

PERUSAL SCRIPT



Slaughter On the Strip

A CHAMELEONS MURDER MYSTERY MUSICAL

Script by
Jim Christian

Music and Lyrics by
Various Authors



Salt Lake City

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SLAUGHTER ON THE STRIP

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SETTING

TIME: THE DINNER SHOW

PLACE: THE “SAPPHIRE SABLE” SHOWROOM OF THE PINK MINK RESORT HOTEL AND CASINO ON THE LAS VEGAS STRIP.

CHARACTERS: (5M 3W)

CHIP CONNELLY -- SECOND RATE STAND-UP COMEDIAN – ONCE SAVED WAYNE NEWTON’S LIFE – NOW HAS STANDING EMPLOYMENT AT THE PINK MINK – A MOOCH

ANITA LENHART -- FORMER BROADWAY LEADING LADY – FRESH OUT OF THE BETTY FORD CLINIC – HAS BEEN MARRIED NINE TIMES, INCLUDING TO BIG EARL – FINANCIALLY BROKE

LILLIAN BARLOW - LAST REMAINING MEMBER OF A “SISTERS” ACT – ABSENT-MINDED AND DREAMY – STILL TALKS TO AND ABOUT HER SISTERS AS IF THEY WERE ALIVE – A KLEPTOMANIAC

IVAN and NICOLAI, THE KOMINSKY BROTHERS - MAGIC ACT – DEFECTED FROM RUSSIA EARLIER THIS YEAR – LIVING IN FEAR OF THE K.G.B. – NOTORIOUS WOMANIZERS – VIOLENT TEMPERS

JACKIE HALL - LOUNGE LIZARD – EMCEE OF THE PINK MINK SHOW – BIG EARL’S NEPHEW – VAIN AND PETTY– SPENDTHRIFT – INSINCERE

TERRY O’DONNELL - “BLIND” PIANIST – NOT REALLY BLIND, BUT EXTREMELY NEAR-SIGHTED – USES HANDICAP TO ENHANCE CAREER – A MARTYR

JETTA RAE PARSONS – COUNTRY WESTERN SINGER – GAMBLING ADDICT – ONE OF BIG EARL’S EX’S – LOUD AND OUTGOING

LINDA LOCKWOOD – SHOWGIRL – INHERITED BIG EARL’S FORTUNE (VICTIM [does not appear]) SHOULD BE LISTED ON THE PROGRAM AS A ‘GEORGINA SPELVIN’ KIND OF CHARACTER.

SLAUGHTER ON THE STRIP *A CHAMELEONS MURDER MYSTERY MUSICAL* by Jim Christian
Characters: 5m 4w Synopsis: The Pink Mink Hotel provides the setting for this Las Vegas spectacular where a manipulative showgirl double-crosses once too often and misses her entrance thanks to one of her fellow entertainers. **(ORDER #3093)**

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- Sheet music for the various songs is available online at sites like Music Notes: (<http://www.musicnotes.com/sheetmusic/mtdFPE.asp?ppn=MN0056764>) OR the slightly less expensive Online Sheet Music: (<http://www.onlinesheetmusic.com/toot-toot-tootsie-goodbye-p235768.aspx>)
- We cannot publish the songs if they are NOT in the Public Domain. So no Piano-Vocal Score has been issued for this title.

SONGS USED IN THIS SHOW

TOOT TOOT TOOTSIE, GOODBYE -- by Ted Fiorito, Ernie Erdman, Gus Kahn and Dan Russo (© 1922, © renewed 1950, Published by EMI Feist Catalog, Inc and Warner Brothers Publications, Inc. This may or may not be in the Public Domain.)

MY MAN (Mon Homme) -- Music by Maurice Yvain, Lyrics by Albert Willemetz, Jacques Charles, English Lyric by Channing Pollock (© 1922 -- now in the Public Domain.)

