

C A S T

M MATTIE *E*

HER MOTHER

HER BROTHER

GEORGE

M RITA

M HARRY

M KENNETH

GIRL IN CABIN NEXT DOOR

HAZEL

HELEN

BOSS

EXTRAS:

GIRL PASSENGERS

OTHER PASSENGERS

STEWARD

TEASER

DISSOLVE TO.....OFFICE

(ALL FOUR GIRLS -- MATTIE, RITA, HELEN AND HAZEL -- ARE AT THEIR DESKS, WORKING BUSILY.)

(A NOON FACTORY WHISTLE IS HEARD.)

(LIKE A SHOT, RITA BOBS UP FROM HER DESK.)

RITA

Lunchtime! Break it up, girls.

(SHE HEADS FOR THE WASHROOM. MEANTIME, HAZEL AND HELEN ARE ALSO PREPARING TO LEAVE.)

HAZEL

Keezer's Restaurant?

HELEN

Where else? Want to come with us, Mattie?

(MATTIE IS THE ONLY ONE STILL SEATED.)

MATTIE

Well, I was going to phone the cafeteria, have a sandwich sent in ---

(GROANS FROM HAZEL AND HELEN)

HAZEL

Mattie, you wage slave, it's lunch time.

MATTIE

Oh, I wasn't going to work. I -- uh --

(SHE EMBARRASSEDLY HOLDS UP A MAGAZINE FROM HER DESK) There's this jingle contest.

Double Bubble Soap Flakes. You have to fill in a last line ---

HELEN

Honestly!

HAZEL

Mattie and her contests!

(MATTIE SHEEPISHLY READS FROM THE MAGAZINE.)

MATTIE

"Double Bubble, no more trouble

With your lingerie.

Simply pour it, you'll adore it --- "

HAZEL,

(CHIMING IN) Dee, dee, dee, dee dee-e-e-e-e.

Aw, Mattie, quit wasting your time. Nobody
ever wins those things.

MATTIE

(LOOKING AT MAGAZINE) A whole bunch of
prizes. A free vacation trip....matched
luggage...toasters... (SHE IS AWARE OF THEIR
DEPRECATING GRINS AND SUDDENLY PUTS DOWN THE
MAGAZINE AND RISES) Oh, all right. I guess
it is silly. I'll come with you.

HELEN

Good. (LOOKS AT HER HANDS) Lemme wash the
invoices off my hands.

HAZEL

Ditto.

(THEY GO OUT.)

(MATTIE STARTS TO PUT HER JACKET ON AS THE
BOSS COMES FROM HIS INNER OFFICE.)

BOSS

Where's Rita?

(MORE)

BOSS (CONT.)

(HE GLANCES AT THE UNFINISHED WORK ON RITA'S DESK, AND HITS THE ROOF) Holy Moses! She promised to have that report for me by lunch time! (RITA COMES BACK) Rita -- ! (HE POINTS TO THE PAPER IN HER TYPEWRITER.)

RITA

Scout's honor, first thing this afternoon, Mr. Trainor.

BOSS

No, now.

RITA

(TURNING PALE) But Mr. Trainor -- I got this terribly important lunch date ---

BOSS

I need it now. You'll just have to stay and finish it.

(BOES BACK INTO HIS OFFICE.)

RITA

(DESPERATE) I can't. I simply can't. (TO MATTIE) A dreamboat. Only met him last night. He looks like Gregory Peck, and how can I stand up Gregory Peck on our first lunch date?!

(HAZEL AND HELEN STICK THEIR HEADS IN THE DOORWAY.)

HAZEL

Hey, Mattie, come on.

HELEN

Hurry.

HAZEL

Some of the boys from Accounting are going
over to Keezer's with us.

(MATTIE REACTS TO THIS.)

MATTIE

W-what?

HELEN

We're all going to share a table.

MATTIE

You girls go ahead. I've decided to stay
in.

HAZEL

Honestly!

(SHE AND HELEN DISAPPEAR. OFFSTAGE WE CAN
HEAR THEM LAUGHING AND AD LIBBING WITH
SEVERAL MEN AS THEY PRESUMABLY GO DOWN THE
HALL.)

MATTIE

(TO RITA) You, too, Rita. Go ahead, I
mean. I'll finish your typing for you.

(RITA IS OVERJOYED.)

RITA

Mattie! You angel! (SHE STARTS TO DASH OUT,
THEN PAUSES AT THE DOOR) Look, kid...(VERY
SOFTLY) What are you so scared of? Those
fellows from Accounting, they're harmless.

MATTIE

I -- I -- don't know what you're talking about.
(MORE)

MATTIE (CONT.)

(HASTILY, HOLDING UP HER MAGAZINE) I was really planning to eat in. There's this jingle contest, and I have to think about it....

RITA

Sure, honey, sure. Anyhow, thanks a million.

(AND SHE DASHES OUT. MATTIE CALLS IN TO THE BOSS:)

MATTIE

Mr. Trainor, I'll finish your report for you. (SHE SITS AT RITA'S DESK, STARTS TO TYPE FOR A MOMENT, THEN STARES INTO SPACE)
(TO HERSELF, MISERABLY) Why am I so so scared? Why...?!
(CLOSE SHOT OF HER FACE)

DISSOLVE TO.....COMMERCIAL

ACT ONEDISSOLVE TO.....OFFICE

(HELEN AND HAZEL AT THEIR DESKS. MATTIE COMES OUT OF BOSS' OFFICE AND CROSSES TO HER DESK.)

(HAZEL CROSSES TO FILES, SEES HELEN LOOKING AT TRAVEL FOLDER.)

HAZEL

Thinking about vacation already?

HELEN

Yeah.

HAZEL

Where do you go?

HELEN

It's up in Maine. It's on a Lake with a long Indian name I can't pronounce.

Choca..choca..

HAZEL

My place is over in the Berkshires.

HELEN

It's simpler. At mine everybody lives in little cabins, very primitive looking. But my girl friend that was there last year says they got ever modern convenience and the plumbing is thoroughly up-to-date.

HAZEL

At my place, they have these jam sessions Saturday night. Real Basin Street stuff, everybody sitting up all night. What a vacation!

(BOSS HAS ENTERED AND LISTENED TO ALL THIS.)

BOSS

Ladies, your vacations do not begin until week after next. How's about a little work between now and then? Just a bare minimum, for the looks of the thing, h'm?

(HE GLANCES AT RITA'S VACANT DESK, THEN AT THE WALL CLOCK. THEN HE GOES BACK INTO HIS OFFICE.)

(PRESENTLY RITA COMES IN CARRYING A DRESS SHOP BAG. SHE TAKES THE UNOCCUPIED DESK, HASTILY BEGINS GETTING OUT HER TYPING PARAPHERNALIA.)

RITA

(TO MATTIE) Did he blow his top yet about me being late again?

MATTIE

Not yet.

RITA

I stopped at Mergenthal's on the way in.

They're having a sale on bathing suits.

(THE OTHERS GO ON WORKING.)

(RITA GETS AS FAR AS PUTTING SOME PAPER IN HER TYPEWRITER, THEN STANDS UP. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SHE CAN'T RESIST DISPLAYING HER PURCHASE.)

RITA

Hey, everybody, look. Fashion show.

(THE TYPING STOPS. RITA TAKES A HIGHLY AB-BREVIATED BATHING SUIT FROM THE SHOPPING BAG AND HOLDS IT UP TO HERSELF.)

(MURMURS OF ADMIRATION FROM MATTIE AND THE TWO OTHER GIRLS.)

MATTIE

Oh, very striking, Rita. I wouldn't dare
to wear white, but on you it'll look
wonderful.

(RITA MODELS THE BATHING SUIT AGAINST HER-
SELF.)

HAZEL

Get a load of Marilyn Monroe.

RITA

Think I'll get hauled in for wearing it?

HELEN

You're liable to get killed in the rush,
kid.

RITA

That's the general idea.

(EVERYBODY PRESENT LAUGHS. RITA GOES BACK
TO HER DESK.)

If it rains again like last year, I'll die.
Fourteen bucks a day, and half the time you
couldn't go out on the beach.

MATTIE

Fourteen a day!

RITA

Well, they all charge a lot down on the Cape.
I mean, sure, you can find cheaper places,
but then you don't get a good crowd. I like
a good lively crowd. I mean, we only get two
weeks so what's the percentage of landing some-
where that the fellows get heart failure every
time they treat you to a drink?

(MORE)

RITA (CONT.)

~~This place, most of the ones that go there~~
~~have convertibles. (CROSSES AROUND FILES)~~
~~Gee, last summer there was a fellow from~~
~~Worcester. A dreamboat! Did we have a~~
~~time!~~

(NOTICES BOSS STANDING IN DOORWAY. THEY
ALL GET TO SEATS AND GET BUSY.)

Helen, are you going to that place up in
Maine?

HELEN

Yes.

RITA

Well, did you ask your girl friend what I
advised you to?

HELEN

She says not to worry, there'll be plenty
of single men. They give bachelors a
special rate.

RITA

Some hotels give them half off, the lucky
bums. What about you, Mattie, where do you
go?

