

HOPE AND FAITH

"Inferior Decorating"

Written by

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FADE IN:

**INT. THE FAMILY LIVING ROOM -- DAY**

HOPE AND CHARLEY ARE ESCORTING A FLAMBOYANT LOOKING MAN TO THE DOOR.

HOPE

Thank you for stopping by! We really love your designs for our bathroom remodel.

CHARLEY

Yes and I love your prices even better!

MR. JIM

I'm happy to have pleased you.

FAITH AND SYDNEY ENTER FROM THE BACK DOOR. HOPE AND CHARLEY LOOK CONCERNED.

MR. JIM (CONT'D)

I'll be sure to get the final designs to you by the end of the week.

CHARLEY BEGINS TO PUSH MR. JIM TOWARDS THE DOOR.

CHARLEY

Well, thanks again for stopping by!

CHARLEY SLAMS THE DOOR AS FAITH LOOKS PUZZLED. HOPE PULLS SYDNEY ASIDE.

HOPE

(WHISPERING)

I thought I asked you to keep her away from here for a full three hours! Seeing as how you went to the mall, I didn't think that would be too difficult!

CONTINUED

SYDNEY

I know, but she felt her clothes were already going out of style and she wanted to change into something more trendy.

FAITH

Who was that man?

HOPE

Um, he was the, um....

CHARLEY

Door to door bible salesman. He comes around here from time to time selling bibles.

FAITH

Well, he was the most flamboyant bible salesman I've ever seen.

(FAITH NOTICES THAT HOPE APPEARS TO BE HIDING SOMETHING.)

FAITH (CONT'D)

In fact, I'd say he was rather artsy looking. Hmmm....

HOPE

Oh look, I think that the Daytime Emmy Awards might be on!

HOPE SWITCHES ON THE TELEVISION SET FRANTICALLY.

FAITH

Those cows! How dare they hold the awards without me!

FAITH TURNS TO LOOK AT THE TELEVISION.

CONTINUED

FAITH (CONT'D)

Look at her! That cow Estella looks fatter and fatter everytime I see her! She couldn't act her way out of a Saks shoplifting charge, if you know what I mean!

CHARLEY

Isn't that Dom Deluise?

HOPE KICKS HIM.

FAITH

You're right! Hope, you never were a convincing liar. Who was that man?

HOPE NOTICES THAT SHE IS HOLDING INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE IN HER HANDS SO SHE QUICKLY TRIES TO HIDE IT BEHIND HER. FAITH BEGINS STRUGGLING WITH HER TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE PAPERS.

FAITH (CONT'D)

Let me see those.

HOPE

They're not important! They're bible invoices!

FAITH TEARS OFF PART OF ONE OF THE PAPERS. SHE READS IT AND GASPS.

FAITH

Rear Decorating? Was that man selling you sex books? I never knew you were so kinky!

SYDNEY

Eew! You're on the wrong track! That man was an interior decorator and he's redoing the bathroom!

CONTINUED

HOPE

Sydney!

SYDNEY

What? You're willing to let Aunt Faith think you're two sickos just so she won't stick her nose in your decorating? Eew!

SYDNEY RUNS UPSTAIRS. CHARLEY LOOKS ON NERVOUSLY.

CHARLEY

Gee, you can't even trust a bible salesman these days!

FAITH

I am hurt!

HOPE

Faith, it was just that we wanted it to be an um, surprise.

FAITH

What a surprise! I know the real reason behind this! You didn't want my advice, did you?

HOPE

Well, Mr. Jim comes highly recommended.

FAITH

Mr. Jim, eh? Is that his first name, his last name or an alias?

HOPE

I don't know, but-

CONTINUED

FAITH

Ah ha! You let this shifty stranger in your house and for all you know he could be some sort of serial killer who hunts down families and kills them in their sleep!

CHARLEY

Gee, if that's the case, I wonder if I could pay him to get rid of a little problem we have around the house....

HOPE

Don't be ridiculous! He did Florence Sherman's house a couple of years ago and she had nothing but nice things to say about him.

