



**By Matthew K. Begbie**

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 **Pioneer**  
**DRAMA SERVICE**

# MAID TO ORDER

By MATTHEW K. BEGBIE

## CAST OF CHARACTERS (In Order of Appearance)

	<u># of lines</u>
SARAH .....	recently-hired maid who does not handle stress well 87
GERALD MALLIGER.....	sleazy, rich momma's boy; can switch from manly to whiney baby in a second 79
MRS. MARCY MALLIGER .....	dramatic and extravagant older woman; a widow who jumps from extremely cheery to intensely angry in a split second 105
JANICE .....	her frazzled assistant; always right behind Malliger and thinking one step ahead 66
BETHANY .....	another maid; sarcastic and sassy 79
JAMES.....	down-on-his-luck inventor who is also Sarah's brother; quick, slick and resourceful 77
CHARLES CAMBIN .....	very well-off loan shark; smooth-talking, fashion-forward, personable; lovable though a killer 55
WINNIE CAMBIN .....	ditzy young girl; Cambin's daughter 42
COP 1 .....	goofy cop 27
COP 2 .....	another; hungry all the time 28

## SETTING

Place: New York City, in the Upper East Side.

Time: The mid to late 1940s.

The entire play takes place in the foyer of the extravagant home of Marcy Malliger. The front door is UP CENTER. A hallway OFF LEFT leads to the upstairs bedrooms, kitchen and other parts of the house. The hallway OFF RIGHT leads to the dining room and other rooms. All rooms of the house are accessible from either hallway. A couch is UP CENTER of the hallway exits. There are a few magazines on a table just in front of the couch. Another table with a vase and a telephone is RIGHT of the door. A coat rack with a few large coats and a purse hanging on it is LEFT of the door. Set design on page 30.

## MAID TO ORDER

### Scene One

1 AT RISE: The brightly lit, well-furnished and extravagant foyer of the home of Marcy Malliger. Everything is very classy and modern for the times. SARAH is dusting a table in the center of the room as GERALD MALLIGER sits on the couch with his feet up on the table, watching  
5 SARAH clean.

**GERALD:** (*Seductive.*) Oh, Sarah, I believe you missed a spot.

**SARAH:** Oh... did I?

**GERALD:** Down further... (*SARAH slowly bends down to clean the lower piece of the table.*) Further... oh, that's the spot.

10 **MALLIGER:** (*ENTERS RIGHT with a flourish, wearing a very expensive-looking dress and jewelry. JANICE, frazzled and tired, quickly ENTERS one step behind her. Following her ON is BETHANY.*) Gerald!

**GERALD:** (*Stands, startled.*) Yes, Mummy?

**MALLIGER:** Keep your filthy feet off of that table! Janice!

15 **JANICE:** Yes, ma'am?

**MALLIGER:** What time is it?

**JANICE:** Quarter to six, ma'am.

**MALLIGER:** Quarter to six? Oh, my! They'll be here shortly! Bethany!

**BETHANY:** Yes, ma'am?

20 **MALLIGER:** I want everything to be in tiptop shape! If so much as a single hair is out of place, I swear to you I will—

**GERALD:** Mummy, I—

**MALLIGER:** What! (*Turns and sees that she just screamed at GERALD.*) Oh, I'm sorry, darling. Mummy is a teensy weensy bit on edge. You  
25 see, we have a very important guest coming this evening, so this visit means a lot to Mummy. (*Looks out dramatically.*) It may be the most important visit in my life. That's why everything must be perfect. (*Turns to the MAIDS.*) Got it?

**MAIDS:** Yes, ma'am.

30 **MALLIGER:** Splendid! Janice!

**JANICE:** Yes, ma'am?

**MALLIGER:** Very, very important. What do you think of my dress? Is it too much?

**JANICE:** No, not at all, ma'am! It's perfect.

35 **MALLIGER:** Perfect? (*Looks out dramatically.*) I can do better than perfect! I shall return shortly. (*Begins to EXIT. To MAIDS.*) Do not disappoint me. (*EXITS LEFT, followed closely by JANICE. SARAH and BETHANY continue to clean.*)

