

ACT II

P. 35 Stage Directions

Dressing-gown: According to Wikipedia, “a dressing gown or a housecoat is a loose, open-fronted gown closed with a fabric belt that is put on over nightwear on rising from bed, or, less commonly today, worn over some day clothes when partially dressed or undressed in the morning or evening.” It can be worn by both men and women.



A Sewing Pattern for a Women's Dressing Gown-Housecoat, ca 1940s

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Depot: a railroad or bus station; a place where buses, trains, or other vehicles are housed and maintained and from which they are dispatched for service.

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Twenty-five dollars: equivalent to \$274.61 in 2017

Hair shirt: a scratchy, uncomfortable shirt made of coarse animal hair, worn next to skin for as a self-imposed means of repentance and mortification of the flesh. It is often associated with martyrs, particularly from the various Christian traditions, and is worn during the Christian penitential season of Lent, especially on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and other Fridays of the Lenten season.

Another name for a hair shirt is a cilice or sackcloth. Sackcloth and ashes were used in Old Testament times as a symbol of debasement, mourning, and/or repentance. Someone wanting to show his repentant heart would often wear sackcloth, sit in ashes, and put ashes on top of his head. Sackcloth was a coarse material usually made of black goat's hair, making it quite uncomfortable to wear. The ashes signified desolation and ruin.



A Hair Shirt from the 19th century

Makes a statue out of him: puts him on a pedestal

Cast aspersions: to criticize someone or someone's character; to make a rude and insulting remark

Five cents: equivalent to \$.55 in 2017

Holy Family: in the Catholic religion, the Holy Family consists of the Child Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and Saint Joseph. The Child Jesus, also known as the Christ Child, the Divine Infant, Baby Jesus, Infant Jesus, the Holy Child, and Santo Niño, refers to Jesus Christ from his nativity to age 12. The Virgin Mary, also known by various other titles, styles and honorifics, was a 1st-century Galilean Jewish woman of Nazareth, and the mother of Jesus, according to the New Testament and the Quran. Saint Joseph is the foster-father of Jesus Christ and spouse of the Virgin Mary. Even though Joseph and Mary had at least six other children in addition to Jesus, only Jesus, Mary and Joseph are called the Holy Family.



Holy Family with Palm, painted in 1507 by Raphael

Broadcloth: in contrast to the hair shirt, an expensive woolen or cotton fabric with a lustrous finish.



Cary Grant, circa 1940s, in a Peak-lapel Glen Urquhart check suit, white broadcloth shirt, and zig-zag patterned tie

There were many available photos of broadcloth shirts from the 40s, but how could I not post this one?

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Medicine chest: a container or cabinet for storing medicine. In many households of that time, the medicine chest had modernized into a wall-mounted medicine cabinet, often found in the bathroom. The term “chest” was still used, just like “icebox” was still used for refrigerator. (Kate invites George to dinner on p. 49 of the script, saying that she has “a ham in the icebox”.)

Medicine cabinets were usually enameled metal and mounted on the wall above the sink in the bathroom. The cabinet door was the bathroom mirror, which opened to shallow shelves where prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines were stored.

**It's NORWICH check-up time
for your
medicine chest!**

Rx. Guard your family's health with these fine NORWICH PRODUCTS

PEPTO-BISMOL is frequently tested for relief of upset stomach, indigestion, nausea or diarrhea. Works where soda, saline and "laxative side" fail... has a soothing coating action in both the stomach and the intestinal tract.

PEPTO-BISMOL is the swiftest pain-relieving tablet that is chemically ready to work instantly, speeds to the site of pain, brings relief without stomach upset. It's the ideal solution between you and pain relief.

UNGUENTINE is a most first-aid dressing for cuts, scrapes, oil "bleisters," Warts or no cause or lacerated skin. Quickly relieves pain... guards against infection... promotes new free healing. Never stings or sticks.

