

I'll Never Be Hungry Again

Synopsis:

David is a black grad student at the University of Michigan who has been assigned to read *Gone With The Wind* for a Southern Lit class. But David doesn't want to read any novel about "white crackers getting rich off the sweat of their black brethren" so he puts it off until the night before the test. Then, under the influence of too much partying and too little sleep, David passes out in the middle of the story only to wake up and find himself at Terra Firma, the plantation home of Starlett O'Hara. It's only a wild, *crazy-ass* dream, right? Or is it? David begins to wonder as he gets pulled into the plot of America's most famous romance... slightly skewed and fraught with musical zaniness. Will Starlett and that scoundrel Whet Butler ever hook up? Is Smelanie Hamilton *really* that sweet? Can Whammy teach Sissy how to tap? All these questions and a zillion more you never thought to ask... well, they won't be answered, but who cares? We'll worry about that tomorrow...

Cast: (in order of appearance)

David – a black grad student at the University of Michigan who hates *Gone With The Wind* almost as much as he hates Ohio State...

Starlett O'Hara – a beautiful, spoiled Southern belle who is determined to marry Ghastly Wilkes – *and* eat three squares a day...

Emerald O'Hara – Starlett's father and the owner of Terra Firma. Emerald is *very* proud of his Irish heritage and can't understand why everybody doesn't want to be a mick...

Whammy – Starlett's black mammy and the conscience she never had. Whammy's not fooled by anyone – much to Starlett's chagrin...

Ghastly Wilkes – Starlett's neighbor, the owner of Two Dozen Magnolias. Ghastly lusts after Starlett, is married to Smelanie and is disgustingly noble, honorable and good...

Smelanie Hamilton – Ghastly's four-eyed, goody two-shoes wife and Starlett's most stalwart defender. The epitome of "the Southern lady"...

Sissy – a simple-minded slave wench with a high, irritating voice and piercing scream that makes you yearn for the days of silent film...

Whet Butler – a handsome scoundrel with a horrible reputation and a way with women. He usually gets what he wants – and he wants Starlett O'Hara...

Swell Watling – Atlanta's most famous "woman of the night" and Whet's friend.

Stank Kennedy – Starlett's extremely unattractive second husband. In his spare time, Frank likes to parade around in a white sheet and pillowcase

NOTE:

The actor playing **DAVID** also plays **SISSY**

The actor playing **EMERALD** also plays **GHASTLY** and **STANK**

The actor playing **WHET** also plays **WHAMMY**

The actor playing **SMELANIE** also plays **SWELL**

ACT I

Scene 1

SETTING: *A chair and desk representing a college dorm room at the University of Michigan.*

AT RISE: *The stage is dark. In the darkness we hear the intro music to “The Twilight Zone” followed by this “public service” announcement...*

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

What you are about to witness is a dream, a musical nightmare brought on by too much partying, too little sleep and way too many mocha lattes. It is a wild, *crazy-ass* dream... and if you’re not careful, one day it could happen to you...

(Spot on DAVID standing center wearing a University of Michigan sweatshirt. He is holding a book, Margaret Mitchell’s “Gone With the Wind”.)

This is David. David is a grad student at the University of Michigan. David is black.

(DAVID raises a fist in the air.)

DAVID

Say it proud!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

In order to get his degree, David was required take a class in Southern literature, a class which required him to read a certain book. Show them the book, David...

(DAVID holds up the book.)

That’s right. Margaret Mitchell’s “Gone with the Wind”, an epic tale of The Old South. But David didn’t want to read it, did you, David?

(DAVID shakes his head.)

You see David believes that “Gone with the Wind” is a story about – and I quote – “white crackers gettin’ rich off the sweat of their black brethren...” Isn’t that right, David?

DAVID

Pretty much...

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

So, instead of reading his assigned book, the book over which he will be *tested*, a test he will have to pass in order to *graduate*... David went to a football game.

DAVID

The Michigan – Ohio State game! And Michigan *kicked their ass*...!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And after the game he went out to celebrate with his friends. And he partied. And he danced...

(DAVID *starts dancing*.)

And it wasn't until three o'clock in the morning – on *Sunday* morning – that David remembered he had a test on “Gone with the Wind” first thing *Monday* morning.

(DAVID *stops dancing as if he just remembered something*.)

DAVID

Oh shit! Gotta go!

(*Spot out on DAVID*.)

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

What David failed to realize was that “Gone with the Wind” is a long, *long* book...

(*Lights up in the dorm room reveal DAVID seated at his desk looking at the last page of the book*.)

DAVID

One thousand and thirty-seven pages...?!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

So, David began reading...

(DAVID *starts flipping through the book rapidly*.)

Or should I say “skimming”? Until, at last, his eyes refused to stay open – and he passed out.

(*David's head hits the desk*.)

