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ANNOUNCER

Good evening. This little vignette is called The Heart Gizmo for reasons you shall soon see. Fitzhugh is the father of Reese and is pretentious in the way that second generation wealth can be. He's just told Reese of a proviso in Leighton's will, he's the father of Fitzhugh, grandfather of Reese, that states should he, Reese, not marry before he, Leighton, dies, all the vast estate and money shall go to charity leaving him, Fitzhugh, without a pot to piss in. This scene takes place in the Billiards Room of Leighton's manor house.

FITZHUGH (O.S.)

So, you see now why I was rather insistent you marry Grace?

REESE (O.S.)

Because if I don't, you and Mother will be living on the street? You mean that?

BILLIARDS ROOM

FITZHUGH

Do not be impertinent, Reese...
But yes, that is what I mean.

Unnoticed, Leighton drops his cigar and clutches his chest.

FITZHUGH

It's not like I am asking for the world. You love Grace, she loves you.

REESE

So I have to rush into a marriage just to save your ass?

Leighton slumps in his wheel chair as his lap robe catches fire.

FITZHUGH

What rush? It's been planned for three months.

Reese SNIFFS the air, turns, sees his Grandfather on fire.

Fitzhugh races over, removes the lap robe, and stomps out the fire as Reese lowers his Grandfather to the floor, checks for a pulse, and listens for breathing.

Reese starts in on CPR.

REESE

Get the defibrillator and have
Mother call Doctor Miller.

Fitzhugh leaves.

HALLWAY

ANNOUNCER

Vernice is the long suffering wife
of Fitzhugh, accustomed to wealth
but poor white trash in origin.

Fitzhugh runs into Vernice, slows, adjusts his hair and tie.

VERNICE

Is everything alright?

FITZHUGH

Father's having one of his
episodes. Is his electric thing
still in his study?

VERNICE

I believe so.

Vernice goes into the billiards room.

BILLIARDS ROOM

Reese performs CPR on Leighton as his Mother approaches.

VERNICE

One of his spells again?

REESE

Have you called Doctor Miller?

VERNICE

I'm certain your Father will take
care of it.

Fitzhugh enters with the defibrulator and rushes over to Leighton and Reese.

REESE
Have you called Doctor Miller?

FITZHUGH
No time. Had to get this thing.

REESE
I'll go. You remember how to work that?

FITZHUGH
YES. YES. GO ON.

Reese leaves.

Fitzhugh rips Leighton' shirt open and places the pads on Leighton' chest.

DEFIBRILLATOR
(Female Mechanical Voice)
Checking for vital signs.

FITZHUGH
Bloody marvelous thing. How many times has it saved the old bastard's life?

DEFIBRILLATOR
Charging.

VERNICE
Once too many to suit me.

FITZHUGH
We just have to get Reese -

DEFIBRILLATOR
- Ready. Stand clear, please.

Fitzhugh depresses the button on the defibrillator but fails to notice Vernice has her hand on Leighton' shoulder.

Leighton' body jumps but not as much as Vernice's.

She writhes as the electricity courses through her body, hair smoking, until she's finally thrown on her back.

Fitzhugh looks on horror struck, finally comes to his senses, and goes over to Vernice.

FITZHUGH
Jesus.

He slaps Vernice on her cheeks and she groggily responds.

VERNICE

You bastard. Why did you do that?

FITZHUGH

You know you're not supposed to touch Leighton when I shock him. We've done this before.

VERNICE

You're supposed to say, 'stand clear'.

FITZHUGH

The damn machine said it. Weren't you listening?

Leighton GROANS and Fitzhugh goes over to him and pushes a button on the machine.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Checking for vital signs.

Vernice groggily gets to her feet and weaves her way over to the action.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Charging.

FITZHUGH

Stand clear.

Vernice shoots her eyes heavenwards.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Someone forgot to replace my batteries. Going to sleep now.

Vernice covers her mouth.

Fitzhugh feels for a pulse and, feeling none, sits back on his haunches.

VERNICE

What are we to do?

Long silence.

FITZHUGH

We go on with the wedding.

VERNICE

Are you mad?

FITZHUGH

No. Now listen. This just might work.

ANNOUNCER

And so the wedding was held "toot sweet" with Leighton propped up in his chair - asleep, we're told. He only fell out of the chair after the I-now-pronounce-yous, so it all turned out for the best.