

THE TRUTH ABOUT MARGARINE

by

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(a one-act farce -- the success of this demanding form depends on a great deal of polish and tight construction;

I conceived and wrote this in a few hours - so apologies!)

Challenge 8 - Due 09/02 at 10am GMT

Today I'll give you the opening line - you just have to do the rest!

And here it is:

"Let go of Charlie! The truth is, I've despised you since I discovered the truth about you, Frank and the margarine!"

Make the play as long or as short as you like!

Use as many or as few actors as you like!

In other words, do what you like!

Bonus points if you end the play with the following line:

"It was carnage. An obese Elvis impersonator throwing up on 78 girls in Frozen costumes throwing up on an obese clown!"

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PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS:

QUEENIE -- having a gathering

CHARLIE -- her husband, a crook

DENNIS -- Charlie's sidekick

THE PROFESSOR -- esteemed guest who has invented a machine that turns margarine into plastic

MARJORIE -- Queenie's best friend

FRANK -- Marjorie's husband who has an eating disorder and is having an affair with Queenie.

KEY PROPS:

FOUR IDENTICAL TUBS - ONE FULL OF ICE CREAM, ONE FULL OF MARGARINE, ONE FULL OF LOOT, ONE FULL OF MEAT.

STAGE SET:

TWO LOCATIONS DELINEATED HOW YOU WILL - ON LEFT THE MAIN RECEPTION AREA WITH THE FRONT FOOR ON THE LEFT AND A DOOR THROUGH TO THE KITCHEN ON THE RIGHT, AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE KITCHEN A DOOR TO AN ANNEX.

IN THE RECEPTION A BIG TABLE, AND IN THE KITCHEN A MASSIVE FRIDGE FREEZER AND A KITCHEN TABLE PLUS OTHER UNITS AT THE BACK

ACTION:

DOORBELL RINGS. ENTER QUEENIE, OPENS DOOR AND ADMITS MARJORIE.

QUEENIE Marjorie!

MARJORIE Queenie!

QUEENIE Darling!

MARJORIE Well you look sensational!

QUEENIE Oh, you! Marjorie, you look fantastic. But where's Frank?

MARJORIE He's parking the car, at least that's what he said. He'd better be parking the car. I don't trust him.

QUEENIE What do you mean? He's not... (WHISPERS) *playing away?*

MARJORIE Who, Frank? What do you think? If he's not parking that car, and he'd

better be parking that car, then he might have legged it into that store secretly to buy...

QUEENIE What? Cigarettes? Drugs? Is Frank on drugs?

MARJORIE No he's not on drugs Queenie. How can I put it delicately. We've been having some... marital difficulties... It's nothing to do with me, let me tell you. He's been struggling with various things. He has demons, you know! Demons from the id!

QUEENIE Frank? Demons from the id?

MARJORIE I'm serious Queenie.

QUEENIE So he's started smoking?

MARJORIE No! He's started... eating. He goes away secretly, and he buys huge tubs of ice cream. Four litre tubs. I've found the tubs lying around all over the place, empty, drained completely. He's lost his job.

QUEENIE In show business?

MARJORIE Confidentially. Yes. There was an incident. It was carnage. An obese Elvis impersonator throwing up on 78 girls in Frozen costumes throwing up on an obese clown.

QUEENIE That's awful. I didn't think he looked so... heavy. I couldn't, I mean, oof, straight to my thighs and that'd be it, breaking all the furniture.

MARJORIE He hasn't told me. He doesn't know I know, but he knows. I haven't told anyone. You're the first person I've told.

QUEENIE I'm honoured. You're a true friend.

MARJORIE I had to tell you because, well, if you see him disappearing into the kitchen, I'm concerned he would be going to eat. He'd be trying to find ice cream and trying to stuff his face. He'd go very quiet, and then sort of disappear, and you wouldn't notice he'd gone and then he'd either come back all shamefaced or you might catch him in the middle of your kitchen like a terrible pig.

QUEENIE So sad. So very sad.

MARJORIE Yes, it's breaking my heart a bit. And he suffers because he knows it hurts me to see him with such a... a loss of control. A man who can't control himself, well, it's hard to love a man like that

QUEENIE It's a terrible shame. When a man loses control of himself like that he ceases to be a true man. He's just an id, or an ego, or whatever it is. The Professor

would know, he's a man of German.

