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*(HARRY hurries into the house. MOTHER BAILEY turns away, takes out her handkerchief and wipes her eyes. She straightens her shoulders and exits into the house. CLARENCE steps into the light on the porch.)*

CLARENCE. I thought you said George Bailey needs my help.

JOSEPH. He does.

CLARENCE. You said he was going to throw away God's greatest gift.

JOSEPH. He will. Unless you stop him.

CLARENCE. But why? He has everything to live for!

JOSEPH. You're too impatient, Clarence.

CLARENCE *(coming downstage, his light goes with him. The rest of the stage is dark)*. I really want my wings, Joseph.

JOSEPH. I know.

CLARENCE. Are you sure we have the right George Bailey?

JOSEPH. I'm sure.

CLARENCE. Maybe the boss made a mistake.

JOSEPH. Remember whom you're talking about.

CLARENCE. Oh. Yes. But George Bailey has his whole future ahead of him.

JOSEPH. So he does. And so do we. Patience, Clarence, patience.

CLARENCE. All right. *(Pause.)* Did George have fun at the dance?

JOSEPH. He met Mary there.

CLARENCE. The little girl at the soda fountain?

JOSEPH. All grown up now. They won the Charleston contest.

CLARENCE. They did! She said she loved him.

JOSEPH. Yes.

CLARENCE. His life just keeps getting better and better.

JOSEPH. Yes.

CLARENCE. This doesn't make any sense, Joseph. We're wasting time! I want my wings!

JOSEPH. Clarence ...

CLARENCE. I know. Patience.

JOSEPH. Remember that pool?

CLARENCE. The one Harry talked about ... under the gym floor.

JOSEPH. One of the boys at the dance got jealous.

CLARENCE. Of what?

JOSEPH. George.

CLARENCE. George? Oh! You mean because Mary ...

JOSEPH. Yes. He opened up the floor and George and Mary fell in.

CLARENCE. Oh my! But I still don't understand why ...

JOSEPH. Here they come.