

*A house. A gopher in a bowtie is in a birdcage.  
The HOUSEWIFE is in a bathrobe, smoking a pipe  
and reading a newspaper, which is upside-down.  
An alarm/alarm clock sounds.  
The HOUSEWIFE puts down the newspaper and pipe,  
takes off the bathrobe and begins to clean.  
There is a heavy knock at the door.  
VALKYRIE enters in overalls and a false mustache,  
carrying a plunger.*

VALKYRIE  
Are you the housewife?

HOUSEWIFE  
I'm married to the house.

VALKYRIE  
I'm the plumber.  
I'm here to fix the plumbing.

HOUSEWIFE  
Please come in.

*VALKYRIE begins plunging objects in the room.  
The HOUSEWIFE continues cleaning.*

Would you like to see the guest bedroom?

VALKYRIE  
Where's the little boy's room?

HOUSEWIFE  
You must be mistaken.  
I have no son.

VALKYRIE  
Er, the lavatory.  
The rest room, if you will.

HOUSEWIFE  
The restroom is for paying customers only.

VALKYRIE

Ah, Well perhaps you will make an exception in my case. You see, I've left my ALBATROSS with the SITTER, and I did promise I'd call.

HOUSEWIFE

Why didn't you say so before?  
By all means, go ahead.

*She takes a key out of her apron and hands it to VALKYRIE.*

*VALKYRIE exits. There is the sound of gratuitous flushing.*

*A knock on the door.*

*SPUDS enters, dressed in the same manner as VALKYRIE, but perhaps with a different icon on his overalls.*

SPUDS

Are you the housewife?

HOUSEWIFE

I'm married to the house.

SPUDS

Is your husband home?

HOUSEWIFE

When is a house not a home?

SPUDS

When it's a jar.

HOUSEWIFE

When it's empty.  
The house is not empty,  
So it is home.

SPUDS

Ma'am. If it's all right, I'd like to speak to your husband alone, if that's all right.  
Would you mind stepping outside?

HOUSEWIFE

You'll be brief?

SPUDS  
Brief as I know how, Ma'am.

*The HOUSEWIFE exits.*  
*SPUDS puts his ear to the floor.*

*VALKYRIE enters.*

VALKYRIE  
Can I help you?

SPUDS  
Who are you?

VALKYRIE  
I am the plumber.

SPUDS  
Impossible.

VALKYRIE  
What have you done with the housewife?

SPUDS  
She'll be fine.  
I've put her where she can't get in the way.

VALKYRIE  
You fool.  
You don't know who you're dealing with here.  
Get out while you still can.

SPUDS  
You don't scare me.  
Nothing scares me.  
Nothing but tin lemons.

VALKYRIE  
You're in over your head.

*The HOUSEWIFE and a CARDINAL burst in.*

SPUDS

It looks like we've sprung a leak.

VALKYRIE

Don't say I didn't warn you.

CARDINAL

Nobody move.

HOUSEWIFE

Everybody move.

CARDINAL

You heard the lady.

SPUDS

Lady, you got a leak.

CARDINAL

That's no way to talk to to a lady.

SPUDS

That's no way to deal with a leak.

CARDINAL

Look, I don't come to your job and tell you how to ride a bike.

SPUDS

You wouldn't have to.  
I haven't got a bike.

VALKYRIE

Hold on a moment.  
I'd like to see some ID.

*CARDINAL and HOUSEWIFE show ID.*

You too.

*SPUDS shows her his ID.*

You're not Spuds Hennessy.  
I know Spuds Hennessy.

*SPUDS takes off his mustache.*

The old false mustache ploy.  
I should have known.

*VALKYRIE takes off her mustache.*

CARDINAL  
I will now read my demands.

SPUDS  
Valkyrie Valise?  
What are you doing here?

CARDINAL  
I demand the return of half a dozen eggs.  
Purchased by me, on the 29th of February of this year.  
Stored in the refrigerator of this house and stolen  
out of the aforementioned refrigerator shortly after.  
Later discovered discarded in the trash uneaten.

VALKYRIE  
Don't tell anyone,  
but I'm Norse Intelligence now,  
Order of Thor. Top Secret stuff.

What are you doing these days?

SPUDS  
I've been working part time for the CIA to pay the  
rent, but my real passion is painting and modifying  
hotwheels cars. Last week I installed an eight-track  
and rims on a miniature Volvo Station Wagon. It's  
pink.

CARDINAL  
Isn't anyone going to meet my demands.

*He begins to cry.*

HOUSEWIFE  
It's all right, Werner.  
I'll go get you your eggs.

*HOUSEWIFE goes to the refrigerator and takes out a marlin. She points it at VALKYRIE and SPUDS like a gun.*

All right. Party's over.  
Put your plungers on the floor and grab some sky.

*SPUDS and VALKYRIE put their plungers on the floor.*

Werner, Line them up against the wall and we'll execute them.

VALKYRIE  
You don't want to do that.

SPUDS  
Yeah, think of the wallpaper.  
You don't want your husband's wallpaper covered in our blood do you?

HOUSEWIFE  
We all make sacrifices.

SPUDS  
There'll be a letter to the Times about this, you can be sure.

CARDINAL  
Any last words?

SPUDS  
Biscuit.

VALKYRIE  
Percolator.

SPUDS  
Wimple.

VALKYRIE  
Nightstick.

HOUSEWIFE  
Ready! Aim!

SPUDS  
Valkyrie, I love you.

VALKYRIE  
I love you too, Spuds.

Cardinal, will you grant us our final wish?  
We'd like to be married.

CARDINAL  
I suppose I can't refuse.  
Now, you're not married to anyone else, are you?  
Because that's not allowed.

VALKYRIE  
No.

SPUDS  
I don't think so.

CARDINAL  
All right, let's make this quick.  
In Dominoes, Patrick, it's Philly! it Spritzes! Thank  
you,  
I declare you man and wife.

HOUSEWIFE  
I object.  
I object.  
I object.  
This house shall have no wife but I.  
I am the once and future Housewife and there will be  
no others.

CARDINAL  
'till death do you part in just a minute.

All right. Now back up against the wall with you.

*An explosion shakes the house.  
The CARDINAL and the HOUSEWIFE are knocked off  
their feet.*

VALKYRIE  
We're free!  
See you later, Spuds.  
Let's get a drink sometime.

*VALKYRIE exits.*