

BEAU

1-8-40

44

MAME (Cont'd)
Excuse me, Sir. Are you right-handed?

BEAU

START → Yes.

MAME

Maybe we'd better start with the left.
(MAME pulls up a stool, searches
for BEAU's left hand. She starts
to file)

BEAU

(Suddenly)
I'd like to see the young lady who is doing my nails.

(GREGOR quickly unswirls the
towel from his face, switches
the chair to an upright position,
and goes off.

MAME and BEAU are face-to-face
for the first time, and holding
hands. MAME stares at him, for he
is handsome, amiable, a hell of a
guy)

MAME

(Flustered)
Am I doing something wrong?

BEAU

No, Ma'am! You have a very delicate touch, Miss Dennis --
is that your name?

MAME

(Staring at him)
Yes, Mr. --

BEAU

Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside.

MAME

(Still holding his hand)
I'm certainly glad to know you. I'd shake your hand, but
I'm already shaking.

(They laugh. MAME starts to file
away at his nails. BEAU winces
slightly)

Oh. Did I get too close to the quick?

BEAU

1-8-41

45

BEAU

Oh not at all, down South, we all lean to short nails.

MAME

(Dreamily)

The South. All that lovely, lost elegance.

BEAU

Not completely lost, Ma'am. You'd just love Peckerwood.

MAME

Peckerwood? Who's Peckerwood?

BEAU

That's the name of my plantation.
(He winces)

MAME

I hurt you again!

BEAU

Did you. I honest-to-gosh didn't notice.

MAME

(Dipping his left hand into water
and moving her stool to his right
side)

You're so friendly and nice, I've just got to tell you the
truth.

(Lowering her voice)

Madame told a big fib. I'm not her "most experienced
manicurist." I just started. You're my first customer.

BEAU

Well, I'm honored, Ma'am. My hands are takin' a maiden
voyage.

MAME

What a lovely thing to say.

(She keeps on filing, but stares
into his face)

BEAU

It comes more or less natural sayin' lovely things to a
lovely lady.

MAME

Oh, what would your wife do if she heard you say that?

BEAU

Oh, she'd raise tarnation. If I had a wife. Which I don't.

(MAME files faster)

But I've got practically every other kind of relative that's
been invented.

BEAU

1-8-42

46

MAME

Are they all as nice as you?

BEAU

You just oughta come down Georgia-way and meet us all one day.

MAME

Why, I'd love to meet you all.

(MADAME BRANISLOWSKI enters)

MADAME

How are we enjoying our manicure, Sir?

BEAU

It's an extraordinary experience.

MADAME

(Staring at his hands, horrified)

Oh! This customer is bleeding!

BEAU

Nothing, really -- just a tiny little old scratch --

MADAME

Nothing!

(The MADAME clutches BEAU's hand, pulling him out of the barber chair)

I've never seen anything so horrible! Gregor, look!

(GREGOR rushes on. MADAME brandishes BEAU's hand almost as if it were disconnected from his body)

The fingertip is almost gone!

MAME

(To BEAU)

I'm terribly sorry! I didn't mean to hurt you.

MADAME

(Imperiously, to MAME)

Out, out! Turn in your smock!

BEAU

(As he is dragged off)

It's honestly my fault. I distracted her. This little lady was doing an absolutely bang-up job.

(MAME takes off her smock, reaches offstage for her coat and floppy hat)

STOP →

