

THE FACTS OF LIFE

"Gossip"

CAST

MRS. EDNA GARRETT. CHARLOTTE RAE
BLAIR. LISA WHELCHER
TOOTIE KIM FIELDS
NATALIE. MINDY COHN
JO NANCY McKEON
HOWARD HUGH GILLAN
MR. HARRIS (HEADMASTER). KENNETH MARS
CINDY. JULIE ANNE HADDOCK
SUE ANN. JULIE PIEKARSKI
NANCY. FELICE SCHACHTER

SETS

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY
INT. KITCHEN - DAY
INT. GIRLS' ROOM - DAY
INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE GIRLS' ROOM - DAY
INT. GARRETT'S ROOM - DAY
INT. HEADMASTER'S OFFICE - DAY (JUST FOR TIGHT SHOT
OF HARRIS ON PHONE)

THE FACTS OF LIFE - "Gossip"
 BREAKDOWN OF SCENES

<u>ACT ONE - SCENE ONE</u> (1) <u>INT. CAFETERIA - DAY</u> (Garrett, Tootie, Blair, Jo, Nancy, Natalie, Howard)				
<u>ACT ONE - SCENE TWO</u> (10) <u>INT. GIRLS ' ROOM & HALLWAY OUTSIDE -</u> <u>DAY</u> (Tootie, Jo, Blair, Nancy)				
<u>ACT ONE - SCENE THREE</u> (17) <u>INT. CAFETERIA - DAY (LATER)</u> (Blair, Nancy, Jo, Sue Ann, Tootie, Cindy, Natalie)				
<u>ACT ONE - SCENE FOUR</u> (27) <u>HEADMASTER'S OFFICE - DAY</u> (Mr. Harris)				
<u>ACT TWO - SCENE ONE</u> (28) <u>INT. GARRETT'S ROOM - LATER - DAY</u> (Garrett, Blair, Harris)				
<u>ACT TWO - SCENE TWO</u> (36) <u>INT. CAFETERIA & KITCHEN - A FEW</u> <u>MINUTES LATER - DAY</u> (Garrett, Jo, Blair, Sue Ann, Tootie, Cindy, Nancy, Natalie)				
ACT ONE				
TOTAL:				
TOTAL				
TAPE:				
DESIRED				
TIME:				
OVER/				
UNDER:				

"Gossip"

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

(TOOTIE ENTERS AND SETS UP A MONOPOLY GAME,
GARRETT IS STUDYING A GUIDE BOOK OF NEW
YORK. BLAIR LIFTS A NEW DRESS FROM A BOX
AND HOLDS IT UP IN FRONT OF HERSELF)

BLAIR

This'll be perfect for our day at the
museums, don't you think?

GARRETT

(LOOKS UP)

Oh yes, Blair. The Picassos will be
looking at you.

BLAIR

I can't wait to get back to Manhattan.

GARRETT

This is supposed to be a cultural
field trip, not a shopping spree.

BLAIR

I know... but it's been so long since
I've heard the clickety-click of a
credit card machine. It's agony
going cold turkey.

TOOTIE

Ready for the Monopoly championship?
I'll let you roll first this time,
Blair.

BLAIR

Not now, Tootie. Too busy for children's
games.

TOOTIE

(DESPERATELY)

I'll even give you "Boardwalk".

(BLAIR PAYS NO ATTENTION. JO ENTERS,
CARRYING A BIG, FAT SUNDAY "NEW YORK
TIMES")

BLAIR

(TO TOOTIE)

No, I can't.

(TO GARRETT)

Really, Mrs. Garrett, if I don't spend
some money soon, I'll pull my hair out.

JO

Terrific... we'll finally find out what
color the roots are.

(BLAIR THROWS HER A LOOK)

Here's your Sunday "New York Times."

BLAIR

The world's only civilized newspaper.

(TO GARRETT)

Now we'll know what's going on in "The Big Apple".

(TO JO)

That's New York.

JO

(IT'S FEELING HEAVIER)

You wanna take this. It weighs a ton.

GARRETT

I just love the Theatre Section.

BLAIR

And Fashions and Art and Music.

JO

Hey, you taking this or not?

BLAIR

They cover every subject.

JO

How about hernias?

