

Audition Sides: Cornelius & Barnaby

CORNELIUS

Chief clerk! Promoted from chief clerk to chief clerk! And if I'm good, in ten years I'll be promoted to chief clerk again! Thirty-three years old and I still don't get an evening free. When am I going to begin to live?

BARNABY

You can live on holidays, Cornelius!

CORNELIUS

Did you forget what we did last Christmas? All those canned tomatoes went bad and exploded and you and I cleaned up the mess all afternoon. Do you call that living?

BARNABY

No!

CORNELIUS

Barnaby, you and I are going to New York!

BARNABY

You mean close the store?

CORNELIUS

Uh huh.

BARNABY

Cornelius, we can't!

CORNELIUS

We'll have to. Some more rotten tomato cans are going to explode.

BARNABY

Holy cabooses! How do you know?

CORNELIUS

I'm going to light this candle under them, that's how I know. They'll make such a smell that customers won't be able to come to the place for twenty-four hours. That gets us an evening off! We're going to New York, Barnaby, and we're going to live! We're going to have a good meal, we're going to be in danger, we're going to spend our money, we're going to be arrested!

BARNABY

Holy cabooses!

CORNELIUS

And one more thing! We're not coming back to Yonkers until we've each kissed a girl!

BARNABY

Cornelius, you can't do that! You don't know any girls!

CORNELIUS

I'm thirty-three years old! I've got to begin sometime!

BARNABY

I'm only seventeen, Cornelius! It isn't so urgent for me.

CORNELIUS

New York. Barnaby! Elevated trains! The lights of Broadway! The stuffed whale at Barnum's Museum!

BARNABY

A stuffed whale?

CORNELIUS

A stuffed whale! What do you say, Barnaby?

BARNABY

Yes! New York! But, Cornelius... Are you sure this is an adventure?

CORNELIUS

You don't have to ask, Barnaby. When you're in one, you'll know it alright! How much money have you got left?

BARNABY

Not much, Cornelius. Forty cents for the train back, thirty cents for dinner, and twenty cents to see the whale. Ninety cents. Why?

CORNELIUS

When those women come out we'll have to pretend to be customers! Customers, that's it! Maybe the best thing to do is make them think we're rich. Then we won't have to spend anything! We're two men about town looking for hats for ladies.