

GOT IT MADE

A MUSICAL COMEDY IN TWO ACTS

Book and Lyrics by Maureen Kane Berg
Music by Maureen Kane Berg and Thomas C Berg

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Heuer Publishing LLC, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

ISBN: 978-1-61588-057-7

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PUBLISHED BY

HEUER PUBLISHING LLC

P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406

TOLL FREE (800) 950-7529 • FAX (319) 368-8011

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 MALES, 4 FEMALES, EXTRAS)

MOLLY MERRIWEATHER (f).....Protagonist - - a young woman in her twenties working at a large real estate development and management company in a large city; she is earnest and sweet but not naïve; she has become disillusioned with her job. *(181 lines)*

FREDDY SWEETBRIAR (m).....Molly's assistant at work and friend; he falls in love very easily. *(118 lines)*

CHLOE CRYSTALSON (f)Molly's college friend - - a beautiful jet-setting fashion photographer with lots of family money. *(60 lines)*

NORVALL CHITWOOD III (m) ...Molly's immediate boss; charming on the surface, but he picks favorites and has a condescending bite; he is in tight with Earl Cheeseman. *(30 lines)*

EARL CHEESEMAN (m)Big boss of Molly's company; on the surface, he is a new-economy boss with cardigan sweaters and a family metaphor for his company; underneath, however, he is an old-fashioned boss who demands absolute loyalty. *(13 lines)*

RHONDA STURGILL (f)Secretary/Office Manager in Molly's company; an old-fashioned Girl Friday to Mr. Cheeseman. *(5 lines)*

OFFICER OWEN TRÜSTY (m)Policeman who investigates the theft of
Chloe's ATM Card and PIN number from
her apartment. (34 lines)

JACKIE FRIEZE (f)Nasty colleague of Molly's; one of
Norvall Chitwood's pets. (10 lines)

HOWIE POSENECKER (m)Another nasty colleague of Molly's and
Norvall Chitwood's other pet. (13 lines)

CHORUS (m/f)Dancing/singing members of the cast,
including office workers; extras on the
street, in a café, etc. Several have featured
singing roles.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene 1 **CHEESEMEN OFFICES** (beginning with "bedrooms" in front)
*The Morning Commute, The Company Song, The Big Cheese, The Key to
Success, Molly's Grandfather, Freddy's Lament, Freddy's Lament, Reprise*

Scene 2 **CHLOE'S APARTMENT**
A Maid's Prayer, Modern Girls, Opportunity Knocks

Scene 3 **CHEESEMEN OFFICES**
Passive Aggression

Scene 4 **THREE CITY STREETS**
Get Off Your Mobile Phone, Molly Tails a Stranger

Scene 5 **CHIC COFFEE HOUSE**
Cappuccino and Tiramisu; Cappuccino and Tiramisu, Reprise

ACT TWO

Scene 1 **CHEESEMEN OFFICES** (late at night)

Molly's Grandfather, Reprise, Opportunity Knocks, Reprise

Scene 2 **CHEESEMEN OFFICES** (next morning)

Working in the a.m.

Scene 3 **SANDWICH SHOP**

Send Out My Resume; Let's Be Each Other's Problem

Scene 4 **POLICE STATION**

Scene 5 **CHEESEMEN OFFICES**

Working in the p.m., Dies Irae, We've Got It Made

SETTING

A metropolitan city (Minneapolis); much of the action occurs at a large downtown real estate development and management company.

TIME: The present.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

- SONG #1 **THE MORNING COMMUTE** Instrumental
- SONG #2 **THE COMPANY SONG** Entire Cast
(not Chloe or Trusty unless they are in Chorus)
- SONG #3 **THE BIG CHEESE**..... Cheeseman, Norvall, Rhonda, Chorus
- SONG #4 **THE KEY TO SUCCESS** Norvall
- SONG #5 **MOLLY'S GRANDFATHER** Molly
- SONG #6 **FREDDY'S LAMENT** Freddy
- SONG #7 **FREDDY'S LAMENT, REPRISE** Freddy
- SONG #8 **A MAID'S PRAYER** Chloe
- SONG #9 **MODERN GIRLS** Molly, Chloe, Freddy
- SONG #10 **OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS** Molly, Freddy, Chloe
- SONG #11 **PASSIVE AGGRESSION** Molly, Freddy, Howie, Jackie
- SONG #12 **GET OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE** ... Molly, Freddy, Chloe,
Date Guy, Late Mom, Road Rage Guy
- SONG #13 **MOLLY TAILS A STRANGER** Instrumental
- SONG #14 **CAPPUCCINO AND TIRAMISU** Freddy and Chloe
- SONG #15 **CAPPUCCINO AND TIRAMISU, REPRISE** Freddy
and Chloe

ACT TWO

- SONG #16 **MOLLY'S GRANDFATHER, REPRISE** Molly
- SONG #17 **OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS, REPRISE** Molly
- SONG #18 **WORKING IN THE A.M.** Molly, Freddy, Chorus
- SONG #19 **SEND OUT MY RESUME** Molly w/ Freddy,
Chloe, Waitress
- SONG #20 **LET'S BE EACH OTHER'S PROBLEM** Freddy, Chloe
- SONG #21 **WORKING IN THE P.M.** Freddy, Chorus, Molly
- SONG #22 **DIES IRAE** Two offstage male singers
- SONG #23 **WE'VE GOT IT MADE** Entire Cast

ACT ONE, SCENE 1

SETTING:

A metropolitan city (choose a local city, if desired). The first musical number follows the cast members as they awaken, get ready for work, and travel to their offices. (See Director's Score Production Notes on Sets for suggestions on staging and transitions.)