MATTIE

Oh, we always go to the same place, up near
Framingham. It's just a farmhouse, really.

RITA

Who's we?

MATTIE

My mother. (THEN, APOLOGETICALLY) I always have to spend my vacation with her. You see, she has high blood pressure, so I wouldn't dare let her go off by herself.

(THE FOURTH GIRL, HAZEL, CALLS OVER TO RITA)

HAZEL

~~Any summer formal on clearance, Rita?~~

RITA

~~At Mergenthals? A whole rack of nylons.~~

HAZEL

~~Plunging necklines?~~

RITA

~~Down to the floor, practically.~~

(THE BOSS STICKS HIS HEAD OUT OF HIS OFFICE.)

BOSS

Okay, Mattie, if you want to take that dictation now.

MATTIE

Yes, sure, Mr. Trainor.

(SHE GATHERS HER SHORTHAND PAD, ETC, AND GOES INTO HIS OFFICE.)

RITA

No kidding, she ought to get a medal. Fifty weeks a year she plays nursemaid to that mother. Wouldn't you think she'd get time off for good behavior?

(THE OTHER TWO GIRLS LAUGH.)

DISSOLVE.....OFFICE

(EXACTLY THE SAME SCENE, SOME BRIEF TIME LATER. MATTIE IS NOW BACK AT HER DESK AND ALL FOUR GIRLS ARE TYPING.)

(SOUND: A PHONE RINGS ON HAZEL'S DESK.)

HAZEL

Purchasing Department. (CALLS TO MATTIE)

For you, Mattie, I think it's your mother.

(MATTIE GOES TO HAZEL'S DESK, TAKES THE CALL)

MATTIE

Hello? Yes, Mom, what is it? A telegram?

Well, sure, open it, dear. Read it to me.

(A LENGTHY PAUSE DURING WHICH THE OTHERS LEAVE OFF THEIR TYPING AND WAIT ATTENTIVELY. MATTIE SUDDENLY LETS OUT A PIERCING SHRIEK.)

MATTIE

Where's it from!? Who signed it?!

(EXCITEDLY) Sure, sure, it's on the level.

Read the rest, read the rest. (AS SHE

LISTENS SHE BEGINS LAUGHING, SOFTLY AT FIRST,

THEN GRADUALLY, MORE HYSTERICALLY) Mom,

isn't it crazy? I can't talk now -- too

excited -- I'll call you back -- why don't

you phone Georgie -- ? (SHE HANGS UP AND

STARTS SHOUTING AT THE OTHER GIRLS) I won.

I won, I won, I won first prize! (AD LIBBED

REACTION FROM THE OTHERS) I won a cruise!

I won a twelve day cruise to the West Indies!

(THE OTHERS NOW LEAVE THEIR DESKS, CROWD AROUND HER AND BABBLE QUESTIONS.)

(THERE IS SUDDEN PANDEMONIUM, WITH MATTIE
IN THE CENTER, CHATTERING:)

MATTIE

One of those contests, I can't even remember
which. Helen, about 3 weeks ago, remember
you brought in a magazine, it was your
magazine...~~Good Housekeeping or McCall's~~
~~or something~~, and I filled out the blank..
I filled out the blank.

(BOSS COMES OUT OF OFFICE)

BOSS

What in heck's going on out here?

MATTIE

I'm sorry, Mr. Trainor, forgive me, I ~~can't~~
~~stop laughing~~, I'm just so excited....

RITA

She had a telegram. She won first prize.

BOSS

First prize?

HAZEL

In a contest.

HELEN

Some soap or cake flour.

BOSS

Cake flour....?????

RITA

The telegram just came..

MATTIE

Maybe it was fishcakes or coffee...I can't
even remember.

BOSS

Wait a minute...One at a time!!

MATTIE

They said put down a last line, so I put down a last line. A jingle. It wasn't any good, it was silly..I only did it for a joke.

BOSS

For Heaven's sake, get her out of here till she calms down.

(GIRLS, AD LIBBING, GRAB MATTIE AND PILOT HER TOWARDS HALL.)

MATTIE

I didn't dream I'd win. I didn't know anybody ever won.

BOSS

Splash cold water in her face. Keep her there until she calms down.

MATTIE

A telegram from some advertising agency. A glamor cruise, that's what they call it. Gosh, all I could do was let out a yell from here to Attleboro...

(THEY EXIT)

(HELEN RUNS THROUGH TO HER DESK)

BOSS

We might just as well hand out six weeks' vacation. The last month beforehand that's all anybody talks about.

HELEN

Mr. Trainor, you got a wonderful idea
there -- I'll take it up with the Union.

(HELEN DASHES OUT WITH MAGAZINE)

HELEN

(YELLING) It was in the ~~Ladies'~~ Home
Journal...soap flakes.

DISSOLVE TO.....WASHROOM

MATTIE

(CALMER NOW) I'm okay now. Gee, what a
spectacle I made.

(HELEN ENTERS SCENE WITH AN OPEN MAGAZINE.)

HELEN

It was still in my desk. Here's where she
tore the blank out.

(RITA TAKES THE MAGAZINE FROM HELEN AND READS
THE TEXT.)

RITA

(READS) "The cruise of your dreams. Twelve
days of tropical romance. Dance under the
stars! Visit picturesque ports of call..."

(REACTION FROM HAZEL AND HELEN - MATTIE LIS-
TENS, WIDE-EYED) (RITA CONTINUING TO READ:)

"At no cost to you, the personnel of a floating
palace at your beck and call. Famous chefs to
prepare your cuisine. Exquisite favors at the
Captain's Gala...." Girls, hold her down
before she takes off. (MORE LAUGHTER AND GAY
AD LIBBING FROM THE OTHERS)

(MORE)

RITA (CONT)

(RITA CONTINUING TO READ:)

"Moreover -- " Hey! Listen to THIS.

"Moreover your prize includes full passage
for two. You can bring a relative or
friend."

HELEN

(TO MATTIE) What'll you do? Invite your
mother?

MATTIE

Uh-huh, I think so.

(SHE IS ENTERING INTO THE SPIRIT NOW,
SHE TAKES THE MAGAZINE FROM RITA AND READS)
Bermuda...Nassau...Havana... (GAILY, TO
THE OTHERS) Oh boy, I better bring my
castenets. Si, si, senorita, hasta la
vista, chile con carne....

(SHE HUMS A SNATCH OF THE CARMEN "TOREADOR
MARCH" AS THE OTHERS LAUGH.)

RITA

(GAILY) Hey, girls, what do you want to bet
that Mattie comes back engaged?

(LAUGHTER FROM HELEN AND HAZEL.)

(CUT TO: CLOSEUP OF MATTIE'S FACE. SUDDENLY
SERIOUS AND EMBARRASSED.)

MATTIE

(STARTLED) Engaged?

RITA

These cruises, what do you think they're for?

(MORE)

RITA (CONT.)

Why do you think they call them Glamor Cruises? Just wait 'til some guy gets you on deck in the moonlight -- (SHE ADDRESSES HERSELF TO HELEN AND HAZEL) My girl friend, she took a cruise last summer, and she tole me about the life-boats.

(KNOWING GIGGLES FROM HAZEL AND HELEN.)

MATTIE

(BLANKLY) Lifeboats.....?

RITA

She said the whole thing was just like in the travel ads....Everybody dolled up... the fellows in their white tuxedos...everybody romantic, you know, out on the ocean like that. (TO MATTIE) You meet the very highest type of fellows. Real money-makers; they got to be.

(MATTIE LOOKS ALMOST FRIGHTENED.)

MATTIE

Oh, well -- I -- I don't expect anything like that.

HAZEL

Listen to her, she don't expect anything like that.

(THEY BEGIN HOOTING AT MATTIE IN A GOOD-NATURED WAY.)

RITA

My friend says one trick is to tip the dining room steward. (MORE)

RITA (CONT.)

Get him to put you at a table with some
real dreamboat --

MATTIE

(HALF-SHOCKED) The girls do that?

RITA

...or else walk about the deck the first
day with those cute Bermuda shorts on....

MATTIE

We better get back to our desks. Mr.
Trainor will be furious. We can't stand
her talking all day.

(SHE LEAVES. STAY ON GIRLS.)

DISSOLVE TO.....MATTIE'S HOME

(MOM AND GEORGE AT TABLE.)

MOM

More cake?

BROTHER

Uh, uh. I'm stuffed.

MOTHER

So anyway I said to her -- invite one of
your girl friends to go with you or some-
body from the office. It's sweet of you to
ask me dear, I said, but I absolutely won't
go. Well, you know I'm right, Georgie.

BROTHER

Yeah, I guess so Mom.

MOTHER

How often does a girl get handed a chance
(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT.)

like this, free of charge, on a silver platter. She may even get into a little deep water without me. To tell you the truth I'll be so relieved to have her go to Mrs. Gregg's by herself. (SHE CALLS INSIDE) Mattie, how does it look?

MATTIE

(FROM INSIDE) I'm just putting it on, Mom. I'll be right in.

MOTHER

It was sweet of you to bring it to her, Georgie. Not every brother would do a nice thing like that.

BROTHER

Listen, Mom, if she's dolled up a little on that boat, maybe she'll meet somebody.