- 1 **GERALD:** *(Slowly turns and eyes SARAH with a sly grin. Stands and crosses to her.)* So, Sarah, we're finally alone. *(BETHANY coughs. GERALD shoots a glance. SARAH ignores him and continues cleaning.)* You know, I'd be willing to ask Mother to give you a pay
- 5 raise if you'd be willing to do a little extra work just for me.
- SARAH:** Sir! I... I don't—
- BETHANY:** *(Calls OFF LEFT.)* What's that, ma'am? Sarah, Mrs. Malliger would like to see you upstairs when you are finished dusting the tables.
- 10 **GERALD:** She still has a little more to clean.
- BETHANY:** It looks clean to me, sir.
- GERALD:** I guess I just have good eyes.
- BETHANY:** Sarah, Mrs. Malliger is calling you.
- GERALD:** I didn't hear anything.
- 15 **BETHANY:** I guess I just have good ears. Go on, Sarah. You don't want Mrs. Malliger to get too upset. *(SARAH quickly EXITS LEFT. GERALD and BETHANY stare at each other with matching glares. BETHANY breaks the glare with a massive and sarcastic smile.)* Is there something I can help you with, sir?
- 20 **GERALD:** Get back to work! *(Storms OFF RIGHT.)*
- BETHANY:** *(Watches him go, then turns to call OFF LEFT.)* The coast is clear!
- SARAH:** *(ENTERS LEFT.)* Thank you, Bethany. Gerald's getting more and more persistent, and I'm running out of excuses to leave.
- 25 *(BETHANY and SARAH begin to clean.)*
- BETHANY:** Don't worry. He won't get far as long as I'm around. You're not the first maid he's made a move on, and you sure won't be the last.
- SARAH:** I just wish he wouldn't sneak up on me. He's given me more
- 30 heart attacks than heart flutters.
- BETHANY:** He has to sneak up on you. No girl with time to think would come within two feet of him.
- SARAH:** It's a good thing you can smell him from ten feet away.
- BETHANY:** Relax. You've lasted here longer than the last new maid.
- 35 She was gone in a month.
- SARAH:** *(Pause.)* I've only been working here three weeks.
- BETHANY:** Oh! Well, I'm sure you'll be fine.
- MALLIGER:** *(From OFF LEFT.)* Bethany!
- BETHANY:** Her majesty awaits. *(EXITS LEFT. SARAH continues to clean.*
- 40 *She begins to hum. As she dusts by the door, her humming turns into singing a quiet and sweet melody. Suddenly, there is a loud*

1        *KNOCK AT THE DOOR. SARAH jumps back and lets out a scream. She regains her composure and answers the door.*

**JAMES:** *(Bursts IN with a large suitcase in his hand and slams the door behind him as he catches his breath. He looks up at her and smiles.)* Hey, Sarah! How ya doin'?

5        **SARAH:** James?! What are you doing here?

**JAMES:** Sarah, can't a guy stop by and see his sister once in a while?

**SARAH:** Not while she's working! James, do you want to get me fired?

**JAMES:** *(Looks around the house, as if he didn't hear a thing she said.)*

10       Well, I was in the neighborhood, and I figured I'd pop in and say a quick "hello." Say, nice place!

**SARAH:** James, what are you doing in the Upper East Side? You can't even afford a hotdog here.

**JAMES:** I was just visiting a friend of mine.

15       **SARAH:** Please tell me it wasn't that loan shark again. James, I don't think—

**JAMES:** Sarah! Why would you assume that? I'm offended!

**SARAH:** Well, were you?

**JAMES:** Yes. But that's not the point. You see, I went to see Mr.

20       Cambin because I took his money and made wads with it!

**SARAH:** James, that's great! *(Pause.)* And?

**JAMES:** *(Opens his suitcase and takes out a strange-looking spatula.)* And I spent it making this surefire hit! I call it the "Spatu-Later." It's part spatula, part kitchen timer. Get it? Spatu-later!

25       **SARAH:** *(Smacks her forehead.)* Oh, James!

**JAMES:** So I asked Mr. Cambin for more time. I told him the tragic tale of my sickly younger sister and how I needed the money for her operation. *(Looks out dramatically.)* She ain't got much time left, sir. She's... she's the only family I got left. Without her... *(Long dramatic pause.)* ...without her, life isn't worth living. *(Back into his usual happy self.)* Then, I let a single tear fall from my eye! *(Back to being depressed.)* Please, sir. She's all I got in this world. *(Drops his head.)*

**SARAH:** And?

30       **JAMES:** He had his goons chase me down the street. Oh, Sarah, you should've seen me leaping over food carts and dodging taxis! I'm getting pretty good at it.

**SARAH:** Gee, I'm so proud. You still haven't told me why you're here.

**JAMES:** Well, you see, I was wondering if maybe, perhaps, if it's not

40       too much trouble, I could stay here for a few hours? Just until it gets dark and I can sneak out unnoticed.

