



'But you have some.'

SPRATLY But I'll give you ten dollars a bag.
 GROOT (*Laughing*) No, I want fifty dollars a bag! It's more expensive every day. Soon there isn't going to be enough.
 SPRATLY All right, all right, fifty dollars a bag! Give me five bags. Here's the money.
 GROOT Good man! You're doing the right thing.
Spratly goes out. Durg comes in.
 DURG Excuse me, I saw you buy some salt.
 GROOT Ah!
 DURG What's happening? I can't find any. The shopkeepers all say, 'Sorry. No more salt!'

GROOT There's a problem.
 DURG I know. It was on television. Everybody is talking about it. Listen, I must have some salt.
 GROOT Sorry, I can't help you.
 DURG But I need it for my family. Please!
 GROOT All right, all right, but it's . . . er . . . a hundred dollars a bag.
 DURG Oh no!
 GROOT I told you — everybody wants salt. Well?
 DURG Oh, all right, then. Give me four bags.
 GROOT Four? Good! You understand the world, my friend. I see it in your face.
 DURG Here's the money.
 GROOT And here's your salt! Goodbye.
Durg goes out. Nello comes in.
 NELLO Hey, you, stop!
 GROOT Are you talking to me?
 NELLO Yes, you were in the grocery store—
 GROOT Was I? Perhaps. I go into a lot of grocery stores.
 NELLO You bought all the salt in the store!
 GROOT Well, there's a problem, you know.
 NELLO Yes, there is — and it's all because of you!
 GROOT That's not true!
 NELLO I met Spratly just now. He tried to sell me a bag of salt for five hundred dollars!
 GROOT That's too much.

Five Short Plays

NELLO Of course it is – I know your plan! You go from store to store. You buy all the salt, and sell it for a lot more money!

GROOT OK, it's true – I buy and sell salt – that's not wrong.

NELLO Then sell some to me.

GROOT No, I don't want to.

NELLO *(Holding him, angrily)* Listen, I'm going to buy, and you're going to sell. *(Shouting)* Do you understand?

GROOT But I've only got one bag left.

NELLO *(Angrily)* Give it to me, then!

GROOT It's two hundred dollars. Well, OK, you can have it for a hundred and fifty. But let me go!

NELLO *(Shouting)* Give it to me!

GROOT No, give me the money first. Now let me go! Oh, help! Help!

Groot runs out. We hear a truck stop suddenly, and Groot cries out. The driver, Manra, comes in, helping Groot to walk.

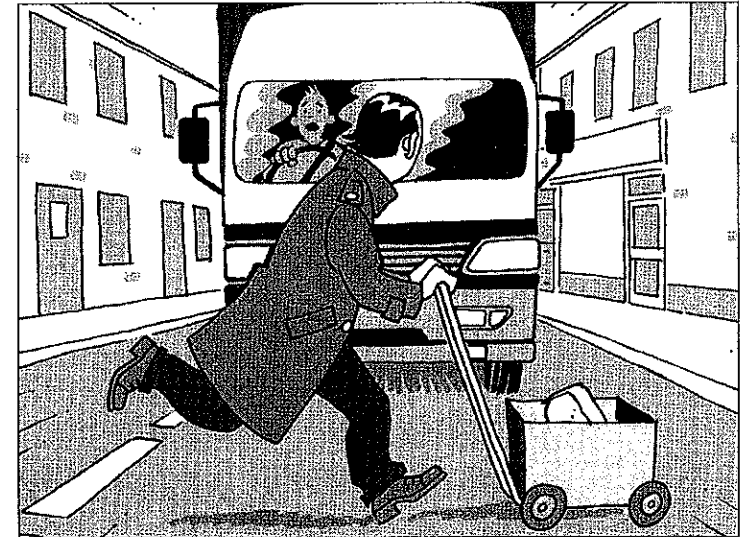
MANRA He ran in front of my truck. I didn't see—

NELLO You didn't do anything wrong. It was an accident.

MANRA But why did he run across the street without looking?

NELLO I was angry with him. So he ran away.

MANRA *(To Groot)* How do you feel?



'He ran in front of my truck.'

GROOT *(Holding his leg)* Oh, my leg! My leg hurts. I think it's—

NELLO He's OK, I think.

MANRA Wait a minute, what's this in the street?

NELLO It's salt. He had a bag of salt and I wanted it.

MANRA Salt? Well, that's interesting! I'm carrying salt on my truck – bags and bags of it!

NELLO Salt? Oh no! *(He laughs.)*

MANRA Why are you laughing?

NELLO It doesn't matter. I can't tell you now.

MANRA Then you can tell that policeman. Look, he's coming across the street now. He saw the accident, I think!

INTRODUCTION

Maggie works in a fast-food restaurant. People come here to buy food when they haven't got much time. The restaurant sells 'fast food' – things like pizza, burgers, chicken and sandwiches. Five angry people are waiting for their food.

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Maggie, a young woman who works in a fast-food restaurant

Two men } people who want to buy some food to eat
Three women }

PERFORMANCE NOTES

In the window there is a sign saying, 'Fast Food'. There are some tables and chairs, and a large high counter. Maggie is standing behind this counter. The people in the restaurant are standing in front of it. They are wearing outdoor clothes. Maggie is wearing work clothes. She also needs a bag.

Slow Food

MAN 1 Excuse me, is my food ready?

MAGGIE What did you ask for?

MAN 1 I asked for chicken.

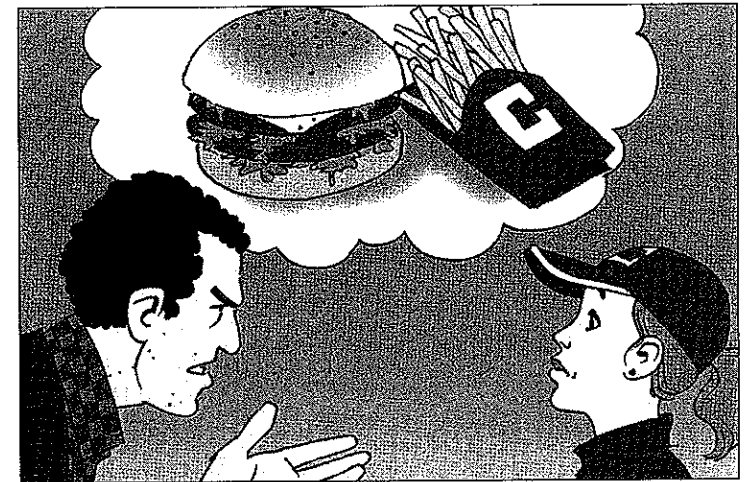
MAGGIE Er, let's see. Another five minutes.

MAN 1 Five minutes?

MAGGIE Sorry, ten minutes.

MAN 1 Ten? That's no good! I must go back to my office in ten minutes.

MAN 2 And what about *my* food? I asked for a burger and French fries fifteen minutes ago!



'I asked for a burger and French fries fifteen minutes ago!'