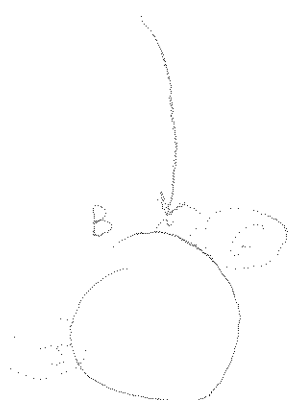
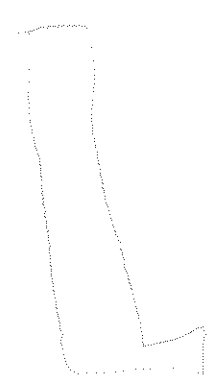
(JO DROPS THE PAPER ON THE FLOOR WITH A THUD.

GARRETT AND BLAIR GRAB SECTIONS AS NANCY

ENTERS)

NANCY *enters*

Great, you got the paper. Can I see the Entertainment Section?



GARRETT

Sure, Nancy. You can help plan
(PUTTING ON AIRS)

our annual weekend of cuh-tyoore.

NANCY

(SMILES)

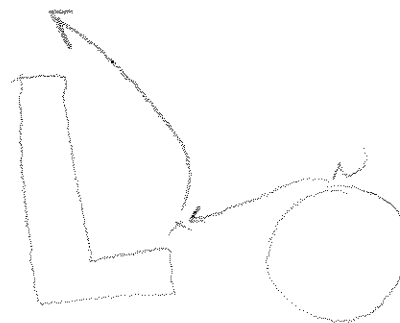
I already have plans! My boyfriend,
Roger's meeting me in New York.

TOOTIE

Monopoly, Nancy? I'll start you with
an extra ten thousand.

NANCY

Can't, Tootie. ^{XSR & STOP} I've got to do something
with this dull hair. Roger expects it
to shine.



JO

Try turtlewax.

TOOTIE

(A LITTLE DESPERATE)

Doesn't anyone want to play?

GARRETT

In a minute, Tootie.

(THEY ALL IGNORE TOOTIE. SHE THINKS OF AN
ATTENTION GETTER)

TOOTIE

Hey, listen, you guys. I heard some
hot gossip about our headmaster.

BLAIR

Mr. Harris? What?

TOOTIE

He wears a toupee.

GARRETT

Now, Tootie, spreading rumors isn't
very nice.

(THEN)

No kidding - a toupee.

JO

(BORED)

Everyone knows Harris wears a rug.

BLAIR

Yes, that's old news.

JO

(TO TOOTIE)

You'll have to try a little harder,
kid.

TOOTIE

I am not a kid! Just 'cause I'm not
going on your dumb, boring, stupid trip
to New York. I don't want to go anyway!

(TO GARRETT)

Why can't I go?

GARRETT

Tootie, we'd love to have you along but
this trip's only for the upper grades.

TOOTIE

But I'm very grown-up for my age.

GARRETT

Next year, Tootie.

(NATALIE ENTERS, WEARING BLUE JEANS)

NATALIE

Hi, everybody.

(EVERYONE AD LIBS "HELLOS")

TOOTIE

(BRIGHTENING, INDICATES MONOPOLY GAME)

Hey, Natalie, want to play?

NATALIE

Can't, Tootie. I'm planning my wardrobe
for New York.

TOOTIE

(MISERABLE)

You're going, too?!

NATALIE

I told you I'm doing an article for the
school paper on the U.N. They're taking
me along.

(TO THE OTHERS)

How do you like these jeans for the
trip?

GARRETT

Very nice.

JO

Yeah... real sexy.

NATALIE

(STRIKES A POSE)

Pack up, Brooke Shields, you're through!

(THE GIRLS LAUGH AND EXIT. TOOTIE UNHAPPILY
PUTS THE MONOPOLY GAME AWAY. GARRETT NOTICES)

GARRETT

Tootie, how about some milk and cookies
to ease the pain a bit?

TOOTIE

(SULLENLY)

Sure, cookies and milk for the little
baby.

(GARRETT PUTS ARM AROUND TOOTIE, WALKS HER
TOWARD KITCHEN)

GARRETT

Come on, I know how you feel. Back
home on the farm, I was the youngest.
I felt like some of the eggs were
older than me.

(THEY EXIT INTO KITCHEN)

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (CONTINUOUS ACTION)

(HOWARD IS WORKING AS GARRETT AND TOOTIE ENTER)

TOOTIE

I'm tired of being treated like a child
around here. Nobody pays any attention to
me. I wish I could age real fast.

GARRETT

(SMILES)

What's the rush? Think of all the fun
you'd be missing?

TOOTIE

I'm missing it already.

GARRETT

Relax. You'll be older before you
know it.

HOWARD

You listen to her. She speaks from
experience.