MR. SANDMAN -- Music and Lyrics by Pat Ballard (© 1948 -- permission to use must be obtained by the individual producer, or another song must be chosen from the Public Domain. Chappell Morris Limited)

THEME FROM BONANZA -- Music by Ray Livingston & Jay Evans (© 1959 -- permission to use must be obtained by the individual producer, or another song must be chosen from the Public Domain. Permission to use may have to be obtained from *Bonanza Ventures, Inc.*) Special Lyrics for this production by Jim Christian. (No copyright implied)

I GOTTA BE ME -- Music and Lyrics by Walter Marks (© 1967 -- permission to use must be obtained by the individual producer, or another song must be chosen from the Public Domain. From the Broadway musical, "Golden Rainbow." Damila Music, Inc.)

WHAT I DID FOR LOVE -- Music by Marvin Hamlisch, Lyrics by Edward Kleban (© 1975 -- permission to use must be obtained by the individual producer, or another song must be chosen from the Public Domain. From the Broadway musical, "A Chorus Line." Famous Music LLC)

KILLING ME SOFTLY WITH HIS SONG -- (piano only -- Words by Norman Gimbel, Music by Charles Fox (© 1972 -- permission to use must be obtained by the individual producer, or another song must be chosen from the Public Domain. Rodali Music and Fox-Gimbel Productions, Inc.)

LOVE LETTERS IN THE SAND -- Words by Nick and Charles Kenny, Music by J. Fred Coots (© 1931 -- now in the Public Domain)

HAPPY DAYS AE HERE AGAIN -- Music by Milton Ager, Lyrics by Jack Yellen (© 1929 -- now in the Public Domain)

1 -- COCKTAILS OR APPETIZERS

(WE ARE ONSTAGE IN THE "SAPPHIRE SABLE" ROOM OF THE PINK MINK HOTEL. AT THE PIANO, TERRY O'DONNELL PLAYS A BIG VEGAS-TYPE INTRO AND VAMPS AS JACKIE HALL TAKES THE MICROPHONE AND GREETES THE CROWD.)

MUSICAL # 1 -- TOOT TOOT TOOTSIE, GOODBYE!

JACKIE: *(WITH WELL-PRACTICED SINCERITY)* GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND WELCOME TO THE DINNER SHOW AT BIG EARLS TEETER'S "PINK MINK HOTEL AND CASINO." AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, I'M JACKIE HALL AND I'LL BE YOUR HOST FOR THIS FABULOUS NIGHT OF NIGHTS. AS WE PREPARE TO HAVE OURSELVES A LITTLE PARTY, WE'VE LINED UP A CAVALCADE OF HEADLINERS TO HELP US SAY WELCOME TO THE MOST FABULOUS SHOW IN LAS VEGAS! AND TO START THINGS OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT, WE'LL BE FEATURING – ME!

MUSICAL # 1 -- TOOT TOOT TOOTSIE, GOODBYE!

TOOT – TOOT – TOOTSIE, GOOD BYE.
TOOT – TOOT – TOOTSIE, DON'T CRY.
THAT CHOO-CHOO TRAIN THAT TAKES ME
AWAY FROM YOU – HEY, BABE, YOU KNOW HOW SAD IT MAKES ME.
KISS ME, TOOTSIE, AND THEN
DO IT OVER AGAIN.
WATCH FOR THE MAIL.
I'LL NEVER FAIL.
IF YOU DON'T GET A LETTER THEN YOU'LL KNOW I CAN'T WRITE. (HA-HA)
DON'T CRY, TOOTSIE, DON'T CRY.
KISS YOUR TROUBLES "BYE-BYE".

(APPLAUSE. TERRY CONTINUES VAMP)

THAT'S RIGHT, FOLKS. IN A FEW SHORT HOURS, WE HOPE TO BRING YOU THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST FROM THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT. AND WHO BETTER TO HELP US DO THAT THAN THIS NEXT DAME. WITH ALL OF HER DARK DAYS BEHIND HER, SHE'S LOOKING FOR HAPPINESS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM. SHE'S CURRENTLY APPEARING HERE IN THE "FUCHSIA FOX" ROOM OF THE "PINK MINK". LADIES AND GENTS – THE UNDISPUTED QUEEN OF THE BROADWAY STAGE – MISS ANITA LENHART.

