

I think you are a selfish, petty egomaniac who would see his mother
 but
 cig
 he
 pa
 that goes higher up than your stomach, and I was the fool of the
 world for ever thinking I could trust you.

WHITESIDE. Well, as long as I live, I will never do anyone a good
 turn again. I won't ask you to apologize, Maggie, because in six
 months from now you will be thanking me instead of berating me.

MAGGIE. In six months, Sherry, I expect to be *so far away* from you—
*(She is halted by a loud voice from hallway, as door bangs. "Hello—
 hello—hello!" It is Bert Jefferson who enters L., a little high. Maggie
 crosses U. to R.)*

JEFFERSON. *(c.)* Merry Christmas, everybody! Merry Christmas!
 I'm a little ^{tipsy} high, but I can explain everything. Hi, Maggie. Hi, Mr.
 Whiteside. Shake hands with a successful playwright. Maggie,
 why'd you run away last night? Where were you? Miss Sheldon
 thinks the play is wonderful. I read her the play and she thinks it's
 wonderful. Isn't that wonderful?

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MAGGIE. Yes, that's fine, Bert.

JEFFERSON. Isn't that wonderful, Mr. Whiteside?

WHITESIDE. Jefferson, I think you ought to go home, don't you?

JEFFERSON. What? No—~~biggest day of my life~~. I know I'm a
 little drunk, but this is a big day. We've been sitting over in
 Billy's Tavern all night. Never realized it was daylight until it
 was daylight— *(Crosses to Maggie R.)* Listen, Maggie—Miss
 Sheldon says the play needs just a little bit of fixing—do it in
 three weeks. She's going to take me to a little place she's got in
 Lake Placid—just for three weeks. Going to work on the play
 together. Isn't it wonderful? *(A pause.)* Why don't you say some-
 thing, Maggie? *(She turns away.)*

WHITESIDE. Look, Bert, I suggest you tell us all about this later.
 Now, why don't you—

(He stops as Dr. Bradley enters from hallway.)

BRADLEY. *(c.)* Oh, excuse me! Merry Christmas, everybody. Merry
 Christmas.

JEFFERSON. God bless us all, and Tiny Tim.

BRADLEY. Yes... Mr. Whiteside, I thought perhaps if I came very
 early—

Bert #2

START

END