(GARRETT THROWS HIM A LOOK)

TOOTIE

Mrs. Garrett, forget the milk and
cookies. I don't have much of an
appetite right now.

(SHE EXITS UPSTAIRS)

GARRETT

(TO HOWARD)

Poor kid
~~She feels left out not going to New
York with the other girls.~~

HOWARD

~~Poor kid, I know what she's going
through. When I was her age, the
other guys wouldn't let me play
basketball 'cause I was too short.~~

GARRETT

~~You were too short? Who were the other
guys... the Jolly Green Giants?~~

(GARRETT LOOKS AT HER WATCH)

Whoops, I better get to town. I've
got an eye exam today. I guess they'll
have to dilate my eyes. I hate those
cold drops on my warm eyeballs.

(SHE GOES TO GET HER COAT)

HOWARD

You'll be blind as a bat. You'd better
let me come and get you.

GARRETT

Thanks, anyway, Howard, but I really
enjoy taking the bus once in a while.

HOWARD

But you'll need someone to lead you to
it.

GARRETT

Now you're catching on. My eye doctor
is some hunk!

(GARRETT SMILES AND EXITS)

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE TWO

INT. GIRLS' ROOM - DAY

BLAIR

Jo, you've got to swear you'll keep
this a secret. I shouldn't even be
telling you.

JO

Then don't.

CUT TO:

HALLWAY OUTSIDE GIRLS' ROOM - CONTINUOUS

(TOOTIE COMES UP TO DOOR BUT STOPS AS SHE
HEARS)

CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS' ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BLAIR

I wouldn't, but I need something sneaky
done and you're the best. Promise you
won't tell.

JO

Look, where I come from, you squeal and
they ship your tongue to Cleveland.

BLAIR

Great! Now listen, Saturday night, *in my*
I'm going to sneak out of the hotel.

JO

Big deal.

BLAIR

If Mrs. Garrett comes around, you've got to cover for me.

JO

Why? Where are you going to be? At the bank, vising your money?

BLAIR

You don't need to trouble yourself with details.

JO

Then I don't need to trouble myself with a cover for you either.

BLAIR

Alright, I'll be out with Roger.

JO

(SHOCKED, LOUD VOICE)

Roger!?

(BLAIR SHUSHES HER)

You mean the Roger who's going steady with Nancy?

(IN HALLWAY, TOOTIE DOES BIG REACTION)

BLAIR

(NODS, SMILING)

Semi-steady. He's taking me to see Baryshnikov!

JO

You'd rip off a friend to see some
leaping Lithuanian?

BLAIR

Russian, you Neanderthal! I told
Roger "that's the rottenest thing
I've heard of," and he said, "What
Nancy doesn't know won't hurt her,"
so I said, "Okay, fine."

JO

You guys won't think it's so fine
when Nancy hears about it.

BLAIR

Don't get me wrong. I'm not after
Roger - I'm after Baryshnikov.

OUT TO:

HALLWAY OUTSIDE GIRLS' ROOM - CONTINUOUS

(TOOTIE, FROZEN AT THE DOOR, HAS HEARD
EVERYTHING. NANCY ARRIVES, SEES TOOTIE)

NANCY *AT DOOR*

Eavesdropping again, Tootie?

(TOOTIE JUMPS OUT OF HER SKIN)

TOOTIE

Don't sneak up on me like that!

I was just going in.

usually
NANCY
It helps to open the door.

(NANCY OPENS DOOR AND THEY ENTER)

BLAIR

(CHANGING SUBJECT)

As I was saying...Halston really has
a terrific line.

JO

(MAINTAINING THE PRETENSE)

Yeah, I've been out with him. You
can't believe a word he says.

(BLAIR SHOOTS A LOOK AT HER)

BLAIR

Nancy, Hi. *Something wrong?*
~~What are you doing here?~~

NANCY

(SMOLDERING)

I just got off the phone with Roger.
I'm going to strangle someone.

BLAIR

(LIGHTLY TOUCHING HER THROAT)

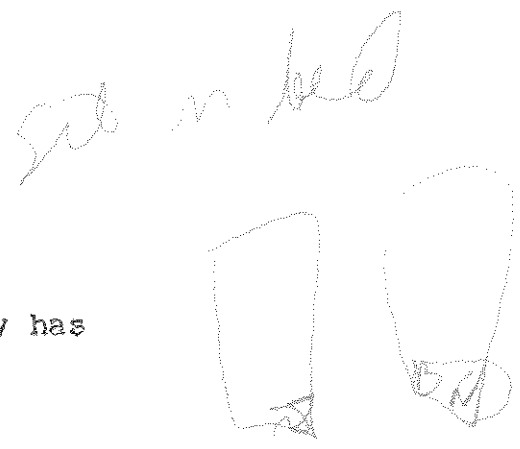
Whatever for?

