

## SIDE #6

(Script Pages: Top of p. 20 – middle of p. 21)

### (Professor Metz and Whiteside (with Bert, John, Maggie and Mrs. Stanley))

**Professor Metz is an old friend of Whiteside's, and one of the parade of eccentric visitors who visit him in the first act.**

(JOHN, who has answered the door, has ushered in a strange-looking little man in his fifties. His hair runs all over his head and his clothes are too big for him. JOHN carries a package which he places on table D.L.)

**METZ:** Sherry!

**WHITESIDE:** Metz! Metz, you incredible beetle-hound! What are you doing here?

**METZ:** *(Crossing to C. With a mild Teutonic accent.)* I explain, Sherry. First, I kiss my little Maggie.

**MAGGIE:** *(Crosses to C. Embracing him.)* Metz, darling, what a wonderful surprise!

**WHITESIDE:** The enchanted Metz! Jefferson, you are standing in the presence of Professor Adolph Metz, the world's greatest authority on insect life.

**BERT:** How do you do.

**METZ:** How do you do. Well, Sherry?

**WHITESIDE:** Metz, stop looking at me adoringly and tell me why you are here.

**METZ:** *(Crosses R to WHITESIDE. MAGGIE crosses down to the R. of couch.)* You are sick, Sherry, so I come to cheer you.

**WHITESIDE:** Jefferson, he lived for two years in a cave with nothing but plant lice. He rates three pages in the Encyclopedia Britannica. Don't you, my little hookworm?

**METZ:** Please, Sherry, you embarrass me. Look — *(Bringing stool at staircase to wheelchair. He motions to JOHN, who carries the package to stool L. of wheelchair. Package is in brown canvas cover.)* I said to my students: "Boys and girls, I want to give a present to my sick friend, Sheridan Whiteside." So you know what we did? We made for you a community of Periplaneta Americana, commonly known as the American cockroach. Behold, Sherry! Roach City! *(He strips off cover.)* Inside here are ten thousand cockroaches!

**JOHN:** Ten thousand — *(Headed for kitchen U.R. in great excitement.)* Sarah! Sarah! What do you think! *(Exits U.R.)*

**METZ:** And in one week, Sherry, if all goes well, there will be fifty thousand.

## SIDE #6

(Script Pages: Top of p. 20 – middle of p. 21)

- MAGGIE:** If all goes well —? What can go wrong? They're in there, aren't they?
- WHITESIDE:** *(Glaring at her.)* Quiet, please.
- METZ:** You can watch them, Sherry, while they live out their whole lives. Look! (JEFFERSON *crosses C.*) Here is their maternity hospital. It is fascinating. They do everything that human beings do.
- MAGGIE:** Well!
- WHITESIDE:** Please, Maggie, these are *my* cockroaches.
- MAGGIE:** Sorry. *(She crosses to back of WHITESIDE'S chair.)*
- WHITESIDE:** Go ahead, Metz.
- METZ:** With these earphones, Sherry, you listen to the mating calls. There are microphones down inside. *(JEFFERSON crosses to back of WHITESIDE'S chair.)* Listen! *(METZ has put earphones over WHITESIDE'S ears; he listens, rapt.)*
- WHITESIDE:** Hmmmmmm. How long has this been going on? *(MRS. STANLEY is seen descending stairs.)*
- METZ:** *(Sniffing, he crosses to R. and then C. Suddenly, his face lights up.)* Ah! *Periplaneta Americana!* There are cockroaches in this house! *(The last is addressed to MRS. STANLEY.)*
- MRS. STANLEY** *(Shocked into speech.)* I Beg your pardon! *(WHITESIDE hands earphones to METZ. JEFFERSON crosses D.R. The doorbell rings.)* Mr. Whiteside, I don't know who this man is, but I will not stand here and —
- WHITESIDE:** Then go upstairs.