

Unit 8 - Mr. Gower and Young George *Scene*

LX: As the lights cross fade back to the drugstore the 'On Air' sign goes off.

FOLEY: Phone rings.

Mr. Gower stands behind the counter. He pulls a phone up and fumbles to answer.

GOWER (Drunkenly). Gower Drug. What? medicine should have been there an hour ago. It'll be over in five minutes... (Clumsy phone hang-up.) George! George Bailey!

FOLEY: Door opens. Tinkle. Closes.

Young George runs in through the swinging door.

YOUNG GEORGE Yes sir...?

GOWER. Where you been? What happened to her Mrs. Blaine's capsules? Y'lost 'em didn't ya?

YOUNG GEORGE. No, sir. I didn't know what to do, so I thought Pop knows best, but...

GOWER Where's Mrs. Blaine's capsules? Where! *He grabs George by the shirt*

YOUNG GEORGE Ooow! Let go!

GOWER (Shaking him) You hear what I said? You lazy loafer!

YOUNG GEORGE Those Capsules are . . .

Gower starts hitting George about the head with his open hand. George tries to protect himself as best he can.

GOWER: What kind of tricks are you playing, anyway?

FOLEY: Slap

Don't you know that boy's sick?

FOLEY: Slap

YOUNG GEORGE (In tears) You're hurting my sore ear.

GOWER I'll teach ya, y'lazy brat!

YOUNG GEORGE Mr. Gower, you don't know what you're doing! You put something wrong in those capsules. I know you're unhappy. You got that telegram, and you're upset. You put something bad in those capsules. It wasn't your fault, Mr. Gower . . .

George pulls the little box out of his pocket. Gower savagely rips it away from him.

YOUNG GEORGE Just look what you did. Look at the jar, it's poison! I tell you, it's poison!

GOWER Poison?

Gower looks at the large brown bottle on the counter.

YOUNG GEORGE I know you feel bad . . . and .

GOWER Oh George...

YOUNG GEORGE Please don't hurt my sore ear again.

Gower sweeps George to him in a hug.

GOWER No . . . No . . . No . . . (Sobbing) Oh, George, George . . . I am so sorry...I am so very sorry...