

Hello, is anybody there? Hello . . .

Moan.

. . . are you hurt?

*Suddenly he is jumped on by the man he is trying to help and four other down-and-outs who appear from behind the garbage cans. They start to beat him up. Suddenly Leroy enters from stage right. He rushes to Bugsy's rescue, punching out the unfortunate down-and-outs in all directions. His punching power is awesome. His work done, he picks up Bugsy from the garbage cans.*

**LEROY** They take your money, mister?

**BUGSY** (*tapping his pockets*) Yeah, 200 dollars less 90 cents. It was sure nice of you to help me like that.

**LEROY** Oh, it was nothing.

**BUGSY** You must be a boxer, right?

**LEROY** Nope!

**BUGSY** You're not? But that's the best punching I've ever seen.

**LEROY** Oh, it was nothing.

**BUGSY** You ever been coached?

**LEROY** Nope.

**BUGSY** You ever thought of taking it up, I mean professionally?

**LEROY** Nope.

**BUGSY** Why not? You could be a champion.

**LEROY** Never thought about it.

**BUGSY** You haven't?

**LEROY** Never had the chance.

**BUGSY** I know someone who could help you. You know Cagey Joe?

**LEROY** Nope.

**BUGSY** You know Sluggers' Gym?

**LEROY** Nope.

**BUGSY** You don't know much, do you?

**LEROY** (*big warm smile*) Nope.

**BUGSY** Put it there, Leroy, you've got yourself a manager.

*As they exit right, the lights go up and the stage is filled with Boxers who are busy skipping, punching bags, sparring, exercising.*

*Bugsy and Leroy enter from down the stairs.*

**BUGSY** Hi, Cagey Joe!

**CAGEY JOE** Hi, Bugsy. How you been, man?

**BUGSY** Swell, Cagey Joe, real swell. And you?

**CAGEY JOE** For me, yeah. But this bunch of punch bags, the pits.

**BUGSY** Cagey Joe, I want you to meet the next heavyweight champion. Leroy, meet Cagey Joe. Cagey Joe, meet Leroy Smith.

**CAGEY JOE** (*circling Leroy and nervously removing his hat*) Ever been in the ring before, boy?

**LEROY** Nope.

**CAGEY JOE** So you wanna be a fighter, huh?

**LEROY** Er, nope.

**BUGSY** Sure he does. Look at those mits. Did you ever see such shillelaghs? Hit it Leroy.

*Leroy punches Bugsy's out-stretched hand, very hard. Bugsy winces. Cagey is impressed.*

**CAGEY JOE** What's your name again, kid?

**LEROY** Leroy Smith.

**BUGSY** With you showing him the ropes, Cagey Joe, he could be champion in no time.

**CAGEY JOE** O.K. I'll give him a try. But I'll tell you now, he'll be no good unless he's got 'it'.

**LEROY** 'It'? What's 'it'?

*He stares at his hands as if 'it' is some kind of disease.*

**BUGSY** 'It' is the difference between being a no-hoper slugger and being a champion.

**CAGEY JOE** It's what makes a fighter special. If you haven't got 'it', you just haven't got it.