

MARSHALL

Well, I've drawn up the budget for the cost of the principal items of production. I've not figured on the minor expenses and I've only listed the important costs such as: scenery, costumes, advertising, changes in the theatre construction, shoes, wigs and lighting equipment. It all runs to a grand total of forty-two dollars and seventy-six cents.

LEE

Who do you think I am? Flo Ziegfeld?

VAL

You've got to help us, Lee. We've got to put that show on, and we've got less than a week to do it.

LEE

Where do you plan to put on this entertainment? In the American Legion hall?

VAL

Too small.

MARSHALL

What about right here?

LEE

In my living room!

BILLIE

It's big enough!

LEE

No!

MARSHALL

What about the upstairs ball room?

LEE

That ball room is used only for elegant dances.

VAL

Wait - what about the barn?

LEE

The barn?

MARSHALL

That's great! The old red barn!

VAL

Yes! Let's put on the show in the Barn!

LEE

Put on the show in the Old Red Barn?

BILLIE

It's a perfect summer theatre.

LEE

That's mighty interesting. And I know a good name for the show, too.

What?

MARSHALL

Lee Calhoun's Follies!  
(*Simultaneously*)

LEE

An inspiration!

BILLIE

Congratulations!

VAL

MARSHALL  
That's swell! We'll draw up a regular legal contract and form our own little corporation. You put up all the money and you own forty-nine percent of the show.

Let me see that budget of yours.  
(*MARSHALL hands him the budget.*)

LEE

Fine. I'll explain it all to you.

VAL

LEE  
I can't think clearly with so many of you around. So if you all leave me alone --

MARSHALL  
Come on, kids. Let's go and give Lee a chance to get in some executive work.

VAL  
(*Following MARSHALL with BILLIE.*)  
O.K. We'll be back soon. We still have some things to talk about.

LEE  
Au revoir and auf wiedersehen to you, Marshall.

So long.

BILLIE

LEE  
Oh, Billie -- would you mind waiting a little while? You -- er -- could help me with the figures.

Hey, wait a minute!

VAL

Of course, Lee. I'd love to help you.

BILLIE

This is show business, all right!  
(*He exits followed by MARSHALL.*)

VAL

BILLIE  
Oh, I'm so glad that you're interested. At least, that there's a chance of getting you in this.

You know why I'm interested?

LEE

BILLIE

You want to help the kids.

LEE

One kid in particular. You know, Billie, I'm a man of the world. I only hope you won't find me too sophisticated.

BILLIE

I promise I won't.

LEE

I really ought to see a little more of you.

BILLIE

Well, of course, we'd see a lot of each other if we do the show.

LEE

Would we?

BILLIE

Of course we would. How could I come to any decision without consulting you? Oh, Lee, we've worked so hard to put this over and sometimes I get so tired and feel so weak and little.  
*(She slumps down and looks up at him.)*  
And then I realize that I'm only a woman.

LEE

*(Starts to put arm around her.)*  
You poor little girl.

BILLIE

Oh, Lee, I do need a big strong arm to lean on some times.

LEE

Billie, I'll put the show over for you.

BILLIE

Will you?

LEE

Of course. Billie, I need you and you need me.

BILLIE

You're half right. Good-bye.

*(She exits leaving behind her purse with her lipstick in it. LEE discovers her purse, opens it and takes out BILLIE'S lipstick. He looks around to see that no one is watching and he smears a large daub of lipstick on his cheek, then quickly sits down and pretends to read. VAL enters.)*

VAL

Hey, Lee, what do you think about helping us out with the show?  
*(LEE turns his face toward VAL.)*

LEE

Think of what?

VAL

The money for the - What's that on your cheek?

Why, what? LEE

That's lipstick. Lee, what have you been up to? VAL

Ridiculous! You don't suspect - ? LEE

No, I certainly don't. Excuse me! VAL

You're not jealous! LEE

Jealous? Of course not! VAL

You couldn't be. She's not yours. You keep bragging about how you're free. LEE

That's right. No man has the right to own any woman. VAL

So we're all free. LEE

You mind your own business! VAL  
*(Exits furiously as MARSHALL runs on.)*

MARSHALL