- 1 **SARAH:** And go where? James, if you think they're not looking for you at that sad excuse for an apartment, you're crazy.
- JAMES:** Hey! It's not that bad. The roaches look very happy. And that's kinda why I'm here with this. (*Holds up his suitcase.*) I'm leaving.
- 5 **SARAH:** What do you mean, "leaving"?
- JAMES:** I'm getting on the 9:45 train, and ten or twelve stops later, I'll get off and start a new life.
- SARAH:** Oh. Okay. (*Pause.*) Are you insane?
- JAMES:** Maybe. But that's why I need your help. Whaddaya say?
- 10 **SARAH:** Your timing is impeccable. Only you could get yourself into this much trouble on the one day Mrs. Malliger is even more stressed than usual. She already has me running around the house like a madman! James, do you know how big this house is? I must have walked three miles today! I got lost twice! How am I supposed to keep up with her and take care of you? If something goes wrong—
- 15 something like you—she might snap and kill us all.
- JAMES:** Come on, sis. I'm on my knees here! (*Pauses, then drops to his knees.*) I'm on my knees here! Please? You said it yourself. This house is huge enough to get lost in! Please! Mr. Cambin's
- 20 going to kill me!
- SARAH:** (*Scoffs.*) That's an exaggeration.
- JAMES:** I wish it was.
- SARAH:** What am I supposed to do, James?
- JAMES:** I'll figure it all out! I swear! Please?
- 25 **SARAH:** James, if you're seen, we're both done for. I don't think—
- JAMES:** Don't worry about it! Not a soul will know that—
- BETHANY:** (*ENTERS LEFT.*) Sarah, I— Who's this?
- JAMES:** Oops.
- SARAH:** Not a soul, huh?
- 30 **BETHANY:** Another man, Sarah? (*Impressed.*) You work fast.
- JAMES:** What? (*Stands.*) No! No, no, no, no! No! (*Laughs.*) No, no, no! I'm her brother. And you are?
- SARAH:** (*Monotone.*) James, this is my friend Bethany. Bethany, this is my brother James. He was just leaving.
- 35 **JAMES:** The pleasure is all mine. (*Kisses her hand. BETHANY starts to giggle.*) Say, Bethany? You wouldn't mind if I stayed here secretly for a while, do ya?
- BETHANY:** (*Still giggling.*) No, not at all.
- SARAH:** Well, this is precious. Might I remind you that if Mrs. Malliger
- 40 finds you here and us not working, she may just die screaming?

1 **BETHANY:** Would that really be so bad?  
**JAMES:** See, Sarah? Bethany doesn't mind.  
**SARAH:** I don't think—  
**BETHANY:** Can he stay?

5 **JAMES:** Please?  
**BETHANY:** Please?  
**SARAH:** Oh, fine! But hide. Don't make a sound, don't touch anything, and most importantly, I know nothing about this. James, we both know I can't lie to save my life.

10 **JAMES:** Let's hope you don't have to. Oh, thank you, Sarah! I knew I could count on you. I should probably go look for a cupboard or something.  
**BETHANY:** May I suggest the upstairs linen closet? It's roomy. Go down the hall on the right, make a left, go up the stairs, make a right, and it's the second door on the left.

15 **JAMES:** All righty. I'm off! (*Begins to EXIT LEFT, crossing behind the couch when he hears...*)  
**MALLIGER:** (*From OFF LEFT.*) Gerald? Gerald, Darling where did you run off to? (*ENTERS LEFT wearing a new dress and a gaudy hat.*  
20 *JANICE, who looks a little more frazzled, follows her ON. JAMES drops to the floor behind the couch.*) Is everything in order, girls?

**MAIDS:** Yes, ma'am.  
**MALLIGER:** (*Checks the dust on a table.*) Wonderful! Where is that boy?

25 **SARAH:** What boy? There's no boy! What makes you think there's a boy?  
**GERALD:** (*ENTERS RIGHT.*) You called, Mother?  
**MALLIGER:** Ah, yes, dear. Come take a seat with Mummy. (*They sit on the couch. JANICE sits as well.*) Janice, dear?

30 **JANICE:** Yes, ma'am?  
**MALLIGER:** (*With a big smile.*) Just what do you think you're doing?  
**JANICE:** I'm—  
**MALLIGER:** Get out.  
**JANICE:** Of course, ma'am. Right away, ma'am. (*Jumps up and runs OFF RIGHT.*)

35 **MALLIGER:** (*Through the following dialogue, MALLIGER grows more and more dramatic with large hand motions and dramatic pauses. JAMES slowly comes up from behind the couch, just enough to peek. He, SARAH and BETHANY motion and mouth words in an attempt to figure out what to do.*) Now, darling, I have something very... very important

40

1 to discuss with you. You see, it's been a very, very long time since  
your father's passing and, well, your Mummy has... needs.