FAITH

Yeah, but isn't she dead? I'm sure there's a connection there!

CHARLEY

I'm sure there is too. Or maybe she died because she was ninety years old.

FAITH

I bet that's what he wanted everyone to think. Besides, I am hurt! I'm the family member with all of the fashion and design sense and you didn't think to have me help you with this!

CONTINUED

CHARLEY

Actually, I thought about that possibility.

FAITH

Really? That's so nice of you! I'm sure that I could do a great job!

CHARLEY

You didn't let me finish- I thought about that possibility last night during my nightmare!

HOPE

We just thought that it would be nice to have a professional do it.

FAITH

I could do it better than a professional! At least, that's what some guys have told me.

CHARLEY

Uh-

HOPE

Don't say it!

FAITH

This hurts me because you say that I don't do enough to help out around here and yet you didn't even consider me. I can do this! Trust me!

HOPE AND CHARLEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER. CHARLEY SHAKES HIS HEAD.

CONTINUED

HOPE

Okay, but you are to only recommend some possible ideas. Then we'll compare them with our budget and with what Mr. Jim came up with and make our final decision.

FAITH

Thank you, thank you, thank you! All I ask is for a chance!

CHARLEY

You've got to be kidding me!

FAITH

Who knows? Maybe I'll do such a great job that I'll finally get a new career and move out of here.

CHARLEY

Hmm, on second thought I say go for it!

**INT. THE FAMILY KITCHEN. -- DAY**

HOPE IS PREPARING DINNER WHILE JUSTIN SITS DOING HIS HOMEWORK.  
CHARLEY WALKS IN.

CHARLEY

How is my lovely wife and our wonderful family this evening?

HOPE

My, you sound happy today. Wait a minute. Faith didn't get run over or something?

CONTINUED

CHARLEY

Why do you think I would be happy about something like that? Actually, she's been so busy sitting in the bathroom coming up with ideas that she hasn't had any time to annoy me.

HOPE

She does seem to be in her element. I can't imagine what so-called designs she'll come up with.

CHARLEY

As long as she stays out of my hair, everything is fine. About the only thing I regret is that once she submits her design and we award everything to Mr. Jim, she'll be business as usual.

HOPE

Well, we don't know that for sure yet, do we?

CHARLEY

Oh, I'm positive that she'll be back causing problems in no time.

HOPE

No, I mean we don't know for sure if we're going to reject her designs.

CHARLEY

Come on, Hope. I can't even imagine trusting her with overseeing this project.

CONTINUED

HOPE

Well we told her we'd give her a chance.  
And besides, we trust her with our  
kids, don't we?

CHARLEY

Yeah, but we're talking about our house  
here.

JUSTIN

Hey! I'm sitting right here!

CHARLEY APPROACHES JUSTIN, HUGS HIM AND KISSES HIS HEAD.

CHARLEY

And you'll never know how happy I am  
that you are right here.

JUSTIN

Thanks, Dad! May I be excused?

CHARLEY

Sure, son. Anything you say.

JUSTIN LEAVES AND GOES UPSTAIRS.

HOPE

Charley, I don't think he has finished  
his homework!

CHARLEY

Really? What a lousy father I am!

HOPE

Don't change the subject! We were  
talking about giving my sister a chance!

CONTINUED

CHARLEY

I know, but have you seen your sister's taste? I don't want a bathroom that looks like it came out of the Barbie dream house.

FAITH WALKS IN ESCORTING A WORKMAN CARRYING TOOLS.

FAITH

Hello, Charley. Hi Hope!

HOPE

(DISTRACTED)

Hello Faith. Now about our discussion-

CHARLEY

Uh, Hope, wasn't that a workman with your sister?

HOPE

What? Whoever she decides to bring with her to the house is her business.

CHARLEY

Uh, I don't think that guy was a guest.

HOPE

What? She wouldn't. We told her to hold off until we made up our minds.

