

ALLEN

I'm sorry if I upset you.

ANN

It doesn't matter.

ALLEN

This chicken is really good. I even like the vegetables I put them over to the side, but they taste real good on their own. Just like those greens we used to get up at your Memaw's.

ANN

Allen these are Italian greens. Memaw never cooked greens that didn't have ham hocks in them.

ALLEN

What's wrong with ham hocks?

ANN

Nothing. But they're not Italian.

ALLEN

What's so great about things being Italian?

(Ann starts chopping bananas.)

BRIAN

I must say I wonder . . . I wonder just how things come to be the normal course of events being what they are . . .

BRENDA

What?

BRIAN

Well, I guess what I'm trying to say is that I just don't understand the grand order of things.

BRENDA

The grand order of what things?

BRIAN

How things got to be the way things got to be.

BRENDA

What things got to be what way?

BRIAN

The way things are, Signora, Itlaian cookin woman.

ALLEN
This chicken can't be Italian.

BRIAN
Grat-see-ay.

ALLEN
This is not a Latin chicken at all.

BRIAN
Grat-see-ay boucoup.

ALLEN
This is one of those Waycross chickens dressed up like an Italian. It's masquerading. Know how I know? It's got a southern accent. Bok! Bok! Bok!

BRIAN
Signora, Signora, Signora . . .

ALLEN
Bok! Bok! Bok!

BRENDA
What things got to be what way?

BRIAN
Well, for example: since when did you decide to cultivate a trashy reputation?

BRENDA
Since I married you, I guess.

ALLEN
Bok! Bok! Bok!

BRIAN
My family is not trash.

BRENDA
Do you want desert or not?

BRIAN
Smoking at the Club is trashy and you know it.

BRENDA
Excuse me Mr. Tobacco Farmer of the Year, since when is using your product such a disgrace?

BRIAN
I grow it to make money to put this food on this table. Not so you can smoke it. Do you mind me making money?

BRENDA

No. But I mind your hypocrisy.

ALLEN
Cock-a-doodle-doo!

BRIAN
People are going to smoke it and chew it whether I grow it or not.

BRENDA
Obviously.

BRIAN
But that doesn't mean you have to.

BRENDA
Just trying to keep you in business.

BRIAN
I grow it for baseball players to chew 'cause they seem to need it. I grow it for old men that don't have anything better to do with their lives than smoke it all away. For them it's a blessing. Helps them die on time. I grow it for Yankee women in New York that wear too much rouge and think they are men. I do not grow it for my wife.

BRENDA
Thank you

BRIAN
You're welcome. For what?

BRENDA
For explaining your morality. I didn't know you had any.

BRIAN
I will not have my wife, the mother of my son, smoking and that is final.

BRENDA
Do you want desert or not?

BRIAN
If you want to sneak around and smoke and cheat and stain this family there will be consequences. You hear me? There will be consequences! You do it again and you are out! You hear me? Out! What is that?

BRENDA
Bananas Flambe.

BRIAN

Excerpt from LINKS – Over Meat
© 2007 T. Cat Ford

I give you everything you want. I will not be disgraced!

(Brenda starts chopping bananas and sneaking food.)

BRIAN
Is that clear? I made a mistake. A big mistake. A goddamn big mistake.

BRENDA
What?

BRIAN
Never you mind.

ALLEN
Did you know chickens were prejudiced? Did you?