ANITA: HELLO, AMERICA! I'M THRILLED TO BE HERE TO SING AND DANCE WITH YOU BECAUSE HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN. AND WHILE IT MAY BE TOUGH GOING ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY FROM MY MUCH PUBLICIZED BOUT WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE, I'M NOT AFRAID, BECAUSE ...

MUSICAL # 2 -- MY MAN

OH, MY MAN I LOVE HIM SO.
HE'LL NEVER KNOW.
ALL MY LIFE IS JUST DESPAIR, BUT I DON'T CARE.
WHEN HE TAKES ME IN HIS ARMS,
THE WORLD IS BRIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IF I SAY I'LL GO AWAY.
WHEN I KNOW I'LL COME BACK ON MY KNEES SOMEDAY?
FOR WHATEVER MY MAN IS, I AM HIS FOREVERMORE!

(AN ABSOLUTELY TORTUROUS FLOURISH AT THE END.)

I LOVE YOU ALL! MWA!

(SHE BLOWS A KISS AND GOES)

JACKIE: ISN'T SHE SOMETHING – ELSE? JUST MAKES YOU WANT TO DRINK EMBALMING FLUID, DOESN'T IT?

(COURTESY LAUGH)

NOW, WHAT WOULD A NIGHT IN LAS VEGAS BE WITHOUT THIS NEXT GUY? JUST LAST WEEK, HE ENTERED THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS FOR “THE LONGEST CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT BY A STAND-UP COMEDIAN.” CURRENTLY IN HIS SIXTH STRAIGHT YEAR IN OUR OWN “WHITE WEASEL LOUNGE, “LET’S GIVE A BIG WELCOME TO THE MAN WHO ONCE SAVED WAYNE NEWTON’S LIFE – CHIP CONNELLY!”

CHIP: THANK YOU, THANK YOU. HEY, JACKIE – LOVE THE JACKET. SAY, THAT REMINDS ME – SOMEBODY STOLE MY GRANDMOTHER’S COUCH. WAS IT YOU?

(LAUGHS AT OWN JOKE, WHICH TERRY PUNCTUATES FROM THE KEYBOARD.)

JUST KIDDING. HEY, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET AN ELEPHANT OUT OF THE THEATRE? YOU CAN'T. IT'S IN THEIR BLOOD.

(LAUGHS)

OKAY, OKAY. SERIOUS NOW. A GUY AND HIS DOG WALK INTO A BAR, RIGHT? THE BARTENDER SAYS, “HEY, BUDDY – YOU CAN'T BRING A DOG IN HERE.” AND THE GUY SAYS, “NO, IT'S OKAY. HE'S A TALKING DOG.” “A TALKING DOG?” THE BARTENDER SAYS. “YEAH,” THE GUY SAYS. “WATCH.” SO HE SAYS TO THE DOG, “WHAT'S THE PART OF THIS BUILDING THAT'S OVER OUR HEADS?” AND THE DOG SAYS “ROOF.” SO THEN THE GUY SAYS, “WHAT DOES SANDPAPER FEEL LIKE?” AND THE DOG SAYS, “RUFF.” AND THEN THE GUY SAYS, “NOW, WHO WAS THE GREATEST BASEBALL PLAYER OF ALL TIME?” AND THE DOG SAYS, “RUTH”. WELL, THE BARTENDER SAYS, “THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I EVER HEARD,” AND HE THROWS THEM OUTTA THE BAR. SO NOW, THEY'RE SITTING OUT IN THE GUTTER AND THE DOG TURNS TO THE GUY AND SAYS, “JOE DIMAGGIO?”

(LAUGHS)

HEY, YOU GUYS ARE THE GREATEST. I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

(HE GOES)

JACKIE: YEAH . . . NOT IF WE SEE YOU FIRST.