MARJORIE Is he here yet?

QUEENIE Not yet. He's flying in from Bonn.

MARJORIE What, for dinner?

QUEENIE No! To demonstrate the machine to the Royal Society, but he wants to demonstrate it to us tonight as a trial out. It's so exciting - the Professor demonstrating his new machine! Imagine, a 3D printer that can make plastic out of margarine!

MARJORIE Why here?

QUEENIE I don't know. He's a man of German.

MARJORIE Men are strange. Where the hell is Frank? I'm going to go out and see where he is.

EXIT MARJORIE

DOORBELL GOES. QUEENIE OPENS DOOR AND ADMITS THE PROFESSOR.

QUEENIE Professor! It's an honour to have you here. I didn't know if you'd come.

PROF Ja, I flew in from Bonn. Not just for tonight. But I am rude. I bump into a woman outside. She was shouting at a man with his face in a substantial tub of ice cream.

QUEENIE Ah. Neighbours. I'm glad you made it. I thought you'd be too busy - I heard you have invented a new kind of 3D printer that turns margarine into plastic!

PROF Yes, zat iss vat I have here. It is a prototype machine zat ve have been developing for qvite some time.

QUEENIE But how does it work?

PROF Vell you see ze chemical strukture of margarine is identikal to zat of plastic! Except for one tiny partikle in ze molecule, exactly ze same! I hazz the prototye wizz me to demonstrate. Izz not ze final but izz fully functional. Vat you muss not tell iz ziss, zat it is not fully licenced yet.

QUEENIE It'll illegal!

PROF It is a mere formality while the patent clears. You see it uses a special new kind of particle fusion vich ze government has not licensed for use yet.

QUEENIE We'll just put that over there to keep it safe and then later we'll put it into action!

PROF That vill be satisfactory yes. You vill not forget ze margarine, no?

QUEENIE I've got four litres of margarine safe in the fridge inside an icecream tub.

PROF Sehr schoen.

QUEENIE Now, Professor, you must you must try some of this cherry schnapps I've bought specially for you.

PROF My liebchen, you spoil and delight me. But first, I am very weary from my flight from Bonn University and I muss rest before dinner.

QUEENIE Come this way, Professor, you can sit down in the front room.

EXIT PROFESSOR

CHARLIE AND DENNIS ENTER THE KITCHEN DRESSED IN DARK SCRUFFY CLOTHES OBVIOUSLY HAVING CREEPING IN AFTER BEING UP TO NO GOOD AND CARRYING A BAG OF LOOT

DENNIS Charlie, you sure your misses isn't gonna walk in and find us handling all this loot is she?

CHARLIE Queenie? Don't worry Dennis, she thinks I'm out delivering medical supplies.

DENNIS How'd you square that?

CHARLIE Ah she's an old Tory at heart ain't she. She might talk about social justice an' that but as soon as she gets in that voting booth, I know what happens. And as this reflects our connubial coexistence, I bring the money in and as long as I bring the money in and she can spend it, she don't worry about whether it's coming from delivering medical supplies or the great train robbery.

DENNIS I'm still shakin', Charlie. That was a bit too close for comfort this time. Maybe we's getting too old for this game.

CHARLIE Yeah it's a young man's game, Dennis.

DENNIS Maybe we ought to think about retiring.

CHARLIE Let's see how it plays out with Big Tony, eh Dennis?

DENNIS Right-o, Charlie. What we gonna do with all the loot? Where we gonna hide it?

CHARLIE I'll put it in one of Queenie's four-litre tubs, she's got piles of them, fills hundreds of them. Every time she cooks she cooks she cooks for a bloody army, and then freezes most of it.

DENNIS I'm starvin.

CHARLIE "That'll keep us going for weeks, and think how much money we'll be saving," she says.

DENNIS Wouldn't mind a bite.

CHARLIE "Economies of scale," she says. Then these bloody big tubs just sit in the freezer forever until I throw them out. If we put it in a tub in the freezer there's absolutely no chance she'll find it.

DENNIS You're sure?

CHARLIE Positive.

THEY POUR THE LOOT INTO THE TUB.

DENNIS GOES TO THE FRIDGE FREEZER AND STARTS TO OPEN THE FRIDGE

CHARLIE That's not the freezer, Dennis. That's the fridge.