**GERALD:** Oh, Mother, I—

**MALLIGER:** Shhh! Well, dearest, one of our guests this evening is  
5 an old friend of Mummy's. A very, very good friend of Mummy's.  
That's why your Mummy Dearest wants to make a very... very  
good impression on him. We haven't seen each other for many...  
many years. What with your father's passing and all—God rest his  
10 soul—I was hoping that if all goes well, that perhaps I could see  
him more often. Oh, what am I saying? There's no—

**GERALD:** Mother, I—

**MALLIGER:** Don't interrupt me, dear. There's no way you could approve!  
No one could ever replace your father in my heart, so how could  
I expect you to accept him in your heart? Oh, darling, I'm sorry I  
15 even brought this up!

**GERALD:** Mother, I understand.

**MALLIGER:** I knew— You what?

**GERALD:** So, he's your boyfriend?

**MALLIGER:** (*Laughs.*) I guess if you want to consider him my boyfriend.  
20 Oh! It sounds so silly! (*Behind their conversation, JAMES and the  
MAIDS continue to mime.*)

**GERALD:** Oh, Mummy, as you said, it has been a very... very long  
time.

**MALLIGER:** So you don't mind, dear?

25 **GERALD:** Of course not.

**MALLIGER:** Oh, Gerald, you don't know how wonderful it is to hear you  
say that. Now, more importantly, what do you think of my outfit?  
Too casual?

**GERALD:** It's very nice, Mother.

30 **MALLIGER:** (*Shocked.*) Very nice? That's hardly any better than perfect!  
Janice!

**JANICE:** (*ENTERS RIGHT. JAMES ducks behind the couch again.*) Yes,  
ma'am?

**MALLIGER:** You told me this outfit was better than perfect! Gerald  
35 here tells me it's very nice. Which one is it, Janice?

**JANICE:** Well, I...

**MALLIGER:** Spit it out.

**JANICE:** I think it's perfect.

**MALLIGER:** You think. You think? Do you want to embarrass me  
40 Janice? Hmm?



- 1 **JANICE:** Of course not, ma'am.
- MALLIGER:** No? Then get upstairs and find me something better than very nice before I find a new assistant. Someone with a sense of fashion!
- 5 **JANICE:** Of course, ma'am! (*Runs OFF LEFT, nearly in tears.*)
- MALLIGER:** Oh, and Gerald, don't forget to wash up, our guests will be here any— (*Sees BETHANY and SARAH, who are STAGE LEFT waving at JAMES to leave.*) What are you two doing? (*MAIDS FREEZE. GERALD turns LEFT to look at them. JAMES runs OFF RIGHT with his suitcase.*)
- 10 **SARAH:** We... we were... I...
- BETHANY:** There was... (*Thinks.*) ...a fly! A very large fly! (*Swats the air.*) You don't want your guests to think your house is dirty, do you?
- 15 **MALLIGER:** Dirty? No! Carry on! (*MAIDS continue to swat. MALLIGER joins them. She looks at GERALD.*) As I was saying... oh, where was I? Ah! Wash up. Company will be here any minute!
- GERALD:** Yes, Mother.
- MALLIGER:** Splendid! (*EXITS LEFT.*)
- 20 **GERALD:** No need to keep looking. You've already caught it.
- SARAH:** I'm sorry?
- GERALD:** No, no, no! You're supposed to say, "Caught what, Gerald?"
- SARAH:** Okay. Caught what, Gerald?
- GERALD:** My heart. (*BETHANY groans. SARAH stares at him blankly for a second, then turns and walks away. She picks up a duster and begins to dust. BETHANY chuckles to herself.*) Sarah, you have something on your shoulder.
- 25 **SARAH:** Do I?
- GERALD:** (*Swoops over and places his arm around her.*) My arm. (*SARAH ducks out from his grasp and begins to clean once again.*)
- 30 **JANICE:** (*Sprints ON LEFT in a panic. Looks more worn out than earlier.*) Sarah, Mrs. Malliger would like to see you upstairs.
- SARAH:** Oh... all right. (*Hesitates.*)
- JANICE:** Now! (*EXITS LEFT followed closely by SARAH. BETHANY continues to swat and notices she's doing it for no reason. She stops. There is awkward silence.*)
- 35 **GERALD:** (*Sits on the couch and puts on a big smile.*) Oh, Stephanie?
- BETHANY:** (*Clearly used to being called by the wrong name.*) Um, yes, Master Malliger?
- 40 **GERALD:** (*Pats the couch.*) Come take a seat next to me.
- BETHANY:** What?