NANCY

We were going to meet in New York.
Now he says he can't. He's stuck
with relatives.

BLAIR

Awww.



JO

(POINTEDLY)

Probably some kissin' cousins.

BLAIR

(REACTS TO JO)

Gee, sorry, Nancy. I'd love to hear all about it, but Jo and I have an appointment. Come on, Jo. Excuse me.

(BLAIR PULLS JO OUT THE DOOR AND THEY ARE GONE)

TOOTIE

get up x to door

Too bad, Nancy.

NANCY

Sure, Tootie. See you later.

TOOTIE

Why don't you stick around?

NANCY

I would, but I've got to find somebody to talk to.

TOOTIE

Thanks.

NANCY

What I meant was, somebody older than you, who's had her guts ripped out by love.

(NANCY STARTS TOWARD DOOR) *1/2 way out door*

TOOTIE

Then I guess you wouldn't be interested
in hearing what I heard about Roger.

(NANCY FREEZES)

NANCY *and how
can't you*

Roger? What about him?

TOOTIE

Maybe you'd rather hear it from
somebody who's had her guts
ripped out by love.

NANCY *XPT*

Tootie, what are you talking about?

TOOTIE

Ah, you don't want to hear it from
a kid.

NANCY

(GRABS A WORLD GLOBE FROM A DESK)

Tootie, have you ever swallowed one
of these?

TOOTIE

Well, okay, since you put it that way.
Roger's got tickets to Baryshnikov in
New York and he's taking Blair.

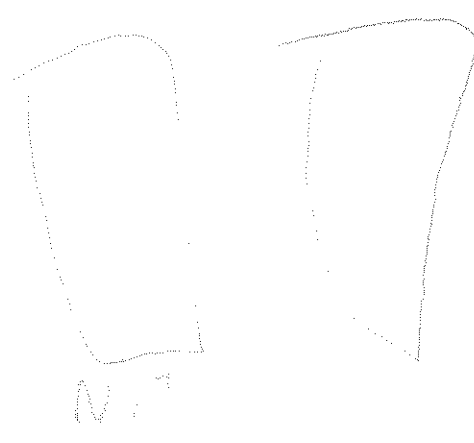
NANCY

(FREAKING OUT)

He what?!

TOOTIE

He's got tickets to...



NANCY

(INTERRUPTS, PACING WILDLY)

I'll kill him! I'll kill her!

I'll kill myself!

(SUDDENLY VERY SERIOUS)

This will not pass unnoticed!

(NANCY EXITS)

DISSOLVE TO:

globe to J
XL outdoor
fade
Dan in trouble...!!

ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER - DAY

(BLAIR IS FILLING EMPTY GLASSES WITH ICE,
AS NANCY RUSHES IN, VERY ANGRY)

NANCY

There you are! You...you...

BLAIR

(OVERLY CHEERFUL)

Yes, here I am. Me...me...

NANCY

Don't play innocent with me, you
sneaky, slimey man-stealer.

BLAIR

How dare you call me slimey.

NANCY

You know you're trying to steal Roger!

BLAIR

You're crazy! I wouldn't steal Roger.

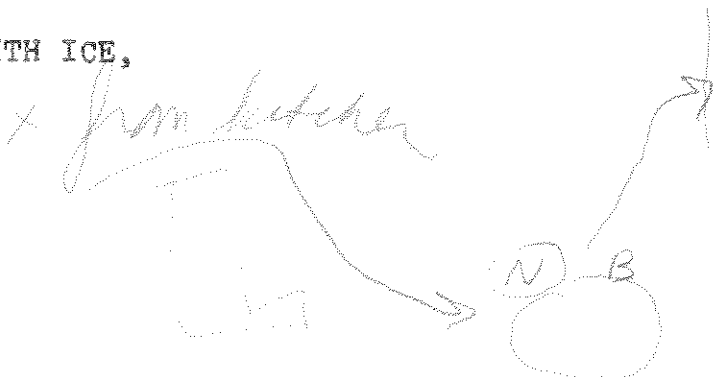
I could, but I wouldn't.

NANCY

Are you denying that you're going to
see Baryshnikov with Roger in New York?

BLAIR

Oh, that. Well, you know how I love
Baryshnikov... and he had these tickets...
so I just melted...and who told you?



NANCY

A very close friend, "El Slimo!"