I-BEST Nasal Spray quickly relieves a stuffy, itchy nose. Contains an antihistamine to prevent congestion from colds, hay fever, allergy.

NORWICH ASPIRIN gives fast relief for headache. No pain aspirin at any price. **NORWICH CHILDREN'S ASPIRIN** The 1/4 grain dosage makes administration. Has a sweet orange flavor children love.

OCUSOL EYE DROPS bring new sparkle to tired, bloodshot eyes... remove the irritation of "TV fatigue," overwork, driving, smoking. **OCUSOL EYE LOTION** wonderfully soothing and refreshing bath for the eyes.

Look for this **NORWICH DISPLAY** now at your favorite druggist's

NORWICH — Progress in Pharmaceuticals since 1890

A magazine ad from the late 40s-early 50s showing a wall-mounted medicine chest

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Playland: the name of some very famous amusement parks, which evolved to embrace all amusement parks. Joe had already alluded to kissing booths at carnivals on Labor Day (p. 31 of the script), so he's simply continuing the metaphor.



World War II Kissing Booth

Playland, often called Rye Playland and also known as Playland Amusement Park, is an amusement park located in Rye, New York that began operation on May 26, 1928. It would have been well-known to many people at the time of the play. It also happens to be featured in the 1988 movie *Big* starring Tom Hanks. It's close to the end, when Hanks' character, Josh, finds the fortune teller machine, Zoltar the Magnificent, who makes him a child again.

For several decades, Playland-at-the-Beach was an amusement park near Ocean Beach in San Francisco. During the 1940s and 1950s, the park was a thriving, colorful, family-friendly destination. It closed on August 17, 1972.

Roué: a debauchorous man, a rake.

It's French (Chris)... Don't talk dirty (Joe): Joe is saying that the word "roué", being French, is lewd. He is referring to the reputation the French have in Anglo cultures for

being more sexually adventurous and uninhibited. In the US and in other countries, we call tongue-kissing “French kissing”, associating it with the French. Even though it’s rare anymore to see a television or screen kiss that doesn’t involve lots of tongue, Joe’s generation would have thought so called French kissing risqué. There’s also an unfounded, but commonly held belief that oral sex, still considered “dirty” by some people even now, originated in the French courts, even though its clinical names are Latin. Syphilis is known in many countries as the “French pox,” though its origin cannot be traced to any one nation or culture.

The Urban Dictionary defines how the word “French” is associated with sex:

When French is used in a sexual sense, as it often is, "French" is often used as a euphemism for oral sex in the escort world.

A "French lesson" is a visit to a prostitute ... It is mainly used to advertise escort services without fear of being busted by police for prostitution.

‘Pardon my French’ can be interpreted as, “pardon the vulgarity from my mouth”.

Una McIlvenna, aptly sums up her July 2016 article in *The Conversation*, which is titled “French kissing to lesbian orgies: the origins of the myth of the debauched French court”, with this sentence: “The truth is, of course, that no one nation or culture can lay claim to any greater proclivity to outrageous sexual practices than any other, although the French appear to have borne the brunt of popular misconception”.

Lieutenants, majors and colonels: ranks of commissioned officers in the military. Joe is saying that, since the War, everyone seems now to hold an officer’s elevated status.

A Second Lieutenant in the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps is known as an Ensign in the Navy and Coast Guard. A First Lieutenant in the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps is known as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Navy and Coast Guard. A Captain in the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps is known as a Lieutenant in the Navy and Coast Guard. A Major in the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps is known as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy and Coast Guard. A Colonel in the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps is known as a Captain in the Navy and Coast Guard.

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Brooch: an incorrect pronunciation of broach, which means to bring up a topic for discussion.

Don’t surround me, will you: Joe is asking Chris to back off. The image here is that he’s closing in, pushing him in and sandbagging him.

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Crucify: to put a person to death by nailing or binding them to a cross, especially as an

ancient punishment. It is a particularly cruel punishment, used by the Romans in the time of Jesus.

