

(The Oval Office. Only props required are a desk and a hat/coat rack. STRANGE is alone. He is preparing three drinks.)

STRANGE: I know this could get me into a lot of trouble. But those two don't give me much choice. There are only so many errands I can ask them to run. And they're so efficient, they always get back before I have time to turn around. I thought that crossword puzzle I gave them to do once would take an hour, but they were done in ten minutes! They must have cheated!

STRANGE *(reading from piece of paper)*: Mix one-fourth teaspoon of powder into an 8-ounce drink to incapacitate person for up to four hours. Amazing what you can find on the internet these days!

(STRANGE drops powder into two of the glasses and stirs.)
That should be enough to keep them napping for a while.

STRANGE *(to offstage)*: Fellas, can you come in for a moment?

(STOUT and STRONG enter.)

STRONG: Is there a problem, sir? Do you need something? Maybe a glass of water?

STOUT: I know sometimes you want a late night snack. Could we get you a sandwich ..

STRANGE *(to STOUT, interrupting)*: No, no. No problem; and I don't need anything, Steven.

STOUT *(pointing at STRONG)*: Sir, he's Steven. I'm Stanley.

(All seem confused.)

STRANGE: Are you sure?? Doesn't matter.. Anyway.. I was just thinking that I never really show my gratitude for everything you do for me. I thought maybe we could share a drink together.

STRONG: Oh sir, thank you, but we couldn't drink on duty!

STRANGE: Oh, of course! It's just ginger ale. I'd like to make a toast to Steven Stout...

(STRANGE points tentatively to STRONG and is corrected.)

...and Stanley Strong, my faithful protectors and constant companions. I don't know what I would do without you. (*under his breath:*) But it's going to be nice to find out.

(All drink.)

[music]

STRANGE (*speaking*): Another toast. Here's to success in the election, and another long four years together! (Oh, so very long!)

(All drink again.)

[music]

(STRANGE puts his arms around their shoulders.)

STRANGE (*speaking*): One more toast, to my two best buddies!

STOUT: Are you sure this is just ginger ale?

STRONG: Yeah, I'm feeling a little funny.

STRANGE: Oh yes, only the finest ginger ale for my two best friends. I think you're just getting very tired. It's been a long day.

(They drink again, finishing their glasses.)

[music]

(They pass out, holding onto each other, and leaning against the hat rack.)

STRANGE (*saluting them*): Remember fellas: They also serve who only stand and wait!