MOTHER

(SOFTLY) You and I both have our fingers crossed, haven't we, Georgie?

BROTHER

You can't tell. Some guy might just take a shine to her.

(MATTIE COMES IN WEARING AN EVENING DRESS. HER BROTHER UTTERS A WOLF CALL.)

MATTIE

Fresh. Bet you do that to all the girls.

MOTHER

Mattie, it looks lovely. (TO BROTHER) Where'd you ever get such good taste?

BROTHER

I phoned Rosemary. She met me downtown
after work and helped me to pick it out.

(MATTIE KISSES HER BROTHER AFFECTIONATELY)

MATTIE

Georgie, I got a nice brother....

BROTHER

Don't say anything. Just knock 'em dead
with it. Have you decided, who are you
going to take with you?

MATTIE

Well, since Mom says she absolutely won't
go, I guess either Ethel Tyson or Grace
Maynard, I can't decide which.

(HER MOTHER AND BROTHER EXCHANGE A DIS-
APPOINTED GLANCE.)

BROTHER

Can't you think of anybody that's a little
zippier?

MATTIE

Can I help it if I don't travel in zippy
circles?

MOTHER

Georgie means whoever you go with, dear,
for heaven's sake, try to get a little some-
thing out of it.

(MATTIE'S BROTHER BEGINS DECLAIMING ELABORATE-
LY.)

BROTHER

Exotic nights under tropical skies --
(MORE)

BROTHER (CONT.)

-- the deck aglow with Japanese lanterns --
soft music --

MATTIE

Ouch! What a terrible copywriter you'd make.

(HE NOW PRETENDS TO ACT OUT A SHIPBOARD SCENE, HEAVY-HANDEDLY.)

BROTHER

Ah, who's this charming vision? May I have this dance, please? (HE GRABS HER AND STARTS TO WHIRL AROUND A FEW PAGES) Ah, my dear, you're simply drenched with glamor. Your perfume is like wine. I've been palpitating to meet you...
(MATTIE SUDDENLY PUSHES HIM AWAY.)

MATTIE

Stop it. Stop making fun.

BROTHER

I'm just making like the travel ads.

MATTIE

It's so silly. Why does everybody have to go on that way? You should've heard the girls at the office. Giggling like a bunch of school kids over what's supposed to happen on those cruises.

BROTHER

Maybe it will if you just loosen your girdle and let yourself go a little.

MATTIE

Georgie -- please --

(SHE TURNS TO HER MOTHER. IT SHOULD BE
OBVIOUS HOW MUCH SHE HAS WORRIED OVER THE
WHOLE BUSINESS) Mom, don't shoot me. I
don't really think I want to go at all.

MOTHER

~~Mattie!~~

MATTIE

~~I mean it, the more I think it over. The
ad says that instead of the two fares you
can take three hundred dollars in cash. So
why don't I do that? It'll pay for both
our vacations at the farm and almost enough
left over to get you an air conditioner for
your room.~~

MOTHER

~~You'll do no such thing.~~

MATTIE

Why am I kidding myself? They get a lively
crowd on those boats. Can't you picture me
with Ethel or Grace -- ~~and they're the only~~
~~girls I know well enough to ask.~~ A couple of
sad sacks.

MOTHER

Mattie, stop that.

BROTHER

Go by yourself if that's how you feel.

MATTIE

Oh, that would be sensational. A whole boatload of other girls, all knocking themselves out to attract the men. Georgie, you know me in a situation like that. Like during lunch hour in Keezer's Restaurant, ~~across from the office~~ when the men come to our table. I'm miserable -- I freeze up inside -- I can't talk -- I keep wanting to run away from it.

BROTHER

You're always getting cold feet ahead of time.

MATTIE

Ahead of time! Georgie, you lost track, evidently. I'm the one that hasn't had a date with a man in two years.

(HER MOTHER AND BROTHER LOOK AT EACH OTHER.)

MATTIE

That's right, two years. May, nineteen-fifty-five. That fellow in Shop Maintenance asked me out to supper. Once, just once. ~~You think twelve days on the ocean will be so different than the last two years on dry land?~~
(SHE STARTS FROM THE ROOM) I'll take the dress back, Georgie. It was very sweet of you.
(SHE LEAVES THEM)

MOTHER

Can you imagine any girl in her right mind turning down..

BROTHER

You can't force her into it.

MOTHER

Five summers she's come up to that farm with me. The only young girl in the place. Most of the guests at least seventy, rocking on that porch like over-aged woodpeckers. I don't need her and I know she doesn't have any fun there. Georgie, talk to her.

BROTHER

Mom, it's no use. (RISE, X AWAY) You saw what happened. I used to be able to...you know in the old days we were always kidding together, spilling what was on our minds. Real close. But now the slightest mention about...well...her situation and she's so self-conscious, she bites my head off.

MOTHER

(XING TO KITCHEN, O.C.) Heaven sent. This cruise was Heaven sent, and she's throwing it in the trash can.

(SOUND: PHONE RINGS)

(GEORGE ANSWERS IT)

BROTHER

Hello... Hello, Rosemary. Yeah, honey, she loved the dress....She said to thank you, only she's not going...Hummm?? Why not?

MOTHER (O.C.)

Because she's half-witted, that's why not.

BROTHER

Because...well, it won't fit into the time
 WELL I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT LATER
 she's getting for her vacation, so she's
 taking a cash prize instead...Yeah, it's
 a darn shame...the poor kid is really dying
 to go. Yeah, dying to go....

DISSOLVE TO.....OFFICE

(HELEN, HAZEL AND RITA ARE TYPING.)

RITA

You want my humble opinion? I mean, I'm
 not a psychiatrist or anything, but she's
 just using her mother for an excuse.

(WE SEE THE BOSS' DOOR OPEN AND MATTIE
 COMES OUT, SHORTHAND TABLET IN HAND. THE
 GIRLS DON'T SEE HER.) I got a cousin, not
 bad looking, no worse than Mattie -- always
 pretending she can't leave the family for
 two minutes flat. Why, they're DYING to have
 her off their hands.

(THE OTHER TWO LAUGH.)

(CUT TO: MATTIE'S FACE AS SHE LISTENS)

RITA (CONTINUING)

I mean, I know the type. At that, maybe she's
 smart, taking the cash instead of going. I bet
 she'd spend the whole twelve days playing
 shuffleboard.

(MORE LAUGHTER FROM HAZEL AND HELEN)

(MATTIE SLAMS HER SHORTHAND BOOK SHUT WITH
 A LOUD SNAP.)

(RITA RISES, HIGHLY EMBARRASSED.)

RITA

Mattie, I was only joking...(MATTIE STANDS
LOOKING AT THEM ALL FOR A MOMENT, THEN
HURRIES FROM THE ROOM. RITA LOOKS THOROUGH-
LY CONTRITE) Gee whiz, I wouldn't want to
hurt her feelings. (SHE HURRIES OUT AFTER
MATTIE)

DISSOLVE TO.....WASHROOM

(MATTIE IS STANDING THERE, PRESENTLY RITA
COMES IN.)

MATTIE

Why did you have to say that?

RITA

Mattie, I'm an awful heel.

MATTIE

Well, anyhow you guessed. I'm afraid to go.

RITA

(INCREDULOUSLY) Afraid?!

(AND SHE LAUGHS A LITTLE OUT OF SURPRISED
EMBARRASSMENT.)

MATTIE

Yes, is that so funny? I don't think it's
so funny.

RITA

I didn't say it was funny.

MATTIE

You're lucky, Rita. You don't know how
lucky you are. I admire you, how you get on
with people, especially with men.

(MORE)

MATTIE (CONT.)

It must be marvelous to know anywhere you go, you'll have a good time. Of course, ~~it's easy to see why.~~ (SHE SUDDENLY WHEELS RITA AROUND SO THAT THEY BOTH FACE THEIR IMAGES IN THE MIRROR OVER THE WASH BASINS) I mean, look. Take a good look at the ~~two of us.~~ (THEN, WITH SUDDEN INTENSITY) ~~You think I enjoy it?!~~ You think I always like being the one that plays shuffleboard?

RITA

You could be real attractive to fellows if you let yourself go a little....

MATTIE

No, you hit it right on the head. At home or on the high seas, the big shuffleboard player. (SHE STARTS OUT)

RITA

Listen, Mattie, wait a minute. (MATTIE PAUSES) You're dopey to pass this up. Every ~~girl in the office would give her right arm,~~ and you're ~~tossing it in the ash can,~~ practically, and ~~that's what burns everybody up.~~ Boy, little Aunt Rita could tell you how to get something out of that trip -- Aw, listen, please go. ~~You don't want the rest of us to feel ashamed of you...~~

(MATTIE HAS BEEN WATCHING HER INTENTLY.)

RITA (CONTINUING)

Twelve days on shipboard with nothing but moonlight, romantic music and men just chomping to be near you. Aw listen, please go. ~~You don't want the rest of us to feel~~ ~~ashamed of you, do you?~~

MATTIE

(SUDDENLY) Rita, would you come with me?

RITA

What??

MATTIE

I might be tempted if you'd come with me.

