

McMURPHY
AIDE WILLIAMS
BILLIE
HARDING

(McMURPHY'S arrival on the ward)

McMURPHY. *(Off)* Buddy, you are so wrong. I don't *have to* do this, and I don't *have to* do that, and get the hell away from me or I will take and.....*(Has backed into view in a fighting crouch, pursued by WILLIAMS who looks hot and angry and frustrated. Now she becomes aware of the room and the PATIENTS staring at her.)* Good mornin', Ladies! Mighty nice fall day! *(She laughs big and free and its vibrations jolt the PATIENTS openmouthed.)* Damn, what a sorry-lookin' bunch!

WILLIAMS. Now, see here, miss —

McMURPHY. Get away from me, boy, give me a minute to look my new home over, will ya? What the hell, I never been in an Institute of Psychology before! *(As WILLIAMS goes into the Nurses' Station; advancing on the group.)* My name is McMurphy, girls, R.P. McMurphy and I am a gamblin' fool. *(Looking at their card hands.)* What's this you're playin'? Pinochle? Jesus, ain'tcha got a straight deck around here? Well, say, here we go, I brought along my own just in case. *(Distributing samples.)* Every card a picture - and check those pictures, huh? *(The PATIENTS go bug-eyed at what they see on the cards.)* Fifty-two positions, girls, every one different. Easy now, don't smudge 'em, we got lotsa time, lotsa games. *(WILLIAMS is arguing unheard with NURSE FLINN who picks up the telephone but will get no help. McMURPHY takes back his cards.)* Y'see, ladies, what happened was I got in a couple hassles down at the Work Farm and the Court ruled that I'm a psychopath. And do you think I'm gonna argue with the Court? *(Winks broadly.)* Shoot, you can bet your bottom dollar I don't. If it gets me outa those damn fields I'll be whatever their little heart desires, be it psychopath or mad dog or shewolf, because I don't care if I never see another weedin' hoe to my dying day — *(WILLIAMS has come up behind her to renew the assault. McMURPHY seizes a chair and fends him off, lion-tamer fashion)* — and will you get the fuck away from me????

WILLIAMS. Lady, we got rules. I gotta take your temperature and I gotta get you showered.

McMURPHY. All you gotta do is let me get acquainted with my new girlfriends here, and if you do one thing more — —

WILLIAMS. (*Grimly.*) All right, lady, you askin' for it, you gonna get it. (*Turns and marches out of the ward.*)

McMURPHY. (*Laughs her wall-shaking laugh.*) That's a whole deal better, now we can get somethin' settled. Okay, which of you's the boss bitch loony? (*The PATIENTS gape at her.*) I'm askin', who is the boss bitch loony?

BILLIE. Well, it's not m-me. I'm not the b-b-boss b-b-bitch loony, although you could say I'm next in luh-line for the job.

McMURPHY. (*Sticking out her hand, which BILLIE avoids.*) Well, honey, I'm truly glad you're next in luh-line for the job, but since I'm thinkin' a takin' over this whole shebang maybe you better take me to your leader.

BILLIE. Ms. Harding...you're the President of the Pay-Pay-Patients' Council...

HARDING. (*Leans back, looks at the ceiling.*) Does this... gentlewoman...have an appointment?

BILLIE. Do you have an appointment, Miss Mc-Muh-Murphy? Ms. Harding is a very busy woman.

McMURPHY. This busy woman Harding, is she the boss bitch looney?

BILLIE. That's right.

McMURPHY. Well, you tell Boss Bitch Loony Harding that Rachel P. McMurphy is waitin' to see her and this nut-house ain't big enough for the two of us. You tell her either she meets me woman to woman or she's a yaller skunk and better be outa town by sunset...

HARDING. Billie, you tell this young upstart McMurphy that I'll meet her in the main hall at high noon and we'll settle this affair once and for all, with ovaries a'blazin....

McMURPHY. Billie, you tell her that RP McMurphy is used to bein' top bitch in every situation, so if she's bound to be a loony she figures to be the stompdowndadgum biggest one of all! (