

BOTH
 JUST TURN TO YOUR BOSOM BUDDY
 FOR AID AND AFFECTION
 FOR HELP AND DIRECTION
 FOR LOYALTY, LOVE
 AND FORSOOTH
 REMEMBER THAT
 WHO ELSE BUT A BOSOM BUDDY
 WILL SIT DOWN AND LEVEL
 AND GIVE YOU THE DEVIL
 WILL SIT DOWN AND TELL YOU THE TRUTH!

(At the climax of the number, MAME
 and VERA collapse onto the couch.)

AGNES returns from the kitchen,
 with a bottle of Dr. Pepper)

MAME
 Vera, it's amazing. When I think of all the same men we
 dated, and still remained so inseparable.

VERA
 Mame! I never dated the same man you did.

MAME
 What about Carlo, that sexy Argentinian with all those
 shoulders?

VERA
 (Indignant)
 Carlo! I never dated Carlo. I married him, I never dated
 him.

(AGNES, fascinated by the conversa-
 tion, giggles. They both turn and
 look at her)

AGNES
 Oh, excuse me. But listening to you ladies makes me all
 goose-pimply. Y'see, I never had one.

VERA
 Never had one what?

AGNES
 A date. With a member of the opposite -- you-know-what.

(MAME and VERA look at each other
 and then each takes another long
 drink, simultaneously. Then they
 get an inspiration and get up.
 AGNES is baffled as the two women
 circle her)

Mrs. Burnside, is anything wrong?

MAME
 Agnes. You're coming out!

AGNES
 (Clutching the side of her dress)
 Where?

VERA
 (Taking off AGNES' glasses)
 Why, Gooch, you have lovely eyes. Take those glasses off
 and leave them off forever.

AGNES
 But, Miss Charles, I can't see anything out of my right eye.

VERA
 Who can? Look out of your left one!

MAME
 (Pointing to AGNES' shoes)
 What do you call those things?

AGNES
 Orthopedic oxfords.

MAME
 Kick 'em off.

(Baffled, AGNES complies. MAME
 pulls her dress tight)

My goodness, Agnes -- you do have a bust. Where have you
 been hiding it all these years?

(AGNES breaks away, cowering behind
 the couch)

All your clothes off, Agnes.

AGNES
 Mrs. Burnside! There's a man in the house.

MAME
 Don't be a goose, Agnes. Get these clothes off and keep
 them off.

(MAME and VERA peel off AGNES's
 clothes; she stands trembling in
 a shapeless slip. MAME calls)

Ito! Come in here. We've got some work to do.

(ITO scurries in from the kitchen)

AGNES
 I don't have a very clear picture of what's going on.

VERA

When we're through with you, honey, men will be breaking down your door.

AGNES

What about my virtue?

MAME

Virtue! There's nothing wrong with a harmless smooch.

AGNES

Oh, just the idea of it makes me so nervous, I could die.

MAME

Have a date first -- then die.
(MAME hands her a drink)
This'll calm you down.

AGNES

But spirits do the most terrible things to me. I'm not the same girl.

MAME

What's wrong with that?

AGNES

(Turning to VERA, the bibing expert)
Will it mix with Dr. Pepper?

VERA

(Emphatically)
He'll love it.

(AGNES drinks it all down in one
gulp. MAME slaps her face)

MAME

We really should do something about her complexion. For God's sake, Agnes, close your pores. Ito, go upstairs. Drag out that sexy gown I sent from Paris. And get all my cosmetics: face creams, eyebrow pencils, lipstick.

VERA

And a chisel.

(ITO, giggling, races up the stairs)

MAME

(Striking a pose)
Tonight, Agnes, you can be the Queen of Rumania!

(AGNES tries to imitate the regal
pose but immediately gives up, a
coward to the core)

AGNES

Mrs. Burnside, I think I know what you're suggesting I do -- and I just don't think I can do anything so -- suggestive.

MAME

Agnes, where's your spine? Here you've been living in the same house with me all these years, and you don't understand what I believe in. LIVE! That's what I believe.

AGNES

Live?

MAME

Yes! Life is a banquet, and most poor sons-of-bitches are starving to death! Live!

(LTO, at the head of the stairs, giggles, waving a pair of silk stockings like two banners)

AGNES

Live?

VERA

Live!

(Music starts)

MAME, AGNES, VERA

LIVE!!!

(AGNES races up the stairs, intoxicated by the idea)

MAME

You know you and I are the greatest team since Romulus and Remus.

VERA

I'm sure one of them was a fella!

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REPRISE: BOSOM BUDDIES

(Spoken)

I've patiently watched you for

(Sings)

YEARS WITH THOSE ASSININE PROJECTS OF YOURS
FROM ORPHANS TO HEALTH FOOD YOU'VE SEARCHED FOR A NICHE

MAME

I FEEL THAT MY SEARCH WILL BE OVER THE MOMENT I'VE
FINISHED MY BOOK
I'LL WRITE ABOUT US ... AND OF WHO IS THE BITCHIER
BITCH!