RITA

Holy Cow, Mattie, I don't know what to say.

MATTIE

Say yes.

RITA

It's not like we really know each other or anything. You must have some girl-friends or relatives you want to take --

MATTIE

Sure, I have a couple of friends. Only they're like I am. Like you said, you know the type. So, please, Rita, I'll appreciate it if you'll be my guest.

RITA

Well! (SHE LAUGHS) Well...I guess far be it from me to turn down a twelve-day cruise.

MATTIE

Thank you. That's very nice of you.

RITA

Nice of me?!

DISSOLVE TO.....MATTIE'S HOME

(START OPTIONAL CUT)

(THE PARLOR AT HOME. MATTIE'S MOTHER AND BROTHER SIT FACING THE SCREEN.)

MOTHER

Mattie, the heat must be getting you down.
The new girl, the fast one, the one that's
out every night dancing in roadhouses --

BROTHER

What kind of a kicking around do you want
to let yourself in for? Mom, I'm warning
you, don't let her do it.

MOTHER

Georgie's been to a lot of vacation places,
dear --

GEORGIE

Oil and water. I've seen it, time and again,
never works out.

(PAN TO SHOW: MATTIE IN THE PARLOR WITH THEM)

MATTIE

You mean a pretty one and a plain one traveling
together, don't you? (HER MOTHER AND BROTHER
LOOK AT EACH OTHER HELPLESSLY) If that's what
you mean, say it, Georgie.

BROTHER

All right. Yes.

MATTIE

Marilyn Monroe and Little Orphan Annie.
 Well, that's exactly why I asked her.
~~With her along, maybe it won't be such a~~
~~fizzle. I was ashamed of starting to~~
~~back out -- the whole office laughing at~~
~~me -- and then I had this brainstorm.~~
~~She'll get me in with a good lively crowd.~~
~~She's promised she'll see to it I meet~~
~~some men. Well, that's what you both want,~~
~~isn't it? (THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, NOT~~
~~REPLYING) So maybe it'll work out. I don't~~
~~kid myself. She doesn't even like me much,~~
~~but I'm saving her fourteen dollars a day,~~
~~and she couldn't say no. And I don't like~~
~~her especially, but I'll try to learn some-~~
~~thing from her. Have a good time, you're al-~~
~~ways saying, have a good time. Well, maybe~~
~~this time I will.~~

MOTHER

I hope so, dear.

MATTIE

I'll send you a postcard if I get to dance
 under the stars.

(END OPTIONAL CUT)

 DISSOLVE TO.....COMMERCIAL

ACT TWODISSOLVE TO.....SHIP'S CAFE

(THE SET CAN BE A SMALL, INTIMATE ONE WITH A MINIMUM OF EXTRAS, BUT THERE SHOULD BE A GENERAL AIR OF FESTIVITY AS THE CAMERA PANS PAST THE BAR AND SEVERAL TABLES OF GAY PASSENGERS)

(SOUND: ROMANTIC MUSIC.)

(A STEWARD SHOWS MATTIE AND RITA TO A VACANT TABLE FOR FOUR. THEY ARE BOTH IN EVENING DRESS, MATTIE WEARING THE ONE HER BROTHER BOUGHT HER.)

RITA

(CONSULTING HER WRIST WATCH) Nine o'clock they said to meet them here. The one I latched on to is named Harry and yours is Kenneth. We had a barrel of fun, the three of us, sitting here this afternoon. I looked for you.

MATTIE

Well, I got talking to the girl in the next cabin to us, and she suggested playing shuffleboard, so ---

RITA

Honeeee, honeeee....

MATTIE

Yes, I'm sorry.

RITA

The first day or two out is when you absolutely have to snag them, before they get spoken for.

MATTIE

I should've stuck with you. How did you meet them so fast?

RITA

They were standing on deck so I moseyed over. I just happened to have trouble loading my camera. (MATTIE LAUGHS)
Remember that, it works every time.
(MATTIE LOOKS AROUND THE ROOM NERVOUSLY)
Oh, don't worry, they'll show up.

MATTIE

What did you tel them about me?

RITA

I said to Kenneth, I have this cute girl friend --

MATTIE

Listen, Rita, you mustn't feel under obligation. I mean, don't feel you have to drag me along every time.

RITA

(HEARTILY) Did Auntie Rita promise she'd dig up some smooth number for you, or didn't she? This guy Kenneth is smooth.
(WAITER ENTERS FOR ORDERS) "No thank you".
O, say, look. Roder a vodka and tonic or a rum and tonic or a gin and tonic. Don't order one of those frappe liquors, they're a dead give-away.

MATTIE

(DUTIFULLY MEMORIZING) Gin and tonic -- vodka and tonic. (THEN, WORRIEDLY) Rita, why did you tell him I was cut?
(MORE)

MATTIE (CONT.)

I wish you hadn't told him that.

(THEY SIT WAITING. RITA USES HER LIPSTICK
AS MATTIE CONTINUES TO LOOK AROUND APPRE-
HENSIVELY.)

CUT TO.....CORNER OF CAFE

(FAR CORNER OF THE VERANDAH CAFE. HARRY
AND KENNETH, BOTH IN WHITE EVENING JACKETS,
STAND LOOKING OVER AT THE GIRLS' TABLE.
THEY ARE BOTH RATHER FLASHY SALESMAN TYPES.)

KENNETH

Ixnay. But definitely Ixnay.

HARRY

Yeah, but, Ken, we promised the blonde --

KENNETH

Look at the other one, Harry. Cast your
eyes, that's all I'm asking. Sure, it'll
get you in good with Blondie, but what about
me, I'll be losing a whole evening.

HARRY

At least come over to the table for a little
while.

KENNETH

Listen, Harry, I paid for my cruise ticket,
same as you did, and that gives me the same
hunting privileges. I'll see how I make out
with that tall one down in the Lounge.

(HE LEAVES)

CUT TO.....TABLE

(THE GIRLS WAITING AT THE TABLE. PRESENTLY
HARRY JOINS THEM.)

HARRY

(TO RITA) Hello, big blonde and beautiful.

RITA

Hi, Harry. Meet Mattie. She's the one I told you about that's blowing me to the trip.

(HARRY AND MATTIE EXCHANGE MURMURED GREETINGS AS HARRY SITS DOWN)

Where's your pal?

HARRY

Ken? Oh, just changing his shirt down in the cabin -- (HE TURNS AWAY FROM MATTIE, GIVING HIS FULL ATTENTION TO RITA) How's the camera? You ought to be ashamed, pulling an oldie like that.

RITA

You bit, big boy.

(THEY LAUGH AND HARRY TAKES HER HAND.)

HARRY

Wow, I got to be on my toes every second with this kiddie, Mattie. She knows her way around.

(HE WHISPERS SOMETHING IN RITA'S EAR WHICH PROVOKES A LOUD LAUGH.)

RITA

Certainly not, and I wouldn't tell you in any case.

(HARRY WHISPERS SOMETHING ELSE WHICH SEEMS TO AMUSE RITA EVEN MORE.)

(MORE)

RITA (CONT.)

Stop it, Harry, what'll Mattie think?
Behave yourself, you're traveling first
class.

(MATTIE SEEMS COMPLETELY LEFT OUT OF THINGS
AS THEY GO ON LAUGHING.)

MATTIE

Um -- Rita tells me that you and your friend
are on the road for Mitchley, Petersen in
Boston -- (HARRY DOESN'T APPEAR TO HEAR HER;
HE AND RITA ARE NOW ENGAGED IN ONE OF THOSE
WORDLESS COURTSIPS) We buy a lot of our
mill equipment from you people. Spoolers,
worsted machinery...

(HARRY FINALLY TURNS TO HER.)

HARRY

Aw, Sugar, don't let's talk business. I
mean, we're all here to get away from the
old jute mill, aren't we? (MATTIE SHRINKS
BACK INTO EMBARRASSED SILENCE. THE STEWARD
APPEARS AT THE TABLE) Same as this afternoon,
Rita? (TO STEWARD) Two gin collinses, Joe.
(THE STEWARD STARTS TO LEAVE)

MATTIE

I'll -- I'll have a rum collins --

HARRY

Aw, Mattie, I'm sorry. (HE CALLS TO THE
STEWARD) And a rum collins for the little
lady here.

(MATTIE LOOKS DESPERATELY UNCOMFORTABLE AND UNWANTED. SHE BEGINS LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM.)

RITA

Mattie's getting restless. How long does it take you guys from Boston to change a shirt?

(AT THIS POINT, A TALL, LUSCIOUS BABE IN EVENING DRESS PASSES BY THE TABLE. SHE IS FOLLOWED BY KENNETH.)

KENNETH

(MURMURING AS HE GOES BY) 'Lo, Harry --

Rita --

HARRY

(SULLENLY) Hello, Ken.

(RITA THROWS HARRY AN INQUIRING LOOK. HE SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS HELPLESSLY. NONE OF THIS IS LOST ON MATTIE.)

MATTIE

(RISING) Would you please excuse me?

RITA

No, no, Mattie. Stay with us. Don't go.

MATTIE

It's okay, Rita. It's perfectly okay. I'm glad to've met you, Harry.

