

ACT TWO**Scene Four**

(The Hotel's Casino Garden. Later that night. CHRISTINE enters the garden with LAWRENCE, who is wheeling FREDDY in his chair.)

LAWRENCE

Well, here we are. I'm just going to walk Miss Colgate to the door.

FREDDY

Can I have a little kiss goodnight?

LAWRENCE

Very well.

(He kisses FREDDY on top of the head and gives the chair a little push, sending FREDDY sailing offstage.)

CHRISTINE

Goodnight, Buzz.

FREDDY

(his voice fading into the distance)

Goodnight.

CHRISTINE

Do you really think the therapy is working?

LAWRENCE

It's a stubborn little psychosis he has, but I have high hopes.

CHRISTINE

That's wonderful. I'm sorry about the delay in paying your fee. I should have it by tomorrow; it just took longer than I thought to raise the money.

LAWRENCE

You had to raise the money?

CHRISTINE

Well, the cash prize wasn't quite enough, so I had my father sell off the car, the furniture, and all the jewelry they gave me.

LAWRENCE

What cash prize?

CHRISTINE

From the contest. You know, I was selected as the American Soap Queen. That's how I'm on this all-expense-paid trip to Europe.

(LAWRENCE stares at CHRISTINE.)

LAWRENCE

You mean your father doesn't own the Soap Company?

CHRISTINE

(laughing)

No, I just use their laundry detergent. I never expected to win but they said they really liked the way I rhymed 'cleansing cream' with 'fencing team.'

LAWRENCE

Yes, it's quite catchy.

(He looks at her a moment.)

CHRISTINE

What?

#16d – The Soap Queen

LAWRENCE

You hardly know Sergeant Benson and you'd sell everything you own to help him.

CHRISTINE

Well, not everything. They gave me a year's supply of fabric softener, too. I'm keeping that.

(LAWRENCE looks at her in wonder.)

Well... goodnight.

LAWRENCE

Goodnight.

(LAWRENCE watches her enter the hotel. A moment, then he turns and calls:)

Freddy. Freddy!

(FREDDY comes wheeling back on.)

FREDDY

Yeah, yeah, I heard.

LAWRENCE

The bet's off.

FREDDY

Why?

LAWRENCE

She doesn't have the money.