

Singing Drips

Olga Sanderson





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ArtAge Publications
Bonnie L. Vorenberg, President
PO Box 19955
Portland OR 97280
503-246-3000 or 800-858-4998
bonniev@seniortheatre.com
www.seniortheatre.com

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SINGING DRIPS

by Olga Sanderson

CAST

MARY MARTON: Homeowner.

SAM PIPER: Plumber.

JACK JONES: Apprentice plumber.

MISS YODEL: Singing teacher.

Setting: *MARY's home.*

At Rise: *She is on the phone.*

MARY: Yes, Miss Yodel. You may come anytime. I am expecting the plumber anytime also, but what he has to do should not take more than a few minutes. See you soon. (*hangs up and hears a knock at the door*) Oh, come on in. I've been expecting you. (*SAM and JACK enter*)

SAM: Hello, Mrs. Marton, I'm Sam Piper, the plumber you called, and this is my apprentice, Jack Jones. He also serves as my secretary and receptionist.

JACK: (*holding a clipboard*) Howdy ma'am.

MARY: It is so nice of you to come on such short notice. What needs fixing should only require a few minutes, but I really wanted it taken care of.

SAM: I have heard that before. Little things wind up to be big things before one notices. What seems to be the problem?

MARY: I have one faucet in the bathroom that drips. It is so annoying and I want it fixed.

SAM: So, it drips. What kind of drip? Big drip or little drips?

MARY: I don't know...it's just a drip.

JACK: Boss, what should I write down?

SAM: Just a minute, Jack. We have to establish what kind of a drip this is.

MARY: Well, it goes drip, drip, drip. How else would you describe it?

SAM: Is it big drips or little drips or would you say it drops?

MARY: Really, Mr. Piper, I don't know why all this is necessary. I just want the dripping to stop.

SAM: It's like this Mrs. Marton. When you go to a doctor's office, they require a history of your problem. So, we as plumbers are in a similar business. You see we too have to carry malpractice insurance to protect ourselves. Now if you could just answer my questions and everything will be taken care of. Now again tell me does it form big drops?

MARY: Good heavens, yes, it's big drops.

JACK: Boss, should I write down "Good heavens, yes it's big drops?"

SAM: That will be fine, Jack. Now Mrs. Marton, are they fat drops or skinny drops?

MARY: I really don't know how that matters.

SAM: Well, if it's a big drop it means the pipe is open. If it's a skinny then the pipe must be getting corroded. Just like when you have cholesterol. Get it...?

MARY: Oh, I see. Well since that is the comparison I would say that the drops are big and fat. There is no problem with the stream of water that comes out.

JACK: Boss, what should I write down? Woman thinks pipes are fine. Drops are big and fat.

SAM: I have to be positive about that or else a problem comes up later and I am having a lawsuit against me.

MARY: No, no, no. Just fix it so it stops dripping and everything will be fine.

SAM: By the way, just how old is the faucet?

MARY: I don't know...I suppose as old as the house and we have lived in this house for twenty years, but it was not new when we bought it. So how would I know?

SAM: I see we have a problem. Now I need to check all the plumbing in this house.

MARY: (*frustrated*) Do what you have to do. I cannot tell you anything else except my singing teacher is going to be here any minute. Oh my gosh, she's here now. (*MARY opens door and MISS YODEL enters*) Miss Yodel, this is my plumber and his assistant, Mr. Piper and Mr. Jones.

MISS YODEL: Hello, Gentlemen.

SAM: Did you say singing teacher? Ah...that reminds me of when I was in high school and I had the leading role in "The Student Prince," a Romberg's production. I didn't have any lessons but everyone said I was great. Are you planning on having some lessons, Mrs. Marton?

MARY: Why yes. My church is planning to put on "Madame Butterfly" in order to raise some money and I was going to try for the leading role.

SAM: Well, well, well. If you don't mind, Jack and I will have a seat and watch a spell. We won't be in the way and besides I could stand to know what one has to learn. Who knows, maybe some day. Here, grab a chair and sit down, Jack. (*both sit down comfortably*)

MISS YODEL: Well if you don't mind, Mrs. Marton, I don't. (*MARY shrugs an OK gesture*) I wrote the necessary information for the first lesson, as I would not be able to demonstrate. My throat has been bothering me. (*she hands paper to MARY*)

MARY: It says the first and most important thing to learn is to know how to breathe.

JACK: Should I write that down, boss? Maybe we have not been doing that right all these years.

SAM: That is only if you want to sing, Jack.

MARY: (*continues to read*) Make your breath come from your diaphragm.

JACK: Where's the diaphragm?

MISS YODEL: *(she indicates her middle section)* It's here. Take a deep breath and then hold it. Then control it as you let it out. *(everyone does it)*

JACK: Hey, Boss. I can do it. This might be fun.

MARY: It says using vowel sounds, run up one octave and back again.

JACK: Where's the one octave to run up. I don't see anything like that here.

MISS YODEL: It's on a piano, sir. It would be C to C. But Mrs. Marton, to start with, just do it from C to G. Loosen up your voice.

MARY: Like this. *(sings the sound...A-A-A-A)*

JACK: *(imitates not very well... A-A-A-A and a dog starts howling outside)* Hey Boss, that dog can do it too!

SAM: Say, Miss Yodel, do you suppose I could have a copy of Mrs. Marton's paper? I might just take up singing again and take lessons too.

MISS YODEL: Why yes. But at your age do you think you could learn to breathe right?

SAM: There is nothing wrong with my breathing. *(stands and takes a few shallow breaths. Meanwhile, MARY is studying her paper, JACK is still trying to manage scales and the dog outside howls, all in unison)*

JACK: Boss, this is fun. I think I'm getting loosened up.

SAM: With a little practice, I'm sure I could get my breathing under control. I just had an idea. Supposing we start a barbershop quartet.

JACK: Boss, that's a great idea. Who do you think would want to join us?

END OF FREEVIEW—
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