

THE NANNY

"FRANS SPLIT END ROOTS"

Written by

Raymond Palma

ACT ONE

Scene 1

INT - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON (DAY 1)

(Niles)

(NILES IS BUSY VACUUMING FRAN ENTERS FROM FRONT DOOR. SHE CROSSES TO COUCH. NILES STOPS VACUUMING. HE SHAKES HIS HEAD)

NILES

For years I have been vacuuming strictly from the book according to Ms. Manners Rules of Etiquette for Butlers and you are standing in the spot that I must vacuum next.

(THEN)

Besides, I and I alone have the distinct honor of being the first to make foot prints on the groomed rug.

FRAN

Sorry.

(FRAN PLOPS HERSELF ON THE COUCH LIFTING HER FEET UP. NILES BEGINS TO VACUUM UNDER HER FEET. HE STOPS VACUUMING)

NILES

I just fluffed the couch and pillows. If you don't give it a chance to reform, you'll cause permanent wrinkles.

(FRAN CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY PUTS HER FEET ON THE GROUND AND STANDS. SHE THEN GRABS ONE MAGAZINE OFF THE COFFEE TABLE)

NILES

Not for nothing Nanny Fine
but those magazines have a
continuing article in them.
By taking that particular issue,
you've caused a big hole in the
story.

FRAN

I just may be the fist woman
in history witnessing a man
P.M.S.'ing.

(FRAN THEN CAREFULLY PLACES THE MAGAZINE BACK IN BETWEEN THE OTHERS. SHE TURNS KEEPING HER FEET IN PLACE AND FLUFFS THE COUCH AND PILLOWS. SHE STARTS WALKING BACKWARDS RE-TRACING HER STEPS)

FRAN

You know Niles, I have always
admired your people skills because
you always seem to do the right
thing. So, I have to talk to
you about a serious problem.
Whoops! I missed that foot
print.

(A Beat)

MORE

FRAN (CONT'D)

I get no reception in
my bedroom.

NILES

Well you know Mr. Sheffield
doesn't allow men in your bedroom.

FRAN

No, that's not what I meant.
Whoops! I missed another.

(THEN)

I mean do you think I'd get
better reception if we snaked
the cable from this TV into my room?
Is it illegal?

NILES

I think the swat team could care
less about you and your snake,
but do you think you could live
with the lie?

FRAN

Don't worry about me. This wouldn't
be the first time I lived with a
snake.

(FRAN BACKS UP TO THE DOOR. SHE THEN LOOKS AROUND
PRECARIOUSLY. MAXWELL ENTERS FROM KITCHEN. FRAN LEAPS OVER
THE RUG ONTO THE STAIRCASE LANDING ON ALL FOURS. MAXWELL
CROSSES MID-WAY INTO THE LIVING ROOM. NILES LOOKS FRUSTRATED
AS HE LOOKS DOWN AT MAXWELL'S FOOT PRINTS)

MAXWELL

Did you lose something Ms.

Fine?

FRAN

(SURPRISED)

Mr. Sheffield! Be careful!

It's the rug! Don't worry about

me. Go backwards and save yourself!

(OFF MAXWELL'S REACTION, WE:)

(Dissolve)