The term is also used informally to criticize a person severely and unrelentingly.

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There's blood in his eye: Blood in the eye is often used as a metaphor for anger in a person. The word blood is used in other idioms like making one's "blood boil", which is making someone very angry.

The person could be exhibiting a desire to cause harm or to draw blood, with the blood being reflected in their eye or mind's eye.

"Blood in your eye" can also pertain to a situation where somebody is in such a significant amount of emotional or physical stress or another influence, that their eyes can actually turn red. In medicine, this description is referred to as "Subconjunctival Hemorrhaging", or a broken blood vessel in the eye or eyes causes a bright red patch to appear in the white of the eye. Although it's not painful, it's pretty scary looking and I'm not going to show you a photo because it creeps me out.

Zeppelin: a rigid airship of a type originally manufactured by Luftschiffsbau-Zeppelin of Germany, consisting of a cigar-shaped, trussed, and covered frame supported by internal gas cells. The two most famous were the Graf Zeppelin, completed in September 1928, and the giant Hindenburg, first flown in 1936. The Hindenburg burst into flames while landing



The Graf Zeppelin

at Lakehurst, New Jersey on May 6, 1937, and was completely destroyed. WWII Allied bombs demolished the Zeppelin factory. It wasn't until 2001 that a Zeppelin was built there again, but smaller and for sightseeing purposes only.

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Suckers: gullible or easily deceived persons

The voice of God: In Judaism and Christianity, the voice of God is a heavenly or divine voice which proclaims God's will or judgment. When someone speaks with the voice of God, they are speaking with the highest of authority.

Don't come bulling in here: an admonishment, as in, "Don't act like a bull: muscular, aggressive and pushy".

Don't civilize me: another admonishment. Synonyms for civilize are enlighten, edify, improve, educate, instruct, refine, cultivate, polish, socialize, humanize; any one of those will do.

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Cylinder heads: the top of a cylinder encasing the valves and spark plugs in an internal combustion engine. A hole (or crack) in the cylinder head would lead to a lack of



An Old Wright Aviation Engine

compression of fuel and air in the engine so combustion is compromised and the engine won't start.

Patsy: a sucker; often unwitting victim of a joke or scheme.

Rot: nonsense

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Solicitude: care or concern for someone or something

Mahatma Gandhi: (1869-1948) political and spiritual leader of India, advocate of passive resistance. The honorific Mahātmā, which is Sanskrit for "high-souled" and "venerable", was first bestowed on him in 1914 in South Africa and is now used worldwide. His full name is Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.



Mahatma Gandhi

Turning Mahatma Gandhi into a heavyweight refers to his very slight figure. As part of his

spiritual practice and also his practice of non-violence, Gandhi undertook long fasts as a means of both self-purification and political protest.

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We all got hit with the same lightning: Kate is saying here that both families suffered equally devastating consequences.

Russian wolfhound: tall slender hunting dog with silky white coat, similar in shape to a greyhound. It is known as a Borzoi, and is a member of the sighthound family. It is a breed



1920's Poster Picturing a Fashionable Woman with her Russian Wolfhounds

of domestic dog that is descended from dogs brought to Russia from central Asian countries. The dog was considered a fashionable accessory to women in the Roaring '20s. The image connotes one of upper class elegance.



A Fashion Illustration by McClelland Barclay, American Illustrator (1891–1942), of a woman with her Russian Wolfhound, from the time period of the play

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Draft: the first peacetime draft in US history was held in 1940 for men ages 21 to 35, to serve one year. It was extended to 18 months of service in August 1941. After Pearl Harbor, Congress amended the draft law, removing restrictions and lengthening the term of service to the duration of the war plus six months and extending registration to all males between ages 18 and 65, with those between 20 and 45 eligible for the draft. More than 10 million men were drafted for World War II. Frank was always one year ahead of the draft, which Kate explains: “When they were calling boys twenty-seven Frank was twenty-eight, when they made it twenty-eight, he was just twenty-nine. That's why he took up astrology. It's all in when you were born, it just goes to show.”