DENNIS Ain't they usually the other way round?

CHARLIE I know, it's one of them Scandinavian designs.

THEY PUT THE TUB FULL OF LOOT INTO THE FREEZER

QUEENIE STARTS TO ENTER FROM THE RECEPTION

QUEENIE Oh hello Charlie. [REGARDING HIS SCRUFFY APPEARANCE] Glad you thought to dress for the occasion, dear.

QUEENIE WALKS OUT BACK INTO RECEPTION

MARJORIE I thought I heard your rugged hard-working loverman?

QUEENIE What, you mean, Charlie?

MARJORIE Who else would I mean?

QUEENIE Haha! Charlie will be back shortly. Where's Frank?

MARJORIE He's just.. Cleaning up. Got a bit of something on his face. I'm looking forward to seeing Charlie again. Is he here?

QUEENIE He's just got back from work. Oh, he might not have much in the way of refinement, but he does work hard for my money.

MARJORIE What's Charlie up to at the moment, since he left the... what was it, the book-keepers?

QUEENIE He's been working nights transporting medical supplies for the local hospital. Since they put the courier lease out for tender it's been a real boon for the local community. A real boon for the working man, so long as he's prepared to work a little, shall we say, discreetly.

MARJORIE Discreetly?

QUEENIE You know, covertly.

MARJORIE Covertly?

QUEENIE A little bit under the radar, *tax wise* and so forth.

MARJORIE Oh! Cash in hand!

QUEENIE Keeps the costs down on the both sides don't it. A bit of 'tax efficiency' and so forth. I mean the government would only spend it on wars in the middle east anyway, right? Who wants to be paying for that?

MARJORIE I suppose there is that.

QUEENIE As an arrangement you could say it's mutually beneficial. Everyone benefits!

MARJORIE Except people on benefits, I suppose.

QUEENIE But noone cares about them, do they? An' they don't cost bugger all do they?

MARJORIE I suppose not.

ENTER FRANK. THERE IS UNEASE.

MARJORIE There you are. I'm desperate for the loo. (TO FRANK) You behave yourself.

EXIT MARJORIE LEAVING QUEENIE AND FRANK ALONE

QUEENIE I think she's onto us, I'm sure of it.

FRANK How could Marjorie know about us?

QUEENIE As soon as she arrived she was talking about loversmen and not trusting you, and gave me this perfectly ludicrous story about you having an eating disorder?

FRANK (DEFENSIVE) An eating disorder?

QUEENIE That you creep off and buy four litre tubs of ice cream and eat them in one sitting.

FRANK Well, as if.

QUEENIE Yes, exactly. As if you were a man with no self control whatsoever.

FRANK That's not me, Queenie.

QUEENIE I knew it, Frank! That's what I said, I said a man without self-control can barely call himself a man at all. Well, what I didn't say was -

THEY MOVE CLOSER TOGETHER

QUEENIE You can cry off a bit of self-control between the sheets, am I right?

FRANK (QUIETS IMITATES A WOLF HOWLING)

QUEENIE That's what I'm talking about....

FRANK Mmm, Queenie....

THEY ARE CAVORTING AND LIE ACROSS THE TABLE AND KNOCK THE PROFESSOR'S MACHINE ONTO THE FLOOR.

QUEENIE Shit! Is it broken?

FRANK Ooh, that doesn't look good.

QUEENIE Tell me it's not broken!

FRANK That's nasty that is.

QUEENIE Oh no, the professor's experimental model. It turns margarine into cheese or something. It's not even legal -

FRANK Not legal?

QUEENIE It's not ILLegal, the prototype just hasn't been approved yet. Oh bugger, we must fix it before the Professor finds it. Take it through and give it to Charlie and he can have a look at it. He's quite practical with machines.

THE PROFESSOR ENTERS

PROF I thought I heard crashing and katzenjammer and Gott knows vatt!

QUEENIE (TO FRANK) HIDE IT! (TO PROF) Oh, no professor! Just the local skinheads having a rave party no doubt.

FRANK TAKES BROKEN MACHINE OUT TO KITCHEN

PROF I thought I heard sirens. Ziss makes me verry nervous because my machine....