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And this is where our tale begins...

(BLACKOUT! We hear the thundering overture of GWTW. Spot on STARLETT briefly, twirling center like Fraulein Maria on a mountain top. As soon as Tara's Theme starts we hear the recording "scratch" and another BLACKOUT! Beat.)

STARLETT

Hey! Hey, you! Get up!

(Lights up reveal that the scene has shifted to the exterior of Terra Firma, a Southern plantation circa 1861. DAVID is passed out on the porch steps. STARLETT is standing next to him, nudging him with her foot. DAVID doesn't move. Finally she kicks him.)

I said *get up!*

(DAVID sits up.)

DAVID

Ow! Who the hell are you?

STARLETT

Who do you think?

DAVID

I have no idea. You look like you jumped off the top of a wedding cake...

STARLETT

I'm Starlett O'Hara and you need to get changed for the barbecue. C'mon!

(She pulls him up.)

DAVID

Wait a minute! Hold on a second! What barbecue? What's going on here?

STARLETT

It's pretty obvious. You're having a wild, *crazy-ass* dream and I'm the star of it.

(She tries to grab his arm again but he pulls away.)

DAVID

What am I dreaming about?

(She picks up the book and shows it to him.)

DAVID (cont.)

No way.

STARLETT

Way. Now get going. We haven't got all night.

DAVID

Are you saying I'm part of this dream? I'm an actual character in this story?

STARLETT

That's right.

DAVID

Who? Who am I?

STARLETT

It's a surprise. Now hurry up and get in your costume. There's a barbecue tomorrow at Two Dozen Magnolias and we'll need you there.

DAVID

Two Dozen Magnolias?

STARLETT

That's the plantation next door where Ghastly Wilkes lives. Ghastly and I are in *love*. In fact, Pa's over there visiting this very minute and I'll bet you anything that Ghastly's asking him for my hand in marriage. Isn't that exciting...?

(We hear the sound of galloping hooves.)

Listen. That's Pa coming now! Go on – hurry up!

(She pushes DAVID off. Enter EMERALD astride a stick horse. The horse "rears up" and whinnies. EMERALD pulls up and dismounts in front of STARLETT.)

EMERALD

Whoa, my beauty! There's none in the county can touch you, nor in the state!

STARLETT

Thanks. Pa.

EMERALD

I was talkin' to me horse.

STARLETT

Oh. Pa, how's everything over at Two Dozen Magnolias? Did you see Ghastly?

EMERALD

I did, indeed, daughter. In fact, it's some news I have for you. Ghastly Wilkes is goin' to be married...

(STARLETT *throws up her arms jubilantly.*)

STARLETT

Yes!

EMERALD

... to Smelanie Hamilton.

STARLETT

No! Smelanie Hamilton? But, Pa – Ghastly's in love with me!

EMERALD

That may be true but he's *marryin'* Smelanie Hamilton. So find yourself someone *else* to marry, daughter. Then when I die, I'll leave Terra Firma to you.

STARLETT

Terra Firma? What would I do with that pile of dirt?

EMERALD

Dirt?! Do you mean to tell me, Katie Starlett O'Hara, that Terra Firma means nothin' more to you than a pile of dirt? Why, to anyone with a drop of Irish in them, the land is everything! The only thing worth workin' for! Worth fightin' for! Worth dyin' for!

(*They turn their backs to the audience and stand in silhouette.*)

(*STARLETT sings a snippet of "Tara's Theme" then they both turn around and resume.*)

STARLETT

Pa, you're talking like an Irish mick.

EMERALD

I *am* an Irish mick, you muttonhead. Now, Starlett, that's enough talk about marriage and barbecues. Let's be goin' in the house. No doubt your mother, Mrs. O'Hara, will be wantin' to say the rosary...

(*EMERALD "mounts" his horse, waits for the sound of galloping hooves, then gallops off.*)

STARLETT

He was no help at all. Maybe I should ask Mother what to do...no! She would faint if she knew I was chasing after an engaged man. But if I can't ask Mother, who can I turn to?

EMERALD (O.S.)

Katie Starlett O'Hara! Come inside now, daughter! We're goin' to be startin' the night prayers!

STARLETT

Prayers?

(We hear the "ding" of a "light bulb".)

What a good idea! I'll pray. I've never tried *that* before.

(STARLETT kneels down and makes the sign of the cross.)

HELLO GOD, IT'S ME, STARLETT
OH MY GOD, I'VE HAD A ROTTEN DAY
BUT THEN, YOU'RE *GOD* - YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT IT
PLEASE GOD, COULD YOU SHOW ME THE WAY

WHEN I WAS JUST A LITTLE GIRL
MOTHER TAUGHT ME HOW TO PRAY
SHE TAUGHT ME HOW TO CROSS MYSELF
SHE TAUGHT ME WHAT TO SAY
BUT NOW HER WORDS HAVE FAILED ME
MY MINDS IN DISARRAY
IF GHASTLY MARRIES SMELANIE
THERE'S GONNA BE HELL TO PAY!

