

ELLIOT ENTERS DRUNK, TRIPPING OVER FURNITURE, KNOCKING OBJECTS OVER CAUSING PAULA TO RUSH OUT HER BEDROOM

PAULA

Are you ok? Are you alright? Oh God are you alright?

*ELLIOT FALLS INTO A CHAIR*

ELLIOT

I owe-eth thee, twelve dollars and ninety eight cents. Plus taxes.

PAULA

Are you ok?

ELLIOT

Not according to the times. Have you read the times?

PAULA

Can i get you a cup of coffee?

*ELLIOT GETS UP AND WALKS TO A WINDOW  
TRYING TO OPEN IT*

(con'td)

What are you doing?

ELLIOT

The Times said "Elliot Garfield researched Richard III and discovered him to be England's first badly dressed interior decorator."

PAULA

I never listen to critics.

ELLIOT

Thank God. You know, if you wanna go on for me tomorrow night, you can. The daily news said, here, read it.

*ELLIOT HANDS A NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLE TO PAULA*

PAULA

It never occurred to us-

ELLIOT

It never occurred to us that William Shakespeare wrote the Wizard of Oz. However, Elliot Garfield made a splendid Wicked Witch of The North. Tacky, it's tacky. They're gonna kill me. Kill me with Panache.

PAULA

I'm sorry.

ELLIOT

Eh what the hell, it's only a little New York review. Aimes, Iowa is where it really counts, ya know? Aimes, Iowa. If you don't make it in Aimes, then you got career trouble. Channel 5 was honest, direct and honest. Richard III stunk and Elliot Garfield was the stinky.

*ELLIOT FALLS TO THE GROUND*

(cont'd)

Am i in bed? Cuz if I'm in bed, the springs are shot.

PAULA

I thought you didn't put unhealthy things into your body.

ELLIOT

I don't. I was putting them into Richard's. I was trying to kill the son of a bitch.

PAULA

You've got to go to bed. This furniture isn't mine.

ELLIOT

You think i'm defeated? Discouraged? You think I'm disappointed about 14 negative reviews. You bet your ass i am baby. I'm sorry i keep forgetting this apartment is rated PG.

*PAULA GETS ELLIOT INTO BED*

PAULA

You were wonderful tonight. Really.

ELLIOT

I was an Elizabethan fruit fly. I was the Betty Boop of Stratford-On-Avon. I was putrid. Capital P, Capital U, capital trid.

PAULA

I thought it was an interesting interpretation.

ELLIOT

It was bullshit. You didn't see their faces. When i walked out on stage, 210 people, looking like they just got a shot of novicane. Tell me the truth. I want the truth, say it. Say it or i'll smash this priceless 9 dollar lamp into pieces.

PAULA

Don't! Don't!

ELLIOT

Say it!

PAULA

You were putrid!

ELLIOT

Geez, you didn't have to be so blunt about it.

PAULA

I'm sorry, give that lamp to me. Thank you.

ELLIOT

I thought i had some good moments. Like walking on and walking off. The rest was caca.

PAULA

Are you sure i can't get you anything? Some of your health Vitamins in the kitchen or something?

ELLIOT

No, don't leave me, don't walk out on me please. Once a night is enough.

PAULA

I'm here, i'm listening.

ELLIOT

I can play that part you know. I can play the hump off that guy. I was better on the bus coming in from Chicago than i was on that stage tonight. "Now's the winter of our discontent, made glorious, summer by this sun, of York. And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house in the deep bosom of the ocean buried. Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

PAULA

That is good. It's wonderful. Honestly.

ELLIOT

Thank you.

PAULA

You're welcome.

ELLIOT

Really, you're not such a bad person after all, you know?

PAULA

Thank you.

ELLIOT

But that putrid remark really hurt. That really got to me ya know?

PAULA

I know. I don't know what came over me. You try and get some sleep now, ok?

ELLIOT

Don't tell Lucy about the Times, ok?

PAULA

I won't.

ELLIOT

Or in the news. Or channel 5 or channel 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11.

PAULA

I won't. Try and get some sleep. Goodnight.

ELLIOT

Goodnight. No autographs please. Now is the winter...of our discontent....made glorious...