

**JOHNNY AND KEENTZ**

**SCENE TWO**

*Johnny runs onstage.*

JOHNNY

Jo! Where are you? Come back, Jo!

*Keentz's voice off-stage, yelling:*

SENATOR KEENTZ

Johnny, do I hear you yelling there in the distance?

JOHNNY

Senator? IS THAT YOU?

*Keentz enters in a state of disarray.*

SENATOR KEENTZ

My boy! Thank goodness I found you! I'm running from the paparazzi!

JOHNNY

*(sullen)*

Oh fudge the paparazzi! Senator, I've lost the only woman I've ever loved.

SENATOR KEENTZ

No need to be snippy. I am also in an unpleasant mood, Johnny. The antiwar movement is dead and immigration is after me for employing undocumented Mexican prostitutes. I never thought to ask if they had work visas. Do you have whiskey, my boy?

JOHNNY

No, Senator.

SENATOR KEENTZ

That's unfortunate. I would very much like to be inebriated.

JOHNNY

Gee, Senator, I'm so sorry about everything.

SENATOR KEENTZ

It isn't your fault, Johnny.

JOHNNY

Actually, maybe it is. It was Jo who filmed you for the Wolfhound Network, Senator.

SENATOR KEENTZ

What, the innocent looking screaming girl? Oh the treachery!

## JOHNNY AND KEENTZ

JOHNNY

But she didn't mean it! She was sort of tricked into it by my father's news network!

SENATOR KEENTZ

*(getting mystical)*

I should have foreseen this. Our destiny lies with Professor Doctor Schmock.

*Pause. Keentz sits on a curb.*

JOHNNY

Huh? *(Joining Keentz on the curb.)* Jo and I got into a fight. I told her about my secret. She was real upset.

SENATOR KEENTZ

Oh, Johnny. We all have secrets. I have more secrets than you could possibly imagine.

JOHNNY

What does that mean, Senator?

SENATOR KEENTZ

It means I belong to a secret society: the Ancient Brotherhood of Pipelayers. Your father was the Grand Master Pipelayer, before he quit many years ago to pursue his own agenda. The President is also an active member.

JOHNNY

Are you making this up?

SENATOR KEENTZ

No, Johnny, it's time for you to know the truth. The Brotherhood of Pipelayers were charged to guard Holland's renewables until their predestined time of release, when they would travel on secret conductors—the sacred secret Pipes of the Pipelayers—to fulfill a great and Secret Plan of Renewal.

JOHNNY

What happens then?

SENATOR KEENTZ

Well, Johnny, the Secret Plan of Renewal was known only by the Grand Master Pipelayer.

JOHNNY

*(realizing)*

My father ...

SENATOR KEENTZ

**JOHNNY AND KEENTZ**

Your daddy.

JOHNNY

So what are we going to do now, Senator?

SENATOR KEENTZ

Johnny, whenever I am confronted by my own personal failures, I like to drink myself into a stupor. I suggest that you join me.

JOHNNY

I can't. I've got to find Jo!

SENATOR KEENTZ

Very well, Johnny: Do you know what this unusual contraption is?

*Keentz hands Johnny a device.*

JOHNNY

It looks like a cell phone.

SENATOR KEENTZ

Well, you should use it like one and call Jo. Dial 37093.

JOHNNY

That's not enough numbers, Senator.

SENATOR KEENTZ

Ha, ha, ha. Life is a mystery, Johnny. Embrace it now or you'll pay the price later (*Beat.*)  
Soon, I will see you again.

*Keentz exits. Johnny dials. Phone rings repeatedly.*