(SHE GOES AWAY. RITA COMES AFTER HER. THEY STAND ONLY A FEW FEET FROM THE TABLE, HARRY WATCHING THEM.)

RITA

Honey, there must've been a mix-up.

MATTIE

You think so? I saw them both before, looking over from the doorway.

(SHE GOES AWAY. RITA HURRIES BACK TO THE TABLE.)

RITA

Harry, listen. Would you mind waiting here for me? I'll be back, but I better stick with her for a little while.

(HARRY TAKES HER HAND, RESTRAINING HER.)

HARRY

Tell me, are you and I going to have her around our neck the whole trip? Because I wouldn't like that nohow.

RITA

She's very nice, really, and, like I explained, I'm her guest, sort of --

HARRY

If it's going to be a threesome, Sweetness, say so now. (HE RISES FROM THE TABLE)
Because, in that case, Old Dr. Livingstone will return to exploring the field.
Tempus fugit, if you know what I mean.

RITA

Aw, Harry ---

HARRY

First day out is tag-day. You were first on my list, but...

(RITA SEEMS TRULY DISTRESSED, TORN BETWEEN GOING TO MATTIE OR REMAINING WITH HIM.)

(SUDDENLY SHE SITS DOWN AGAIN AT THE TABLE.)

HARRY

That's more like it, Sugar. (HE ALSO
SITS DOWN AGAIN) After all, your little
sidekick has a whole boatload of toehr
gals to keep her company.

RITA

(HALF TO HERSELF) I'm an awful heel.

HARRY

Movies....card games up in the card room...
Anyhow, she's probably used to lights out
around eleven p.m., h'm?

(DURING THIS, THE STEWARD PLACES THREE
DRINKS ON THE TABLE) (TO STEWARD) Oh,
Steward, make it another! (TO RITA)
Cheers!

RITA

Cheers.

DISSOLVE TO.....CARD ROOM

(START OPTIONAL CUT)

(A CORNER OF THE CARD ROOM; A FRAGMENTARY
SET WILL SUFFICE. MATTIE SITS AT A CARD
TABLE WITH THREE ODDLY ASSORTED GIRLS. AS
THEY PLAY, THE OTHERS ARE GIGGLING AND AD
LIBBING WITH A KIND OF FRANTIC EAGERNESS.)

(CLOSE SHOT OF MATTIE'S FACE.)

(A COUPLE PASS THE TABLE -- KENNETH AND THE
LUSH BABE HE PICKED UP.)

(MATTIE'S TABLE COMPANIONS FALL SILENT,
WATCHING ENVIOUSLY. MATTIE TURNS HER FACE
AWAY.)

(THEN THE OVER-GAY AD LIBBING BEGINS AGAIN.)

(END OPTIONAL CUT)

DISSOLVE TO.....CABIN

(C.U. OF A SMALL TRAVELING CLOCK. IT READS 11 O'CLOCK OR THEREABOUTS. PULL BACK TO SHOW IT ON THE DRESSER OF MATTIE'S AND RITA'S CABIN.)

(MATTIE COMES INTO THE CABIN. SHE STARTS TO TAKE OFF HER EVENING DRESS. SHE HEARS FOOTSTEPS OUT IN THE CORRIDOR AND LISTENS. THEN SHE OPENS THE CABIN DOOR.)

(THE GIRL WHO OCCUPIES THE ADJOINING CABIN IS IN THE CORRIDOR.)

MATTIE

Hello, Peggy. You came down early, too?

GIRL NEXT DOOR

(HASTILY) Oh, no. Just to fix my face a little. Then I'm going up and dance some more. Gee, there are some awfully cute fellers --

MATTIE

Yes.

GIRL NEXT DOOR

Dancing's 'til three a.m. and then a cold buffet supper and then, everybody says, the big thing, first night out, is to watch the dawn. You know -- on top deck, with somebody else, naturally.

MATTIE

Naturally. Well, have fun, Peggy. Goodnight.

(SHE CLOSES HER DOOR)

(THE OTHER GIRL GOES TO HER CABIN DOOR, UNLOCKS IT. SUDDENLY SHE LEANS AGAINST THE DOORWAY AND BREAKS INTO SOBS. SLOWLY, SHE STARTS TO UNFASTEN HER DRESS AS SHE ENTERS THE DARK CABIN.)

(MATTIE COMES INTO THE CORRIDOR IN HER BATHROBE. SHE LISTENS TO THE SOBBING, THEN KNOCKS ON THE GIRL'S DOOR.)

MATTIE

Are you all right?

(THE OTHER GIRL FLINGS OPEN HER DOOR. SHE IS ALSO IN HER BATHROBE.)

GIRL NEXT DOOR

I hate it! I wish I could get off. The whole thing is a lousy gyp.

MATTIE

Peggy --

GIRL NEXT DOOR

Ten girls to every man. Everybody just sitting around. Everywhere you go, girls sitting around by themselves. Not one man looked at me! I saved a year, a whole year, for this trip. I make forty-two fifty a week, take-home, and I scrimped on lunches. Twenty-three dollars for my formal, fifteen for my bathing suit, two sports dresses ... and not one of the looked at me.
(SHE GIVES WAY TO CRYING AGAIN.)

MATTIE

Aw, honey ---

GIRL NEXT DOOR

This is where you're supposed to meet them! Everybody says so!

MATTIE

(GENTLY) Look, would you like to sit in my cabin for a little while? Come on, we can talk.

DISSOLVE TO.....CORRIDOR

(THE CORRIDOR, SOME HOURS LATER. THE LIGHTS ARE DIMMED. RITA AND HARRY ENTER THE SCENE AND STAND OUTSIDE THE CABIN DOOR.)

RITA

Well, goodnight.

HARRY

Goodnight. (STARTS TO EMBRACE HER)

RITA

Harry, please. Don't keep rushing me.

HARRY

Like I told you before, Rita, I'm not just handing you the old vacation malarkey. You're wonderful, Rita, simply terrific and, far as I'm concerned, this is it.

(SHE LOOKS AT HIM A MOMENT SUSPICIOUSLY -- APPRAISINGLY -- HOPEFULLY.)

RITA

Harry, please don't say so if it isn't so.

HARRY

I mean it, Sugar, this is it.

(SHE FLINGS HER ARMS AROUND HIM. A LONG, FERVENT EMBRACE.)

DISSOLVE TO.....CABIN

(THE DARKENED CABIN. MATTIE IS ASLEEP. PRESENTLY RITA COMES IN. SHE WAVES GOODBYE TO HARRY OUT IN THE CORRIDOR, THEN SHE PUTS ON A SMALL LIGHT WHICH AWAKENS MATTIE.)

RITA

Oh, gosh, I woke you up.

MATTIE

That's all right.

RITA

Honey, did you have a miserable evening?
I could've kicked myself, not staying with
you, but, see, I just couldn't afford to
antagonize Harry so early in the game.

MATTIE

Oh, sure.

(SHE TRIES TO GO TO SLEEP AGAIN, BUT RITA
COMES OVER TO HER BERTH AND SITS DOWN. SHE'S
EAGER TO SPILL IT.)

RITA

Gosh, he's attractive. Don't you think
he's attractive? A little flashy, maybe,
but what a sense of humor. And sweet. I
mean, basically, he's really very sweet.

MATTIE

That's nice. I'm glad.

RITA

He's kind of a fast worker, but I think he's
sincere.

(START OPTIONAL CUT)

Listen, Mattie, I hope you don't mind --
tomorrow in Bermuda he wants to take me
to one of the beaches.

MATTIE

Sure, you go ahead with him.

RITA

He says they're very picturesque.

MATTIE

I can go with Peggy, the girl next door.

(END OPTIONAL CUT)

RITA

He's a terrific dancer. Did you happen to nitice us? I bet we didn't stop for two hours, not once, and he wouldn't let anybody else cut in.

MATTIE

You mean the dancing on deck? Under the stars?

RITA

Yeah -- that's right. (LAUGHS) Like it said in that ad. (MATTIE TURNS OVER TO GO BACK TO SLEEP. RITA STARTS TO UNDRRESS) I didn't tell you. He's a bachelor. Thirty-six years old and he makes around twelve thousand. You know what he paid for his tuxedo? A hundred and a quarter.

DISSOLVE TO.....MAP OF BERMUDA,
NASSAU, HAVANA ROUTE.

(SUPER LIVE MATTIE PLAYING SHUFFLEBOARD.)

(TAKE OUT SUPER)

(SUPER RITA AND HARRY AT SHIP'S RAIL)

(TAKE OUT SUPER

(MAP AGAIN)

(SUPER MATTIE PLAYING DARTS)

(TAKE OUT SUPER)

(SUPER RITA AND HARRY IN DECKCHAIRS)

(TAKE OUT SUPER)

(MAP AGAIN)

DISSOLVE TO.....CABIN

(HARRY'S AND KENNETH'S CABIN.)

(NOTE: THIS CAN BE THE SAME CABIN SEEN PREVIOUSLY WITH ANY TRACES OF FEMININE OCCUPANCY REMOVED.)

(HARRY AND KENNETH ARE PUTTING ON THEIR WHITE EVENING JACKETS, TYING TIES, ETC.)