While you were getting mad about Fascism, Frank was getting into her bed: Fascism is a dictatorial government that opposes democracy, promotes an aggressive military and glorifies the nation-state and racist ideologies. The term was first applied to Mussolini's party in Italy, but is also applicable to Nazism in Germany and Franco's regime in Spain, all of whom were members of the 31 Axis during WWII. Kate is chiding George for his political idealism. Had he been more practical and realistic like she and Frank are, he'd be happier now.

He won the war, Frank: George is referring to the proverbial phrase, to “lose the battle but win the war”, which means to not achieve a minor victory but at the same time succeed in achieving something much more important.

Truer love hath no man: a play on “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). The meaning is unrelated, but the words are similar.

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Eagle Scouts: the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Achievement is arduous and takes years to fulfill. Candidates are granted the honor after a lengthy review process, and only four percent of Boy Scouts attain it. Eagle Scouts are considered of high moral caliber.

Andy Gump: the goofball main character in “The Gumps”, a daily newspaper cartoon strip that first appeared in 1917. It was created by Sidney Smith, first ran in the Chicago Tribune, became very popular right away, and was soon syndicated. Gus Edson inherited “The Gumps” in 1935 following the death of creator Sidney Smith, and continued with it until its final installment in 1959.

Wikipedia describes Andy as a “chinless, bombastic blowhard ... who is henpecked by his wife”. The concept of the comic strip was the brainchild of Joseph Patterson, editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, who also originated “Little Orphan Annie” and other long-running comic strips. Patterson referred to the masses as “gumps,” and thought that a comic strip based on the daily lives of ordinary people would attract average American newspaper readers. He engaged Smith to write and draw it; Smith proved a brilliant choice, breathing life into the characters.

The 1940s strip below, which pits Andy Gump against real-estate racketeers, would likely have been one that Frank read.



"The Gumps" Daily Comic Strip from the *Chicago Tribune*, 1940s, by Gus Edson

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General Motors: by 1947, GM had manufactured over 25 million cars and more than \$12.3 billion worth of war material; one of the "big three automakers" along with Ford and DaimlerChrysler, GM was the size the Kellers could only dream of attaining, but clearly also means the Kellers are doing well.

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We're eating at the lake: If we're considering Lockland, Ohio, as a possible locale for the play, there are several lakes in the vicinity of Hamilton County where it is located, one of which is, ironically, Prisoners Lake. The lakes are often part of a park, which have recreation, fishing and restaurants.

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The greatest men who ever lived believed in the stars: Many powerful people who consult astrologers tend to hide their interest in astrology and some see it as a weakness. Nevertheless, many famous people before and during Frank's lifetime consulted astrologers. Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and nearly all of the founding fathers were Masons and astrologers. Benjamin Franklin has been quoted as saying: "Astrology is one of the most ancient sciences, held in high esteem of old, by the wise and the great."

It's common knowledge that a large percentage of Wall Street brokers use astrology.

Carl Jung recognized synchronicity, the basis of Astrology. He has been quoted as saying, "We are born at a given moment, in a given place, and like vintage years of wine, we have qualities of the year and the season in which we are born."

T. S. Eliot (1888-1965) wrote an epic poem, *The Waste Land*, which is replete with astrological references. Its four sections are named after the four astrological elements: Earth, Air, Water & Fire.

The Three Wise Men of the Christian New Testament were Astrologers. It is a commonly-held belief that they heard that the Christ Child would be born at the time of a conjunction of planets--when two planets appear in the same place in the sky at the same time--that was to signal the arrival of a new age. The two planets involved in this conjunction were Jupiter and Saturn. Although both of those planets are rather bright in the night sky, the average eye wouldn't have noticed the conjunction. Despite their expertise in astrology, the Three Wise Men still took some time to find Jesus in Bethlehem.

