WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, YOU ASK? WHY ARE HERBIE AND DAD LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES WHILE MOM PURSUES A CAREER OF GLAMOR AND RICHES? HOLD ON TO YOUR LOLLIPOPS, HERBIVORES--THE AMAZING TRUTH LIES IN THE TREMBLING TALE WE COULD ONLY CALL...

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOM IN THE WORLD!

HAHP! DON'T NEED ANYONE, BUT MUST DO SOMETHING--Dad's COMPLETE WRECK!

HONEY! PLEASE COME HOME! WE NEED YOU!

OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE BETA SHOPPER PLAZA, NOT FAR FROM THE POPNECKER HOME, AS MRS. POPNECKER HURRIES HOME AFTER A BUSY AFTERNOON'S SHOPPING...

OH, DEAR! I'M SO LATE! AND HERBIE WILL BE UPSET IF HIS AFTERNOON SNACK ISN'T ON TIME!

OH, NO!!

But, as Mrs. Popnecker backs out of the narrow space...

MY CAR!!

KRUNK
YOU IDIOT! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY...

I... I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

I'M SURE MY HUSBAND WILL BE HAPPY TO PAY YOU FOR THE DAMAGES...

NEVER MIND THAT! IT'S ONLY A CAR. I HAVE A DOZEN OF THEM!

YOU HAVE... A DOZEN CARS? YOU MUST BE VERY RICH!

BUT OF COURSE I AM! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? I AM PIERRE PAU LO PAstrA!

BUT, WHO ARE YOU? I MUST KNOW YOUR NAME!

ME? OH, I'M NOBODY. JUST A HOUSEWIFE...

I AM THE WORLD'S GREATEST DIRECTOR OF TELEVISION COMMERCIALS!

A HOUSEWIFE, PERHAPS! BUT NEVER JUST A HOUSEWIFE! YOU ARE THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOUSEWIFE!

AND I WANT YOU TO STAR IN ALL MY COMMERCELS FROM NOW ON!
GOOD NEWS FOR MRS. POPNECKER, YOU MIGHT SAY, BUT HOW WILL HER FAMILY REACT?

TELEVISION COMMERCIALS?!

BUT IF YOU'RE OFF STARRING IN TELEVISION COMMERCIALS, WHO WILL DO THE HOUSEWORK?

HELP OUT??
YOU EXPECT ME TO CLEAN AND WASH AND COOK? OUT OF THE QUESTION!

WHY, I'M THE MAN OF THE HOUSE! I CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO DO SUCH THINGS!

NOW WHAT?

WELL...
SORT OF THOUGHT MAYBE YOU AND HERBIE COULD HELP OUT...

HERBIE! YOU MAY BE A FAT LITTLE NOTHING, BUT I KNOW YOU'LL BACK ME ON THIS!

YOUR MOTHER WANTS TO LEAVE HOME AND BECOME A BIG HOLLYWOOD STAR! BUT I SAY NO!

MAKE NO DIFFERENCE TO ME. CAN TAKE CARE OF SELF.

AND SO, THE NEXT MORNING...

PLEASE! YOU CAN'T GO! YOU CAN'T LEAVE US!

BUT I MUST. THIS IS A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME REAL MONEY, SO WE CAN FINALLY AFFORD ALL THE THINGS WE'VE DREAMED OF!

GOOD-BYE, HERBIE DEAR. TAKE CARE OF YOUR DAD. I'LL WRITE YOU EVERY DAY.

MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO READ, LOTS OF THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF.
AND SO THE MEN OF THE POPNECKER HOUSE ARE SET ADrift ON THE CRUEL SEA OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THINGS DO NOT GO SWIMMINGLY...

HOUSEWORK! HOUSEWORK! HOUSEWORK!

I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE! I HAVE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO CONSIDER!

LIKE WHAT'S FOR DINNER.

DINNER? I DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT DINNER! IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A FAT LITTLE NOTHING YOU'D UNDERSTAND THAT!!

NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT DINNER?

ALONE IN HIS ROOM, OUR HERO CONTEMPLATES THE CHILLING MEANING OF HIS FATHER'S WORDS...

IF DAD DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT DINNER, WHO DOES?

AS IF IN ANSWER TO HERBIE'S PLAINTIVE LAMENT...

... SO REMEMBER LADIES, SUPER SUDSY SOAP IS THE ONLY SOAP TO CHOOSE...

... IF YOU WANT YOUR LIFE TO BE AS BEAUTIFUL AS MINE!

HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT DAD WAS RIGHT. CAN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT MOM TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS.

TIME FOR FAT FURY TO TAKE HAND.
AND SO, IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TELL OR IT, HERBIE IS ZOOMING OVER THE CITY, IN SEARCH OF THE LOCATION OF PIERRE PAULO PASTRAMI'S LATEST COMMERCIAL EXTRAVAGANZA.

MOM WANTS TO MAKE COMMERCIALS SO SHE CAN HELP OUT WITH FAMILY FINANCES.

SO WON'T QUIT HIGH PAY JOB IF I JUST ASK.

SOUNDS LIKE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY. JUST WAIT UNTIL CAMERAS ROLLING AND...

THE FAT FURY'S INSUPERABLE BREATH SENDS A HUGE CLOUD OF DUST OVER THE SHOOTING LOCATION...

NO! NO! NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THE CAR LOOKS EVEN WORSE THAN BEFORE!

BUT... BUT ALL I DID WAS POLISH IT LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO!

ALL RIGHT! IT DOESN'T MATTER, YOU ARE STILL THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL MOTHER!

I'LL SIMPLY FIND ANOTHER PRODUCT FOR YOU TO ENDORSE!

Hmph, plan didn't work.
But Herb! He knows the tried and true saying, "If at first you don't succeed, give up!" Unfortunately, that will not get the Popnecker House back in order, so...

Plan has to work this time.

New shipment of lollipops due from factory. I don't want to be late.

Now, we've laid this kitchen floor out in this meadow so you can show how Amazo mop magic can wash away the grime of daily life.

Oh!!

Moo moo moo

The floor is ruined! We'll never be able to show this commercial on television!

Sorry, Pierre. Maybe all this was never meant to be.

Maybe I should just go back to my husband and son!

But...

No! I will not hear of it! You are my greatest discovery!

By the time I'm done, every woman on Earth will want to be just like you!

Plan didn't work!
IT TAKES A LOT TO FLUMMOX THE FAT PURY, BUT HERBIE IS VERY CLOSE TO THE END OF HIS TETHER...

WHAT TO DO?
WHAT TO DO?
NOW, THIS WILL
BE A VERY EASY
SHOT, ALL YOU HAVE
TO DO IS GIVE THIS
WINDOW A GENTLE
WIPE WITH WONDO
WINDO WASHO...

LAST CHANCE!
LAST LOLLI-
POP!
HARD TO
FIND
CINNAMON,
BUT MUST
MAKE
ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE!

OH!!
SKRAAAAN!

BEAUTY!
MY BEAUTY!
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?
YOU WERE
NOT HURT BY
THE FLYING
GLASS?
NO, I'M
FINE, BUT THIS
REALLY IS THE
LAST STRAW.

MY ACTING CAREER
IS SUDDENLY TURNING
OUT TO BE FAR MORE
DANGEROUS THAN
I WOULD EVER HAVE
EXPECTED!
I'M GOING
HOME TO
MY FAMILY!
PLAN...
pants WORKED!

BUT, ONCE AGAIN...
NO! I WILL HIRE
A STUNT PERSON
TO DO ALL THE
PHYSICAL ACTION!
ALL YOU
NEED TO DO IS
SMILE AND WAVE
AND BE THE
WORLD'S MOST
BEAUTIFUL
HOUSEWIFE!

OH, NO!
AND SO HAPPINESS AND SERENITY RETURN AT LAST TO THE POPNECKER RESIDENCE...

THAT BIG HOLLYWOOD DIRECTOR REALLY CALLED OUR SON A FAT LITTLE NOTHING? I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING I LIKED ABOUT THAT GUY!

GET ME A GLASS OF MILK, WOULD YOU, HONEY?

AND SO...

MOM! PLEASE! HOUSE IS FALLING APART! DAD CAN'T COOK! CAN'T CLEAN! CAN'T SEW!

WE NEED YOU!

HERBIE!

PLEASE, MOM! COME HOME!

OH, HERBIE! MY POOR LITTLE BABY BOY!

"BABY BOY...?!

YOU... YOU MEAN THIS... THIS CREATURE IS YOUR SON? OH, NO! OH, NO NO NO!!

IF THAT SHOULD GET OUT, IT WOULD RUIN MY COMMERCIALS! RUIN MY CAREER! HOW WILL ANYONE EVER BELIEVE THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOUSEWIFE WOULD BE THE MOTHER OF SUCH A FAT LITTLE NOTHING?!!

AND SO...