QUEENIE Oh, we're safe from the long arm of the law here. We're respectable citizens, model citizens, this is a respectable house. My husband delivers medical supplies for private contractors, what could be more respectable than that?

PROF No I am kvite nervous. I zink I must go.

QUEENIE No, Professor, please. Have another lie down and I will make sure that your incredible machine is kept under wraps in case any stray policemen might be about. It's not as if some massive heist has happened tonight and the perpetrators were hiding out here! Or hiding all the loot, or God knows what!

PROF Yes, I suppose. It is a long flight from Bonn and I am tired. In a vile I vill demonstrate the machine to you, vonce I have attended to my nerves.

QUEENIE Handsome! Just out back there, out of the way you go, out of sight, away there, comfortably.

PROF And you vill keep ze margarine for ze machine to turn into plastic, you vill

keep it at exactly 13 degrees centigrade.

QUEENIE Of course!

PROF In ze fridge, not in ze freezer, iz very important.

QUEENIE In the fridge of course, yes Professor. Now let's lead you out here.

EXIT PROF

QUEENIE RUNS BACK

CHARLIE ENTERS

CHARLIE What's wrong, Queenie?

QUEENIE Oh God, everything's ruined.

CHARLIE Is dinner burnt?

QUEENIE It's the professor's machine...

CHARLIE The one that turns margarine into bacon?

QUEENIE Plastic.

CHARLIE What's wrong with it?

QUEENIE We've - I've broken it, Charlie. Fell on the floor. Busted. We have to fix it, Charlie. We have to. It's a prototype. It's not even been legally approved yet.

CHARLIE It's not legal?

QUEENIE NO! No, of course, it's not ILLegal as such.

CHARLIE What, it's HOT?

QUEENIE I mean it's a teensy bit illegal. I've sent the Professor for a lie down because he heard sirens and -

CHARLIE SIRENS!?

QUEENIE They were miles away!

CHARLIE This is terrible. What if we get rumbled?

QUEENIE We get rumbled?

CHARLIE I mean what if the old bill get wind of this machine and....

MARJORIE The Professor is worried about his machine. He says he wants to be able to see it.

QUEENIE Oh, shit. Look, Charlie, you take the machine, and see what you can do to get it fixed up. Make sure above all that it LOOKS as though it hasn't been dropped on the floor. I don't care if it works. Just please do that darling. And Marjorie, go in the kitchen and get the Magi-Mix, and place it in the corner of the room with the lights down so the Professor can see it but can't make it out. He'll never know, and then we'll make the swap, and BOOM!

MARJORIE GOES INTO KITCHEN AND RETURNS WITH MAGI-MIX WHICH SHE TAKES DOWN TO THE PROF OFFSTAGE

QUEENIE Charlie, you have to do something about the Professor's machine.

CHARLIE Where is it?

QUEENIE In the kitchen.

CHARLIE I'll send Dennis out with it.

CHARLIE GOES TO KITCHEN AND TALKS TO DENNIS

CHARLIE Dennis. Take the Professor's machine to Big Tony, all right, and get the Greek to look at it. He's a whizz with the technology, and he's fast. Take it with, and take the loot with you too.

DENNIS I thought we was stowing it here for safety.

CHARLIE It's got too hot, my son. There's the old bill circling about like nobody's business and the Professor's hot too. Get the machine and the loot out of the house until it cools off and come back when it's all clear. All right?

DENNIS All right, Charlie.

CHARLIE SENDS DENNIS OUT WITH ONE OF THE TUBS THAT HE THINKS IS THE LOOT SO HE CAN STASH IT SOMEWHERE ELSE WHILE HE GETS THE MACHINE FIXED NOT KNOWING HE HAS GIVEN HIM A TUB OF QUEENIE'S SURPLUS FROZEN-FOR-LATER DINNER

EXITS KITCHEN

FRANK CREEPS INTO THE KITCHEN.

FRANK Oh Frank, you're disgusting. Don't do this. Come on. Oh, come on. Just a little mouthful. Just a bite. Sickening. Come on Frank, oh why not, little starter before dinner eh. Nothing wrong with that.

HE OPENS THE FRIDGE AND RETRIEVES THE TUB OF ICE CREAM.

FRANK Jackpot.