CHARLEY AND HOPE HEAD OVER THE BATHROOM TO WITNESS THE WORKMAN WITH A SLEDGEHAMMER.

FAITH

Just tear out the wall here. See my blueprints?

CONTINUED

WORKMAN

Well, most of the blueprints I've worked with are bigger and not on notebook paper and don't have hearts on them. But I guess I'll manage.

HOPE

Hold it! What's going on here?

FAITH

I'm beginning the redecorating process. Isn't this fun?

HOPE

No it isn't! You were supposed to-

THE WORKMAN, APPARENTLY IGNORING THE CONVERSATION SLAMS A HOLE INTO THE WALL.

HOPE (CONT'D)

WAIT!

WORKMAN

Too late, ma'am. Once I've started I can't stop the job until we're completely finished.

CHARLEY

Faith, I have never been more upset with you than- hey isn't that one of those new super wrenches?

WORKMAN

Yeah, we just got it in last week.

Take a look at it if you'd like.

CHARLEY GRABS THE WRENCH AND BEGINS TALKING TO THE WORKMAN ABOUT TOOLS. HOPE PULLS FAITH ASIDE AND THEY CONTINUE THEIR CONVERSATION.

CONTINUED

HOPE

How could you? We wanted to see your designs before you actually started the work!

FAITH

I wanted it to be a surprise.

HOPE

Some surprise! Wait- that's the excuse I gave you!

FAITH

Yeah, but I'm a better actress, aren't I? Anyway, I knew that you were just giving me a chance because you wanted me out of your hair. You never intended to give me a real opportunity, so I just took the initiative and went ahead. It was just like how I got my first acting gig.

HOPE

Really? I thought you said it was because of that little visit to the casting cou-

FAITH

Shh! It was because of my initiative. Besides, that guy wasn't the head of the studio. It turns out he wasn't the head of anything.

CONTINUED

HOPE

Don't change the subject on me! Charley  
and me are very disappointed in you!

HOPE GRABS CHARLEY AWAY FROM HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE WORKMAN.

HOPE (CONT'D)

Aren't we disappointed, Charley?

CHARLEY

Yeah, Hope. This really is an amazing  
wrench.

CHARLEY PULLS AWAY FROM HOPE AND CONTINUES TO TALK WITH THE  
CONTRACTOR.

FAITH

See? He's thrilled about this!

HOPE

He's not thrilled! You know how men  
are about their tools!

FAITH

Actually, I do. You see-

HOPE

Forget it! I don't want to hear about  
that! You just need to find a way to  
fix this!

FAITH

I don't understand. You wanted me to  
find something I was good at.

HOPE

I don't care. Make him go away!

CONTINUED

WORKMAN

I'm not going away, ma'am. I have a contract.

CHARLEY

Yes, Hope. Don't make him go away. Please?

HOPE

Okay, fine. But you owe me one.

CHARLEY

Cool. Hey, wait a minute! We did this for your batty sister! You owe ME!

FAITH

Batty?

HOPE

Charley, that's not right-

FAITH

Yeah, you tell him, Hope!

HOPE

As I was saying- it's not right for you to say I owe you. Sure, we did this for my batty sister, but if you want to keep your little friend here-

CHARLEY

Okay.

HOPE

As for you, if this little project isn't completed on time and under budget, you'll answer to us. Right, Charley? Charley?

CONTINUED

CHARLEY IS ADMIRING MORE TOOLS.

CHARLEY

Yeah, whatever.

FAITH

Well, don't worry about your 'batty' sister, Hope. I'm sure I'll do just fine.

HOPE

Great.

FAITH

By the way, what is a budget exactly?

**INT. THE FAMILY KITCHEN. -- DAY**

THE FAMILY IS SITTING DOWN TO AN EARLY DINNER. EVERYONE EXCEPT FOR FAITH IS AT THE TABLE AS LOUD NOISES OCCASIONALLY INTERRUPT THE MEAL.

HOPE

I hope everything is okay in there. Has anyone taken a peek behind the tarp?