(COURTESY LAUGH)

OKAY, FOLKS – THIS NEXT LADY IS GOING TO BRING BACK FOND MUSICAL MEMORIES OF NOT ONLY THE “1980’s” BUT MANY OTHER DECADES, TOO. YOU MAY REMEMBER HOW SHE AND HER TWO SISTERS, VIOLET AND DAISY, USED TO BRING US A “BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET OF SONG.” SHE’S OUR FEATURED GUEST FOR THREE NIGHTS ONLY IN THE “EMERALD ERMINE” ROOM. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN – THE LAST REMAINING MEMBER OF “THE BARLOW SISTERS” – MISS LILLIAN BARLOW.

MUSICAL # 3 -- MR. SANDMAN

LILLIAN: THANK YOU, MR. HALL, AND THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WONDERFUL PEOPLE OUT THERE. WE’RE TICKLED PINK TO BE HERE WITH YOU ON THIS FESTIVE OCCASION. IT’S A NIGHT FOR ROMANCE AND WISHES AND HOPES, SO HERE’S OUR SPECIAL WISH FOR YOU . . .

(SHE SINGS, BUT NOT THE MELODY)

“ . . . BUM - BUM . . . BUM - BUM - BUM . . .
. . . BUM - BUM . . . BUM - BUM - BUM . . .
MR. SANDMAN – OO-OO . . . US A DREAM . . .
BUM - BUM – BUM – BUM . . . THE CUTEST . . . I’VE EVER SEEN . . .
OO-AAH-AAH . . .
AND TELL ME THAT MY LONELY NIGHTS ARE OVER.
SANDMAN . . . OOH . . . I’M SO ALONE . . .
BUM - BUM – BUM – BUM

(SILENCE)

. . . THE PHONE
PLEASE, TURN ON YOUR MAGIC BEAM.
MR. SANDMAN . . . PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE . . .
MR. SANDMAN . . . BRING US A . . .
. . . BUM - BUM . . . BUM - BUM - BUM . . .
. . . BUM - BUM . . . BUM - BUM - BUM . . . OOH.”

THANK YOU FOR COMING, AND PLEASE, DRIVE SAFELY. BYE-BYE.

JACKIE: *(QUICKLY STEPPING IN)* WHAT A LITTLE KIDDER SHE IS. SERIOUSLY, DON’T LEAVE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THERE’S STILL PLENTY MORE TO COME. THIS NEXT TWOSOME BRINGS A TOUCH OF INTERNATIONAL CLASS TO OUR FABULOUS LINE-UP. THEIR DEFECTION FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION WAS A REAL BLOW TO THE RUSKIES BECAUSE THESE GUYS ARE CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE THE GREATEST ILLUSIONISTS IN THE WORLD. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE THEM AS OUR EXCITING HEADLINERS IN THE “LILAC LEOPARD” SHOWPLACE AND TONIGHT THEY’LL BE BRINGING THEIR SPECIAL BRAND OF MAGIC TO OUR STAGE. IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THOSE MASTERS OF FANTASY – IVAN AND NICOLAI . . . THE KOMINSKY BROTHERS!

IVAN: *(AS NICOLAI MOVES INTO PLACE)* GOOD EVENING, FELLOW AMERICANS. MY BROTHER AND I ARE MOST PLEASED TO BE SHARING THIS SPECTACULAR EVENING WITH YOU. AND AS WAS SAID BY MR. HALL, SINCE WE ARE TWO OF THE NEWEST CITIZENS OF THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WE HOPE TO RETURN THE FAVOR BY PUTTING OUR MAGIC INTO YOUR LIVES.

MUSICAL # 4 -- THEME FROM "BONANZA"

(HE SINGS AS NICOLAI EXECUTES TRICK.)

"HERE IN THE WEST – WE LIVE IN THE BEST –
LAS VEGAS.
BINGING YOU MORE – EXCITEMENT, FORE SHORE – DOING OUR SHOW FOR YOU.
WE WANT TO BE YOUR FANTASY IN
LAS VEGAS.
IVAN AND NICK WILL SHOW YOU A TRICK.
WE ARE A DREAM COME TRUE.
WHAT WE DO
JUST FOR YOU
IS MIRACULOUS.
SLEIGHT-OF-HAND
CAN BE GRAND
WHEN IS DONE BY US.
WE CAN AMAZE AND DAZZLE YOUR DAYS IN VEGAS.
HAPPY TO BE IN LAND OF THE FREE, HERE IN THE U.S.A.
IS MAGIC – TONIGHT!"