HE PUTS IT ON THE TABLE THEN REALIZES HE HASN'T GOT A SPOON. HE GOES TO THE CUTLERY DRAWER AND RETRIEVES A HUGE SPOON AND GOES TO THE ICECREAM LICKING HIS LIPS.

QUEENIE STARTS TO ENTER BUT IS DETAINED. FRANK RUSHES ACROSS TO THE DRAWER TO RETURN THE GIANT SPOON, THEN GOES OUT TO THE ANNEXE, THEN REMEMBERS THE TUB IS STILL ON THE TABLE, AND RETURNS TO THE TABLE AND PICKS UP THE TUB

QUEENIE ENTERS AT LAST FROM THE DINING ROOM AND CATCHES HIM. HE HIDES THE TUB BEHIND HIS BACK SO HE CAN'T SEE HE HAS BEEN IN HER FRIDGE OR CORROBORATE THE EATING DISORDER

QUEENIE Frank! But what are you doing in here? Were you --

FRANK No! No, I wasn't eating. I was waiting for you, to be alone with you! We were interrupted earlier. You drive me wild with desire! I was waiting for you. Waiting to hold you. To feel you.

QUEENIE Oh, Frank, you... But not here, what if Charlie or Marjorie were -

MARJORIE ENTERS

QUEENIE AND FRANK SPRING APART

MARJORIE What's going on here?

QUEENIE Nothing!

FRANK I wasn't eating.

MARJORIE Oh, you two. You two. I've seen everything! I know what's going on!

MARJORIE GRABS THE TUB OFF THE TABLE

MARJORIE Frank! I can't believe you're doing this here!

FRANK AND QUEENIE LOOK DAZED A SECOND, THEN GO ALONG WITH IT

FRANK Oh, Marge. I'm so sorry. I was hungry, and then Queenie caught me in the fridge, and...

QUEENIE He really wasn't going to eat that whole four litre tub of icecream, believe me.

MARJORIE You don't have to defend him, Queenie! No, Frank, come on. Queenie, could you please pretend this hasn't happened. I don't want this to spoil your evening that you've worked so hard on.

QUEENIE Oh Marjorie! Honestly, it's nothing. We'll just all pretend it didn't happen, and get back to chatting as if nothing had happened!

MARJORIE Thank you Queenie. You're a good friend.

QUEENIE It's nothing. I just want you to have a good time.

FRANK Sorry Marjorie.

MARJORIE We'll talk about this later. You're soft in the head, you want counselling. Why don't you control yourself.

QUEENIE Marjorie...

MARJORIE Sorry, Queenie. Chin up. Right, get away from that tub Frank, it's not for you. Come on now, we have to behave like civilised adults, regular people with self control and civilised attributes. Right, Frank?

FRANK Right, Marjorie.

MARJORIE PUTS THE TUB BACK IN THE FRIDGE FREEZER AND EXITS

FRANK That was a close one.

QUEENIE I thought she was onto us.

THEY EXIT

CHARLIE ENTERS THE KITCHEN

CHARLIE I'm starving. Might microwave a bit of that frozen lasagne, God knows Queenie'll never eat it.

OPENS FREEZER, RETRIEVES TUB OF LOOT THINKING IT WAS MEAT.

CHARLIE Jackpot.

PLACES IT ON TABLE, OPENS IT AND REALIZES

CHARLIE Oh bloody hell! I've sent Dennis off with the wrong tub, and the loot's still here! I'd better find somewhere to hide it before Queenie sees it!

ENTER QUEENIE

QUEENIE Those two. Oh, Charlie. What are you doing Charlie? CHARLIE!

ANGRILY SHE PICKS UP THE TUB OF LOOT

CHARLIE Queenie, I meant to tell you!

QUEENIE I'm cooking an important dinner and here you are snacking on left overs! Charlie, you'll ruin your appetite and then you won't eat anything and then our guests won't feel at their ease and noone will eat anything and everyone will be hungry but they will be too polite to say anything and my evening will be quite ruined!

CHARLIE Oh, no, Queenie! I'm sorry angel.

QUEENIE GOES TO FRIDGE

QUEENIE I'll just put this back in the fridge and you can take it with you tomorrow for your lunch or dinner or whatever it is you call it on your night shifts when you're delivering medical supplies.

QUEENIE PUTS THE TUB OF LOOT IN THE FRIDGE

CHARLIE Don't you think, maybe you should freeze it or uh...