- 1 **GERALD:** Come on. Come sit. Don't be shy. (*BETHANY is incredibly hesitant. She sits on the far end of the couch. GERALD moves to sit next to her.*) If I asked you to be completely honest with me and forget that you're my maid and your opinions really don't matter,
- 5 could you tell me what you think of me?
- BETHANY:** Oh, I think that could be done.
- GERALD:** Maybe I'm just overthinking the whole situation, but it seems that— and call me crazy, but it seems almost as if Sarah doesn't like me.
- 10 **BETHANY:** Really? Wherever did you get that idea?
- GERALD:** I know. Insanity! But something tells me that—
- BETHANY:** Do you want the truth?
- GERALD:** Very much so.
- BETHANY:** (*To herself.*) I'm going to enjoy this. (*Takes a breath and turns to GERALD*) How do I put this lightly? You're the most disgusting man I have ever met. You smell of bad breath and very expensive, very useless cologne. To top that, your smell matches your personality. You're rude. You're rash. You're abrasive. You're—
- 15 **GERALD:** But why doesn't Sarah like me?
- 20 **BETHANY:** Oh, who knows?
- GERALD:** Oh, Tiffany, what do I do?
- BETHANY:** Try growing a heart.
- GERALD:** (*Turns to her.*) You're right! (*Stands.*)
- BETHANY:** I am?
- 25 **GERALD:** I need to show her that I can be a compassionate and loving man.
- BETHANY:** Um, right. (*Stands.*)
- GERALD:** Thank you, Melanie! (*Goes to hug her. She braces herself. He awkwardly stops, turns and EXITS RIGHT. MALLIGER, who is now in a new flashy dress and heels with a feather in her hair, ENTERS LEFT in a fit of rage.*)
- 30 **JANICE:** (*Follows her ON with a notepad and pen. Looks even more worn-down. SARAH runs ON behind her.*) Please don't hurt me! (*Flips through notepad.*) I'm telling you, the shirt was washed, ironed and placed in Gerald's room by 7:30 this morning! Ask her!
- 35 (*Points to BETHANY.*)
- BETHANY:** Ask me what?
- MALLIGER:** Were you in charge of laundry this morning?
- 40 **BETHANY:** Yes, ma'am.
- MALLIGER:** And Gerald's new shirt, you did wash it, correct?

- 1 **BETHANY:** The green one? Yes, ma'am.  
**MALLIGER:** (*Grows more serious.*) You wouldn't happen to know where it is, would you?  
**JANICE:** Would you?
- 5 **BETHANY:** I laid it out on Gerald's bed after ironing it.  
**MALLIGER:** Right. (*Switches to rage.*) Then where is it?  
**JANICE:** Where is it?  
**BETHANY:** I... I...
- 10 **MALLIGER:** Any minute now, our guests are going to walk through that door, and everyone in this house looks like they just walked off the street! Do you want that? Why does everyone in this house want to embarrass me? Why do you all hate me?  
**JANICE:** Mrs. Malliger, I'd be more than happy to check again. Maybe it was left behind somewhere.
- 15 **MALLIGER:** Fine! But hurry! (*JANICE runs OFF LEFT.*) As for you! (*Points to the MAIDS.*) Don't either of you dare make another mistake today! (*Lets out an angry groan and storms OFF RIGHT.*)  
**SARAH:** Why do I have a feeling James is going to be that mistake?  
**BETHANY:** Do you think he found a place to hide? I mean, it's a big  
20 house, so for all we know, we might not see him for a week! Right?  
**SARAH:** I'm sure he's fine. He's probably stuffing his suitcase with Gerald's clothes and Mrs. Malliger's jewelry as we speak.  
**BETHANY:** James wears jewelry? (*SARAH glares at BETHANY.*)  
**JAMES:** (*ENTERS RIGHT, carrying his suitcase. He's changed to a new,  
25 green shirt and still wears his hat.*) Oh! I found you! I could have sworn I was lost. This house is a maze! (*Pointing LEFT and RIGHT.*) I found hallways from here to there and back. (*Beat, then indicates new shirt.*) So? What'ya think?  
**BETHANY:** The hat doesn't work with it.
- 30 **SARAH:** (*Glares at BETHANY.*) Bethany! Really?  
**BETHANY:** What?  
**SARAH:** James, this isn't time to play dress up. I told you to stay out of trouble, and now the entire house is looking for you! This isn't a game! You can't just run around the house! As massive as it is,  
35 you will be seen! Do you want me to die?  
**JAMES:** Okay, fine! I'll go change. Then, I'll go take a nap in some pantry or something. I'll be gone before you know it.  
**MALLIGER:** (*From OFF RIGHT.*) Sarah!  
**BETHANY:** Hopefully, that's soon. (*JAMES runs OFF LEFT.*)