NICOLAI: WE LOVE YOU ALL!

JACKIE: *(AS IVAN AND NICOLAI EXIT)* THE KOMINSKY BROTHERS! IVAN AND NICOLAI! IT REALLY MAKES YOU WONDER IF GLASNOST WAS SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

(COURTESY LAUGH)

HEY, I WANT TO TAKE JUST A MOMENT TO INTRODUCE THIS TALENTED FELLA SITTING OVER HERE AT THE STEINWAY. NOW, I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY THINKING, "OKAY, SO THEY GAVE THE BLIND GUY A JOB. GOOD FOR THEM." BUT LEMME TELL YOU – WE ARE DARN LUCKY TO HAVE THIS MAN WORKING HERE AT THE "PINK MINK." HE'S INCREDIBLE. AND YOU CAN ALL ENJOY HIS PIANO AND VOCAL STYLINGS ANYTIME IN THE "RUBY RACCOON" DINING ROOM. ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS AND YOURS – TERRY O'DONNELL.

(HE CROSSES AND HOLDS MIKE FOR TERRY AS HE SPEAKS.)

TERRY: THANKS, JACKIE. YOU KNOW, IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE AND TO ME, THAT ONLY MEANS ONE THING . . .

MUSICAL #5 -- I GOTTA BE ME

(JAZZILY)

“WHETHER I’M RIGHT OR WHETHER I’M WRONG
WHETHER I FIND MY PLACE IN THIS WORLD . . .

(SPOKEN)

. . . AND THAT’S NOT EASY . . .

I GOTTA BE ME.

I GOTTA BE ME.

DARING TO TRY

TO DO IT OR DIE

I GOT-TA BE – ME!

(MASSIVE JAZZ RIFF ENDING)

JACKIE: *(RETURNING CENTER STAGE)* AND I KNOW HE MEANS THAT SINCERELY.

(COURTESY LAUGH)

NOW, I KNOW A LOT OF YOU HAVE DRIVEN IN FROM SOUTHERN UTAH AND ARIZONA TONIGHT SO WE’VE GOT A SPECIAL MUSICAL TREAT JUST FOR YOU. SHE’S BEEN CALLED “THE NASHVILLE NIGHTINGALE” AND YOU’RE GONNA FIND OUT WHY. SHE’S BEEN “WOWING” THE CROWDS IN OUR OWN “CRIMSON COYOTE” BAR – A REAL GOODTIME GAL -- JETTA RAE PARSONS!

MUSICAL # 6 -- WHAT I DID FOR LOVE

JETTA: WOO – HOO! HI, HI, HI, Y’ALL. OH, YOU’RE LOOKIN’ GOOD . . . REAL GOOD. YOU KNOW, IT GETS ME ALL EXCITED, BEING HERE WITH ALL OF YOU FINE FOLKS. AND I’M EXTRA EXCITED, BECAUSE IT’S SUMMERTIME (OR APPROPRIATE TIME OF YEAR) AND THAT MEANS KISSIN’ . . . AND PARTYIN’ . . . AND FINDIN’ THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE. AND IF YOU’RE SITTIN’ OUT THERE WITH YOUR SWEETHEART, DON’T YOU GO DUMPIN’ THEM AT THE EXIT DOOR OF AUGUST. DON’T YOU BELIEVE THAT “IT WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS” PIGSLOP. YOU TAKE YOUR HONEY INTO SEPTEMBER WITH YOU, ‘CAUSE I’M TELLIN’ YOU . . .

(COUNTRIFIED)

“GONE – LOVE IS NEVER GONE AS WE TRAVEL ON
LOVE’S WHAT WE’LL REMEMBER.

KISS TODAY GOOD-BYE

AND POINT ME TOWARD TOMORROW. I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.