HAYLEY

I went to tell them to keep it down because I was studying and Aunt Faith wouldn't let me get a peek.

HOPE

Did they quiet down?

HAYLEY

No, she just handed me some headphones and told me to get lost.

CONTINUED

HOPE

That's it! I have to let Faith know that she has to work quieter. The kids need to study.

SYDNEY

Leave Aunt Faith alone. She told me she needs complete privacy while she's working. Besides, who cares? It's not like I'll ever need to use... what's that um, thing I've been studying?

HAYLEY

English?

SYDNEY

Yeah, whatever.

THEY HEAR A BIG CRASH.

HOPE

That's it. I have to do something.

CHARLEY

Relax, Hope. I'm sure that Felix has this all taken care of.

HOPE

Who's Felix?

CHARLEY

The contractor Faith hired. His name is Felix.

HOPE

Really? I thought his name was Fred.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

HOPE (CONT'D)

But, more importantly, why are you so relaxed? My batty sister is doing who knows what to our bathroom!

CHARLEY

Well, Felix lets me use his saw.

HOPE

That's it? You're willing to let, what did you call her? 'Hurricane Faith' wreak havoc on your house? Just because some guy lets you use his saw?

JUST THEN, FAITH WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN DRESSED IN AN ELABORATE ARTISTS OUTFIT.

FAITH

That noise was nothing to worry about people. Don't stress out.

FAITH PULLS HOPE ASIDE

FAITH (CONT'D)

And by the way, if your husband is using another guy's saw, I'd think twice about sticking with him. I knew this guy back in Hollywood who was all macho when the cameras rolled, but believe me-

HOPE

Faith! What is going on back there? What are you doing to my house?

CONTINUED

FAITH

Hope, are you in denial? Maybe I need to spell it out for you. Charley might be-

HOPE

Listen to me, if this project ruins this house, I'll never forgive you!

FAITH

Would I ruin this house? I live here too, you know.

HOPE

Well, okay.

FAITH

Besides, there's not much I could do to make this dump worse, is there?

HOPE

Faith!

FAITH

Just trust me, sis. I'll do a good job. You trust me, don't you?

HOPE

Of course I do!

FAITH

Good. Now you wouldn't happen to know a masonry expert, would you?

HOPE

What?!?

CONTINUED

FAITH

Never mind. You have enough on your mind worrying about your *husband*.

HOPE

Faith! I-

FAITH GOES BACK TO THE BATHROOM AND HOPE HITS CHARLIE ON HIS SHOULDER.

CHARLEY

Hey! What did I do?

HOPE

Didn't you hear what she said? Doesn't it bother you that we don't know what is going on in our own house?

CHARLEY

Hmm, what do you think I hate the most? The fact that your sister spends most of her time in that room not bothering me or the idea that I get to play with all of those cool power tools?

HOPE

But-

HAYLEY

Mom, did you remember to bake those cupcakes for my piano recital tomorrow?

HOPE

Oh, thanks for reminding me. I guess with all of this craziness going on, it's hard for me to remember things.

CONTINUED

HAYLEY

Mom! I really need them. They're counting on me!

SYDNEY

Yeah, everyone is counting on her, especially that geek, Howard!

HAYLEY

Stop it! I don't care about him!

SYDNEY

Yes you do! I saw how you set up his piano bench before practice and the way you got googly eyes when he thanked you for it!

HAYLEY

No! I don't have a crush on him! You turn everything into something dirty!

HOPE

Girls! Don't talk to each other like that! Hayley, it's okay to have a crush on a boy.

CHARLEY

No it isn't! Not until they're married.

SYDNEY

Well, how are we going to get married if we don't date boys?

CHARLEY

I don't care. I'm sure you'll work something out.

CONTINUED

HOPE

So, what do you think Faith is doing  
back there?

JUST ABOUT EVERYONE GETS UP AND LEAVES THE TABLE DUE TO BEING  
UPSET AT ONE PERSON OR ANOTHER.

JUSTIN

Boy, you sure know how to clear a room!

