

ACT ONE

The illuminated placards change to read:

"HOME SWEET HOME"
SEATTLE

Scene. 2

SCENE: Kitchen of a frame house. Night.

Icebox; sink overflowing with dishes; calendars, timetables on walls; a rocker, perhaps even a small sunken sofa.

LOUISE and JUNE enter yawning and take off the coats they wear over their costumes as ROSE slams in, throws her coat on a chair and heads for the icebox. She gives Chowsie, the little dog, to LOUISE as SHE gets a plate of food from the box. As usual, she is talking all the time.

ROSE

That rotten little Uncle Jocko! He's as cheap as your grandpa.

(To JUNE)

Ten bucks for a talent like yours! Well, we're through with Kiddie Shows. And with your grandpa's lodge hall. It's time we moved on anyway! I'm gonna get us an agent to book the act on the Orpheum Circuit.

← START

LOUISE•

That's dog food, Momma.

ROSE

That's what she thinks. I'm hungry.

LOUISE•

Then why didn't you eat some of our chow mein after the show?

ROSE

Because you two did the work and we gotta save every cent.

FATHER

It ain't too late for you to get a husband to support you.

ROSE

After three husbands, ~~I'm through with marriage!~~ I want to enjoy myself. I want my girls to enjoy themselves and travel like Momma does!

FATHER

And you'll leave them just like your mother left you!

ROSE

Never!

(She turns to see LOUISE who has entered behind her)

Why aren't you ready for bed, Louise?

LOUISE •

June says you said she can sleep with you tonight.

ROSE

You know how highstrung the baby is after a performance.

LOUISE •

I performed.

ROSE

It ain't the same. Now say goodnight and go to bed.

LOUISE •

Goodnight, Grandpa.
(Kisses him)

FATHER

Goodnight, Plug. You're a good girl.

ROSE

You are a good girl and I was proud of you tonight.

(LOUISE runs to her and hugs her.
Then:)

LOUISE •

✓ Momma, how come I have three fathers?

ROSE

Because you're lucky... You were born with a caul. That means you got powers to read palms and tell fortunes and wonderful things are going to happen for you!

(LOUISE goes)

END