HARRY

Look, Ken, do it to please me. It's not as if you have a date for tonight. Your own babe is standing you up --

KENNETH

She's not standing me up. I told you, we had a fight.

HARRY

Well, anyhow, it's the last night, the Captain's Gala, and I'm tired of Rita pestering me always to drag the other one with us. All it means, you sit with her during the entertainment and then maybe dance with her a little; she goes to bed early.

KENNETH

A fine way to wind up the cruise.

HARRY

What are you crabbing about? You made out all right with Beverly.

KENNETH

(GRUDGINGLY) Okay, okay, I'll do it. (MORE)

KENNETH (CONT.)

But you'll have to dance with her part of
the time, too.

DISSOLVE TO.....CAFE

(THE VERANDAH CAFE. PAN PAST PASSENGERS
DRINKING, BLOWING TIN HORNS, TOSSING CON-
FETTI, ETC., TO A TABLE WHERE RITA, MATTIE,
HARRY AND KENNETH ARE SEATED. ONCE AGAIN,
THE GIRLS ARE IN EVENING DRESS. ALL FOUR
WEAR FUNNY PAPER HATS)

(FROM OFF-SCENE, GAY DANCE MUSIC.)

(HARRY AND RITA ARE BUSY MOONING AT EACH
OTHER. KENNETH APPEARS BORED AND SULLEN,
MATTIE SEEMS HOPELESSLY EMBARRASSED.)

HARRY

(TO RITA) Come on, keed, they're playing
our song.

(HARRY AND RITA GET UP FROM THE TABLE, NOD
TO THE OTHER TWO AND LEAVE.)

KENNETH

Want to dance?

(FOR AN INSTANT MATTIE IS ABOUT TO SAY YES,
BUT HIS LACK OF ENTHUSIASM IS PAINFULLY
EVIDENT.)

MATTIE

No, thank you. (THEY SIT IN SILENCE. KEN-
NETH IS LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM) Look, Mr.
Morrison -- Kenneth -- You don't really have
to stay here with me. I know that Rita got
Harry to ask you.

KENNETH

No, no, don't be foolish. (HE FEELS IMPELLED
TO MAKE SOME KIND OF CONVERSATION) Um, enjoy
the cruise, have you?

MATTIE

Oh yes, very. (ANOTHER BRIEF SILENCE.
THEN BEVERLY, THE BABE THAT KENNETH PICKED
UP, WALKS PAST THE TABLE FOLLOWED BY A MAN.
SHE AND KENNETH GLARE AT EACH OTHER) She's
terribly pretty. You really picked the
prettiest girl on the boat, I think. She
looked stunning that day in Nassau -- I
saw you both sitting on the hotel terrace.

KENNETH

Say, wasn't that a swanky hotel, though?

MATTIE

Well, actually, I didn't get to visit it.
We just sailed past it. We rented this
little sailboat in the harbor. A bunch of
us girls, that is.

KENNETH

You know, I wanted to do that, that day in
Nassau.

MATTIE

Oh, you should've. It was a lot of fun.

KENNETH

Beverly wouldn't. She just wanted to hang
around that terrace. You fond of sailing?

MATTIE

I haven't for years and years. Not since I
was fourteen or fifteen, with my brother.
As kids we did lots of things together like
that... (MORE)

MATTIE (CONT.)

...The boat in Nassau, I was scared to death at first. Only one other girl knew beans about it, but then I helped her, and it was wonderful fun. A one-design.

KENNETH

I have a little one-design back home. I keep it down near Revere Beach.

(ONCE AGAIN THE BABE, BEVERLY, PASSES THEIR TABLE AND SHE AND KENNETH EXCHANGE GLANCES.)

MATTIE

(PRESENTLY) Um...Havana was wonderful, too, wasn't it? All those funny little shops on O'Reilly Street.

KENNETH

I didn't see them.

MATTIE

Oh my, you missed something.

KENNETH

The girl friend and I spent the whole time in one of those fancy restaurants, outside of town. But usually I like to go wandering around.

MATTIE

Whenever I'm in Boston, I wander around those funny antique shops down near Salem Street.

KENNETH

Say, they're fascinating, aren't they? (MORE)

KENNETH (CONT.)

All that old pewter and stuff. (THEN,
IMPULSIVELY) Are you sure you wouldn't
like to dance?

MATTIE

Well...

KENNETH

(AWKWARDLY) Look, about that first night,
I feel pretty awful --

MATTIE

Oh, please. Don't say anything. I under-
stood perfectly.

(THEY LEAVE THE TABLE AND HEAD TOWARDS THE
DANCE MUSIC.)

DISSOLVE TO.....DECK

(THE DECK IN THE MOONLIGHT. THE DANCE
MUSIC CAN BE HEARD, OFF.)

(A COUPLE WALKS BY IN AN AMOROUS EMBRACE.
PRESENTLY MATTIE AND KENNETH COME TO THE
RAIL.)

MATTIE

Well, you see, we work in Purchasing and
that's how I happen to know that your
firm's spooling equipment is about the best
on the market for our purposes.

KENNETH

That number seven-eighteen, traverse
spooler? We sell it to all the textile
mills down your way.

(THEY ARE GAZING OUT NOW, OVER THE WATER)
(MORE)

KENNETH (CONT.)

Pretty romantic, isn't it?

MATTIE

Lovely, just lovely.

KENNETH

Did you notice, last night and the night before, that phosphorous look? The whole ocean was glowing.

MATTIE

No, I didn't see it. (A COUPLE PASSES THEM, LOCKED IN AMOROUS EMBRACE) I...this is the first time I've been up here at night.

KENNETH

Really?

MATTIE

A bunch of us started to come out once, but it looked sort of occupied, so we went back inside.

KENNETH

Yeah, the traffic's been pretty heavy.

MATTIE

That's what Rita told me. (SHE GAZES OUT AT THE WATER, SHIVERING A TRIFLE)

KENNETH

You chilly? You want to go down?

MATTIE

No, no. I mean -- well -- just a wee bit, but I don't mind, I never get head colds.

(MORE)

MATTIE (CONT.)

I'd like to stay out. It's just so beautiful...(SHE SMILES AT HIM, THEN, SHYLY:) I -- I'd like to thank you, Kenneth.

KENNETH

What for?

MATTIE

Well, it was very nice of you, making my last evening such a pleasant one. Dancing with me, and all this.

KENNETH

Well, I've enjoyed it. We certainly talked a lot. You're very easy to talk to, Mattie.

MATTIE

I am?

KENNETH

You're remarkably well informed about textile machinery.

(THE COUPLE WHO PASSED BEFORE NOW COME BY AGAIN. A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, THEY GO INTO AN ARDENT CLINCH.)

(MATTIE AND KENNETH SEE THIS, AND EXCHANGE A QUICK GLANCE.)

(KENNETH PUTS HIS ARM AROUND MATTIE AS SHE STANDS AT THE RAIL. SHE SEEMS FRIGHTENED, UNCERTAIN.)

KENNETH (CONTINUING)

You want to know something? You're very nice, Mattie. (HE KISSES HER LIGHTLY)

(SHE STARES AT HIM, NOT RESPONDING, NOT QUITE BELIEVING WHAT'S HAPPENED, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO.)

KENNETH (CONTINUING)

Wasn't I a dope, giving you the brush-off 'til the last night on board? We ought to make up for lost time -- (HE TRIES TO EMBRACE HER, BUT SHE BREAKS AWAY FROM HIM)

MATTIE

Please, Kenneth -- don't --

KENNETH

Aw, don't be silly. You know you're dying for me to kiss you. (WHEN HE MAKES ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DO SO, SHE SLAPS HIM) Well, for crying out loud! (HE LAUGHS UNCOMFORTABLY) The prudish type, h'm?

MATTIE

No. No, that isn't it, at all. Grateful! You're thinking: somebody like me ought to be grateful, and say thank you, thank you. You're taking me for granted, just because it's moonlight and you're a man, and I haven't been able to attract a man the whole trip.

KENNETH

No wonder, the way you're acting --

MATTIE

You think I'm like the rest of them, the whole pathetic boatload. Just hoping for a man. Well, I gave up hoping years ago.

(MORE)

MATTIE (CONT.)

I'm unattractive. I'm a wet blanket.
 Maybe that's why I can be honest. But I
 still have too much pride to let you make
 love to me just because it's the thing to
 do.

(KENNETH LOOKS SHEEPISH. HE CONSULTS HIS
 WRIST WATCH.)

KENNETH

(VERY SUBDUED) We probably both got a lot
 of packing to do in the morning. I'll
 take you down to your cabin.

MATTIE

Thanks. That's sweet of you, but don't
 bother.

(SHE EXITS. AFTER A MOMENT HE LEAVES.)

DISSOLVE TO.....CAFE

(RITA AND HARRY HAVING A BALL.)

RITA

Oh, Harry...Harry!

(KENNETH ENTERS, GOES TO BAR WHERE BEVERLY
 IS SEATED. AFTER A MOMENT, THEY GET UP AND
 LEAVE. RITA WATCHES THEM GO.)

DISSOLVE TO.....CABIN

(GIRLS' CABIN - DARK.)