QUEENIE Nonsense, it's out now. It'll do well for tomorrow once it thaws. Now, come through with me.

QUEENIE DRAGS CHARLIE RELUCTANTLY OUT OF THE KITCHEN.

FRANK ENTERS THE KITCHEN

FRANK I'm sorry Marjorie, sorry Queenie, sorry Massive Fridge. I'm just so sad.

Everything's so confusing. You make everything okay. Just a little scoop of ice cream will make it okay.

FRANK OPENS THE FRIDGE AND RETRIEVES THE TUB OF WHAT HE THINKS IS ICE CREAM. HE PUTS IT ON THE TABLE THEN REALIZES HE HASN'T GOT A SPOON.

FRANK GOES TO THE CUTLERY DRAWER AND RETRIEVES A HUGE SPOON AND GOES TO THE ICECREAM LICKING HIS LIPS. HE OPENS THE ICECREAM.

CHARLIE STARTS TO ENTER AGAIN BUT IS DETAINED. FRANK PUTS THE LID BACK ON AND PICKS UP THE SPOON WHICH HE RETURNS TO THE FRIDGE BY MISTAKE THEN HE EXITS OUT TO THE ANNEX LEAVING THE TUB ON THE TABLE.

CHARLIE ENTERS AND SEES THE TUB.

CHARLIE Shit, the loot! What's that doing out!? Bloody hell.

QUEENIE STARTS TO PUSH AT THE DOOR

CHARLIE Shit, she knows about the loot!

CHARLIE HIDES UNDER THE TABLE

QUEENIE ENTERS FROM THE DINING ROOM, AND OPENS THE FRIDGE. SHE FINDS THE SPOON IN THERE AND TURNS AROUND HOLDING IT UP

QUEENIE What on earth? Did I put the spoon in the fridge!? Deep breaths, Queenie. Relax. Focus. Kundalini yoga. You are the breath. You are the breath.

CHARLIE (ASIDE) I'm for it!

QUEENIE Now think, Queenie. Why was there a spoon in the fridge? Where on earth has that tub gone? Bloody Charlie isn't it. I'll have his balls one of these days.

CHARLIE LEAPS UP

CHARLIE Oh, petal! I'm so sorry!

CHARLIE PUTS THE TUB OF LOOT ON THE TABLE AND THE LID SPRINGS OFF REVEALING THE LOOT. QUEENIE IS TAKEN ABACK.

QUEENIE What is in the tub Charlie?

CHARLIE I'm just holding it for someone.

QUEENIE What on earth is it? Where did it come from? I've never seen so much in my life?

CHARLIE What? But I thought -- (REALIZES SHE DIDN'T KNOW) Oh, no!

QUEENIE Charlie, you've got some explaining to do and you'd better do it sharpish.

CHARLIE Queenie, I'll tell you everything. Come on, let's go through.

QUEENIE Yes, somewhere quieter where I can strangle you if you don't tell me exactly what is going on. The whole truth!

CHARLIE I'm afraid you'll strangle me if I tell you the whole truth, Queenie.

QUEENIE This way.

QUEENIE DRAGS CHARLIE OFF TO DO SOME EXPLAINING.

FRANK ENTERS THE KITCHEN

FRANK Ice cream... I crave it... No, I mustn't... Well, just a little touch won't hurt me...

FRANK OPENS THE FRIDGE AND RETRIEVES THE TUB OF WHAT HE THINKS IS ICE CREAM BUT IS IN FACT BUTTER. HE PUTS IT ON THE TABLE THEN REALIZES HE HASN'T GOT A SPOON.

FRANK GOES TO THE CUTLERY DRAWER AND RETRIEVES A HUGE SPOON AND GOES TO THE ICECREAM LICKING HIS LIPS. HE OPENS THE ICECREAM.

SOMEONE STARTS TO ENTER AGAIN BUT IS DETAINED. FRANK PUTS THE LID BACK ON AND MAKING SURE HE HAS BOTH TUB AND SPOON HE RUSHES OUT INTO THE ANNEX.

THE PROFESSOR HOBBLER THROUGH VERY SLOWLY AND OPENS THE FRIDGE FREEZER. HE RETRIEVES A FOUR-LITRE TUB, AND HOBBLER BACK THROUGH TO THE RECPTION.

