

### **Audition for DNA: DESPERATELY NUTTY ANCESTORS**

*In this mini-scene (from the start of Act II) Eddie, a descendant of Edgar Allan Poe, will revert to the famous author's fictional Detective Dupin. Molly is a descendant of the unsinkable Molly Brown and Donny is a cowboy, like his ancestor Davy Crockett.*

*(The following excerpt may be used royalty free for auditions or classroom work.)*

**EDDIE:** *(To Audience.)* Here I am, hiding out in a crummy, dingy basement with bugs crawling around and rats nibbling on leftovers. I don't deserve to end my poor life this way! All right...so I took the jewelry out of the chest. But how could Joan of Arc's whatever know that? Unless...unless he was watching. Maybe there was a spy cam in the room. But then he'd know I didn't have anything to do with Ivana Trembell's death. Unless...unless...I passed out and then killed her. No, maybe I killed her and then passed out. But I don't carry poison around with me. And why would I kill her in the first place? She was the criminal! She stole the jewels from Mrs. Crumstickle! *(EDDIE stands straighter.)* My spirit slowly, inexorably renewed itself. I felt my heart lift! I knew what had to be done! I had to face Detective Earp. I had to tell her the truth! The truth would set me free!

**DONNY'S VOICE:** Maybe I can hide out down here!

**MAGGIE VOICE:** Worth a try, partner!

**EDDIE:** *(To Audience.)* Yikes! I don't want to face the music just yet!

*(EDDIE runs off as DONNY and MAGGIE enter SR.)*

**MAGGIE:** Jumpin' jimminies! This place gives me the creeps!

**DONNY:** Ain't exactly the Buckley Hotel.

**MAGGIE:** Where's that?

**DONNY:** Beaver Bend, Kentucky. Nicest setup in town. They even got a honeymoon suite.

**MAGGIE:** Go on!

**DONNY:** It's got a fireplace and a Zamboni.

**MAGGIE:** You mean a Jacuzzi?

**DONNY:** One of those Italian things.

**MAGGIE:** *(Coyly.)* Sounds...romantic.

**DONNY:** Why're you lookin' at me all funny like that?

**MAGGIE:** No special reason. Gee, they'll probably think I helped you steal all that jewelry.

**DONNY:** You didn't!

**MAGGIE:** I know. You stole it all yourself.

**DONNY:** No, I never! I never touched her stuff. What would I want with old jewelry?

**MAGGIE:** You could give it to your special girl.

**DONNY:** I don't got a special girl, Maggie. I'm a lone wolf.

**MAGGIE:** Oh, go on!

**DONNY:** And I'm sure sorry you got all mixed up in this. It could end just like the Alamo. That detective might have a gun. And she might use it.

**MAGGIE:** Donny, I'm from hardy frontier stock, too! My Great-Great-Great-Aunt Molly toughed it out in Leadville, Colorado 'fore she found her fortune! 'N then she personally saved everybody on the *Titanic*.

**DONNY:** Wow! That makes the Alamo sound like a Sunday school picnic.

**MAGGIE:** I'm just sayin' we can handle a lil' pea-pickin' detective like Wendy Earp.

*(EDDIE enters SL.)*

**EDDIE:** *(To Audience.)* I suddenly felt...someone taking over every fiber of my being...someone who liked to eat snails and French fries with mayonnaise. *(To MAGGIE.)* Pardonez-moi, Mademoiselle.

**MAGGIE:** Eddie?

**EDDIE:** No, mon cher...

**DONNY:** Cher? Where's Cher? Is she here, too?

**EDDIE:** Non, non, non...merely an expression. I am zee great fictional detective Auguste Dupin who solved zee murders in zee Rue Morgue and found zee purloined letter.

**DONNY:** You sure look like Eddie.

**MAGGIE:** I think it's a trap, Donny. I say we tie him up, gag him, and toss him over there with the toilet paper.

**EDDIE:** Please, I do not zink eizer of you harmed zees Madame Trembell.

**DONNY:** Good, 'cause we didn't!

**MAGGIE:** And Donny didn't steal her jewelry, neither.

**EDDIE:** Exactemant.

**DONNY:** Somebody set me up 'n they're milkin' it for all that it's worth.

**EDDIE:** Ah! Zay zat again!

**DONNY:** Zay zat? What's he talking about?

**EDDIE:** Zay what you just said again.

**DONNY:** (*Repeating.*) Zay zat? What's he talking about?

**EDDIE:** Not zat! Before zat!

**DONNY:** Gosh, that's so far back I can't remember it!

**EDDIE:** Ah, zen we are doomed.

**MAGGIE:** You said something about milking it, Donny. Made me think of Clarabelle, my cow.

**DONNY:** You got a cow?

**MAGGIE:** Sure, do! Fresh cream 'n milk every day.

**DONNY:** Go on!

**EDDIE:** Milk! Zat eeze it!

**DONNY:** Who's got a zit?

**EDDIE:** Non, non, non, don't you zee? It was in zee milk!

**MAGGIE:** What was?

**DONNY:** I got it! Zee poison was in zee milk!

**EDDIE:** You are beginning to zink like me!

**MAGGIE:** Well, stop it or I won't be able to understand either of you.

**EDDIE:** But if zee poison was in zee milk, we must find zat glass to prove it, zen figure out who put zee poison in zee glass!

**DONNY:** How we gonna do that?

**EDDIE:** (*As himself.*) I dunno.

**MAGGIE:** Hey, where's Inspector Duppy?  
**EDDIE:** Dupin? He comes when he wants....  
**DONNY:** And beats it when the going gets tough.  
**MAGGIE:** At least we got something, don't we?  
**DONNY:** Sure! Sure, we do! We gotta get that glass.  
**MAGGIE:** And maybe the killer's fingerprints will be on the  
glass!  
**DONNY:** Go ahead, Eddie.  
**EDDIE:** Go ahead what?  
**DONNY:** It was your idea; go on 'n get the glass.  
**EDDIE:** Me? Why do I have to go?  
**MAGGIE:** 'Cause you're the smartest.  
**EDDIE:** (*Proudly.*) Yeah?  
**MAGGIE:** 'Course you are!  
**DONNY:** But we'll be right behind you.  
**EDDIE:** Promise?  
**DONNY:** Scout's honor... 'n that's powerful stuff comin' from  
a long line of frontier scouts.  
**EDDIE:** (*To Audience.*) Reassured by my backup team, I  
shook off the horrors of the basement and headed  
upstairs.

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