

Charity, Nickie, Helene

ACT TWO

Scene 4

CHARITY'S APARTMENT

NICKIE and HELENE are lounging around reading, drinking beer.

CHARITY's dialogue started as SHE moved into the set.

CHARITY

Can you imagine, I've gone out with the man now six times in the last two weeks and the most he ever tried was that hand smooching business ... Hey! that isn't a pass, is it?

NICKIE

No. ... Is it, Helene?

HELENE

What?

NICKIE

If a man kisses your hand. Would you classify that as a pass?

HELENE

Well -- that depends.

NICKIE

On what?

HELENE

On where your hand is when he kisses it.

NICKIE

Hey! Where was your hand?

CHARITY

On the end of my arm. He has always behaved like a perfect gentleman.

HELENE

What's a perfect gentleman?

CHARITY

It's not my fault you've never met one.

NICKIE

Hey! If he kisses your hand all the time, maybe he's after something.

CHARITY

Like what?

NICKIE

Your wristwatch.

CHARITY

The only thing he's after is 'Inner Contentment.' And he wants me to help him find it.

NICKIE

Honey, you sure picked up a couple of hundred dollar words since you been going around with this goofball.

CHARITY

Oscar is not a goofball! He is a highly complicated and very intelligent person.

NICKIE

Alright, so besides slobbering over your knuckles, what else can he do?

CHARITY

He's in the Tax Accountancy profession. And he's also a graduate of C.C.N.Y.U. University ...

NICKIE

Ooh! Sounds like a goofball to me.

HELENE

What does the goofball think of your vocation?

CHARITY

My what?

HELENE

Your chosen field of endeavor, child. Have you told him you're in the Rent-A-Body business?

CHARITY

Oh, he thinks nothing of it.

(CHARITY busies herself mopping sink nervously.)

HELENE and NICKIE

She ain't told him.

CHARITY

In the first place, he's too highly educated to be bothered with things like that. And in the second place, he knows because I already told him.

NICKIE

(Shocked)

That you're a dance hall hostess?

CHARITY

Yes, yes!

NICKIE

You told him?

CHARITY

(Very defensive)

Yes! Yes! I told him! I told him!

NICKIE

When?

CHARITY

Next Sunday ... I'll tell him next Sunday ... in Coney Island.(CHARITY storms out.
The GIRLS look after her.)

HELENE

She won't listen. That girl just will not listen.

NICKIE

What do you think they talk about? When they're alone?

HELENE

Talk? Honey, that girl's built for everything but conversation.

NICKIE

Yeah. He probably does all the talking.

(Music starts.)

Handing her those smooth lines like "baby, last night I dreamt you and I were in a cozy little cottage covered with clinging vines -"

HELENE

And there we were -- clinging more than the vines.

NICKIE

And then he converts the convertible sofa and really goes to work.

BOTH

Quote --

34

"BABY DREAM YOUR DREAM" (HELENE & NICKIE)

BOTH

BABY DREAM YOUR DREAM

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TRY IT