SO HELP ME GOD! HELP KATIE STARLETT
MY WORLD WAS SUNNY, NOW IT'S DARK AND GREY
GHASTLY LOVES ME, HOW COULD I EVER DOUBT IT?
AND HE KNOWS I FEEL THE SAME WAY

WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S NOT SO
MAYBE GHASTLY DOESN'T KNOW
I'VE NEVER TOLD HIM HOW I FEEL
HE MAY NOT KNOW MY LOVE'S FOR REAL

I FLIRT WITH ALL THOSE OTHER MEN
HE MAY THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH THEM

STARLETT (cont.)

AND IF HE CANNOT MARRY ME
HE'LL MARRY PLAIN OL' SMELANIE
I HAVE TO LET HIM KNOW SOMEHOW
BEFORE HE MAKES HIS WEDDING VOW...

(She thinks for a moment, then the "ding" of a "light bulb" is heard.)

I'LL TELL HIM THAT I LOVE HIM TRUE
TOMORROW AT THE BARBECUE
AND WITH THOSE WORDS HE'LL REALIZE
HE WANTS ME – STARLETT – FOR HIS BRIDE

(She kneels down.)

HEY THERE, GOD! IT'S ME – STARLETT!
THANK YOU, GOD, FOR ALL YOUR HELP TODAY
GHASTLY LOVES ME – I JUST WANT TO SHOUT IT
BUT I'LL WAIT FOR TOMORROW...
TOMORROW'S GONNA BE MY DAY

(She crosses herself again. DAVID enters.)

DAVID

Hey, listen, I need to... Are you praying?

(STARLETT, ignoring him, stands up and exits off.)

Wait! I need to talk to you about this barbecue thing...

(STARLETT comes back on pulling a four-poster bed onstage with dresses flung all over it.)

STARLETT

Come here and help me with this...

(DAVID crosses and helps her pull the bed on.)

DAVID

See, I think there's been a mistake...

(STARLETT turns her back to him.)

STARLETT
Now take off my dress.

DAVID
Whoa! Excuse me?

STARLETT
Relax. It's not *that* kind of dream.

DAVID
Oh.

(He starts getting her out of her dress.)

So, anyway, about this barbecue...

STARLETT
The barbecue is *today*. Where's your costume?

DAVID
That's what I want to talk to you about. See, I think there's been some sort of mistake...

STARLETT
The only mistake is you not getting in your costume.

(She tosses her dress on the bed.)

Now get going!

(DAVID exits, confused. STARLETT calls off in the opposite direction.)

Whammy! Whammy!

WHAMMY! GET UP HERE
I NEED TO BE LACED

(Enter WHAMMY with a tray of food.)

WHAMMY

SOME FOLK THINKS AH KIN FLY...
HEAH IS YO' VITTLES
NOW, DOAN MAKE DAT FACE

STARLETT

NO – I WON'T EAT A BITE

WHAMMY

YAS'M YOU IS!

STARLETT

NO, I'M NOT!
TAKE IT BACK TO THE KITCHEN

WHAMMY

YAS'M YOU IS – EVE'Y BITE
SO YOU'S JES STOP YO' BITCHIN'!

STARLETT

WHAMMY!

WHAMMY

OOPS!

STARLETT

NOW, WHAMMY, I MEAN IT!
I'M GONNA DO MY EATING AT THE BARBECUE

WHAMMY

NOW, MISS STARLETT...
AH AIN' RAISED YOU FO' TER EAT
LAK NO FIEL' HAN'

STARLETT

OH, WHAMMY!

WHAMMY

AN' AH AIN' RAISED YOU
FO' TER GOBBLE LAK A HOG

STARLETT

FIDDLE-DEE-DEE!

WHAMMY

SO'S DOAN BE PLANNIN' ON BEHAVIN'
LAK YOU AIN' GOT GOOD RAISIN'
LAK SOME MICK...
JES OUTTA DA BOG!

STARLETT

BUT WHAMMY...
I'M SO TIRED OF PRETENDING
I DON'T LIKE TO EAT
IT'S SILLY
IT'S STUPID
IT'S REALLY ABSURD

WHAMMY

AH DONE TOL' YOU AN' TOLE YOU
DOES AH HAF TER REPEAT?
DAT A LADY
ALLUS EAT
LAK A BIRD

STARLETT

LIKE A BIRD?
WHO MADE THAT RULE?

WHAMMY

MOS' LAK A MAN

STARLETT

THAT MAN'S A FOOL!
BESIDES, WHAMMY...
GHASTLY SAYS HE LIKES A GIRL
WITH A HEALTHY APPETITE

WHAMMY

HE AIN' AXIN' FO' TER MAH'Y YOU...