(MATTIE AT PORTHOLE, CRYING.)

DISSOLVE TO.....COMMERCIAL

ACT THREEDISSOLVE TO.....OFFICE

(ALL FOUR GIRLS ARE BACK AT WORK AGAIN, TYPING BUSILY. EVIDENTLY THEY HAVE BEEN COMPARING VACATION NOTES.)

HAZEL

(AS SHE TYPES) ... so then the last night, up at what they call Smooching Rock, he told me he was married.

RITA

Honestly!

HAZEL

I mean, you knock yourself silly and spend all that money, and where does it get you?

HELEN

Mine said: Baby, there'll be a letter waiting by the time you get hom. Well, I got home five days ago. I'll never hear.

HAZEL

Beasts, that's what they are. Beasts.

(THEY ALL CONTINUE TYPING. PRESENTLY HAZEL PAUSES, SCRATCHES HER STOCKINGLESS LEG. FROM HER DESK SHE TAKES A BOTTLE OF LOTION AND BEGINS APPLYING IT.)

HELEN

What's that for?

HAZEL

(ACIDLY) Poison ivy, if you must know.

HELEN

(TO RITA AND MATTIE) You two were the lucky ones.

(MORE)

HELEN (CONT.)

I'm going to start saving up for a cruise next time.

(THE BOSS' DOOR HAS BEEN OPEN. NOW HE STICKS HIS HEAD OUT.)

BOSS

Ladies, may I remind you that this office has officially reopened. Your vacations with pay have terminated, so will you kindly stop yapping.

(THEY ALL TYPE FURIOUSLY UNTIL HE GOES BACK AND CLOSES HIS DOOR.)

RITA

(TO HELEN AND HAZEL) Hey, one thing I forgot to tell you about Harry. Harry has exactly one sister, nobody else, and she's married. So whatever he makes, it's absolutely free and clear, except for income tax.

HELEN

Yeah, but will you hear from him?

MATTIE

Oh, sure she will. He was crazy about Rita. Wasn't he, Rita?

RITA

Mattie, tell them I'm not exaggerating about him.

MATTIE

She's not exaggerating.

RITA

I know he sounds too good to be true.

(MORE)

RITA (CONT.)

Boy, have I got my fingers crossed. He's supposed to be down almost any day on a business trip and he promised to phone me first thing. (SHE TYPES A BIT, THEN...) I wouldn't mind living in Boston. I like Boston.

HAZEL

Mattie, you haven't told us a thing about what kind of a time you had.

MATTIE

Well ---

RITA

(BREAKING IN) She had a swell time, didn't you, honey? And she managed to date one of the smoothest guys on the boat, Harry's friend, didn't you? (MURMURED REACTION FROM HELEN AND HAZEL)

MATTIE

(TO RITA) Why do you tell them that? Why not be truthful about it? (TO HELEN AND HAZEL) I had a very nice time. A lot of fun. But entirely with girls, the ones the men didn't look at. There must have been several million of us. (THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENT EMBARRASSMENT) Rita was very sweet, she did her best. Only, Hazel, you don't even know what it's like to have a real case of poison ivy.

(CUT TO)

(CLOSE SHOTS OF THE OTHER GIRLS EXCHANGING UNCOMFORTABLE, PITYING GLANCES)

(MATTIE LAUGHS PHILOSOPHICALLY)

MATTIE (CONTINUING)

Oh well, you get used to it. Spare me waiting around for those letters and phone calls.

(THE BOSS COMES OUT AGAIN. HE HANDS RITA SOME PAPERS)

BOSS

Rita, will you take these invoices down to Mr. Bassett. And Mattie, I got some dictation.

(MATTIE AND RITA LEAVE THEIR DESKS)

MATTIE

What kind of a vacation did you have, Mr. Trainor?

BOSS

My wife's sister and her husband drove down from New Hampshire. Five kids, all climbing over me with guns, telling me I was the Alamo. What do you think?

(HE GOES BACK INTO HIS OFFICE, MATTIE FOLLOWING HIM. RITA ALSO LEAVES THE SCENE.)

HAZEL

Poor Mattie, I'd never admit a thing like that about myself.

HELEN

Me, neither. I guess we both got too much pride.

DISSOLVE TO.....OFFICE

(SOME BRIEF TIME LATER. MATTIE IS BACK
TYPING ALONG WITH HAZEL AND HELEN.
PRESENTLY RITA COMES BACK. THE OTHERS
DON'T NOTICE HER GRIM EXPRESSION.)

MATTIE

Is Mr. Bassett's sunburn any better?

RITA

I didn't notice.

(SHE THRUSTS A SHEET OF PAPER INTO HER
TYPEWRITER ALMOST PETULANTLY AND RESUMES
HER TYPING. MATTIE GIVES HER A QUIZZICAL
GLANCE.)

MATTIE

Say, Rita, I was thinking. You know that
coral necklace of mine you borrowed on the
boat? Well, when Harry asks you out you're
welcome to borrow it again.

RITA

(STARING INTO SPACE) No thanks.

MATTIE

He admired it on you. So I thought, for a
sentimental gesture, sort of --

(RITA SUDDENLY RIPS THE SHEET OF PAPER FROM
HER MACHINE, SAVAGELY, AND STALKS OUT OF THE
OFFICE.)

(THE OTHERS WATCH IN SURPRISE.)

MATTIE

Something's the matter with her.

(SHE GETS UP AND HURRIES OUT AFTER RITA.)

DISSOLVE TO.....WASHROOM

(RITA IS FACING THE MIRROR AND TALKING TO HER
IMAGE.)

RITA

You stupid blonde; When are you going to grow up, when are you going to learn? Big dumb bunny. (MATTIE ENTERS IN TIME TO WITNESS THIS STRANGE PROCEDURE. RITA, CATCHING SIGHT OF HER IN THE MIRROR, WHEELS AROUND) Go away.

MATTIE

What is it, Rita?

RITA

Can't somebody even come in here without a Senate investigation? (MATTIE MAKES NO MOVE TO GO) Oh, all right, if you got to be a nosey parker. They were down in Bassett's office trying to sell him a couple of new fabric looms. Both of them.

MATTIE

Both of who?

RITA

Harry and his sidekick, Kenneth. That's what took me so long; I hung around, signaling, 'til he finally came out and talked to me. "Hel-lo, Rita" -- like I was somebody's kid cousin and he was surprised I work here. Two days! The louse has been in town two days.

MATTIE

Those machinery salesmen, they have to go around with the different purchasing heads ---

RITA

Don't alibi for him, Mattie. "What about tonight?" I said. "Sorry," he said, "beddy-bye...Big deal in North Adams, first thing in the morning." The creep managed to stay up all night plenty of times on that boat. I've had it, Mattie -- the old brusheroo.

MATTIE

Oh, no --

RITA

Oh, yes. You think I don't know the symptoms by now? "Hel-lo, Rita", like he was somebody's talking parakeet. That isn't how he sounded on that topdeck.

(SHE TURNS AWAY SO THAT MATTIE WON'T SEE HOW REALLY UPSET SHE IS. SHE IS CRYING.)

Every time, every darn time!

MATTIE

(TOUCHED) Rita ---

RITA

You are looking at the original Miss Doormat. Why don't I just stand at the entrance of some men's club for the members to wipe their feet on, and get it over with?

MATTIE

I don't know anybody in town that has a better time, or that's more popular --

RITA

Sure, sure, sure, sure...One big merry-go-round ride, all the time.

MATTIE

Every girl in the plant envies you. Same thing on the boat. (BUT RITA ISN'T LISTENING)

RITA

-- only, when I want to climb down off the merry-go-round, what happens? They won't let me. (SHE CLUTCHES MATTIE) Mattie, I'm nice. I'm really very nice. Maybe I get a little tight and stuff, on dates, but honestly, I'm very nice.

MATTIE

I know that, Rita.

RITA

(IN A TORMENTED OUTBURST) Well, why don't they see it?! (THEN, MORE QUIETLY) I meet guys in town wheeling baby carriages down Rock Street, guys that used to take me dancing at the Blue Grotto. Me, I'm still hanging out at the Blue Grotto...Okay, so it's no soap here in town, so what do you do, you pin your hopes on vacation time. Last summer, that boy from Worchester went as far as talking about the new ranch houses they're building up his way. And that was that. And then, this summer, Harry... (MORE)

RITA (CONT.)

(SHE PATS MATTIE'S ARM) You once told me
you're a good cook. I bet I'm just as good
a cook as you are. (AGAIN SHE TURNS AWAY
TO DAUB AT HER TEARS) Name any recipe...
apple pie, cheese souffle, salmon loaf...

MATTIE

(IMPULSIVELY) You poor kid ---

(RITA SUDDENLY TURNS AND STARES AT MATTIE
IN AMAZEMENT.)

RITA

Wha-at? What'd you say?

MATTIE

I said, you poor kid.

RITA

(ALMOST ANGRILY) Mattie, don't say that.

Don't you dare say that.

(SHE STARTS TO FRESHEN UP HER MAKEUP IN THE
MIRROR)

MATTIE

Would you like to go to the movies tonight,
Rita?

RITA

Just the two of us?