Before the second half of the 19th century, astrology was a required course in medical school.

Here are just some of the famous people before and during Frank's time who believed in astrology, as well as quotes from them about it:

Plato: "Perhaps there is a pattern set up in the heavens for one who desires to see it, and having seen it, to find one in himself."

Albert Einstein: "Astrology is a science in itself and contains an illuminating body of knowledge. It taught me many things and I am greatly indebted to it."

Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Astrology is astronomy brought down to earth and applied toward the affairs of man."

JP Morgan: "Millionaires don't use astrology, billionaires do" and/or, "Anyone can be a millionaire, but to become a billionaire you need an astrologer". These quotes have never been found in any of Morgan's writing, but are nevertheless ascribed to him. However, he consulted with astrologer Evangeline Adams, who, according to her 1926 autobiography, *The Bowl of Heaven*, read his horoscope many times. During the last years of his life, he regularly sought her advice regarding the changing position of the planets and their probable effect on politics, business, and the stock market.

Sir Isaac Newton, defending astrology to Edmund Halley, who was skeptical of it: "I have studied the matter. Your sir, have not".

Robert Heinlein: "A touchstone to determine the actual worth of an 'intellectual', find out how he feels about astrology."

Hippocrates: "A physician without the knowledge of astrology has no right to call himself a physician."

DH Lawrence: "Who knows the power that Saturn has over us, or Venus? But it is a vital power, rippling exquisitely through us all the time."

Louis Pasteur: "The controls of life are structured as forms and nuclear arrangements, in relation with the motions of the universe."

Pythagoras: "The stars in the heavens sing a music if only we had ears to hear."

During WWII, leaders on both sides consulted astrologers. In 1923, Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) was told by an astrologer that a man born on his birth date would sweep to power. After his predicted attempt on Hitler's life in 1939 proved accurate, the Nazis arrested Swiss astrologer, Karl Ernst Krafft (1900–1945). After Krafft convinced them of his innocence, they employed his services in various ways. His initial commission came from Joseph Goebbels, the Third Reich's Minister for Propaganda, who had Krafft research and interpret the quatrains of Nostradamus, the 16th century French mystic, giving them a grandiose spin to propagandize the Third Reich. In 1940, one of Krafft's forecasts influenced the timing of Operation Barossa, Hitler's initially successful attack on the Soviet Union.

According to Astrology.co.uk, "When the Allied forces became aware of the rising influence of astrology within the German High Command, various counter measures were taken to spread mystical propaganda and to second-guess the advice given to Hitler. Bogus sun sign horoscope columns were published around the world ... 'It was hoped that the weight of celestial opinion would undermine Hitler's authority and cause him to doubt his own decision-making ability' (*Sunday Times*, December 12, 2004)".

Krafft predicted in 1933 that if Germany and England had not made peace by June 1941, the tide of the war would then go against Germany. Influenced by Krafft's prophecy, Rudolf Hess, Deputy Führer to Adolf Hitler, flew to Scotland on May 10, 1941 in an attempt to negotiate peace with the UK. His plane was intercepted, he bailed out, and was taken prisoner by the Royal Air Force (RAF).

When Hitler found out what Hess had done, he ordered Heinrich Himmler (1900-1945), a leading member of the Nazi Party, to execute Hess and to arrest all of the astrologers in Germany, which numbered more than 600, including Krafft. But Hess was imprisoned by the British and eventually convicted of crimes against peace, serving a life sentence until his death by suicide.

Krafft was later released to work on several top-secret projects due to his expertise in planetary motion.

Astrologer Louis de Wohl (1903-1961), a Hungarian Jewish refugee who had escaped to London from Nazi Germany in 1935 to avoid persecution, worked under Churchill's War Cabinet to anticipate and counter the work of Ernst Krafft. When WWII ended, de Wohl's focus turned to Roman Catholicism. He wrote historical and biblical based fiction, which included the lives of saints, as well as Roman Emperors and Popes. His final book on astrology, *The Stars of War and Peace*, was written in 1952, and detailed his unique role in the takedown of Hitler.

