KOST & SCHNEIDER

ACT I

Scene 8

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER's living room. It is furnished with ponderous chairs, lamps, a sideboard, an old gramophone, etc.

Doors lead from the living room to the private rooms of the roomers: specifically to the rooms of CLIFF, HERR SCHULTZ and FRAULEIN KOST. Another door leads to FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER's bedroom.

Off the living room is a hallway leading to the main door to the flat.

AT RISE: FRAULEIN KOST is entering down the hall with a GERMAN SAILOR.

Suddenly FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER emerges from her room. SHE is all dressed up. SHE is also furious.

START

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER
That sailor! Out of my house!

FRAULEIN KOST
That sailor -- dear lady -- is my brother!

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER
Out! Out!! Out!!!

(SAILOR exits down the hall)

FRAULEIN KOST
Wait! Wait! How dare you! You think it is easy -- finding a sailor? This was only my second one since New Year's. And what is it now? April!

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER
Your second? Your second?! You think I do not know what goes on here? Sailors -- all the time: in -- out -- in -- out! God only knows what the neighbors must think I have here -- a battleship?
(Outraged)
Fraulein Kost, I give you warning! One sailor more -- I call the police!

FRAULEIN KOST

And if I cannot pay the rent?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

(FRAULEIN KOST's words sink in belatedly)

The rent is due each Friday -- as always.

FRAULEIN KOST

No sailors. No rent. I move.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Move?

FRAULEIN KOST

Move!!

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

(Upset)

And what -- am I supposed to do with your room? Out of the blue -- she tells me "I move"!! Is that gratitude? Only last week -- I gave you another new mattress!

FRAULEIN KOST

All right! I will leave the end of the week -- since you insist.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I insist? You insist!

FRAULEIN KOST

And what about the sailors?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

The sailors?

(SHE mulls it over and reaches a decision)

Fraulein Kost -- if you wish to continue living here, you must not let me catch you bringing in any more sailors! You understand?

FRAULEIN KOST

Very well. So it is the same as always.

(SHE goes into her room and closes the door)

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

It is not the same as always!

(SHE knocks on FRAULEIN KOST's door)

Fraulein Kost! You hear me ? I have put my foot down!

(SHE knocks again)

Fraulein Kost! Fraulein Kost!!

END