***Mortimer and Gerty:***

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Good afternoon!

GERTY

Good *evening*.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Is it evening?  I swear, I have a devil of a time with … well, time.

GERTY

Then you’ve come to the right place.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Say, you’re right.  Mind if I have looksie?

GERTY

Please. Anything in particular I can help you with?

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Oh, I don’t need any help.

GERTY

Are you looking for something?

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Nothing at all. I have everything I need.

GERTY

Then, may I remind you we close at five o’clock?  On the nose.

Please let me know if I can be of any use to you.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Okie Dokie, Miss…

GERTY

Fail.  Like the sign says.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Nice place you got here.

GERTY

I know. It’s my place.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

You don’t say?  The whole place belongs to you?

GERTY

To our family, yes.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Oh, there’s a, there’s a Mr. Fail.

GERTY

Yes.

My father.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Ah, swell.

GERTY

He’s dead.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Gee, I’m sorry.

GERTY

May I ask what you are doing in a clock shop?

MORTIMER MORTIMER

I’m sorry?

GERTY

We only sell one thing, and from the looks of you, it’s the one thing you’ve already got.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Oh?  What’ve I got?

GERTY

Time.  Time on your hands, Time on your side.  Time.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Darned if you don’t got me figured out already, don’t ya?

GERTY

Men like you don’t have any respect for time. Especially other people’s.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

The name’s Mortimer.

GERTY

Gertrude.

***Mortimer and Nelly-***

NELLY

I’m not late, am I? I don’t want to miss it!

Oh thank heaven!

I was afraid I’d missed the five o’clock chorus.

This darn newfangled wrist chronometer is always so slow.

I don’t believe we’ve met. I’m Nelly.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Mort--Mort---

NELLY

Nice to meet you, Mort Mort.

If you’re looking for Gerty, you’re too late. Shop closes every day at five o’clock. “On the nose.”

MORTIMER MORTIMER

I’m … not looking for anyone.

NELLY

Oh!! Do you know that song?! It’s positively the berries!

Oh, isn’t it just the cat’s pajamas!?

Mr. Mort Mort, are you alright? You look like you’ve seen a ghost.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

I can give you everything!

NELLY

What?!

MORTIMER MORTIMER

I can give you *anything*!

NELLY

Are you bananas?

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Anything you want. Things you don’t even know you want. *Anything*.

NELLY

Anything?

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Everything.

NELLY

Really?

But Mort Mort, I hardly know you!

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Then we don’t got a minute to lose.

NELLY

Why, what’s the big rush?

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Well, I figure I oughta know a thing or two about a girl before I ask her to be mine?

NELLY

Be yours!? Now wait a minute! I’m a lady, and you’re not even a big time producer!

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Oh say you’ll be mine, Nelly, gee, you just gotta!

NELLY

I don’t *gotta* do nothing!

I, for one, do not make a habit of running off with the first handsome fellow to look my way.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

You really think I’m handsome?

NELLY

Well, of course you are, Mort Mort. Look at your face. Just look at it.

***Mortimer and Jenny June***:

JENNY JUNE *[Barging in]*

Alright! I’ve made up my mind!

Are you ready?

MORTIMER MORTIMER

I—

JENNY JUNE

I am going to be the first woman ever to swim across Lake Michigan.

How do you like *that*?

MORTIMER MORTIMER

The first woman?

But not even a man has done that.

JENNY JUNE

Exactly.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

I wish you great success, Jenny June.

JENNY JUNE

I was hoping you’d say that.

Because, you’re going to be my trainer.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

What? But I can’t swim.

JENNY JUNE

You know what your problem is, Morty? You’re bogged down in the details. Now, I’ve made a decision, and I won’t tolerate anything other than absolute support in the matter. Put this on.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

You expect me to wear a bathing suit?

JENNY JUNE

You’d look pretty funny swimming without it.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

But but but---

JENNY JUNE

But but but, my caboose!

Don’t you see, Morty? You’re killing yourself in here. She’d want us to dive back in and push through.

I’m gonna do something outrageous!

MORTIMER MORTIMER

Jenny June, I won’t hear of it!

JENNY JUNE

It ain’t up to you.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

But … but I forbid it!

JENNY JUNE

I’m doing it.

MORTIMER MORTIMER

As your brother-in-law, I ---

I couldn’t bear to lose you as well.

***John N and Utility 1 (as Russ the Dog)***

JOHN N.

There comes a time

In the life of many creatures

When the pain of living becomes something closer to dying.

It’s at times like these, when the only humane course of action is euthanasia. First. Approach the animal, looking him straight in the eyes. If the animal is a canine, approach from beneath the muzzle, do not show your teeth, but do maintain eye contact. Gently administer the sedative.

Pal? How you feeling, Pal?

7/RUSS

Not good, Johnny. I got the shakes and the aches, the itches and the twitches.

The only thing I ain’t got now is a prayer.

JOHN N.

Don’t say that.

RUSS

Level with me, Johnny. It’s bad, ain’t it?

JOHN N.

I’m sorry, Pal.

Do your best to calm the patient.

RUSS

We had a good run, didn’t we?

JOHN N.

We did.

JOHN N.

Can you ever forgive me, Pal?

RUSS

Look at me, Johnny. Look me in the eyes.

You know and I know just because something ends, that don’t mean it wasn’t a great success.

Now do it.

JOHN N.

So long, old friend.

Give those cats in heaven hell.

***ALL CHARACTERS: Especially Utility 1 , 2 and 3***.

Mortimer Mortimer, Arrived at the shop At Lumber and Love With a skip in his step,

A freshly engraved watch in his pocket, And no idea that he was no longer a groom.

All the clocks in the room struck noon.

And what should have been a day of celebration

Became a day of mourning.

Nelly was the first of the Fail Girls to die,

Followed soonafter by her sisters,

Jenny June

And Gerty Fail,

In that order.

Time continued on

And so did the Fails.

Gerty Fail continued mending clocks,

Throwing herself even deeper and deeper into the work.

John. N. Fail continued his research on feline inoculations,

Mortimer Mortimer, on the other hand,

Well, following the funeral, he was paralyzed by grief.

Eventually, the Fail Family took pity on him.

They transferred him upstairs to Nelly’s former bedroom, where he slept uninterrupted

For nearly two weeks.

***Gramaphone***

*“Let me call you sweetheart, I’m in love with you.*

 *Let me hear you whisper that you love me too.*

 *Keep the love-light glowing in your eyes so true.*

 *Let me call you Sweetheart, I’m --- ”*