

ADELAIDE

Hello, Nathan.

(Placing cardboard box back of table, THEY embrace)

NATHAN

Hello, pie face.

ADELAIDE

How are you, handsome.

NATHAN

Fine. What have you got there?

ADELAIDE

A book.

NATHAN

A book! You're always reading books. You're becoming a regular bookie.

ADELAIDE

Nathan darling, this is very interesting. The doctor gave it to me. I went to him about my cold.

(Sits in chair with book in hand)

NATHAN

How *is* your cold?

ADELAIDE

It's the same. So the doctor asked me how long I had had it, and I told him a long time, and I said I thought it was on account of my dancing with hardly any clothes on, which is what I usually wear, so he said to read this book, because he said it might be due to psychology.

NATHAN

You haven't got that, have you?

ADELAIDE

Nathan, this is the psychology that tells you why girls do certain kinds of things.

NATHAN

Oh! — Would it tell you what kind of a doll would go for a certain kind of a guy which you wouldn't think she would do so?

ADELAIDE

What do you mean?

NATHAN

I'm just for instance. There are certain dolls you can almost bet they wouldn't go for certain guys.



ADELAIDE

Nathan, no matter how terrible a fellow seems, you can never be sure that some girl won't go for him. Take us.

NATHAN

Yeah.

ADELAIDE

(Rises, places book on table, crosses to Nathan)

Nathan darling. Starting with next week, I'm going to get a raise. So with what I'll be making, I wondered what you would think—maybe we could finally get married.

NATHAN

(Loosening his collar as he feels the strain)

Well, of course we're going to, sooner or later.

ADELAIDE

I know, Nathan—

(Sneeze)

—but I'm starting to worry about Mother.

NATHAN

Your mother? What about your mother?

ADELAIDE

Well, Nathan, this is something I never told you before, but my mother, back in Rhode Island—

(Sits in chair L. of table)

—she thinks we're married already.

NATHAN

Why would she think a thing like that?

ADELAIDE

I couldn't be engaged for fourteen years, could I? People don't do that in Rhode Island. They all get married.

NATHAN

Then why is it such a small State?

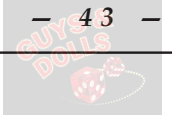
ADELAIDE

Anyway—I wrote her I was married.

NATHAN

(Standing)

You did, huh?



ADELAIDE

(Each word coming through pain)

Uh, huh. Then, after about two years—

(She comes to a halt)

NATHAN

What after about two years?

ADELAIDE

(In a very small voice)

We had a baby.

NATHAN

(Crosses to L.)

You told your mother we had a baby?

ADELAIDE

(Rises, crosses to him)

I had to, Nathan. Mother wouldn't have understood if we hadn't.

NATHAN

What type baby was it?

ADELAIDE

It was a boy. I named it after *you*, Nathan.

NATHAN

Thank you.

ADELAIDE

You're welcome.

(Crosses way to C.)

NATHAN

And—uh—where is Nathan, Jr., supposed to be *now*?

ADELAIDE

He's in boarding school.

(HE nods)

I wrote Mother he won the football game last Saturday.

NATHAN

I wish I had a bet on it.

ADELAIDE

But Nathan—



(ADELAIDE)

(Turns away)

—that's not all, Nathan.

NATHAN

(Crosses to her — a pause)

Don't tell me he has a little sister.

ADELAIDE

All those years, Nathan. Mother believes in big families.

NATHAN

(Puts hands to ears)

Just give me the grand total.

ADELAIDE

(Hardly able to get the word out)

Five.

NATHAN

(Crosses to L.)

Your mother must be a glutton for punishment.

ADELAIDE

(Crosses to him)

Anyway, Nathan, now we're finally getting married, and it won't be a lie any more.

NATHAN

(A high moral tone)

Adelaide, how could you do such a thing! To a nice old broad like your mother?

ADELAIDE

But Nathan, you don't even know my mother!

NATHAN

But I'll be meeting her soon, and what'll I tell her?

(Crosses to R., pass Adelaide)

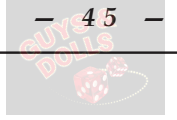
What'll I tell her I did with the five kids? Traded them to the Phillies or something.

What are we going to do?

ADELAIDE

(Crosses to Nathan)

We could get married.

**NATHAN**

But marriage ain't something you jump into like it was a kettle of fish.

(Feeling his collar again)

We ain't ready.

ADELAIDE

I'm ready, Nathan.

(Crosses to table R., picks up box)

What do you think I got in this box?

(Showing him box)

Nathan! What do you think I got in this box?

NATHAN

(Reading cover of box)

"Sally's Wedding Shop." I can't guess.

ADELAIDE

It's a wedding veil. I've had it for three years. I won't show it to you, because it's bad luck – Would you like to see it?

NATHAN

It's bad luck.

ADELAIDE

So you see, Nathan darling, I got the veil.

(Puts box down on table)

All we need now is our license and our blood test.

NATHAN

(Crosses to Adelaide)

Our what?

ADELAIDE

Blood test. It's a law.

NATHAN

What a city! First they close my crap game, then they open my veins.

ADELAIDE

Nathan, you're not planning to run your crap game again?

NATHAN

Adelaide, how can you think such a thing! Why do you think I give up the crap game. It's because I love you, and I want us two to be the happiest married couple that there is in the world –