

ACT ONE

Scene 3

#3b - Hudson River Pier

A Hudson River pier. Sunset. The HMS QUEEN MURRAY is about to set sail for Europe. Late-arriving PASSENGERS are going aboard, checked in by a uniformed PURSER and CRUISE DIRECTOR. A STEWARD stands at the stairs to the ship. FREDERICK is searching for ELIZABETH.

STEWARD

(with a British accent; banging a gong)

All aboard, please! All aboard! All aboard who are going aboard, all aboard who are going aboard! Sailing in ten minutes! Ten minutes, please!

HE bangs the gong once more

FREDERICK

(calling off)

Elizabeth! Elizabeth, hurry, hurry, my boat's about to sail!

ELIZABETH

(calling from off-stage)

I'm coming, darling! I'm coming! I'm coming!

(as SHE enters and stops)

I'm here!

(SHE walks towards FREDERICK)

Oh, my sweet darling. Oh my dearest love. I'll count the hours that you're away.

FREDERICK

Oh, darling, so will I.

STEWARD

All aboard! All aboard!

The STEWARD bangs the gong

ELIZABETH

How could fate tear us apart like this? Me, your adorable madcap fiancée, in a Park Avenue penthouse, dancing 'til dawn with one good-lookin' guy after another, and you, all alone on the stormy seas, desperately clinging to your masthead.

Oh, Freddie, I can't let you go, I simply can't let you go...

(as FREDERICK leans in to kiss her on the mouth)

LIPS! The lipstick, darling.

FREDERICK

What?

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry. I have to go to that party tonight at Nicky and Nana's.

FREDERICK

Oh, of course, darling. I'm sorry.

STEWARD

All aboard! Last call! All aboard!

The STEWARD bangs the gong

ELIZABETH

Oh, darling! How can I say in just a few minutes what it's taken me a lifetime to understand?

FREDERICK

Does that mean you love me?

ELIZABETH

You bet your boots it does, mister.

FREDERICK

(trying to take her hands)

Oh, Elizabeth, the love of my life...

ELIZABETH

(pulling hands away from him)

Nails! The nails, darling. I'm sorry, they take three months to dry.

SHE blows on her nails

FREDERICK

Oh, sorry.

HE takes ELIZABETH's hand, blowing on her nails to help them dry.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, darling.

(as HE blows)

Hey you.

FREDERICK

Hey.

ELIZABETH

I hope somebody likes old-fashioned weddings!

FREDERICK

I prefer old-fashioned wedding nights!

ELIZABETH

Oh darling, you're incorrigible...

(as FREDERICK reaches out to tenderly pat her head)

HAIR! The hair, darling! I just had it done! Marcelled for six hours, by Marcel himself.

#4 - *Please Don't Touch Me*

FREDERICK

Of course. Well, I promise, my darling, not to step a step closer.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, darling.

FREDERICK

I can still dream, can't I?

ELIZABETH

DREAM ALL YOU WANT,
MY DARLING,
OF EV'RY LUSTFUL SITUATION,
THOSE NAUGHTY THOUGHTS,
ARE FINE WITH ME,
AS LONG AS THEY
STAY LOCKED AWAY
IN YOUR IMAGINATION...

(spoken)

YOU CAN HUG ME TILL I SCREAM,
IF IT'S ONLY IN A DREAM
BUT PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME!

YOU CAN FEEL ME TILL I SQUEEL,
JUST AS LONG AS IT'S NOT REAL,
BUT PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME!

(sings)

YOU CAN STICK ME, YOU CAN LICK ME,
YOU CAN PINCH ME TILL I'M BLUE,
YOU CAN BITE ME AND DELIGHT ME
TILL I'M BLIND!