(SHE GRABS SCOOP FULL OF ICE)

Here, 'Hot stuff,' this'll cool you off!

(SHE POURS ICE INTO BLAIR'S PEASANT BLOUSE,
AND EXITS AS BLAIR REACTS)

BLAIR

Ahhhhhhh!

(AS BLAIR SHAKES ICE OUT OF BLOUSE, JO ENTERS,
LOOKING OVER SHOULDER AT EXITING NANCY)

JO

What's the matter with Nancy?

(SHE SEES BLAIR CLEANING ICE FROM BLOUSE)

Skip the question.

BLAIR

You louse! You are so low! How
could you?

JO

Something you want to get off your
chest? Besides the ice?

BLAIR

You blabbed everything about me and
Roger, didn't you?

JO

I told you before. I don't squeal.

BLAIR

Not much. I should have known better
than to trust you.

JO

Hey. Nobody says I break my word.

BLAIR

I just said it.

JO

(FIST IN BLAIR'S FACE)

You want to say it again?!

BLAIR

No. I never want to say anything to
you again. Ever!

JO

Is that a promise?

(BLAIR STORMS OUT, AND JO EXITS IN OPPOSITE
DIRECTION. A BEAT AND TOOTIE ENTERS, SURROUNDED
BY NATALIE, SUE ANN AND CINDY)

SUE ANN

Blair is actually trying to steal
Nancy's guy?

NATALIE

I've got to hand it to you, Tootie.
Now you're dishing up some great
dirt.

TOOTIE

(ENJOYING IT)

I try to please.

CINDY

Tootie, how about coming up to our room
tonight?

TOOTIE

(EXCITEDLY)

You mean it? Should I bring the
Monopoly set?

CINDY

No. We'll just talk...about homework,
clothes...

SUE ANN

Gossip...

TOOTIE

Sure. I just love it when we women
get together.

NATALIE

I'll get your mail, Tootie.

(THE OTHERS EXIT. TOOTIE STANDS THERE, SMUGLY
SATISFIED THAT THE GIRLS ARE FINALLY PAYING
ATTENTION TO HER)

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS ACTION

(HOWARD IS AT STOVE)

SFX: SOUND OF FALLING OBJECT

(GARRETT ENTERS THROUGH THE BACK DOOR. SHE TAKES OFF DARK GLASSES AND GROPEs FORWARD, KNOCKING PANS OFF COUNTER)

HOWARD

Edna, are you okay?

GARRETT

Is that talking blur, you, Howard?

HOWARD

They dilated your eyes, didn't they?

GARRETT

Did they ever. I feel like Tarzan. I got here traveling from tree to tree. But instead of swinging in 'em, I was hugging 'em.

HOWARD

I'd better help you to your room.

GARRETT

No, thanks, Howard. I'm getting pretty good at the "Bump-and-Find" system. See.

(SHE TRIES TO HANG UP HER COAT, BUT MISSES THE HOOK. SHE GOES, FEELING HER WAY, TOWARD SWINGING DOOR)

I'll just check the dining room...

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS ACTION

(GARRETT ENTERS)

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Howard. I'll just check
the dining room. Then I'll sleep it off.

(SHE BUMPS INTO COUNTER, BACKS UP, OVERTURNING
A NAPKIN HOLDER)

Ooooooops!

TOOTIE

Mrs. Garrett, are you all right?

GARRETT

(STRAIGHT AT TOOTIE)

Tootie, are those you?

TOOTIE

This one is.

GARRETT

Oh, dear. I better sit down. I can't
see straight.

(GARRETT MOVES, KNOCKS OVER A CHAIR)

Who moved the furniture?

TOOTIE

Hang on, I'll help you.

(TOOTIE TAKES HER ARM)

GARRETT

Thanks, Tootie. I can't see my hand
in front of my face.

TOOTIE

Really? My Uncle Jerome was like that.

GARRETT

He couldn't see either?

TOOTIE

No, especially on Saturday night.

(GARRETT LAUGHS)

GARRETT

It's amazing what a couple of drops
can do to your vision.

TOOTIE

I guess it depends on how big the
drops are. Can I get you something to
make you feel better?

GARRETT

No thanks, honey. I'll sleep it off.
Time's the best cure.

TOOTIE

Uncle Jerome says the best cure is
'plop-plop-fizz'.

GARRETT

'Plop-plop-fizz-fizz?' I couldn't
even hit the glass.

TOOTIE

(LAUGHING)

Good one, Mrs. Garrett.