**INT. THE FAMILY KITCHEN -- NIGHT**

WHILE THE REST OF THE FAMILY HAS APPARENTLY GONE TO BED, HOPE  
ENTERS THE KITCHEN AND BEGINS TAKING OUT THE INGREDIENTS TO  
DO HER BAKING.

HOPE

(TO HERSELF)

I don't need to know what's going on  
back there. I have cupcakes to bake!

HOPE BEGINS TAKING OUT MORE PANS AND MIXING INGREDIENTS, BUT  
HER CURIOSITY GETS THE BEST OF HER.

HOPE (CONT'D)

(TO HERSELF)

I'm sure a little peek won't hurt  
anything!

HOPE WALKS DOWN THE HALL TOWARDS THE FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM.

HOPE (CONT'D)

(READING A SIGN)

"Warning, Diva at work." Oh, Faith,  
really!

AS HOPE MOVES CLOSER TO THE DRAPED OFF AREA, THE WARNINGS GET  
MORE OMINOUS.

CONTINUED

HOPE (CONT'D)

(READING THE LAST SIGN)

"Keep out, don't say I didn't warn you, Hope!" What could she possibly have done to warrant a warning. This is my house after all!

HOPE PULLS BACK THE SHEET WHICH ACTIVATES AN ELABORATE SYSTEM WHICH DROPS A WICKER CAGE ON TOP OF HER. SHE DUCKS AND TRIES TO QUIETLY ESCAPE, HOPING THAT NO ONE HEARD THE COMMOTION.

HOPE (CONT'D)

(TO HERSELF)

Okay. I'm okay. I just have to quietly get out of this without making too much noise.

HOPE TRIES TO ESCAPE, BUT NOTICES THAT THE TRAP HAS CLEVERLY CAUSED HER TO BE STUCK.

HOPE (CONT'D)

(WHISPERING)

Oh, crap.

**INT. THE FAMILY KITCHEN -- DAY**

HAYLEY ENTERS THE KITCHEN AND NOTICES THE INGREDIENTS LEFT OUT.

HAYLEY

Oh gosh! Where's mom?!

HAYLEY WALKS DOWN THE HALL AND SPIES HOPE SLEEPING, STUCK IN FAITH'S TRAP.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)

Mom!

HOPE WAKES UP AND LOOKS HAPPILY AT HAYLEY.

CONTINUED

HOPE

Thank Goodness! Hayley, get me out of here before your Aunt Faith catches me.

HAYLEY

When I saw those ingredients left out on the counter, I thought something bad had happened last night.

HOPE

Don't worry, honey! I'm okay. Now get me out of this and-

HAYLEY

Mom! Our recital is ruined! I promised Howard- I mean, everyone that your cupcakes would be there! I'll catch it for this!

HOPE

Sweetie! There's still time for me to stop by the supermarket and buy those premade cupcakes. They won't know the difference!

HAYLEY

Yes they will! You let me down, Mom and all because you were more concerned with Aunt Faith's work than you were with my recital!

HOPE

I'm sorry. Now about getting me out-

CONTINUED

HAYLEY

I think it would be best for you to be found out. Then you'll learn an important lesson.

HOPE

Hayley, I'm your mother! Let me out of this trap this instant before your Aunt Faith finds out what I've done!

HAYLEY

I'd love to, but I have to get to school early so I can let everyone know that I'm disappointing them!

HAYLEY RUNS OFF.

HOPE

Hayley, please!

JUST THEN, CHARLEY HAPPENS UPON THE SCENE AND PROMPTLY TRIES TO BACK HIS WAY OUT OF IT.

HOPE (CONT'D)

Charley! Help me before Faith gets here, please!

CHARLEY STOPS BACKING AWAY.

CHARLEY

Oh no, I know better than to get in the middle of this one!

HOPE

You'd better help or I'll cut you off!

CHARLEY

Cut me off of wha- oh. I'll get you out of there honey!

