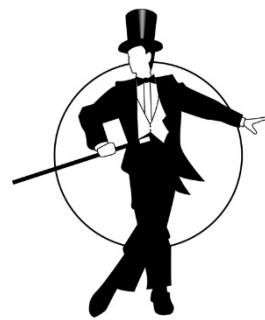


Housekeeper Wanted

Linda LaRocque



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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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HOUSEKEEPER WANTED

By Linda LaRocque

CAST

PATSY: middle age to older female, daughter

MARY: middle age to older female, daughter

BEA: middle age to older female, housekeeper

STARR: middle age to older female, friend of Dad and former lady wrestler

DAD: father to Patsy and Mary

Place

Dad's living room.

Time

The present.

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED

At Rise: *Dad is seated in a chair, reading a book. There are several other chairs and a table. The place is a mess. Mary and Patsy are outside waiting to go in house.*

PATSY: Let me do the talking. I can handle him better than you can.

MARY: Whatever. I just want to get this over with. What time is Bea coming?

PATSY: Any minute. I'll do the talking to Dad and you watch for her.

MARY: We've got to take over here. Dad's a slob. And if it keeps up, this place won't be worth anything. And that's our inheritance Sis. We have to keep ahead of him. He's tricky. Always has been.

PATSY: I know. I already told Bea everything goes through us. She's not to do one thing without our approval. Regardless of what he says. Once we talk him into the benefits of having a housekeeper, he'll be fine. He might even like it. Who knows, maybe they can play *Yahtzee* together.

MARY: He's really let this place go. Yeah, she'll earn every dollar she makes here.

PATSY: Remember, nobody, and I mean nobody gets a bonus. I don't care how much they do.

MARY: I get the picture. Come on let's go. *(Patsy and Mary enter)* Hi Dad. How are you doing today?

DAD: Not too bad. What's up?

PATSY: What do you mean, what's up?

DAD: Well something's on your mind or you both wouldn't be here at the same time. Might's well spit it out now instead of bitin' around the edges, like you two girls generally do.

PATSY: All right as long as you promise you won't get mad.

DAD: Get mad at what?

PATSY: You need a housekeeper and that's it!

MARY: Look Dad, this is something we mentioned to you months ago but you weren't interested, and Patsy here didn't want you to get mad again, so we've let it go and now it's a problem. This house is a mess. Mom was always so neat and clean.

DAD: I know. I wish I had a housekeeper...

PATSY: (*interrupts*) And Mom would turn over in her grave if she saw this place now. We just want what's best for you.

DAD: I've been doin' a little thinkin' and I wish I had somebody...

MARY: (*interrupts*) All of this junk laying around isn't even healthy, let alone safe.

PATSY: Here's the deal. I know a gal, Bea is her name and you're going to love her. She does everything too.

MARY: Washes windows, cleans the oven, does the laundry, cooks with healthy stuff...like kale, tofu, almond milk. You know.

DAD: I don't mind somebody doin' the windows and laundry, but ain't nobody goin' near the kitchen cookin' that crap. I'm too old to start eatin' healthy now.

PATSY: (*stunned*) You mean...you might be interested?

DAD: Yeah, I just told ya that.

MARY: You did?

DAD: Yeah I did. If ya hadn't been so busy flappin' your mouth you would've heard me. I said I wished I could get a housekeeper.

PATSY: Well today is your lucky day Dad because you're about to meet Bea!

DAD: Whatdaya mean? What are you girls plottin' now?

BEA: (*Knocks and enters. She is dressed matronly, with a head scarf and very stern*) Anybody home? Nevermind getting up. Hello Girls. Hello Dad. I'm Bea, your new housekeeper.

When do you want me? I can start any time. Just let me know. *(looks around)* It's gonna take me a while to get this place in shape, though. I'll start out with a deep clean and that'll probably take a good ten hours or more and we'll see how it goes from there.

DAD: Well I'll be damned.

PATSY: *(Gleeful)* Yup. Be careful what you wish for Dad...because you just might get it!
(Patsy and Mary laugh)

DAD: Looks like these girls of mine here, hired you to be my housekeeper Bea. The problem is, they never told me until just now.

MARY: That's because we figured you'd get mad.

PATSY: Yeah, so we had to have everything in place before we dumped it on you.

MARY: You two are going to get along great I can tell.

PATSY: You play Yahtzee Bea? Dad loves it. Don't ya Dad?

BEA: I come here to work. To clean and to cook healthy food for you. I don't have time for games. When do you want me to start?

MARY: I say the sooner the better.

PATSY: Tomorrow morning?

BEA: Alright. I'll be here at 6 AM tomorrow morning. I like getting an early start.

PATSY: *(to Bea)* And remember, absolutely everything goes through one of us. He can't make decisions anymore.

DAD: Oh really? Well girls this is great. I love all your concern, but I beat you to the punch. Sorry Bea, but them daughters of mine just brought you in too late.

PATSY: What kind of a game are you playing with us now Dad?

DAD: *(hollers or whistles)* Hey Starr. You busy? Come on out and meet the family.

STARR: *(Enters, she is dressed in short skirt, heels, short apron, lots of makeup, flower in her*

hair) Hi, Honey (*calls upon entering*). Why...hello everybody. And this must be the family. I've heard a lot about you but didn't think we'd be meeting today. Is your Daddy always so full of surprises?

MARY: Not too many like this one.

PATSY: Yeah. This is a gotta be pretty close to a first.

DAD: Sorry I didn't tell you earlier that Starr was here, but we just firmed up our deal yesterday, didn't we? (*winks.*)

PATSY: So how did you find...Starr ???? That's really your...name, huh? Starr?

MARY: Through an agency?

DAD: No. I got her name off the bulletin board at the hardware store.

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END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!