(GARRETT EXITS INTO KITCHEN. NATALIE ENTERS
FROM OUTSIDE, SEES TOOTIE LAUGHING)

NATALIE

You didn't get any mail, Tootie. What are you laughing at?

TOOTIE

(STILL GIGGLING)

Nothing.

NATALIE

Come on, Tootie. You can tell me.

TOOTIE

Well, okay. Mrs. Garrett was just in here and she was really funny.

NATALIE

She's always funny.

TOOTIE

No, funny like this.

(DOES A DRUNK IMPRESSION)

She could hardly walk.

NATALIE

No!

TOOTIE

Yes! I guess she had a ~~little too~~ *didn't have any lunch of her wine*

~~much wine with lunch.~~

(NATALIE AND TOOTIE ARE LAUGHING WHEN CINDY AND SUE ANN ENTER)

NATALIE

Hey, you guys, listen to this. Tell
'em, Toot.

(PROUDLY, ARM AROUND TOOTIE)

She doesn't miss a thing.

TOOTIE

It's no big deal. Mrs. Garrett just
came back from town. And she was a
little wobbly.

NATALIE

Tootie said she was loaded to the
eyeballs.

(CINDY, NATALIE AND SUE ANN HUDDLE, AD-LIBBING
THEIR DISBELIEF)

TOOTIE

Hold it! I didn't say she was loaded
to the eyeballs. Maybe to the kneecaps.
In fact, it could just been to the ankles.

CINDY

Oh, Tootie, you were just exaggerating.

SUE ANN

(TURNING AWAY)

This isn't any better than Mr.
Harris' rug.

(THE GIRLS START TO EXIT. TOOTIE FOLLOWS THEM)

TOOTIE

Wait a minute - I think she was loaded
to the knee caps. But I don't think
this is something that should get
around.

SUE ANN

Absolutely not.

CINDY

(ALL INNOCENCE)

Who would we tell?

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE FOUR

INT. HEADMASTER'S OFFICE - DAY

(MR. HARRIS, THE HEADMASTER, IS ON THE PHONE)

HARRIS

What do you mean, "It's all over school?" Why is the headmaster the last to know! Yes, Mrs. Garrett is a highly respected member of our Eastland staff, but if she does have a drinking problem, we have to take the necessary steps...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

INT. GARRETT'S ROOM - LATER - DAY

(GARRETT IS MISTING HER PLANTS WITH A
CHIANTI BOTTLE WITH SPRITZER)

GARRETT

HOW DRY I AM. HOW DRY I AM.

(THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR)

(USING HER FRENCH)

Ahn-tray voo.

(BLAIR ENTERS, LOOKING DEPRESSED)

BLAIR

Hi, Mrs. Garrett.

GARRETT

Hi, hon.

BLAIR

I'd like to talk to you.

GARRETT

Sure. Shoot.

(SHE SQUIRTS SPRITZER)

BLAIR

Look, I know you've got your own
problems.

GARRETT

It's only root rot.

BLAIR

I've decided not to go on the New
York trip.

(GARRETT STOPS SQUIRTING, PAYS FULL
ATTENTION)

GARRETT

Oh, you caught a cold from Nancy pouring
that ice on you.

BLAIR

You heard about that?

(GARRETT NODS)

Well, that's only part of it. Nancy
thinks I'm trying to steal her
boyfriend, Roger, because that's what
Jo told her.

GARRETT

You mean Jo lied?

BLAIR

No, she told the truth, the crumb!
Anyway , I'm not speaking to Jo
and I don't know how I'm going to make
up with Nancy. It just wouldn't be any
fun, so I'm not going.

GARRETT

Hold on, Blair. That's not going
to solve anything. Let's figure
out a better solution.

(KNOCK ON THE DOOR, WHICH IS PARTIALLY
OPEN, MR. HARRIS IS STANDING THERE)

HARRIS

Mrs. Garrett, you have a minute?

GARRETT

Sure, Mr. Harris. Blair, we'll get
back to this. We'll work it out.

BLAIR

Sure. Hi, Mr. Harris.

HARRIS

Hello, Miss Warner.

(BLAIR EXITS)

GARRETT

Come on, sit down, Mr. Harris, while
I finish misting Gertrude.

(SQUIRTS, SINGS)

HOW DRY I AM, HOW DRY I AM.

HARRIS

Catchy tune.

GARRETT

Isn't it?

HARRIS

Interesting fogger.

GARRETT

It was a lot more fun emptying it
the first time.

HARRIS

I'll bet. Mrs. Garrett, I'll get right to the point...

(HE SMOOTHS HIS HAIR NERVOUSLY)

There's an ugly rumor going around this school...

