

MR. WELCH. And the next time you talk to my wife like that, you'll get worse. It isn't enough she slaves teaching your stupid kids how to read and write, you've got to bawl her out...

MARTINI. You get out of here, Mr. Welch. You hit my best friend. You get out!

MR. WELCH. All right! All right!!

(SFX: Door opens and closes.)

MARTINI. Mr. Bailey, you okay?

GEORGE. Who was that?

MARTINI. Mr. Welch. But don't worry, he don't come in this place no more. I'll get something for your face, it's bleeding.

GEORGE. I'm all right.

MARTINI. Please don't go away Mr. Bailey, please don't...

GEORGE. *(Fading away:)* Leave me alone, leave me alone!

(SFX: Door opens and closes.)

(MUSIC: Transition / Underscore.)

(SFX: Howling wind.)

JOSEPH. George is headed to the bridge now, Clarence. Can you see him?

CLARENCE. He looks like he's going to jump!

JOSEPH. It's time, Clarence.

(SFX: CLARENCE's decent from Heaven to Earth.)

CLARENCE. Excuse me! You, there. Have you got the time?

GEORGE. My watch is dead.

CLARENCE. Thanks just the same.

(SFX: Wind quieter, a splash from CLARENCE jumping into the water, the wind surges.)

CLARENCE. *(From the water:)* Help! Help me! I can't swim!

GEORGE. Hold it, mister! I'm coming!

(SFX: Splash of GEORGE jumping in after CLARENCE, the wind surges again.)

BRIDGE KEEPER. What in Sam Hill are the two of you doing?! This storm's not fit for man or beast! Now, get out of that water!

(SFX: Water sloshing dies down and wind dies out, door opens and shuts.)

BRIDGE KEEPER. Are you two are all right? Do you need a doctor?

GEORGE. No, I'm all right.

CLARENCE. No, I'm fine. This underwear, I didn't have time to get anything stylish. My wife gave me this on my last birthday. I passed away in it.

BRIDGE KEEPER. Passed away?!

CLARENCE. Oh, I see *Tom Sawyer* is drying out too.

BRIDGE KEEPER. Who?

CLARENCE. My book. I left in such a hurry, I brought *Tom Sawyer* with me. You should read the new book Mark Twain is working on.

GEORGE. How'd you happen to fall in?

CLARENCE. Oh, I jumped in. I jumped in to save you.

GEORGE. You jumped in to save me?

CLARENCE. Well, I did, didn't I? You didn't go through with it, did you?

GEORGE. Go through with what?

CLARENCE. Suicide.

BRIDGE KEEPER. It's against the law to commit suicide around here.

CLARENCE. Yeah, it's against the law where I come from, too.

BRIDGE KEEPER. Where do you come from?

CLARENCE. Heaven.

BRIDGE KEEPER. What?

CLARENCE. I had to act quickly — that's why I jumped in. I knew if I were drowning you would try to save me. And you see, you did, and that's how I saved you.

GEORGE. Oh, that's very funny.

CLARENCE. Your lip's bleeding, George.

GEORGE. Yeah, I got a bust in the jaw in answer to a prayer.

CLARENCE. Oh, no — no — no, George. I'm the answer to your prayer.

GEORGE. How do you know my name?

CLARENCE. Oh, I know all about you. I've watched you grow up from a little boy.

GEORGE. What are you, a mind reader or something?

CLARENCE. Oh, no...

GEORGE. Well, who are you, then?

CLARENCE. Clarence Oddbody, A-S-2.

GEORGE. "Oddbody...A-S-2." What's that "A-S-2?"

CLARENCE. Angel Second Class.

BRIDGE KEEPER. Hey?! I'm getting out of here, you may not need a doctor, but I do!

(SFX: Door opens and slams.)

CLARENCE. Cheerio, my good man!

GEORGE. Hey, look here, why'd you want to save me?

CLARENCE. 'Cause I'm your guardian angel.

GEORGE. I wouldn't be a bit surprised.

CLARENCE. Ridiculous of you to think of killing yourself for money. Eight thousand dollars.

CLARENCE. The idea you just gave me. Well, you've got your wish. You've never been born.

(SFX: A crash of thunder.)

GEORGE. Never been born?

CLARENCE. Exactly. No worries, no eight thousand dollars to get, nothing. You simply don't exist.

GEORGE. Hey, wait a minute. This ear of mine. Say something else in that ear.

CLARENCE. You don't have a bad ear anymore. Don't you see, you're not the George Bailey you think you are. You're a...well, you're nobody.

GEORGE. Well, that's the doggonedest thing...

CLARENCE. Your lip's stopped bleeding, too, George.

GEORGE. What do you know about that...? What happened? I need a drink, that's what I need. What about you angel, do you want a drink?

CLARENCE. Well, I don't know...

GEORGE. Come on, come one, we'll go as soon as our clothes are dry.

CLARENCE. Our clothes are dry.

GEORGE. Hey, so they are, that's funny. That stove's hotter than I thought. Well look, let's get dressed and we'll stroll over to Martini's and then... Oh excuse me, I'll stroll, you fly.

CLARENCE. I haven't got my wings.

GEORGE. You haven't got your wings. Yeah, that's right. A couple of drinks and we'll both fly.

(MUSIC: Period seedy jazz underscoring.)

ALL. *(Crowd ad-libs throughout scene. This crowd is seedier and louder than before.)*

GEORGE. There's a place to sit down. Sit down. Oh, hello, Nick. Clarence, welcome to the best bar in Bedford Falls.

NICK. Bedford Falls? Don't you mean Pottersville?

GEORGE. Pottersville? Hey, where's Martini?

NICK. Look, I'm the boss. You want a drink or don't you?

GEORGE. Okay — all right. Double bourbon, quick, huh?

NICK. Okay.

(SFX: Bottles, a glass.)

NICK. *(To CLARENCE:)* What's yours, bub?

CLARENCE. I was just thinking of mulled wine.

NICK. Huh!?

CLARENCE. Heavy on the cinnamon and light on the cloves. Off with you my lad, and lively now!

NICK. Hey, look mister, we serve hard drinks in here for men who want to get drunk fast. And we don't need any characters around to give the joint atmosphere.

GEORGE. Now come on here, just give him the same as I ordered. He's okay.

NICK. *(Grumbling:)* Two double bourbon.

(SFX: Bottles, glasses.)

GEORGE. What about this place, it's all changed.

ALL. *(Crowd laughs, cackles, coughs.)*

CLARENCE. All of Bedford Falls has changed. You're having your wish George, you've never been born. Oh, they'll be lots of things you've never seen before.

(SFX: A cash register bell rings.)

CLARENCE. Oh, good! Somebody's just made it.

GEORGE. Made what?

CLARENCE. Every time you hear a bell ring, it means that some angel's just got his wings.

NICK. What did you say!