

BIALYSTOCK

You miserable, cowardly, wretched little caterpillar. Don't you ever want to become a butterfly? Don't you want to spread your wings and flap your way to glory?

BLOOM

(his eyes widened in terror)
You're going to jump on me.
You're going to jump on me. I know you're going to jump on me -- like Nero jumped on Poppea.

BIALYSTOCK

What???

BLOOM

(by now he is shrieking)
Poppea. She was his wife. And she was unfaithful to him. So he got mad and he jumped on her. Up and down, up and down, until he squashed her like a bug. Please don't jump on me.

BIALYSTOCK

(shouting and jumping
up and down next to Bloom)
I'm not going to jump on you!

BLOOM

(rolling away in terror)
Aaaaaaaaaa!

BIALYSTOCK

(hoisting Bloom to
his feet)

Will you get a hold on yourself.

BLOOM

(up on his feet and
running for cover)

Don't touch me! Don't touch me!

BIALYSTOCK

What are you afraid of? I'm not
going to hurt you! What's the
matter with you?

BLOOM

I'm hysterical. I'm having
hysterics. I'm hysterical. I
can't stop. When I get like this,
I can't stop. I'm hysterical.

PICKS UP A CARAFE OF WATER
AND SHOSHES ITS CONTENTS INTO BLOOM'S FACE.

BLOOM

I'm wet! I'm wet! I'm hysterical
and I'm wet!

BIALYSTOCK SLAPS HIM ACROSS THE FACE.

BLOOM

(holding his face)

I'm in pain! And I'm wet! And I'm
still hysterical!