CONTINUED

CHARLEY TRIES TO UNDO THE KNOTS ON FAITH'S TRAP, AS FAITH BURSTS ON THE SCENE.

FAITH

A-Ha! I caught you in my trap! I knew your curiosity would get the better of you! I have EMT!

HOPE

Well, sister if you really had 'EMT', you'd know that as soon as Charley gets me out of here, I'm going to kill you!

FAITH

Why? You're the nosy cheat! You're not even a good mother!

CHARLEY BACKS AWAY FROM HIS WORK AT UNTANGLING THE TRAP.

CHARLEY

Hmm. On second thought, I think I'm going to be late for work.

CHARLEY LEAVES THE HALLWAY.

HOPE

Charley! Wait! I'd never cut you off! In fact, I'll even let you-

THE SOUND OF A CAR SCREECHING AWAY IS HEARD.

HOPE (CONT'D)

This is all your fault! You take that back, what you said about me being a bad mother!

CONTINUED

FAITH

I won't! If you were such a great mother, you would have baked those cupcakes like you had promised!

HOPE

You heard that?

FAITH

Yes! I heard it all. Shame on you, Hope!

HOPE

Shame on me? You're the person who set this so-called trap! If it weren't for you, my daughter would have had her cupcakes and everything would be great!

FAITH

Yes, but you were the sneak who let her nosiness get the best of her!

HOPE

I only wanted to see what mess you've made of my house! After all, we weren't even going to accept your designs- no matter what they looked like!

FAITH LOOKS SHOCKED.

FAITH

Really? You had no faith in me? I can't believe this- my own sister!

CONTINUED

HOPE

Well, you've been like a tornado through our lives! When I saw that you were beginning the job without our consent, I knew that this was going to be yet another mess that I was going to have to clean up!

FAITH

I didn't know that you felt that way about me. Maybe I should just go back to Hollywood and you won't have to worry about cleaning up any of my messes ever again!

FAITH BEGINS TO LEAVE THE HALLWAY.

HOPE

Faith!

FAITH

Yes. Are you going to apologize for the hurtful things you've said?

HOPE

No, I need you to get me out of here.

FAITH

How dare you! Alright, I will get you out of there.

HOPE

Because you're trying to take the higher ground?

CONTINUED

FAITH

No, because I need you to get your pocket book and loan me the money for airplane tickets to Hollywood.

HOPE

I'm not giving you a dime!

FAITH

Well, it was worth a shot. Besides, I would have thought you'd do anything to get rid of me.

HOPE

I don't want you to leave. I just want you to think things through before you do them.

FAITH

I do, Hope. You just have to trust me.

HOPE

Okay, then. I really trust you. Now get me out of this. And I would imagine that after all I've been through you'd have to let me see what you've done to my bathroom.

FAITH

There you go again! Why can't you just wait until I have my grand unveiling like everyone else?

HOPE

If I admit that I don't trust you will you let me out of here?

CONTINUED

FAITH

(GASPING)

Hope! You really don't trust me? But what about the babysitting that I do with the kids? I figured you had to trust me if you let me look after the kids!

HOPE

I know, but this is our house and-

FAITH

That little boy was right! You do care more about this house than you do for your kids!

HOPE

Little boy? Do you mean Justin?

FAITH

Is he that little kid who lives here and is your son?

HOPE

Yes and he also happens to be your nephew! How could you forget his name?

FAITH

Don't change the subject! This isn't about my being a lousy aunt- it's about you being an untrusting sneak!

FAITH PULLS THE BASKET OFF HOPE.

FAITH (CONT'D)

I'll let you out.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

FAITH (CONT'D)

But you have to wait like everyone else to see what I've done. I think you'll be surprised.

HOPE

Pleasantly I hope?

FAITH ENTERS THE BATHROOM AND SLAMS THE DOOR.

**INT. FAMILY LIVING ROOM -- DAY**

FAITH IS FIDGETING AND BEGINS STRAIGHTENING THINGS OUT. THE REST OF THE FAMILY IS TRYING TO GO ABOUT THEIR USUAL ROUTINES AND THE OBSESSIVE CLEANING BEGINS TO ANNOY THEM.

