

(ROSIE watches CHICKEN SOUP crawling off under the box; she runs to box and shouts between phrases of the other kids singing.)

JOHNNY KATHY

Don't go too far!

Now by myself REPEAT ()

PIERRE. Boring!

JOHNNY. Hey, Rosie, I read this wierd story how this kid wandered away and nobody ever knew what happened to him. And two weeks later when everybody forgot already and the parents even got a new kid, the cops found him crazy in the forest, stinking and wild, and they shot him dead for his own good. I read about it in this interesting book.

OTHERS. Who cares! [Music Cue 7A — Bell Tone]

ROSIE. I think we got a movie here.

ALLIGATOR. Did you hear who died?

KATHY. This conversation is making me nauseous.

JOHNNY. My father says we aren't here to enjoy ourselves.

PIERRE. I don't care.

KATHY. Remember Rita — when she caught sleeping sickness on Rosie's roof... That was fun.

ALLIGATOR. We can go watch my father in the bathtub eating flies.

KATHY. Oh sure, I just bet.

PIERRE. Boring, boring, boring...

JOHNNY. I read this article that when people are too leisurely, they go nuts on the spot, because if anything is good at all, it gotta get terrible fast. It even says when you retire, you're supposed to be enjoying yourself, that's the kiss of death. Because you relax in the pool too much and you drown. You know, when you retire...

OTHERS. Who cares! [Music Cue 7B — Underscore]

ROSIE. Now let me tell you why I've asked you all to come here today. I'm going to make a movie of my life. It'll be a very classy movie, mostly about me and those beloved few who helped me up the ladder of success: Johnny, Alligator, Kathy, Pierre, and my darling Chicken Soup.

ALLIGATOR. Where's your brother? What happened to Chicken Soup?

ROSIE. That's the name of my movie. Did You Hear What Hat-

pened To Chicken Soup? And it's all true.
KATHY. Oh come on Rosie, we did your true life movie a hundred times already.

ROSIE. Kathy, we did not.

KATHY. What about yesterday when you got that incurable disease and your boyfriend, the blind doctor, operates on the wrong patient and then you find out you're really brother and sister so you both jump out of the fourteenth floor of the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital.

PIERRE. That was called: *We Are Inseparable*.

ROSIE. That was a great movie. But this new one is even more inside. It's the story of my struggle to find joy at the top by overcoming the untimely and mostly ghasly disappearance of my stupid crippled brother.

JOHNNY. Hey, Rosie, there's this much better movie where the kidnappers cut up this kid and bury him in a shoe box. Is that what happened to Chicken Soup?

ROSIE. You'll find out OK if I let you act in my picture. (*The kids are hopelessly hooked, they lean forward eagerly, waiting for ROSIE to "haul" them in. She smells success and is triumphant.*) OK my movie is about to start! Screen tests everybody!

ALLIGATOR. Now me, Rosie?

ROSIE. Now me what?

ALLIGATOR. You know, my screen test

ROSIE. What do you do?

ALLIGATOR. Oh, you know, Rosie.

ROSIE. Yeah. The alphabet. Boring.

ALLIGATOR. I'm terrific.

ROSIE. Uhh, huh.

ALLIGATOR. Oh, please, Rosie?

ROSIE. OK. OK. Take one.

ALLIGATOR. (*sings ALLIGATORS ALL AROUND [Music Cue 8]*)

A ALLIGATORS ALL AROUND

B BURSTING BALLOONS

C CATCHING COLDS

D DOING DISHES

E ENTERTAINING ELEPHANTS

F FOREVER FOOLING