

6 Rms Riv Vu

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

The living room of a large rent-controlled apartment on Riverside Drive. The room is bare and in need of painting. Two windows in the upstage wall face out on a brick wall. Stage Right is a doorway that leads to the dining room, kitchen and maid's room. In the upstage wall, far Left, is a doorway that leads to the bedrooms. On the stage Left wall is the entrance to the apartment up a few steps from the apartment level. The front door is missing its doorknob. The Superintendent, EDDIE, opens it from off-stage, a doorknob in his hand, and a young couple dashes in. She is quite pregnant and pushes a baby carriage. They leave the carriage on the landing.

LARRY + PREGNANT
WOMAN - START

WOMAN. All right, check the bedrooms, closets and bathrooms. I'll take the kitchen. (He dashes into the bedrooms. She runs into the dining room. EDDIE screws the doorknob into the door and exits. The young couple returns.)

LARRY. Honey, the master's gigantic! Two walk-ins and there's a stall shower! But the second bedroom doesn't have a closet and the floor's pink.

WOMAN. Who cares! It's still rent-controlled. There's room for a sit-down table if we move the refrigerator. And, Larry, there's a half-bath in the maid's room.

LARRY. My darkroom! (He kisses her with glee and exits into the dining room area to see it. She calls after him.)

WOMAN. Hold your breath. There's something rotting behind the sink. (The Baby cries.) Cool it, Justin,

Mommy's busy! (She exits into the bedrooms while the Baby continues to cry. In a moment, they return exultant.)

LARRY. I'll bribe up to two thousand!

WOMAN. You'll have to.

LARRY. Thank God the landlord was caught harassing the last tenant.

WOMAN. Let's get down to the agent's. I'm going to get a highboy! (She stops on the steps and surveys the apartment.) There's so many things I can do with this place.

LARRY. (Joining her after looking out the window.) If we could turn it around to face the river, it'd be perfect!

WOMAN. (The baby cries.) Knock it off, Justin!!

LARRY + PREGNANT

WOMAN - END

(They dash out of the apartment with the baby carriage, he poking his head in for a last look and slamming the door. Pause. ANNE enters. She's in her early thirties, attractive. She has an air of mild exhaustion about her, as if she's taken time out from a busy day fighting with the kids and the Super to run over and see the apartment. She keeps pot in a cookie canister, has a shelf filled with books on how to raise children, and is getting a little bored. A satisfactory life, all in all. She looks out the window at the wall.)

PAUL + ANNE START

(A)

ANNE. So, how often do you look out the window? (She begins to pace the room.) Three, six, nine, twelve, fifteen, eighteen, twenty-one, twenty-three. (Starts again at other wall.) Three, six, nine, twelve, fifteen, eighteen, twenty. Twenty by twenty-three, could you die? (Sings and exits into dining room.) "Oh, give me room lots of room, under starry skies . . ."

(PAUL enters through the front door. He is her male counterpart, same age. He's a copywriter at an ad agency, on the Way Up and also a little bored. He looks around the room and out the window.)