

SPUDS

Will you tell me why you're angry?

VALKYRIE

No.

SPUDS

Can I guess?

Let's start over.

Let's throw everything out the window and just start over.

Let's go back in time.

*There is the sound of a tape rewinding.  
They move jerkily.*

*Spuds starts playing an invisible piano. A piano  
plays in time with his fingers.*

SPUDS

Hey doll.  
Howzit doin'?

VALKYRIE

My name's Valkyrie.  
Valkyrie Valise.

SPUDS

Spuds.  
*out.*  
She had a name like a suitcase  
and a face like an angel.

Why don't you sit down and have a drink?

VALKYRIE

I'd rather stand.

SPUDS

Your loss.  
You come here often?

VALKYRIE

Not me.  
I'm new in town.  
You?

SPUDS

I've been working here about year.  
Ever since I got back from the moon.  
I was an astronaut, you know.

VALKYRIE

Really?

SPUDS

Yup.  
This job's all right I guess.  
Doesn't pay much, but the free drinks help reconcile  
the staggering weight of gravity.

*VALKYRIE laughs.*

So, what can I get you to drink?

VALKYRIE

Nothing, thanks.  
I don't drink.

SPUDS

You must get very thirsty.

VALKYRIE

I make do.

SPUDS

I knew a guy who made dew, once.  
He was a low-level landscaper at a posh resort in  
Dubai. It's very dry there but they managed to grow  
grass somehow or other. Beautiful, lush, green grass  
in the middle of the desert.  
The greatest miracle in that part of the world since  
Moses dropped his cigar in the Pharaoh's hydrangeas.  
But wasn't enough just to have grass, they had to have  
dew, so that was my friend's job, in a lab 12 hours a  
day trying to make dew.

And he did it.  
He was a smart guy.  
He went on to invent buttered popcorn.

VALKYRIE  
I like popcorn.

SPUDS  
I don't.  
The kernels get stuck in my teeth.  
I feel like a scarecrow.

VALKYRIE  
Do you mind if I sit down?

SPUDS  
Please do.

VALKYRIE  
I feel like I've been walking for weeks.  
I was looking for adventure.  
I was smuggling pottery in Morocco and my visa  
expired. I didn't have any money so I stood away on a  
boat. When I got off I just started walking.  
Yesterday I found this wallet in a guy's pocket.  
He was asleep.  
Now he's paying for my hotel room.  
I'm just tired of walking.

*She falls asleep on the keys of the piano.  
SPUDS carries her to the bed.*

*VALKYRIE asleep.  
SPUDS is sitting in a hotel armchair watching  
her.  
She wakes up.*

VALKYRIE  
Oh, hello.

Where's the piano?  
I distinctly remember falling asleep on a piano.

SPUDS  
The piano is still downstairs.

The bar has a strict no sleeping on the piano policy,  
So I carried you up to bed.  
I found the key in your purse.  
I hope you don't mind.

VALKYRIE

Did you sleep all night in that chair?

SPUDS

It's nothing really.  
I grew up in a very poor family.  
My father's job didn't pay enough to buy beds for the  
children so my six siblings and I all slept in one  
folding chair.  
Compared to that, this is a feather bed.

VALKYRIE

Don't you have a bed now?

SPUDS

I do but it's in my apartment and my building is being  
watched by the police.

VALKYRIE

Why?

SPUDS

My downstairs neighbor does Pilates on her balcony in  
her underwear.

But I can't afford to be arrested.  
I don't have a passport.  
I was going to get one but I don't like having my  
picture taken. But if I get arrested they'll deport  
me.

VALKYRIE

I can help you get your bed back.  
I have disguises in my bag.  
We can pretend to be from the mattress company.  
We'll tell them that you've defaulted on your  
payments.  
Or we could be exterminators.  
We could tell them you have bed bugs.  
Just let me do all the talking.

SPUDS

No.

I couldn't ask that much of you.

VALKYRIE

Sure you could.

Repeat after me, Valkyrie, please help me get my

*There is a knock on the door.*

Oh no, they've caught up with me. Don't let them know I'm here.

SPUDS

Valkyrie, please help me get my oh no, they've caught up with me. Don't let them know I'm here.

VALKYRIE

Get the door.

Whoever it is send them away.

And whatever you do, don't let them know I'm here.

SPUDS

Hello.

*SMOTHERS forces his way into the room.*

SMOTHERS

Name's Smothers.

I'm the House Detective.

This your room?

SPUDS

No, uh.

Yes. Yes, of course it is.

SMOTHERS

Name on the card that paid is VanSharpe.

That you?

SPUDS

Yup.

SMOTHERS

VanSharpe, you're under arrest for mail fraud and suspected conspiracy to hide a loaded weapon in the men's room of an Italian restaurant.

SPUDS

*adopts an accent.*

Ah, there's been a mistake.

SMOTHERS

I don't think so, VanSharpe.  
We've been on to you for a long time.

SPUDS

Listen, Smother is it?  
Listen, Smothers, you seem a trustworthy enough fellow. Have you heard of Operation BananaSwallow?

SMOTHERS

No.

SPUDS

Well Operation BananaSwallow is a secret subsection of Project SmartFish. Surely you've heard of Project SmartFish?

SMOTHERS

Er, no.

SPUDS

Good god, man, where have you been the past year?  
You did say you were Mi6, didn't you?

SMOTHER

Er, no. I'm Smothers, the house detective.

SPUDS

Oh, dear.  
I've made a terrible mistake.  
I'm afraid I'll have to kill you.

Plato.

*VALKYRIE comes out of the closet.*

Kill this man.

SMOTHERS

No. Please don't kill me.

I promise, I won't tell anyone about your fruit-birds and smart-fish. I swear on the eternal soul of Mickey Mantle.

SPUDS

You'll forget all you've seen and heard and if anyone asks you'll say it's a different VanSharpe and he's an important and respected foreign diplomat and he's on very important government business and not to be disturbed.

SMOTHERS

I will. I will.

SPUDS

Very well.

But if I as much as catch a whiff of you or anyone who looks like you or looks like they might look like you on my trail or if anyone knocks on this door I will have Plato break your neck with a grapefruit.

SMOTHERS

I understand.

I understand.

The Mrs has been wanting to take a vacation.

I think we'll go to Antarctica.

SPUDS

An excellent idea.

I hear it's lovely this time of year.

*SMOTHERS exits.*

VALKYRIE

Now let's go get your bed.