

Excerpt from HEAD OF HOUSE

JODY

You look good in that hat.

WINSTON

(Takes in the compliment) My teeth hurt.

JODY

You just had them adjusted. (Beat) Then don't wear them. If you don't smile, no one will notice. (Beat) I bet you're not even wearing them now. I knew you sounded funny. Did you even put them in this morning?

WINSTON

I like this hat. I look good in this hat. (Checks it out in the mirror (faces the audience), then models it for her. Trying to stop her from scolding.)

JODY

You are still a handsome man.

WINSTON

What good does it do me! Nothing works.

JODY

Nothing works?

WINSTON

The plumbing. (Pause). It doesn't. Do it. I can't do Nothing. I can't salute.

JODY

Oh, Dad. Too much information. Stop changing the subject.

WINSTON

You never visit. You didn't come last Thursday.

JODY

I visit you every week. I had to go to the dentist! (Beat) Dad, there are lots of white-haired ladies looking for a little company. You just have to not be so grumpy all the time.