GARRETT

(LOOKING AT THE TOP OF HIS HEAD)

Oh, dear. It got back to you.

HARRIS

Yes, it did.

GARRETT

Well, I think folks will forget about it if we all just ignore it, don't you?

HARRIS

Mrs. Garrett, this is a very serious matter.

GARRETT

I understand, Mr. Harris. It's serious to you, but no-one else is losing any hair, uh, sleep over it.

HARRIS

Obviously, I can't let you take those girls to New York.

GARRETT

Good heavens, Mr. Harris, who are the girls going to tell in New York? Don't you think you're over-reacting a bit?

~~HARRIS~~

~~Mrs. Garrett, are you sober?~~

~~GARRETT~~

~~Yes, are you?~~

HARRIS *hept. 60*

That's not the point. I'm concerned about your drinking problem.

GARRETT

My drinking problem.

HARRIS

Good, we've got it out in the open. That's a beginning.

GARRETT

Mr. Harris, what are you talking about?

HARRIS

Let me put it ~~more~~ succinctly.
been
You're hitting the bottle.

Sauher

*This way. Let me put it up
succinctly.*

GARRETT

That's ridiculous. Maybe I have
an occasional glass of wine with
dinner...

HARRIS

(HE PEERS AT HER, THEN)

Mrs. Garrett, word of your drunken
spree has spread all over campus.

GARRETT

What's being spread all over campus
could make petunias grow.

HARRIS

Mrs. Garrett, do you deny that
yesterday you stumbled into the
cafeteria, knocked over the
furniture and crawled around
on the floor.

GARRETT

I never crawled on the floor.

HARRIS

But the rest...

GARRETT

My eyes were dilated.

HARRIS

I'm sure they were.

GARRETT

I had just come from the eye doctor.
I couldn't see a thing. And I was
stone cold sober.

(HANDS HIM PIECE OF PAPER)

I shouldn't have to prove it, but
here's my glasses prescription.

HARRIS

(AFTER A BEAT)

Oh, Mrs. Garrett, I don't have to
see that. I believe you.

(HE TAKES THE PRESCRIPTION FROM HER)

I never should have doubted you. I
can't apologize enough.

GARRETT

(SHE TAKES BACK THE PRESCRIPTION)

No, you can't.

HARRIS

I don't understand how on earth
a rumor like that got started
about you.

GARRETT

I don't either. The only one who
saw me come back was Howard...

(CATCHING ON)

and Tootie.

(REALIZING, THEN "TOOTIESQUE")

Oh, is someone in trouble.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE TWO

INT. KITCHEN - A FEW MINUTES LATER - DAY

(GARRETT COMES THROUGH THE DOOR, CARRYING
A BOX. SHE SEES JO WORKING)

GARRETT

Hi, Jo. Y'know where I can find
Tootie?

JO

She's in the cafeteria. There's
a hive buzzing in the corner and
Tootie's the queen bee.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

BLAIR

I still can't believe Mrs. Garrett
is a drinker. She never has
anything stronger than iced tea.

TOOTIE

Hold it. Who said she was a drinker?

CINDY

You did.

TOOTIE

I didn't exactly put it that way.

NANCY

Look at it this way. Thanks to
your mouth, maybe we can get Mrs.
Garrett some professional help.

NATALIE

Yeah, Tootie, some day you'll look
back and say...

(DRAMATICALLY)

'This was my finest blab'

(GARRETT ENTERS)

CINDY

(NOTICES GARRETT)

Mrs. Garrett!

GARRETT

I'd like a word with you, Tootie?

TOOTIE

(GUILTY)

I bet you want more than just one.

GARRETT

(SHE NODS)

Let's go talk in the kitchen.

TOOTIE

Near the knives?

(TOOTIE LOOKS PANICKED AS THEY WALK TOWARDS
KITCHEN)

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS ACTION

(GARRETT SIGNALS JO TO LEAVE)

GARRETT

Would you like to join me in a
little drink. Tootie?

(TOOTIE REACTS)

Lemonade. Straight up or on the
rocks?

TOOTIE

Please don't be mad, Mrs. Garrett.
It got out of hand...honest! It's
not my fault!

GARRETT

And if my so-called drinking problem
had gotten me fired, whose fault
would it have been?

TOOTIE

Mrs. Garrett, all I did was pass along
a little information.

GARRETT

No, what you passed along was
mis-information.

TOOTIE

Then why were you bumping in to all
that furniture?

GARRETT

If you had asked me that before,
you'd know that I'd had my eyes
dilated at the doctor's office.
Everything was blurred.