1 **MALLIGER:** (*ENTERS RIGHT.*) Our guest will be here any minute! I want you to go fetch two glasses of our best champagne! (*Pause.*) Now! Go! Shoo! (*Chases SARAH OFF RIGHT.*)

**JAMES:** (*ENTERS LEFT.*) No go! Darling Gerald is waiting at the top of the stairs for mummy.

**BETHANY:** James, I'm starting to think this was a bad idea.

**JAMES:** What do we do?

**BETHANY:** Okay... (*Takes a deep breath.*) ...remain calm. You go to the bathroom and—

10 **JAMES:** Where's that?

**BETHANY:** (*Quickly.*) Four doors down on the left past the kitchen! (*Calm.*) Now, leave the shirt in there. I'll pick it up and tell Mrs. Malliger it was mixed in with her laundry. Problem solved! (*SOUND EFFECT: DOORBELL RINGS. BETHANY and JAMES scream.*) Get that shirt off before we get killed! (*Helps JAMES take off the shirt. BETHANY is in a state of panic so she is practically ripping it off.*)

**MALLIGER:** (*From OFF RIGHT.*) He's here! Don't answer it just yet! I'm coming! I'm coming!

**JANICE:** (*From OFF LEFT.*) Places! Places!

20 **BETHANY:** Hide! Quick, over here! (*JAMES and BETHANY make their way to behind the couch. They collapse onto the floor.*)

**JANICE:** (*ENTERS LEFT with her notepad and pen and walks around, scanning the room. She fixes the magazines on the table. JAMES and BETHANY peek up from behind the couch to see her. JANICE turns and JAMES and BETHANY drop to the floor. JANICE turns back and they peek again. Repeat. JANICE holds her head.*) Get it together, Janice. Get it together. (*EXITS LEFT in a hurry. SARAH ENTERS RIGHT with a tray and two glasses of champagne. BETHANY and JAMES come up from behind the couch as they struggle with the shirt.*)

**JAMES:** It's not what it looks like.

**SARAH:** Shut up.

**BETHANY:** And hide! (*SOUND EFFECT: DOORBELL RINGS. BETHANY screams again. She rips the shirt off of JAMES, leaving him in his white t-shirt. She takes the suitcase and runs it OFF LEFT. BETHANY runs back ON and stuffs the shirt into the cushions of the couch. JAMES quickly hides behind the coat rack as SARAH covers him with coats. JANICE ENTERS LEFT.*)

40 **MALLIGER:** (*ENTERS RIGHT. She fixes her hair, dress and everything else.*) Girls! Look presentable! (*Heads to the door. SARAH and BETHANY stand in front of the coat rack in an attempt to help hide JAMES. JANICE stands at the door with her hand on the doorknob.*)

1 No! Look more than presentable! Look stunning! (*BETHANY takes the glasses of champagne off the tray in Sarah's hands.*) Okay, Janice! (*Pause.*) Open the door!

**JANICE:** Of course, ma'am! (*Opens the door. CAMBIN stands in the doorway.*)

**MALLIGER:** Ah, Charles! Do come in!

**CAMBIN:** (*ENTERS.*) Marcy! So nice to see you! You haven't aged a day! (*Takes off his coat and tosses it at JANICE, who hands it to SARAH, who looks for a place on the coat rack. JAMES sticks his arm out and grabs it.*)

**MALLIGER:** Oh, you're too kind! But do go on! (*ALL laugh.*) Everyone, I would like you to meet a very... very good friend of mine, Mr. Charles Cambin! (*BETHANY and JANICE curtsey.*)

**JAMES:** What?! (*ALL look toward the coat rack. SARAH covers by dropping the tray on the floor with a smile.*)

**CAMBIN:** (*Throws his hands up.*) Don't shoot!

**SARAH:** Whoops! Silly me!

**MALLIGER:** Sarah! (*Pauses and looks at CAMBIN with a large smile.*) Oh, Sarah. You're so very clumsy! Why don't you run along and check on dinner?