(STARLETT *whirls in anger.*)

WOAN YOU JES TEK A BITE?

STARLETT

MAYBE LATER
FIRST COME HERE
AND LACE ME UP TIGHT

WHAMMY

WHUT MAH LAM' GWINE WEAR?

(STARLETT *points to the dress on the bed.*)

STARLETT

THAT DRESS RIGHT OVER THERE...

WHAMMY

NO'M YOU AIN'!

STARLETT

YES I AM!

WHAMMY

DAT DRESS IS WAY TOO LOW CUT

STARLETT

YES I...!

WHAMMY

(Interrupting)

NO'M YOU AIN'!
CUZ YOU'LL LOOK LAK A SLUT!

STARLETT

WHAMMY!

WHAMMY

OOPS!
MISS STARLETT
IF YOU WEAR DAT DRESS
AH'M GWINE TELL MISS ELLEN

STARLETT

NO YOU WON'T!

WHAMMY

YAS'M AH WILL
AN' YOU KNOW SHE'LL START YELLIN'

STARLETT

Whammy, you say one word to Mother and I won't eat a bite.

WHAMMY

AWRIGHT, MISS STARLETT
AH GIVE UP – YOU WIN
AH GUESS DAT DRESS IS LESS A SIN

AH SWEAR, CHILE
YOU GWINE BE MAH DEAF'
NOW HOLE ONNER SOME'N
AN' SUCK IN YO' BREAFF'

(STARLETT *grabs onto one of the posts on the bed and freezes.*
WHAMMY *grabs both corset strings, then addresses the audience.*)

WHAMMY (cont.)

NOW, SOME FOLK THINK DAT
DARKIES IN DA SOUTH GOT IT ROUGH
AN' PICKIN COTTON IN DA FIEL'S
DAWN TER DUSK CAN BE TOUGH

BUT AH'M WHAMMY – AN' AH HOLE DA STRINGS
AH SAY WHEN ENOUGH'S ENOUGH
AN' WHEN DER SASSY
LAK DIS HEAH LASSY
AH'M IN CHARGE – AH CALL HER BLUFF

Miss Starlett, you ready ter eat some vittles now?

STARLETT

I told you. I'm gonna do my eating at the barbecue!

(WHAMMY *yanks the corset strings.*)

Ugh!! All right! All right! I'll eat! Just stop pulling!

(STARLETT *starts putting on her dress.*)

Why does a girl have to act so silly just to catch a husband?

WHAMMY

DER ARE RULES DAT YOU MUST FOLLOW

WHAMMY/STARLETT

IF YOU WANT TO CATCH A MAN

STARLETT

YOU MUST ACT SILLY
YOU MUST ACT STUPID

WHAMMY

DEN DAT LITTLE FELLOW CUPID
WILL LEND A HAN'
NEBER RUN!

STARLETT

ALWAYS WALK!

WHAMMY

ALLUS LISTEN!

STARLETT

NEVER TALK!

WHAMMY/STARLETT

ALL THESE RULES MUST BE OBEYED

WHAMMY

DOAN LET 'EM KNOW YOU HAB MO' SENSE

STARLETT

THAT THEY ARE SLOW AND THEY ARE DENSE

WHAMMY/STARLETT

AND YOU'LL AVOID BEING CALLED...OLD MAID!

*(STARLETT hops on the bed and WHAMMY pushes her offstage.
DAVID enters wearing a dress and carrying a doo-rag. He crosses
to center and looks balefully at the audience then at himself. He taps
his feet together three times a la Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz...)*

DAVID

There's no place like home, there's no place like home, there's no place like home...

(He looks around. Beat.)

DAVID (cont.)

Shit...

(He puts on his doo-rag. WHAMMY enters carrying a tray.)

WHAMMY

Oh, dere you is. Heah...

(She gives the tray to DAVID.)

Now get to work, Sissy.

DAVID

Who you calling a sissy?

WHAMMY

You, fool. Dat's yo' name. Doan weah it out.

DAVID

But...

WHAMMY

No "buts". Jes' start servin' dem drinks. It's barbecue time!

(WHAMMY shoves the newly-christened Sissy off and follows behind her. GHASTLY and SMELANIE enter arm-in-arm. A pocket-sized book tied to a ribbon is draped around Smelanie's neck. It is her "Southern Girl's Guide To Being A Lady".)

SMELANIE

Oh, Ghastly, Two Dozen Magnolias is so beautiful. No wonder you love it so.

GHASTLY

Yes, Smelanie. Two Dozen Magnolias is a special place, but it's no more than any rich, white man deserves.

SMELANIE

And what a splendid day for the barbecue. Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves.

GHASTLY

I couldn't have done it without you, my dear.