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Nothing more till Christ comes: In essence, Chris is telling George not to speak on the subject until the end of time. He is referring to the Second Coming of Christ, which, in

Christianity, denotes the future return of Jesus Christ after his "first coming," or the time he spent on Earth about two thousand years ago. The belief is based on messianic prophecies found in the gospels of the New Testament and is part of most Christian theology.

The Nicene Creed, a recitation of Christian beliefs, includes the following statements: "[Christ] ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in his glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end."

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Kick-back: a reaction or repercussion. Another definition for kick-back is an exchange of money because of coercion or seedy business deals, but this is not applicable here.

ACT III

P. 61 Stage Directions

Dressing gown: per the definition on p. 25 of this glossary, a dressing gown/robe can be worn by men or women, and put on over nightwear on rising from bed. This is exactly what's going on with Joe.



Men's dressing gowns from the 1940s

The plaid dressing gown on the left seems more suited to Joe than the silk one on the right.



A guy who can wear a dressing gown like nobody's business, even Katherine Hepburn's in *Bringing Up Baby* (on right)

P. 62

You can't bull yourself through this one, Joe ...: In this context, Kate could either mean he can't bullshit or, alternately, bulldoze his way through this situation. Considering Kate, I think it's the latter because, 1) "bullshit" was a very unladylike word in those times, and she would not be that vulgar, and 2) Joe does have a tendency to bulldoze his way through things, and it's too late now for bullshit, since the truth is known.

What ice does that cut? How would that influence/impress him? To "cut no ice" with someone is to fail to impress or influence them. Michael Quinion, in his blog WorldWideWords.org, offers an explanation of the phrase's origin:

A frequent explanation of cuts no ice holds that it has something to do with real ice. This was before refrigeration, of course, when blocks of ice were sold for cooling food and drinks. One suggestion I've come across is that something that has no effect or makes no impression is like a knife too blunt to shave ice off a block, or that it refers to cutting blocks of ice from a pond or river, so that something or somebody that cuts no ice is useless. Blunt ice skates have also been put forward as the source of the expression.

These all seem unnecessarily complicated. There were other phrases around at the time of its creation that refer to the qualities of ice, such as putting something on ice, keeping it in reserve until needed. And we speak of cutting the ice or breaking the ice at parties or other social events, meaning to break down barriers of reserve and get people to enjoy themselves.

My feeling is that cuts no ice was a figurative expression right from the start, based on the very common presence of ice in the home and playing on its hardness and coldness as a metaphor for unresponsiveness or lack of empathy.

Because of the icebox, blocks of ice were common household items for far more years than the refrigerator was for Joe's and Kate's generation. (See reference in the definition of "medicine chest" on p. 28 of this glossary.) As Quinion points out, it makes sense that the characteristics of ice would give rise to comparative everyday expressions.

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To him the world has a forty-foot front, it ended at the building line: Joe is citing his son, Larry's, view of the world, which he believes has the narrow perimeters of his own, discussed on p. 2 of this glossary. He is saying that Larry was straightforward, and he saw things concretely--or so Joe thinks--because that was what he taught him to do. Things stopped at a specific place and didn't go further, like a 40-foot building line, the line on a property beyond which no building is allowed. In Joe's estimation, "everything bothers" Chris. Chris pushes the envelope, or in this case, the building line, looking for meaning and truth. He probes and examines, applying a moral code that goes beyond the parameters of his immediate environment. Chris believes, which he tells his mother in the last moments of the play, that "there's a universe of people outside and you're responsible to it".

