

SIDE#2 pgs. 27 - 29 - KEN, CLAIRE, LENNY,  
DESCRIPTION OF SCENE: Ken, not able to keep the secret about Charley shooting himself any longer fesses up to Lenny and Claire.  
WHAT DIRECTOR IS LOOKING FOR: Ken must communicate concern initially. Lenny and Claire have to OVER REACT! Ken then must convince them it is not as bad as it sounds. The audience must learn Ken (at this time in the play) is the reasonable one and Lenny and Claire are snarky, reactionary, conspiracy theorists that may not be able to be controlled.

START SIDE 2



*(Charley's bedroom door opens and KEN steps out.)*

KEN. Did anyone else get here yet?

CLAIRE. Not to speak of, no.

LENNY. Is anything wrong?

KEN. *(Coming downstairs.)* Why? Does anything seem wrong to you?

LENNY. You mean aside from the fact there's no food, no guests, no host, no hostess, and that you and Chris only appear one-at-a-time and never together. Yes, I'd say something was wrong.

KEN. Okay. *(HE's looking at the floor, thinking.)*  
Okay, sit down, Len, Claire.

*(LENNY and CLAIRE sit. HE sits in the chair opposite.)*

KEN. All right, I can't keep this quiet anymore ...  
We've got a big problem on our hands.

LENNY. *(To Claire.)* Aha! What did I just say, Claire?

CLAIRE. You just said, "Aha!" What is it, Ken? Tell us.

KEN. Charley ... Charley, er ... Charley's been shot.

CLAIRE. *WHAT???*

LENNY. *SHOT???*

CLAIRE. Oh, my God!

LENNY. Jesus Christ!

CLAIRE. Don't tell me this!

LENNY. I can't catch my breath.

CLAIRE. Please don't let it be true.

LENNY. (*Wailing.*) *Charley, Charley, no! No, Charley, no!!!*

KEN. Take it easy, he's not dead. He's all right.

CLAIRE. He's not dead?

LENNY. He's all right?

KEN. He's alive. He's okay.

LENNY. Thank God, he's alive!

CLAIRE. Where was he shot?

KEN. In the head.

CLAIRE. In the *head*? The *head*? Oh, my, God, he was shot in the *head!!!*

KEN. It's all right. It's not bad. It's a superficial wound.

LENNY. Where did the bullet go?

KEN. Through his left ear lobe.

CLAIRE. The ear lobe? That's not too bad. I have holes in my ear lobes, it doesn't hurt.

LENNY. I saw this coming, I swear. The truth, Ken, did *she* do it?

KEN. Who?

LENNY. Myra, for crise sakes. Who else would it be?

KEN. Why would Myra shoot Charley?

CLAIRE. You don't know what's going on?

RUMORS

29

LENNY. You haven't heard?

KEN. No. What's going on?

CLAIRE. Charley's been having a hot affair with someone.

LENNY. It's not hot. You don't know if it's hot. Nobody said it was hot. *(To Ken.)* It's an affair. A plain affair.

KEN. *(To Lenny.)* Who told you this?

LENNY. Nobody told me *that*. What I heard was that Myra was having a thing.

KEN. A thing with who?

LENNY. A man. A guy. A fellow. A kid. Who knows?

CLAIRE. Someone else told me it was *Charley* who was having the affair.

KEN. What someone else?

LENNY. Some bitch at the club named Carole Newman.

CLAIRE. She is *not* a bitch. And she only told me what Harold Green told her.

KEN. Who's Harold Green?

LENNY. *(Quickly.)* Some goddamn proxy new social member who doesn't even play tennis. Comes to the club to eat lunches and spread rumors.

CLAIRE. Well, it seems to me Charley's the one who's having the affair if Myra was hysterical enough to shoot him.

KEN. Listen to me, will you, please? Myra didn't shoot him. *Charley* fired the gun. He tried to kill himself. It was attempted suicide.

CLAIRE. *SUICIDE???*

LENNY. Jesus Christ!

CLAIRE. Oh, my God!

END SIDE 2