TOOTIE

Then you don't have a problem? Oh,
Mrs. Garrett, I'm so glad! And don't
you worry, no one can get the good news
around faster than I can.

GARRETT

That's for sure.

TOOTIE

(SHE REACTS)

You're still mad.

GARRETT

Mmm-hmm. A lot of people around here
are mad at each other, lately. Must
be an epidemic.

TOOTIE

What do you mean?

GARRETT

Nancy's not talking to Blair, and
Blair's not talking to Jo.

TOOTIE

She's not? How'd that one get by me?

GARRETT

(POINTEDLY)

Rumor has it that Jo blabbed some
secret about Blair.

(TOOTIE REACTS)

But I don't believe that rumor.
Do you?

TOOTIE

(SOBERLY, BRACING HERSELF)

I think I can clear it up for you.

(TAKES A DEEP BREATH)

Jo didn't blab. I did.

GARRETT

That figures.

TOOTIE

I guess I've been doing a lot of that,
lately. But the older girls are
finally paying attention to me.

GARRETT

They may be paying attention to you,
and love the gossip, but do you
think any of them will ever trust
you or confide in you like a real
friend?

TOOTIE

I've really made a mess of it haven't
I? How am I ever going to fix things
with the girls?

GARRETT

I suggest you go out there and tell
everybody the truth.

TOOTIE

How strong a suggestion is that?

GARRETT

Very .

(GARRETT STARES AT HER. AS TOOTIE SQUIRMS,
WE)

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY - CONTINUOUS ACTION

(ALL THE GIRLS, INCLUDING BLAIR, JO AND
NANCY ARE WAITING. TOOTIE ENTERS,
FOLLOWED BY GARRETT)

CINDY

What did she say?

FOL #G209

TOOTIE

It's no big deal. Anybody who wants to leave, go ahead. I know you're all busy.

(NOT ONE GIRL MOVES AN INCH)

That's what I was afraid of. I guess you've all noticed, that for the last few days, I've been head anchor girl around here.

(BIG SMILE)

And it's been heaven.

GARRETT

(FLATLY)

Tootie, you're dragging your anchor.

TOOTIE

But the bad news is...I may have gone overboard. Like, on some of my stories, I might have exaggerated a little. Especially about Mrs. Garrett being drunk.

NATALIE

Tootie...

TOOTIE

It's okay, Nat. She wasn't drunk at all. What happened was, she had her eyeballs diluted.

(TO GARRETT)

Okay?

GARRETT

Close enough.

TOOTIE

Well, that's about it. See ya.

(TOOTIE STARTS TO LEAVE, GARRETT
STOPS HER)

GARRETT

Tootie...

TOOTIE

(CAUGHT)

Oh yeah, I almost forgot. Blair, remember when you told Jo that secret about Roger? The one that was just between you two? Well, it was just between the three of us?

(BLAIR AND JO REACT. THEY'RE FURIOUS)

BLAIR

Tootie! You sneaky, rotten blabbermouth.

JO

Yeah, I got bad rapped on account
of you, you little creep!

~~BLAIR~~

I'll get you for this.

JO

Blair
Not if I get her first.

TOOTIE

(TO GARRETT)

Gee, they're taking it better than I
though
~~expected~~. Well, I'm glad everything's
settled...

GARRETT

Whoa, hold it, speedy. You're not
out of the woods yet.

TOOTIE

What do you mean?

GARRETT

There's the matter of war reparations
for the damage you've done. Now,
since you insist on wagging your
tongue, wag it over these!

(SHE HOLDS UP A BOX OF ENVELOPES)

TOOTIE

(CRINGING)

What are those?

GARRETT

The invitations to the alumni dance.
The envelopes have to be sealed. All
one thousand of them.

TOOTIE

(TAKING THE BOX)

Just call me "Tootie Chapstick"

(SHE TURNS AWAY)

GARRETT

(HOLDING UP A ROLL OF STAMPS)

Tootie, don't forget the stamps.

(GARRETT EXITS. TOOTIE STANDS THERE UNHAPPILY)

TOOTIE

I guess I know what I'll be doing
while you guys are in New York.

(NATALIE COMES OVER TO PUT A CONSOLING ARM
AROUND TOOTIE)

NATALIE

Come on, Tootie, I'll help.

JO

Me, Too. It shouldn't take that long.

BLAIR

What the heck. I'll help. Sending out
invitations is one of the things I do
best.

(THE OTHER GIRLS ADLIB THEIR SUPPORT AS WE:)

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW