

*Setting: Colin's backyard. There is a chaise longue, a couple of deck chairs, a barbecue and an ice chest.*

MARCIE

*(Enters.)*

Hey, Colin, shouldn't you check the burgers?

COLIN

*(Enters.)*

Okay, okay, no panic. They have to be well done.

MARCIE

Oh no, they don't! You know I like mine rare.

LYDIA

*(Enters.)*

Sure, so you can get a jolt of E. coli or who-knows-what.

NANCY

Maybe foot-in-mouth disease.

MARCIE

If you really want to play it safe, we could stay right away from beef.

BOB

Yes, we could have a luau.

MARCIE

A what?

NANCY

I don't like fish.

LYDIA

Neither do I.

BOB

A luau — that's where you dig a hole in the ground, line it with hot rocks and palm leaves and then put a pig in it. The way they do it in Hawaii.

MARCIE

A whole pig?

BOB

Or half a one.

MARCIE

Where are you going to get the palm leaves? Have it shipped from Hawaii?

COLIN

And I'm not having anybody dig a hole in my backyard!

LYDIA

Besides, pork isn't any safer than beef.

NANCY

Definitely not.

LYDIA

Maybe we should try a vegetarian barbecue.

COLIN

Right, Lydia. You can do the honours... Barbecueing tofu, this I gotta see!

MARCIE

No need to be sarcastic, brother dear. Yes, there are one or two things you're not an expert on.

COLIN

No kidding! And I guess you know everything there is to know about —

NANCY

Cut it out, you guys! If Mom hears you squabbling like five-year-olds again, you know she'll be upset.

MARCIE

And where is she?

COLIN

Don't start worrying again.

BOB

Oh, I forgot to tell you. She called earlier — when you were out.

COLIN

What did she say?

BOB

She told me she may be a bit late. Something about having to finish a game.

LYDIA

When was this? You could have told us before we were burning the burgers.

MARCIE

To a crisp.

COLIN

Hey!

BOB

Sorry, I was tired. I had a little snooze when everyone was out shopping. And then I plumb forgot.

LYDIA

Snooze and booze. That's what beer does to you — makes you tired.

BOB

I wasn't —

MARCIE

Let's hope Mom will be here soon. I'm getting hungry.

COLIN

Sometimes a game of poker can go on all night.

NANCY

She doesn't play poker.

COLIN

Listen! That sounded like the front gate.

LYDIA

It'll be —

LYDIA & NANCY

*(Chorus.)*

— mother.

MARCIE

I hope she's not too tired. Amazing what she takes on at, what, 81?

COLIN

She's eighty-two.

LYDIA & NANCY

*(Chorus.)*

Eighty-one.

COLIN

You know very well she was born in nineteen hundred and twenty-three.

MARCIE

Her birthday is in December!

BOB

Here she is!

VARIOUS

Oh, my gosh! What's that? Good grief.

*MOTHER enters in full hockey gear, with in-line skates slung around her shoulders.*

COLIN

Mom!