WON’T FORGET –

CAN’T REGRET –

WHAT I DID FOR LOVE. WHAT I DID FOR LOVE. WHAT I DID FOR LOVE.”

AND I’LL BE BACK TO SEE Y’ALL REAL SOON.

JACKIE: THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR THAT TOUCHING SENTIMENT. AND IF I NEVER SEE ANOTHER RODEO IN MY LIFE, IT’LL BE TOO SOON.

(COURTESY LAUGH)

OKAY. IT'S THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR. EVERY SHOW HAS TO HAVE A STAR AND THIS ONE IS NO EXCEPTION. TWICE VOTED "ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR" BY THE LAS VEGAS BOARD OF CASINO OPERATORS, SHE TRULY DOES IT ALL – SINGER, DANCER, ACTRESS, COMEDIENNE, IMPRESSIONIST, CONTORTIONIST. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WITH DEEPEST RESPECT AND HEARTFELT HUMILITY, I AM PROUD TO GIVE YOU – MISS LINDA LOCKWOOD!

(TERRY PLAYS AN INCREDIBLE FANFARE AND INTRO, BUT LINDA NEVER APPEARS.)

MISS LINDA LOCKWOOD!

(REPEAT OF PIANO INTRO)

(COURTESY LAUGH)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE SEEM TO HAVE A LITTLE DELAY. PROBABLY A BROKEN ZIPPER.

(COURTESY LAUGH)

WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST GO AHEAD AND START OUR DINNERS AND I'M SURE WE'LL HAVE THINGS UNDERWAY MOMENTARILY. CHIP!!!

(JACKIE SENDS CHIP TO CHECK ON LINDA. OTHERS SEAT THEMSELVES WITH GUESTS AND BEGIN DINNING. TERRY IS LEAD TO TABLE BY JETTA. AFTER A FEW MINUTES, CHIP RE-ENTERS WITH BLOOD ON HIS HANDS)

CHIP: JACKIE! JACKIE!!! SHE'S BEEN MURDERED!

JACKIE: LINDA?

CHIP: YES!

(JACKIE RUSHES TO CHIP)

ANITA: HAH!

NICOLAI: *(JUMPING TO HIS FEET, SHOUTING AT IVAN)* THIS IS YOUR DOING, NO?

IVAN: WHAT YOU ARE TALKING?

NICOLAI: YOU WERE INSANELY JEALOUS BECAUSE SHE WAS HAVING EYES FOR ME.

IVAN: IS BIG LAUGH. SHE WOULD NOT BE GIVING YOU TIME OF WEEK.

NICOLAI: I WILL SHOW YOU WHO HAS TIME OF WEEK.

(STARTS FOR IVAN)

IVAN: OH, LIKE FUN YOU CAN.

(STARTS FOR NICOLAI)

JACKIE: *(GRABBING MICROPHONE)* LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. PLEASE DON'T ALARM YOURSELVES. IT APPEARS THAT MISS LOCKWOOD HAS MET WITH A SERIOUS ACCIDENT AND WON'T BE JOINING US THIS EVENING.

JETTA: WELL, WHAT HAPPENED?

JACKIE: IT SEEMS THAT ONE OF THE LAMPS IN HER HOTEL SUITE FELL ON HER HEAD.

CHIP: YEAH. SEVEN TIMES.

JACKIE: ANYWAY, FOLKS. LET'S NOT LET THAT SET THE TONE FOR THE EVENING. WE'VE GOT PEOPLE ON OUR STAFF WHO'LL TAKE CARE OF THINGS. SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY YOURSELVES. IT'S TIME TO PARTY!

(THEY ALL RETURN TO THEIR SEATS)

(DURING DINNER, TERRY PLAYS "KILLING ME SOFTLY" ON THE PIANO)

2 -- DINNER

3 -- AFTER DINNER

4 -- RAMBLES

5 -- RESOLUTION

6 -- BOWS

7 -- ANNOUNCEMENT OF MASTER DETECTIVE

a total of 22 pages in this script.