

2. FIREMAN

(LIGHTS UP: Knock on the DOCTOR's door.)

DOCTOR. Come in.

(A FIREMAN enters.)

DOCTOR. Hi.

FIREMAN. Yeah.

(Beat.)

What do I do? Sit down?

DOCTOR. You want to sit down?

FIREMAN. (Rolls his eyes.) Great.

(Starts to sit – stands back up. Paces like he's caged.)

I gotta be here.

DOCTOR. So do I.

FIREMAN. My chief made me.

DOCTOR. Mine too.

FIREMAN. Tom O'Neill. Engine 54. Ladder 4 –

(Jaunty salute.)

– Shouldn't be alive.

DOCTOR. Why do you say that?

FIREMAN. None of my friends are.

DOCTOR. I'm sorry.

FIREMAN. Everything's crazy – People come up to me like I'm a god or something. This one lady, she saw me on the street. She just touched me. Right here.

(Holds out his arm.)

That's all she wanted to do. Like I could heal her or something... She didn't even look sick. I've been interviewed by every single news agency known to man. Derek Jeter's my new best friend, Alec Baldwin calls me twice a day, I have heart-to-heart talks with Susan Sarandon.

"Tommy, what should I do? Should I take the second

biggest part in the new Woody Allen movie?"

"Susan, I love the Woodman, but babe... c'mon..."

What do these people want – ?

Yesterday, I'm workin' on The Pile, y'know – I look up...

(Sings.)

"Here she comes... Miss America..." I'm not kiddin' – the crown, the sash, the whole thing – just in case we didn't know.

I got so many girlfriends now I can't keep 'em straight. One of 'em actually likes me. We were walking in her neighborhood the other day and we go past Barney's. What's in the window? A fireman mannequin – in the uniform – ax, helmet. Right next to him, a Fire Department sweatshirt, for sale. Fireman Chic – T-shirts everywhere. DKNY – FDNY – what's the difference? – Why am I here? And not them – Pure stupid luck. They kept going back in. Right into the smoke.

DOCTOR. So did you.

FIREMAN. Yeah, but I'm still here.

DOCTOR. How many did you save?

FIREMAN. I don't know... I got like 80 people down.

DOCTOR. (Takes this in; very dry.) Uh-huh.

(The FIREMAN nods to the DOCTOR, finally sits down in the chair opposite her – looks at her, ready to talk.)

FADE TO BLACK)