MATTIE

I was supposed to take my mother, but I don't
have to; we could go instead. I just mean, if
you're feeling upset and lonesome, and want
somebody to be with.

RITA

Spare yourself, honey. That's just the trouble. There's always somebody for little Rita to be with. (MATTIE STARTS OUT OF THE WASHROOM) So help me, if you tell the others about this, I'll never speak to you again.

MATTIE

(PAUSING) Of course not, Rita.

RITA

(GENTLY PLEADING) If they ask -- cover up for me, Mattie -- don't let on about Harry.

MATTIE

Sure, Rita.

(SHE GOES OUT. RITA RESUMES PATCHING UP HER TEAR-STREAKED MAKEUP IN THE MIRROR.)

DISSOLVE TO.....OFFICE

(THE OFFICE, MATTIE TAKING HER PLACE AT HER DESK.)

MATTIE

She got into some kind of an argument with Mr. Bassett downstairs. Be good sports, kids, don't ask her about it.

(RITA COMES BACK. SHE IS COMPLETELY POISED AGAIN. SHE PICKS UP A PHONE.)

RITA

Outside, please...

(DIALS A NUMBER...MATTIE SITS WATCHING HER)

Hello, Mr. Rhienbeck, please. Hello, Jimmy?

(MORE)

RITA (CONT.)

(THEN, WITH HER USUAL BREEZINESS) H'ya,
Dreamboat? Sure, I'm back. Terrific, but
terrific...Nope, no foreign entanglements,
as yet. Tonight? Well, I think so. Well,
sure, why not? The Blue Grotto? Yeah,
sure, I can meet you there...

(SHE HANGS UP AND GOES TO HER DESK. AS SHE
PASSES HAZEL AND HELEN SHE HUMS A SNAKY
MAMBO TO HERSELF AS THOUGH SERENE AND SATIS-
FIED.)

(BUT ONCE AT HER DESK, SHE EXCHANGES A
GUILTY LOOK WITH MATTIE, AND THERE IS HURT
AND DEFEAT AND HUMILIATION IN HER FACE.)

DISSOLVE TO.....MATTIE'S HOME

(THE PARLOR AT HOME. CLOSE SHOT OF GEORGIE,
MATTIE'S BROTHER, READING THE EVENING PAPER.)

BROTHER

(CALLS)

Hey, Mattie, you and Mom better shake a leg
if you're going to make the nine o'clock
show.

(HE RESUMES READING HIS PAPER. MATTIE'S
MOTHER COMES IN, PLATE IN ONE HAND, DISH TOWEL
IN THE OTHER.)

MOTHER

Georgie, why don't you go with Mattie? The
picture has that Eye-talian girl in it, the
well-built one.

BROTHER

I got a date with Rosemary, Mom!

MOTHER

All day on my feet, house cleaning. I'd much
rather stay home and watch TV.

BROTHER

Okay, tell Mattie.

MOTHER

How can I? She wants to go, and that's why she promised to take me. You know how it is.

BROTHER

Boy, nothing's any different, is it? She was going to learn how to be oh-so-different, traveling with the blonde tootsie.

(SOUND: DOORBELL RINGS.)

(HE RISES TO ANSWER IT.)

MOTHER

Maybe that's one of her girl friends, Grace or Ethel, and then I won't have to go.

(HOLD ON MOTHER AS GEORGIE EXITS TO ANSWER THE DOOR.)

(CUT TO:)

(GEORGE AND KENNETH.)

KENNETH

Good evening. My name's Morrison.

BROTHER

Hi.

KENNETH

Is Mattie home?

BROTHER

Yes....Mom, this is Mr. Morrison.

MOTHER

(BLANKLY) Oh....? (SHE SUDDENLY PLACES HIM)
(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT.)

Oh, yes -- about the hot water heater --
right this way.

BROTHER

No, no, Mom. He's here to see Mattie.

MOTHER

Oh....

KENNETH

Not if she's busy. I was in the neighborhood
so I just took a chance -- that if she wasn't
busy...

MOTHER

Just a minute.

(SHE HURRIES OUT, HIGHLY PUZZLED)

(GEORGIE ALSO KEEPS TRYING TO FIGURE KEN-
NETH OUT.)

BROTHER

I guess it's about that annuity my sister is
taking out, h'm?

KENNETH

No.

BROTHER

(EVEN MORE PUZZLED) Well...um...won't you
sit down?

(MOTHER AND MATTIE COME IN)

(MATTIE LOOKS ABSOLUTELY FLOORED)

KENNETH

Hello.

MATTIE

Why, hello.

KENNETH

The switchboard operator at the plant gave me your phone number and address.

MATTIE

Yes, I heard you were in town from Rita.

KENNETH

A fellow from Powhatan Mills took me home to dinner on Haverell Street, so coming back in the taxi just now, I noticed we were on Myrtle Street, so I got him to let me out... (HE IS SUDDENLY AWARE OF MATTIE'S MOTHER AND BROTHER WATCHING HIM LIKE A HAWK) Look, it's awful spur-of-the-minute, barging in like this...so if you're busy or anything...

MATTIE

No, no. (INTRODUCING HIM) This is Mr. Morrison -- my mother and brother ---

MOTHER

We already met.

MATTIE

Mr. Morrison and I met on the boat.

MOTHER

Oh? Oh, did you?

(SHE AND GEORGIE EXCHANGE A QUICK GLANCE. SHE SIGNALS HIM TO LEAVE THE ROOM WITH HER. AS THEY GO OUT, MATTIE CONTINUES TO STARE AT KENNETH RATHER STUPIDLY.)

CUT TO.....DOOR

(START OPTIONAL CUT)

(KITCHEN JUST OUTSIDE PARLOR AS MOTHER CLOSES PARLOR DOOR.)

MOTHER

(TO GEORGIE) (EXCITEDLY)

They met on the boat. Did you hear, they
met on the boat? Isn't it just like Mattie
not to say a word?

(END OPTIONAL CUT)

CUT TO.....PARLOR

(MATTIE AND KENNETH ARE NOW SEATED SOME
DISTANCE APART.)

MATTIE

I guess you dropped in to explain about
Harry.

KENNETH

No.

MATTIE

Well, what then?

KENNETH

I started to say hello at the office this
afternoon, only I didn't feel like running
into Rita again after she talked to Harry:
Then I got your number to phone you, but I
decided, oh, what the heck...

MATTIE

Well, why are you here?

KENNETH

Oh...nothing to do back at the hotel...
Harry's hitting the hay early. The taxi
passed right by and I suddenly thought, well,
why not just say hello?

(MATTIE RISES.)

MATTIE

I don't get it. I mean, I just don't get it.

(KENNETH IS EMBARRASSED AND FAINTLY ANNOYED.)

KENNETH

What's there to get? I'm a salesman. I'm always landing in places with time on my hands. It's lonely, so I look people up. I'm always looking people up.

MATTIE

Yes, but why are you looking me up?

KENNETH

You're thinking of how I treated you on the cruise.

MATTIE

Well, frankly, yes.

KENNETH

I want to explain.

MATTIE

You don't have to.

KENNETH

No, I want to explain. I work like a dog. Oh, sure, good drawing account, plus two per cent, but, still in all, I work like a dog. I needed that vacation. Well, there they all were, all those girls, all dolled up, a lot of them prettier than I ever get to meet normally.

(MORE)

KENNETH (CONT.)

So I went for a pretty one. So, for twelve days, I behaved like some kind of a Good Time Charlie. I hardly even recognized myself. But how you act on a cruise and how you act not on a cruise are two different things.

MATTIE

That seems to be the case with Harry.

KENNETH

With most of the men passengers, I bet. You were about the only one I met that didn't act like she expected to come ashore with an engagement ring on her finger. Or at least a promissory note. I mean, it scares a guy. (HE PUFFS ON HIS CIGARETTE) The thing is, we had one very pleasant evening talking. Until I got a little fresh that is. I enjoyed making friends with you. And, right now, I looked you up because I'm sort of at loose ends and in the mood for talking.

MATTIE

(SMILES AT HIM) Well, sure, Kenneth.

KENNETH

Unless you'd rather take in a movie.

MATTIE

Well...(THEN ABRUPTLY) Would you excuse me for a minute, Kenneth?

(SHE HEADS FOR THE DOOR.)

CUT TO.....KITCHEN

(MOTHER AND GEORGIE OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
MATTIE'S MOTHER IS PUTTING ON HER HAT AND
CONSULTING HER WATCH. MATTIE COMES OUT,
LEAVING DOOR OPEN. WE SEE KENNETH IN THE
PARLOR.)

MATTIE

Mom, would I be terribly mean if I said I
can't take you?

MOTHER

Not a bit.

(VASTLY RELIEVED, SHE WHIPS HER HAT OFF.)

MATTIE

(SOFTLY) I have a date.

MOTHER

Mattie!

BROTHER

Hey!

MATTIE

(TERRIBLY EMBARRASSED) Please -- not so
loud. For goodness sake, it's only to go
to the movies.

(BUT AS SHE LOOKS THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR AT
KENNETH, SHE IS RADIANT.)

DISSOLVE TO.....COMMERCIAL