

Side 3

**NURSE RATCHED.** Mr. McMurphy.

**McMURPHY.** Howdy, Ma'am!

**NURSE RATCHED.** Aide Williams tells me you are being difficult.

**McMURPHY.** (pained.) Me?

**NURSE RATCHED.** I understand you refused to take your admission shower?

**McMURPHY.** Well, as to that, ma'am, they showered me at the courthouse and last night at the jail, and I swear they'd of washed my ears for me on the way over if they coulda found the facilities. (Explodes into laughter- alone.)

**NURSE RATCHED.** That's quite amusing, Mr. McMurphy. But you must realize that our policies are engineered for your cure. Which means cooperation.

**McMURPHY.** Ma'am, I'll cooperate from hell to Thursday, but you wouldn't want me to be unpolite? I mean, had to get acquainted with my new buddies?

**NURSE RATCHED.** (Ever-smiling.) Please understand, I do appreciate the way you've taken it upon yourself to ... orient with other patients? But everything in its own time. You must follow the rules.

**McMURPHY.** Ya know, ma'am... that is the exact thing somebody always tells me about the rules- just when I'm thinkin' a breakin' every one of 'em.

**NURSE RATCHED.** Boys, I've given a great deal of thought to what I am about to say. I've talked it over with the staff and we all came to the same conclusion- that there should be some form of punishment for the unspeakable behavior of yesterday. (A pause.) Most of you are here because you could not adjust to the outside world. You broke the rules of society. At some time ... in your childhood, perhaps ... you were allowed to get away with that. But when you broke a rule you knew it. You wanted to be punished- needed it- but the punishment did not come. That leniency on the part of your parents may have been the germ of your present illness. I remind you of this, hoping you will understand that it is entirely for your own good that we enforce discipline. Is there any comment? (Silence.) Then I assume you understand me and agree. You also understand that it is difficult to enforce discipline in these surroundings. After all, what can we do to you? You can't be arrested. You can't be sent to an institution, you're already there. All we can do is take away privileges. And so, after carefully considering the circumstances, we have decided to take away certain privileges which allowed- no, *encouraged* the rebellion to happen. First, for thirty days there will be no viewing of television... Second, the privilege of playing cards during recreation hours is hereby rescinded.

**HARDING.** (Sounding sick.) Is that all?

**NURSE RATCHED.** Not quite. There is one more matter ... the behavior of a patient who has been here almost as long as I. Longer, I believe, than any of you. (Smiling.) You know, of course, to whom I refer? ... Mr. Bromden long ago was diagnosed as catatonic. And for that reason- because it was assumed we could not communicate- we gave him up. We forgot poor Mr. Bromden. That was wrong of us. But Mr. Bromden acted wrongly, too. Please don't misunderstand. We are happy to know that Mr. Bromden can be reached- but disappointed to learn he would conceal it from us, thereby refusing to cooperate in his own cure. And if Mr. Bromden can hear, isn't it logical to assume that he can also speak? I think Mr. Bromden should speak to us, don't you? His first contribution to Group Therapy. And how appropriate if those first words were an apology. An apology for the behavior that gave rise to yesterday's rebellion.