

## PEACHES AND WHITE LIGHTENING SIDE 1

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*Herman and Bonnie are seated on opposite sides of his desk in the bank.*

### HERMAN

I asked you to come down here because I need to talk to you about something very important. Times are hard and as you well know.

Our house is busting at the seams. Those boys are growing out of their clothes as we speak not to mention how the food is disappearing before Mildred can get it out of the grocery bag. Two loaves of bread disappear before you can say jackrabbit. The other day Mildred bought a peck of peaches and they were gone in two hours. I don't remember eating like that when I was their age. And the girls are too young to be much help around the house. Mildred and I have been talking and we realize your situation. It's out of respect for your father that we have taken you in. It is too bad the city schools had to cut their budget and eliminate Latin from the curriculum. Vini vini vini who needs it anyway. Latin's a dead language.

### BONNIE

You didn't pass Latin did you? It's not vini.vini vini. It's Veni, Vidi, Vici. You don't know what it means? It means "I came, I saw, I conquered."

### HERMAN

Whatever, and who cares. You know what I mean. Actually as I said Latin is a dead language.

### BONNIE

Yes, Mea fortuna est – "It's just my luck" I knew it was coming. Students began dropping out to find work to help support their families and they said nobody was interested in learning Latin anyway.

### HERMAN

You sound like a broken record. Can't you get it in your head? Latin is a dead language. Who needs it?

### BONNIE

Our whole civilization is based on Latin. I would even venture to say our whole economic condition today is based on people not taking Latin and not getting a proper education.

**HERMAN**

Be that as it may. Due to the 29 crash and your Father's indebtedness when he died you have a money problem.

**BONNIE**

You don't think I know that? But that's not my fault I trusted Father about financial decisions. I don't know anything about those kinds of things. I just know Latin and Aristotle and History and important things *She says very proudly* I graduated Magna Cum Laud you know *PAUSE* I was counting on his money to get me through the rest of my life. *PAUSE* I don't know how to be poor

**HERMAN**

*Getting up* Well you better learn cause you are! You've got to get a job and help us out with expenses. I know we're cousins *pause* twice removed and blood is thicker than water and all those things but we're talking about survival here.

**BONNIE**

If that's the way you feel about it. I've always taught. What do you think I should do - get a job in some dirty joint washing dishes or maybe somebody's maid and scrub floors? Surely with my education I can find something better than that.

**HERMAN**

Like what? Today jobs don't grow on trees especially if you're a woman.

**BONNIE**

*'This thought comes to her.* Well when I was in college, I worked here for Father in the summers. I was a substitute for the regular tellers on vacation.

**HERMAN**

That's right. I did too.

**BONNIE**

But look at you. You're the President now - thanks to Father. *Sarcastic.*