**SARAH:** Um, of course. Yes, ma'am. (*Hesitates and looks at BETHANY, who motions for her to go. SARAH EXITS LEFT. JANICE picks up the tray.*)

**MALLIGER:** Where were we? Charles, so good to see you! It's been ages! We have so... so much to catch up on!

**CAMBIN:** I apologize for being late, Marcy. I had some, uh, business to take care of down on the Hudson.

**MALLIGER:** Business?

**CAMBIN:** I had a, uh, meeting with a... client. That reminds me! (*Motions to the empty doorway behind him.*) Marcy, I would like you to meet my daughter. (*Notices that no one is there. Calls OFF.*) Winifred!

**WINNIE:** (*From OFF UP CENTER.*) Oh! Coming, Daddy! (*ENTERS through the door. She is vibrant and young, but her mind is always somewhere else.*)

**CAMBIN:** Marcy, I would like you to meet my daughter, Winifred.

**WINNIE:** (*To no one in particular.*) You can call me Winnie.

**CAMBIN:** Now, Winifred, what do we say?

**WINNIE:** (*Pauses as she tries to remember.*) This dinner is particularly lovely.

**CAMBIN:** No sweetie, the other thing we say.

1 **WINNIE:** Oh, right! *(To JANICE.)* Your home is simply beautiful.

**MALLIGER:** *(Sweeps over, pushing JANICE out of the way.)* Why, thank you, dear.

**CAMBIN:** Marcy, I must say you look absolutely stunning. Your dress

5 is perfect.

**MALLIGER:** Perfect? This old thing?

**CAMBIN:** *(Kisses her hand.)* Age has no impact on beauty, my dear.

**MALLIGER:** *(Giggles.)* Oh, stop it, Charles. You always know just what to say.

10 **CAMBIN:** Say, where's that boy of yours?

**MALLIGER:** Who? Oh! Right! Him. He's off somewhere. *(Smiles.)*

**CAMBIN:** I haven't seen him since he was *(Places his hand just above his knee.)* this high!

**MALLIGER:** Yes, yes, how time flies! Now, what do you say to drinks

15 in the dining room? *(Takes the champagne glasses from BETHANY and hands one to CAMBIN.)*

**CAMBIN:** *(Takes the glass.)* Splendid!

**MALLIGER:** Splendid! *(She and CAMBIN link arms and EXIT RIGHT. WINNIE, who has been looking around the room in wonder, moves*

20 *her face very close to the vase on the table.)*

**JANICE:** Please don't touch that.

**WINNIE:** Oh, I wasn't. I was just looking at my face.

**JANICE:** Well, be careful, it's very fragile. *(WINNIE looks as if she just saw a ghost as she raises her hand to her face gingerly.)*

25 **BETHANY:** She means the vase, not your face.

**WINNIE:** Oh! *(Pause.)* I knew that.

**MALLIGER:** *(From OFF RIGHT.)* Janice!

**JANICE:** Coming, ma'am! *(EXITS RIGHT.)*

**MALLIGER:** *(From OFF RIGHT.)* Bethany!

30 **BETHANY:** Coming, ma'am! *(EXITS RIGHT.)*

**CAMBIN:** *(From OFF RIGHT.)* Winifred!

**WINNIE:** Oh! Coming, Daddy! *(EXITS RIGHT.)*

**SARAH:** *(ENTERS LEFT. Whispers loudly.)* James!

**JAMES:** Coming, ma'am!

35 **SARAH:** Not funny!

**JAMES:** *(Steps out from behind the coat rack.)* Cambin? Charles Cambin? Really? Of all the rich thugs in this city, your boss just happens to be romancing the one I'm hiding from?

**SARAH:** Oh, how was I supposed to know?

1 **JAMES:** You're the maid! You're supposed to know everything going on around here!

**SARAH:** I think it's safe to say it would be best if you left.

**JAMES:** Aww, and things were just starting to get fun.

5 **MALLIGER:** *(From OFF RIGHT.)* Sarah!

**SARAH:** I have to go now... and so do you. *(Hugs JAMES tightly.)* Be careful.

**JAMES:** I always am. *(Turns to go, but turns back.)* Thanks for everything, Sarah.

10 **SARAH:** Don't mention it. *(JAMES EXITS through the front door. SARAH smiles and EXITS RIGHT. The stage is empty for a moment.)*

**JAMES:** *(ENTERS through the front door again.)* Almost forgot my suitcase. Hello? *(Looks around.)* Where did she put it? *(EXITS LEFT.)*

End of Scene One

**End of script preview.**

## PRODUCTION NOTES

### PROPERTIES ONSTAGE

Couch, table with magazines, table with telephone and vase, coat rack with various coats and a purse containing checkbook and pen

### PROPERTIES BROUGHT ON

#### Scene One:

Dust rag, feather duster (SARAH, BETHANY)  
Suitcase with Spatu-later (JAMES)  
Notepad, pen (JANICE)  
Tray with two glasses of champagne (SARAH)

#### Scene Two:

Suitcase (JAMES)  
Notepad, pen (JANICE)  
Notepad, sandwich (COP 2)  
Feather duster (BETHANY)  
Whistle (COPS)

### SOUND EFFECTS

Doorbell ring.

### COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

SARAH and BETHANY wear simple maid uniforms with aprons. Ideally, the aprons could have pockets for their feather dusters.

GERALD'S attire should appear as though Malliger dressed him herself. He probably wears a sharp-looking collared shirt with slacks and dress shoes.

MALLIGER wears an expensive looking dress when we first meet her. She should have lots of jewelry and accessories as well. The second time we see her she has changed into a new dress and has added a gaudy hat. Later, she changes into a third dress wearing heels and a feather in her hair.



JANICE should wear professional attire, perhaps a skirt suit. Low heels would also be appropriate. Her hair should be up in a bun when we first meet her, but it slowly collapses as the play progresses.

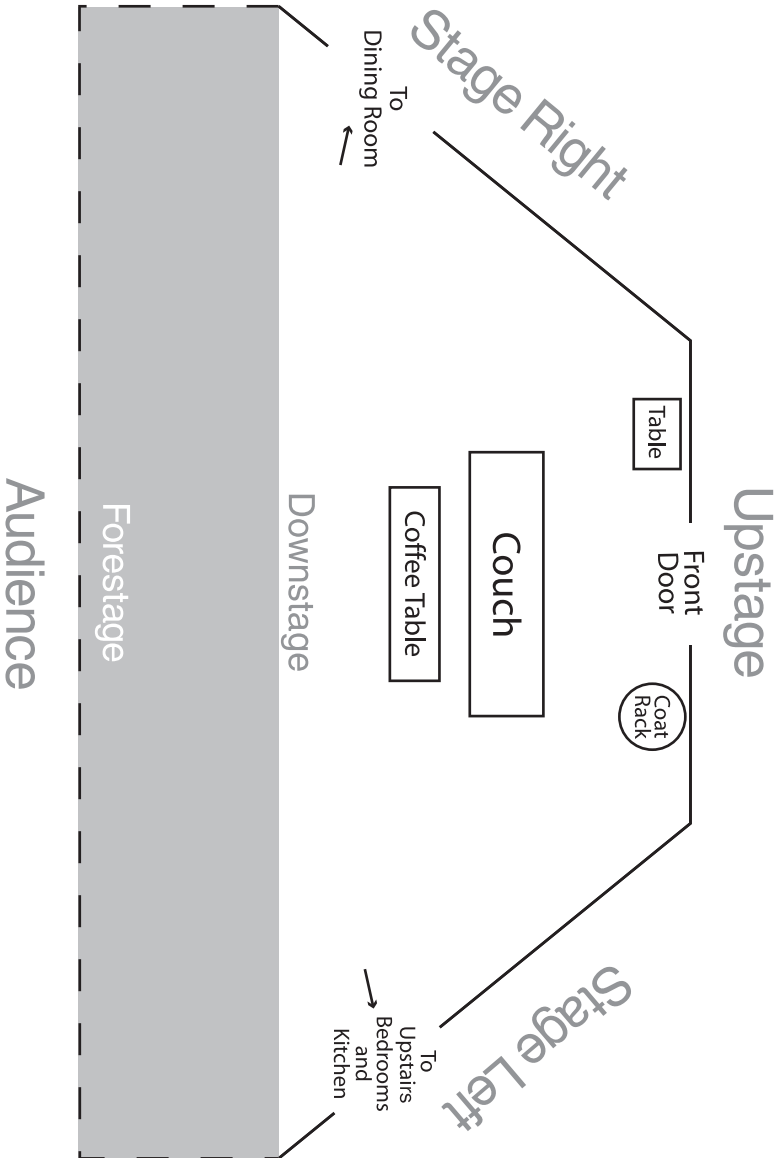
JAMES wears dark, pleated slacks, a white dress shirt with a t-shirt under it and a fedora. He later changes to a green dress shirt over his t-shirt.

CAMBIN should wear a flashy suit. He has a winter coat on over the suit when we first see him.

WINNIE might be dressed a little young for her age, with a cutesy dress and high stockings.

The COPS wear basic beat cop uniforms with whistles around their necks.

# Maid to Order - Set Design



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