

"ONE DAY"

CAST

Danny - 80's
Mary - Late teens
Eddie - 100's

(A factory.)

(DANNY enters, clumsily carrying a large ladder and a large sign. The sign is backwards to the audience. MARY cautiously walks 5 steps behind him.)

DANNY

(Drops the sign face-down on floor and tries to set the ladder up.)

If I live to be 100, I'll never figure that out.

MARY

And I'll never figure out how you lived to be this old.

DANNY

What?

MARY

I said, "What?" You'll never figure out what?

DANNY

Why this sign has to be so high up the factory wall.

MARY

(Sets the ladder up correctly.)

I should know that on my first day?

DANNY

Maybe I'll ask the old man.

MARY

Christ, YOU'RE not the old man here?

DANNY

Nah, I've only been here about 60 years.

(EDDIE enters in a wheelchair,
driving it badly.)

EDDIE
Hey, good-looking. Whatcha got cooking?

MARY
(Under her breath.)
Please God, don't let him be talking to me.

DANNY
(About to climb the ladder with
the unseen sign, but stops to talk
to EDDIE.)
Not much.

MARY
Are you supposed to be smoking?

DANNY
(Gets off the ladder, drops the
sign, and spins around to look at
his back.)
Am I on fire again?!

MARY
Not you. Him. He's got an oxygen tank, and he's smoking.
(Pointing to EDDIE, she then
notices something else.)

MARY (con't.)
(Uncomprehendingly.)
Are those snakes crawling out of your pockets?

EDDIE
Not if they know what's good for them, they're not.

MARY
Well, I'm sure cobras know what's good for them.

DANNY (Putting one foot on the
bottom rung.)
Hey, boss, Ronny here and I have a question for you.

MARY
It's Mary.

DANNY (Stops climbing.)
What is?

MARY

My name. It's not Ronny.

EDDIE

That's good, 'cause it would be confusing here with another Ronny. Right, Ronny?

(He looks at the snakes in his pocket.)

EDDIE (con't.)

Anywayzie Patrick Swayze. What . . .

DANNY

(Interrupting him.)

No, I get that a lot. I'm not Patrick Swayze.

EDDIE

So she's Patrick Swayze?

MARY

While you two figure this out, I'm just going to stand over here in the corner.

DANNY

Nobody puts Baby in a corner! Huh, maybe I am Patrick Swayze.

(Starts climbing again.)

MARY

It's Mary, not Baby!

(She leaves the room annoyed.)

DANNY (Stops climbing.)

I give her 30 years here, tops.

EDDIE

So what did you want to ask me? Was it about the scalding hot water in the showers?

DANNY

It wasn't, but now that you mention it.

EDDIE

The archers say it makes their fletchings softer.

DANNY

What the heck are fletchings?

(An arrow whizzes between them and sticks into the wall. DANNY drops the sign from the ladder.)

(MARY enters soaking wet, drying herself with a towel. She's carrying a bow and pulls the arrow out of the wall.)

(Danny slowly slides down the ladder.)

MARY

This is the fletching.

(Strokes the feathers. Leaves.)

EDDIE and DANNY

Oh yeah.

DANNY

Okay, you ready for the question?

EDDIE

Shoot.

(They both clumsily duck and look for an arrow, which doesn't come.)

DANNY (Starting to climb with the sign again.)

Why do I have to always hang this sign 20 feet up in the air? I don't get it.

EDDIE

Because that's where the nail is. DUH!

(Loud truck horn sounds offstage, startling Danny, who falls off the ladder, still holding the sign.)

(MARY enters juggling knives.)

MARY

The truck's here.

(MARY leaves stage right.)

EDDIE
(Yelling to stage left.)

Thanks, Mary!

MARY
(Yelling from offstage right.)

It's Mary, not . . . No wait. Okay, you got it right that time. But I'm over here!

EDDIE
(To DANNY.)

Okay, as soon as you get that sign up, unload the nitroglycerin from the truck, then hurry it over to the ball bearing factory.

DANNY
Will do. As soon as I get this sign up.

EDDIE
And remember to always wear the safety shoes.

(EDDIE throws him a pair of roller skates.)

(DANNY puts on the skates, picks up the sign, and puts one foot on the bottom rung. Audience sees for the first time that the sign says "Accident-Free For 1 Day.")