THE PROFESSOR SETS UP WHAT HE THINKS IS THE MACHINE WITH THE TUB AND WHILE DOING SO QUEENIE STORMS PAST TOWARD THE KITCHEN, PURSUED BY CHARLIE

QUEENIE You terminal shit, Charlie.

CHARLIE Angel, you must believe me!

CHARLIE AND QUEENIE EXIT TO KITCHEN

PROF Now I vill demonstrate my most wondrous of machines! A machine zat turns mere margarine into plastic! Effrybody! Effrybody come in fasst, I am about to demonstrate my prototype! Es ist genou.

THE PROFESSOR ATTACHES THE HOSE FROM THE MACHINE TO THE TUB WHICH HE THINKS IS MARGARINE BUT IS LOOT AND HE SETS THE MACHINE IN MOTION. IT WHIRS AND CRACKLES AND RATTLES DISTURBINGLY.

CHARLIE AND QUEENIE ENTER WRESTLING WITH THE TUB WHICH THEY THINK IS LOOT BUT WHICH IS ICECREAM AND THE ICECREAM EXPLODES ACROSS THE FLOOR.

THEY SLIP AND SLIDE ON THE ICECREAM STILL WRESTLING HARDLY KNOWING WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND THEY CRASH INTO THE TABLE WHICH COLLAPSES

QUEENIE What kind of loot is this you idiot CHARLIE, this isn't the loot, this is ice cream!

CHARLIE But what happened to all the loot?

THE WHIRRING MACHINE FINALLY EXPLODES WITH A GREAT BANG AND LOOT FLYING EVERYWHERE

THE PROFESSOR EXAMINES THE MACHINE AND WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE TUB OF MARGARINE

PROF But zis iss not margarine! Ziss is some kind of LOOT and now my beautiful machine is kaput!

THERE IS A BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM FROM THE ANNEX AND FRANK RUNS ON HOLDING THE OPENED TUB OF LOOT WITH HIS MOUTH STREAMING WITH BRIGHT YELLOW MARGARINE

FRANK This isn't ice cream! This is margarine!

MARJORIE Frank! I told you to exercise some self control you pathetic excuse for a man!

THE DOORBELL RINGS

MARJORIE, DISTRACTED, OPENS THE DOOR

A POLICEMAN ENTERS WITH DENNIS IN CUFFS. HE REGARDS THE LOOT

DENNIS It wasn't me! I don't even live here!

CHARLIE Dennis you stupid sod, you brought the law here.

POLICEMAN I found this gentleman carrying a large four-litre tub of what appears to be beef lasagne if I'm not mistaken.

CHARLIE Beef lasagne? That's Queenie's frozen leftovers!

POLICEMAN And what appears to be a fully functional particle fusion device. If I'm not mistaken highly illegal.

PROF Mein Gott in Himmel!

POLICEMAN This gentleman said he had acquired it in this residence.

CHARLIE But if that's the Professor's machine then what's that over there?

QUEENIE It's my Magi-mix!

PROF You svitch my beautiful particle fusion machine viss a Magi-Mix!?

QUEENIE I dropped it and it seemed broke, so I gave it to Charlie to get it fixed.

CHARLIE And I gave it to Dennis to take to Big Tony.

DENNIS And I took it to Big Tony.

POLICE Big Tony, eh? Well, I've heard enough. There was a massive heist last night and noone knows what happened to the loot. [LOOKS AROUND AT THE LOOT SCATTERED ABOUT] Though I think I have an idea. [LOOKS AROUND GENERALLY] Cold fusion, stolen loot, and from what I can gather a lot of ice cream and margarine all over this plush upholstery. Deplorable. You all wanna clean up your act, you do. Now, if you'll all accompany me down to the station for a statement...

QUEENIE Charlie, I'll bleedin' murder you!

QUEENIE STARTS BEATING CHARLIE WHILE THEY SLIP AROUND IN ICECREAM AND MARGARINE

MARJORIE Queenie, stop! A wife doesn't just strangle her husband with a policeman present!

QUEENIE Don't tell me how to deal with my husband. You're so pretentious! The truth is I despise you!

MARJORIE So that's how it is, is it? Queenie! Let go of Charlie! The truth is, I've despised you since I discovered the truth about you, Frank and the margarine!

CURTAIN