

# Charity, Helene, Nicki, Carmen

## ACT ONE

### Scene 7

THE HOSTESS ROOM.

BETSY, HELENE and NICKIE are getting dressed. CHARITY walks into the set, very excited, still clutching the cane and top hat and the photograph.

CHARITY

...and then I left his apartment at five o'clock in the morning and went home. And you know how I got there? I flew!

(Music off)

My feet, never once touched the ground.

HELENE

(Putting on eye make-up)

... Yeah, well, you keep smoking them funny little cigarettes, you bound to do a little flying.

CHARITY

You don't believe me? You don't believe I spent the night with Vittorio Vidal!

NICKIE

You swear?

CHARITY

I swear.

NICKIE

On your mother's life?

CHARITY

On my mother's life.

NICKIE

(To BETSY)

Call up and find out how her mother is.

CHARITY

(Shows mementos.)

Here. He gave me these. His hat and his cane. They're mementos of our evening together.

BETSY

Is that all he gave you?

(CHARITY nods.)

NICKIE

Honey, if I was you I'd pass the hat and beat myself to death with the cane 'cause you are dumb.

CHARITY

But you don't know what happened.

NICKIE

Forget it. What you do in bed is your business.

CHARITY

I wasn't in bed, I was in the closet.

NICKIE

To each his own.

BETSY

You coulda had a mink coat.

(Exit)

CHARITY

Why would he give me a mink coat?

HELENE

Well, if you're gonna mess with the details you ain't gonna get no results.

NICKIE

A hat and a cane. If it was me, I woulda walked outta there with my own beauty parlor.

HELENE

Now you'll never get out of here.

NICKIE

Baby, you're stuck. Stuck just like the rest of us.

(Music starts.)

HELENE

Yeah, and it ain't no use flappin' your wings 'cause we are caught in the fly paper of life.

(THEY ALL sit gloomily in silence  
for a moment. After the pause ...)

NICKIE

... Not me.

(THEY look at her.)

HELENE

What'd you say?