

On Golden Pond

Side #1

NORMAN

(looking at his sign)

You've really outdone yourself with all this.

(he looks to the fireplace)

"Welcome home, Chelsea." I see my birthday wasn't cause enough for a celebration.

ETHEL

Tsk. I just want our little girl to feel welcome.

NORMAN

Ah. Did you know our little girl has passed through her childbearing years without bearing any children?

ETHEL

Of course I know that. She chose not to, is all.

NORMAN

Hmmm. Seems odd, doesn't it? Did you ever have that woman-to-woman chat with her you said you were going to? Maybe she didn't know how.

ETHEL

Yes, I told her how. Twenty-five years ago. She seemed to know what I was talking about.

NORMAN

Maybe I should have taken that husband of hers aside. He could have used a few tips. I've never known anyone so timid in my life.

ETHEL

Every poor soul she's brought home has been timid around you. You attack them so.

NORMAN

I don't, you know.

ETHEL

What if we could all get along this time? Wouldn't that be... miraculous?

NORMAN

Oh, sure.

ETHEL

I wonder whom I could talk to to arrange that sort of thing.

NORMAN

I intend to be the perfect host. I'll overwhelm them with my charm.

ETHEL

Mm-hmm. That's what I'm afraid of.

NORMAN

Well, why aren't they here? I'm getting older by the minute.

ETHEL

They said they'll be here when they get here.

NORMAN

Is that what they said? That's a hell of an attitude. No wonder we have no grandchildren.

ETHEL

What would we do with grandchildren?

NORMAN

Toss them on our knees. We're the last of the Thayers, you know. End of the line for a noble name.

ETHEL

Well, we'll take it out in style. Shhh.

(A LOON calls offstage)

Side #2

(Norman watches Billy explore the room and its curios)

NORMAN

You like that word, don't you? Bullshit.

BILLY

Yeah.

NORMAN

It's a good word.

BILLY

You going skinny-dipping?

NORMAN

Nope. You?

BILLY

Naw. I try to be selective about who I flash in front of.

NORMAN

Oh?

BILLY

Chelsea says you're a real heavy-duty fisherman. She calls you The Old Man of the Sea.

NORMAN

Ah. I've caught a few. You fish?

BILLY

No.

NORMAN

Want to go sometime?

BILLY

Maybe.

NORMAN

All right. We'll see. What do you think of your father?

BILLY

To tell you the truth, he's not bad.

NORMAN

Why do you walk with your shoulders all bent like that?

BILLY

I have a lot on my mind.

NORMAN

Oh. Well, what do you do out there in California, since you don't fish? I mean, what does one do for recreation, when one is thirteen and not in school?

BILLY

Cruise chicks.

NORMAN

Um ...?

BILLY

Meet 'em. Girls. Try to pick them up.

NORMAN

Oh. And what do you do with them when you have them?

BILLY

Suck face.

NORMAN

I beg your pardon?

BILLY

You know. Kiss. Suck face - kiss.

NORMAN

Oh.

(he stares at Billy, then looks at the book he still holds)

Ever read this book? Swiss Family Robinson?

BILLY

No.

NORMAN

Go read it.

BILLY

Now?

NORMAN

Yes. Go upstairs and read the first chapter. And give me a report tomorrow.

(he thrusts the book upon him)

Go on.

BILLY

Well, I thought we were going to have a party.

NORMAN

I'll call you when the party's underway, if it ever is. Go on. Read the first chapter. You'll like it.

(Billy nods. And shuffles out)

NORMAN

Let me see you stand up straight.

(Billy stops and scowls at him)

NORMAN

Come on. Nobody has that much on his mind.

Side #3

RED

Why are you here?

BLUE

Why?

RED

Yes. Why?

BLUE

You know why I'm here.

RED

No. I don't.

BLUE

No. You don't.

RED

Come on.

BLUE

OK

RED

You always do that.

BLUE

I always do what.

RED

That.

BLUE

Oh. That.

RED

Yes. That.

BLUE

Sorry.

RED

Please. Stop.

BLUE

I said I'm sorry.

RED

I don't believe you.

BLUE

You don't believe me.