

GEORGE. What's come over you, Martini? It's George...and this is Mr Gower. We're friends!

MARTINI. I never seen you before in my life. And if he's your friend you better take off. That rumhead spent twenty years in jail for poisoning a kid. Hey, you know him, you must be a jailbird yourself. You get out of here before Mr Nick come and call police. Get out!

GEORGE. All right, Mr Gower...

GOWER. Lend me a few bucks, son?

GEORGE. I... (*Fumbles in his pockets for cash.*)

~~CLARISSA~~. No money, George. Nothing in your pockets at all.

GOWER. Aw, let me alone.

GOWER *wrests himself from GEORGE and exits muttering.*

GEORGE. What's going on here?

~~CLARISSA~~. Don't you understand, George? It's because you were not born.

GEORGE. Then if I wasn't born, who am I?

~~CLARISSA~~. You're nobody. You have no identity.

GEORGE. What do you mean, no identity? My name's George Bailey.

~~CLARISSA~~. There is no George Bailey. You have no papers, no cards, no driver's licence, no insurance policy... You've been given a great gift, George: a chance to see what the world would be like without you.

GEORGE. Now look here... Hey, someone's taken Harry's banner... it's gone it's...

GEORGE *wanders bewildered amongst the new signs of Pottersville.*

But where's the drugstore, and old John Brown's Boot and Shoe? Now he can't be gone, he's got Pete's best boots to mend. Why there's no pawnbroker in Bedford Falls... I must have had more to drink than I... where is this?

~~CLARISSA~~. Pottersville.

GEORGE. I want Bedford Falls!

~~CLARISSA~~. No such place. No George Bailey, no Bedford Falls.

GEORGE. Wait a minute here. This is some sort of a horrible dream. So long, angel, or whatever you are, I'm going home.

~~CLARISSA~~. Home? What home?

GEORGE. Three-twenty Sycamore...

~~CLARISSA~~ *is shaking her head.*

Cut it out! You're... you're crazy! That's what I think... you're screwy, and you're driving me crazy too! I'm going home and see my wife and family. Do you understand that? And I'm going home alone!

*GEORGE runs away from CLARISSA and comes to the front of the Building and Loan. It now bears a shabby sign saying, 'Ma Bailey's Boarding House'. SAM appears. He is an official coming to close down the business. He works for Potter.*

GEORGE. Hey... hey. Where did the Building and Loan move to?

SAM. The Building and what?

GEORGE. The Building and Loan. Sam? I thought you were in Europe.

SAM. My name's Sam, yes. Sam Wainwright. Do I know...?

GEORGE. Oh yeah, you don't know me. Where's the Building and Loan?

SAM. They went out of business years ago. And now Ma Bailey's on the ropes too.

GEORGE. Ma Bailey?

SAM. The bank has foreclosed on her. The business is bankrupt.

GEORGE. On Christmas Eve?