CHARLEY

Hope! Would you calm down? She told us we'd be allowed to see her work in a minute!

HOPE

But that was three minutes ago! Maybe I should see what she's doing-

SYDNEY

No! Aunt Faith will let us know when she's ready. Things looked a bit interesting when I took a peek this afternoon.

HOPE

She let you look?

SYDNEY

Yeah, she put me on the VIP list.

CONTINUED

HAYLEY

I got a peek too. She said it was the least she could do.

HOPE

I really am sorry about that Hayley. How can I make it up to you?

HAYLEY

Don't have to. Our teacher felt sorry for us and took everyone out for ice cream. Now Howard- um, the entire class thinks I'm cool. Could you promise to make something for the next recital and then totally flake out again?

HOPE

I'll try. Now what does it look like?

FAITH WALKS INTO THE ROOM, ELABORATELY DRESSED AS IF SHE WERE GOING TO AN AWARD SHOW OR A PREMIERE.

FAITH

You won't have to worry about that, sis. In just a few minutes, we'll have the bathroom premiere! But first the bad news-

HOPE

My goodness, you've ruined our bathroom!

CHARLEY

That's preposterous, Hope!

FAITH

Thank you Charley! I'm glad you're sticking up for me.

CONTINUED

CHARLEY

Not for you, for Felix!

HOPE

In any case- the bad news?

FAITH

Well, we went a trifle bit over budget.

HOPE

Oh dear- how much?

FAITH

I'll tell you that after you see it  
for yourself!

EVERYONE WALKS TO THE BATHROOM AND FAITH ELABORATELY OPENS THE DOOR. A FANFARE GREETES THEM, COURTESY OF A CD PLAYER FAITH TURNS ON IN THE HALLWAY. HOPE AND CHARLEY LOOK AROUND.

HOPE

This is amazing! You did an excellent  
job!

CHARLEY

Even I have to admit, this is great.  
Professional great!

FAITH

See? I told you that you should have  
had faith in me!

HOPE

Now about the budget?

FAITH

Oh, well I wanted you to see it before  
I told you that.

FAITH WINCES.

CONTINUED

HOPE

How much?

FAITH

A trifle, really. One Thousand dollars.

FAITH CLOSES HER EYES AND PREPARES FOR THE WORST.

CHARLEY

Really? That's it? For quality work like this, I would have expected a higher figure.

HOPE

Faith. You've done an excellent job and I apologize for ever doubting you.

FAITH

Really? That means so much to me! Now can I redecorate the living room? I mean, the eighties were a great decade and all, but still-

HOPE

Faith, please quit while you're ahead!

FAITH

It was worth a shot. Okay, I'll leave you two with your new bathroom while I go upstairs and get ready for bed.

HOPE

But it's only 8PM!

FAITH

Yeah, but I need to start putting on my facial masks and moisturizers.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

FAITH (CONT'D)

Not all of us want to look like the  
Crypt Keeper in our old age. Oh- sorry,  
Hope.

FAITH TAKES OFF AND CHARLEY PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND HOPE.

HOPE

So, you weren't just trying to be nice  
when you said you liked the bathroom?

CHARLEY

No. Since when have I ever said  
something just to be nice to your  
sister? Well, there is something I  
don't like about this project.

HOPE

Are you upset that your buddy won't be  
here working on the bathroom anymore?

CHARLEY

Okay, two things. The other is now  
that your sister is finished, she'll  
be in my hair again.

HOPE

Well, if she were to turn this into a  
career, she might earn enough money to  
move out of the house.

CHARLEY

You really know how to cheer me up,  
don't you?

CONTINUED

HOPE

Well, I was saving my other method of  
cheering you up just in case things  
didn't work out, but since I'm still  
in a good mood-

HOPE LEADS CHARLEY OUT OF THE BATHROOM, PRESUMABLY UPSTAIRS.