

Act One - Scene Twelve

(The Office of the STUDIO BOSS. He is flanked by TWO YES MEN. YOUNG HAROLD is before them. The set-up more than smacks of an interrogation.)

STUDIO BOSS. How far are you planning to go with this queer thing, Harold?

YOUNG HAROLD. How far?

STUDIO BOSS. Yes. How far?

YOUNG HAROLD. I don't know. *(flirting)* How far would you like me to go?

STUDIO BOSS. Harold, you're good. Our very own "Boy Wonder" Bachman.

YOUNG HAROLD. For God's sake - I told you how much I hate that name.

STUDIO BOSS. And God has heard you, but He still likes it on the press releases.

(The STUDIO BOSS lifts a script off the table.)

STUDIO BOSS. Now. This script of yours. I don't like it. None of us do. It doesn't make any sense.

YES MAN #1. No sense at all.

STUDIO BOSS. It needs a lot of work.

YES MAN #2. A lot of work.

YOUNG HAROLD. What are you getting at?

STUDIO BOSS. We're not making the picture.

YOUNG HAROLD. But you agreed that after "Girl in the Park"

STUDIO BOSS. It's depressing. And in the end, the two fruity guys become partners and dump the girl.

YOUNG HAROLD. They're friends, for Christ's sake! It's a film

about the integrity that —

STUDIO BOSS. Even Hope and Crosby don't dump the girl, Harold, and they are great friends.

YES MAN #1. Great friends.

STUDIO BOSS. You're gonna do this one instead.

(HAROLD is handed a script by one of the YES MEN. A much thinner script than his own personal epic. The title:)

YOUNG HAROLD. "Love Swing"?!?

(HAROLD throws it back at the YES MEN.)

I won't do another one of these things!

STUDIO BOSS. You do them very well, Harold. If "Beverly Hills Affair" and "Girl in the Park" are any indication, the audience loves paying to see you do it. You will continue to make light—

YOUNG HAROLD. Fluffy romantic shit! I won't do it!

STUDIO BOSS. Listen, Harold, your contract is written in harder stone than the cement at Grauman's Chinese. I'm sure you also remember the moral's clause as well as our control over publicity. *(a pause)* This queer thing would be very negative for the studio and your career as a director of... how did he put it?

(Both YES MEN rush to answer first.)

BOTH YES MEN. Fluffy romantic shit.

STUDIO BOSS. Yes. Therefore, if you would rather be assigned dental hygiene films in New Jersey, I recommend that any mention of this queer thing not leave this room. Do we understand each other, Harold?