing for others.  
I knew how to give, and how to enjoy giving.  
For me it was a blessing. It is still a blessing.

Here, you have a Hershey bar ... you, take this soda.  
See a blessing to me, as well as them.  
Maybe you understand what old Mashie is talking about? Yes? No?  
Maybe, sometime, you're in a store and you see some candy... or something nice.  
Maybe you can think about old Mashie?

And then you think about a person you love.  
Maybe a husband, a wife, a mother, a father ...  
Maybe your sister, or brother, or an aunt or an uncle ...  
Maybe your child ... maybe someone else's child ...  
And maybe you'll think about doing a little thing to make them happy.  
One little thing that will give them pleasure. Just one little thing.

Maybe Mashie's blessing will be your blessing ...

Look, I got not use for this much money. I wouldn't know what to do with it.  
This is my home. I belong here. This candy store is no sacrifice.  
To me it is a blessing.  
I don't need fancy trips and fancy houses and fancy clothes.

**[MASHIE RIPS UP THE TICKET]**

Nu, I upset your darling when I ripped up the ticket?  
Tell you what, you want to win a lottery that much?  
You go talk to Henry.  
Maybe you can get Henry to write another wrong program that gives the right numbers.  
Crazier things have happened.

Look at me! Look at this dress!  
It's not nice for a person to be seen like this.  
Let me go into the back and change ...

Look, darlings. If you're in the neighborhood sometime, stop by.  
God willing, Mashie will be here.  
And kindala minst. Turn off the lights when you leave.  
Electricity costs money.

**THE END**

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