

MOM

(ignoring her) We're going to need more than what I can make working part-time. But more importantly, I'm going to need help with Grandmother O'Shea and (looking at Linda) your father.

BECKY

I can help! I'll be like Thelma Ritter in "Rear Window!"

Start

MOM

Becky, you're in school and that's what comes first. Linda...

LINDA

But my school doesn't matter?

MOM

I'm asking you to postpone your scholarship to Stanford.

LINDA

Like you postponed your music scholarship?

TERRI

(to Jo) Oh, come on now...

MOM

This is my family, Theresa...!

TERRI

But that's all the kid has been dreaming about! Stanford. Being a writer. Buzz.

MOM

Oh, dear Lord...

BECKY

Buzz scares me...

TERRI

(to Linda) Tell her.

BECKY

All that hair...

MOM

Tell me what...?

TERRI

Tell her...!

LINDA

We're getting married and moving to Palo Alto.

MOM

No, you're not.

TERRI

Jo....

LINDA

You can't stop me.

MOM

I won't have to. You're going to stop yourself. Your father has worked 12-hour days, 7 days a week since the day you were born. He has literally broken his back and just about every other bone in his body to give you a private education, food, clothes—

LINDA

That's what you do when you have a child! I wasn't banging on the other side pleading to be let into this world, you know. You two made that decision. And the deal is that you take care of the children you create!

MOM

I would love to take care of you, but your fowl-mouthed exhibition has cost me any chance of getting that job at the rectory! And if this story gets out, I doubt I'll be able to find a job anywhere in the parish. But you'll be gone, and that's probably all for the best, because once your father listens to that tape he'll burst out of all those casts and braces and come after you with a crowbar!!!

BECKY

I'm scared...

Baseball bat. Grandmother O'Shea: "Where's my tea!"

Baton. Mike: "My pills come first!"

Grandmother O'Shea: "36 hours of labor means my tea comes first!"

TERRI

Hold on to your diapers, you two!

Grandmother O'Shea & Mike: "Go home to your husband!"

LINDA

You'll want me to be gone. Believe me.

TERRI

What does that mean?

MOM

She's being dramatic.

TERRI

What does that mean, Linda?

LINDA

It means I need to leave town and I need to get married because I'm pregnant.

Terri, Mom and Becky are frozen, staring at Linda.

LINDA

(to the audience) Domino number five.

Stop

*BLACKOUT**

(* If play is performed as a one-act, Linda's line, "Domino number five" is followed by, "Look at those faces....")