

Side 2- Robert, Bernard

START

ROBERT Anything you like. What a lovely girl. And what a fantastic view you've got from up here Bernard. You can see all Paris.

(approaches forestage and surveys auditorium.)

BERNARD It's all right.

ROBERT Are you still in the architect business?

BERNARD Still at it- you know. It's good to see you again, Robert, it really is. So what brings you to Paris?

ROBERT Well, you always said 'Come and see me when I'm fixed up in Paris' and here you are, all fixed up. And here am I.

BERNARD Dear old Robert.

ROBERT And if you give me the address of your estate agent, I'm going to fix myself up too Bernard - I want a flat just like this. Same layout, same wonderful view, I need a flat because I'm going to get married.

BERNARD You're not!

ROBERT I am.

BERNARD Who are you engaged to?

ROBERT No one, not yet. But I know a girl, well, we're vaguely acquainted, you see. A charming girl. I haven't actually asked her yet but I should think it'll be all right. I'd like to get married, I can't go on living alone much longer.

BERNARD You look perfectly all right to me.

ROBERT Of course I'm all right. So are you for that matter.

BERNARD You're still a young.

ROBERT Well, so are you. You're in good shape, you're young, and you're going to get married.

BERNARD I certainly am not.

ROBERT Not? But I thought- well, this charming American girl, just now she said you were engaged. Wait a minute, you agreed with her. I heard you.

BERNARD Well, if you want to be technical I suppose you could say we were engaged. Yes.

ROBERT Then you're going to get married.

BERNARD No.

ROBERT Bernard, you're always doing this to me. Look. If you're engaged, you're going to get married. It's not only technical, it's logical! Isn't it?

BERNARD It is not. And anyway, why do you want to get married? Do you love this girl?

ROBERT I don't know. I'm not raving mad about her. I don't write poems or refuse to eat or any of that sort of thing. But it would be nice. I mean, think of the social advantages. They're not to be sneezed at, are they?

BERNARD I can't think of *one*. Still if you must get married, get married my way.

ROBERT Your way?

BERNARD Polygamy.

ROBERT Polygamy?

BERNARD It's the ideal life- pleasure, variety...it's fabulous. You ought to try it.

ROBERT Polygamy? You mean lots of wives?

BERNARD Not wives, fiancées. You have all the advantages of married life with none of the drawbacks. Fiancées are much more friendly than wives. And you don't need all that many. I do very well with three.

ROBERT Three?

BERNARD Three is the ideal number. Less than three would be monotonous. More than three would be terribly tiring. Three is the dream.

ROBERT But it's immoral.

END