

The Drowsy Chaperone JR.

PROLOGUE

START *(The theatre is dark. A voice from the stage addresses the waiting audience.)*

MAN IN CHAIR

I hate theatre. You know what I do when I'm sitting in a darkened theatre waiting for the show to begin? I pray. Please let it be a good show. And let it be short. And keep the actors out of the audience... I didn't pay good money to have the fourth wall come crashing down around my ears. I just want a story, and a few good songs that will take me away. I just want to be entertained. I mean, isn't that the point?

(Lights up.)

Oh, hello. How are we today? I'm feeling a little blue myself. You know, a little anxious for no particular reason. Anyway, whenever I'm feeling this way, blue, I like to listen to my music. So, I was going through my records this morning – yes, records – and what did I find—

(extracting a record)

—but one of my favorite shows Gable and Stein's *The Drowsy Chaperone*; Remember? It's the full show with the original cast including Beatrice Stockwell as the Chaperone. Isn't she elegant? And this is a full 15 years before she became Dame Beatrice Stockwell. Can you believe it? So. Would you... would you indulge me? Would you let me play the record for you now? I was hoping you would say yes. **END**

(MAN IN CHAIR puts the record on the record player. He places the needle.)