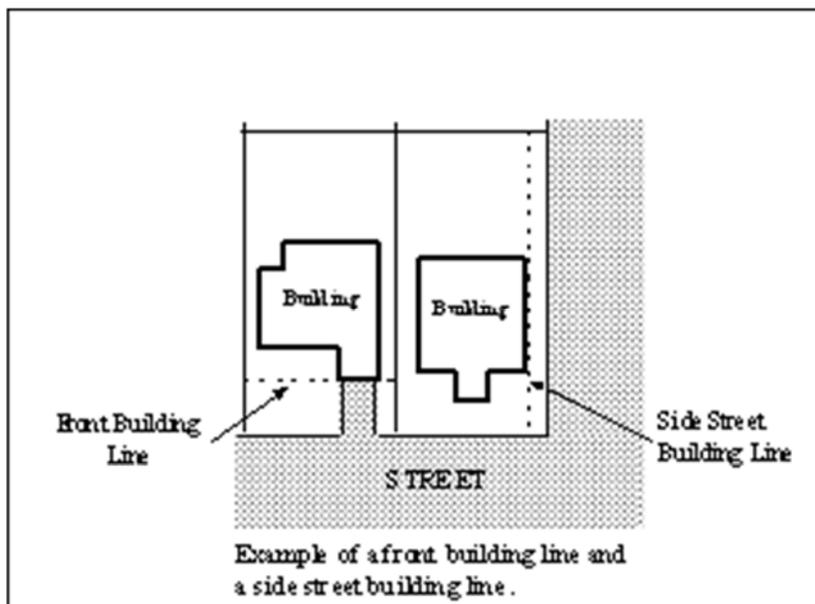


Illustration of building lines

As we learn later, Joe is mistaken about Larry's view of the world being the same as his own. Fighting in the war altered Larry. On pp. 28-29 of my paper, "What was it like to live in the US during World War II (WWII) and its aftermath?", Susan Abbotson (*A Critical Companion to Arthur Miller*) describes the "ideological wedge" that WWII drove "between those who fought and those who stayed at home". She writes, "Men like Chris and Larry Keller were changed by their experience; affected by the sacrifices that they saw their

comrades make, they developed a heightened sense of social responsibility. This leads Larry to kill himself for shame for what his father has done, and leads Chris to set him almost impossible standards by which to live.”

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There are a couple of firms in Cleveland: Cleveland, which is 243 miles northeast of Lockland, is the home of many factories like Joe’s, which specialize in metal fabrication. According to Case Western Reserve’s accounting of Cleveland’s industrial history, within 60 years of Cleveland’s founding in 1796, industry, especially the making of iron and its products, began to dominate the economy of the city and its vicinity. In their encyclopedia of Cleveland’s history, they state:

To a large degree, Cleveland's growth has been determined by its industrial base ... The U.S. was an early leader and Cleveland a major center of industrialization. Modern industry is associated with the factory system of production, in which workers are gathered in one place to work under centralized direction with the aid of powered machinery. Cleveland's factories have usually mass-produced standardized products such as clothing, iron shapes, or automobiles. Cleveland industry developed under favorable economic conditions. Primary among them was excellent transportation. The development of shipping on the Great Lakes, the completion of the Ohio & Erie Canal in 1832, the later construction of railroads, and the more recent construction of major highways and airports have allowed Cleveland to receive a large flow of raw materials and to ship out finished products. In addition, exceptional businessmen and inventors have developed and promoted Cleveland's industry, and the city's workers have been recognized for their skill and productivity.

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Detroit: an economically distraught city until the war, when it became one of the most important industrial cities in the nation. More than 50% of US war materials were manufactured there, and the Manhattan Project, a research and development undertaking during World War II that produced the first nuclear weapons, had one of its three secret plants outside of Detroit.

P. 68

A man can’t be a Jesus in this world: Joe is saying that he couldn’t sacrifice himself, that he couldn’t sacrifice his life, like Jesus did. Christian doctrines include the belief that Jesus died by crucifixion as a sacrifice to achieve atonement, or reconciliation to God, through his sacrificial suffering and death.