SONG #1: THE MORNING COMMUTE (INSTRUMENTAL)

AT RISE:

Music ("The Morning Commute") is playing in front of a closed curtain. As the first notes play, spotlights reveal bedrooms set up in strategic corners; people are waking up. When desired during this song, the curtain rises on a scene of an entryway to a major downtown office building. Entry door is center stage, upstage. Over the door is a pompous sign that reads: "CHEESEMANS Real Estate Development and Management, Inc." During the first movement of the song, the cast starts getting ready for work. During the second movement ("Dirge"), one group of commuters hates mornings and drags. During the third movement ("Funk"), the next set of commuters is annoying morning people and dances accordingly. During "Funk," the lights reveal MOLLY MERRIWEATHER, already in her suit, putting on makeup. Toward the end of this movement, she picks up a cell phone and makes a call. The fifth movement is a series of cell phone ring tones, and a group of dancers appears already on their cell phones. They repeatedly answer new calls and compete to see whose phone is ringing. Just as the movement is drawing to an end, a lump under the covers on a bed starts to stir, and FREDDY SWEETBRIAR's head appears, frantically searching for his cell phone among the sheets. He grabs the cell phone from the bed covers and answers it groggily. The music pauses for the following conversation. As MOLLY and FREDDY speak, other cast members continue to prepare for work and "travel" to the office.

FREDDY: Hello?

MOLLY: *(Disguising her voice to sound like a male police officer.)*
Freddy! Freddy! We've traced the call. It's coming from inside your apartment!

FREDDY: *(Groggily.)* Whaaa?

MOLLY: *(Laughing.)* After we worked so late last night, I figured you would need a wake-up call.

FREDDY: *(Jumps out of bed and attempts to sound chipper while he throws on his clothes.)* What are you talking about, Molly? I'm hurt. I've been up for hours.

MOLLY: *(Rolling her eyes, but smiling.)* Riiiiight. But the file is ready to e-mail for my meeting with Norvall, right?

FREDDY: *(Still frantically dressing while simultaneously starts typing on a laptop that was also under his covers; tries to sound nonchalant.)*
Calm down, Molly, everything's under control. I'll see you when you get to the office.

MOLLY: Okay, well . . . see you!

They hang up. Music resumes with the sixth and final movement, as one by one the cast members arrive at the entry door to the office building and come in. Some are dressed business casual, others in suits. FREDDY races in, still pulling on a jacket and fixing his tie, as he runs to his office and jumps right onto his computer, typing furiously. Music ends.

FREDDY: *(Pauses to look the file over for one instant, grabs his mouse.)* Hit "Send."

MOLLY comes through the front door and goes into her office. She also gets right on her computer and starts scrolling through the file. FREDDY's cubicle is adjacent to MOLLY's office. FREDDY is attempting to look diligent in his cubicle when MOLLY comes into her office, but his tie is twisted sideways and over his shoulder and several of his shirt buttons are unbuttoned.

MOLLY: *(Calls to FREDDY from her computer.)* Well, Freddy, I've got to hand it to you, this looks all right.

FREDDY: *(With his back still towards her, realizes he is unbuttoned; he buttons and straightens his tie while calling over his shoulder.)* Of course - - did you expect any less?

MOLLY: *(Strolls into FREDDY's office/cubicle.)* I've got to get to that meeting with . . . *(She makes a face and exaggerates a pompous accent while saying this name.)* . . . Norvall Chitwood, III.

FREDDY: *(Also making a face.)* Good luck!

As MOLLY turns to leave, RHONDA STURGILL, Office Manager, sticks her head into the office.

RHONDA: Molly.

MOLLY: *(Looks up.)* Yes, Rhonda?

RHONDA: Earl has called a meeting of all employees in five minutes!

MOLLY: Wha . . . ? I'm supposed to be meeting with Norvall Chitwood about the Park Place project.

RHONDA: Norvall? Oh, he's been in with Earl for half an hour. *(RHONDA sounds impressed with NORVALL.)* At any rate, when Earl Cheeseman calls for all employees, he means all of them, and you know he comes first here at Cheeseman's Real Estate Development and Management, Inc.! *(Pronounced "ink". She exits.)*

MOLLY: Did you hear that, Freddy? Rhonda says the Cheese Man wants to see us all in the main hall.

FREDDY: *(Gets up from his desk, does final straightening of his wardrobe.)* What about your meeting with Norvall?

MOLLY: *(Mimicking RHONDA's impressed tone.)* Norvall? Oh, he's been with Earl for half an hour. At any rate, you know Earl Cheeseman comes first here at Cheeseman's Real Estate Development and Management, Inc.! *(Although she has seemed joking until now, she looks out of her door nervously and hurries FREDDY along.)* So let's go!

As MOLLY and FREDDY proceed from their cubicles to the main hall in front of the entry door, other employees file in from all directions. EARL CHEESEMANS office door is an impressive-looking door stage left of the main entrance door. As the employees gather round, they are singing "The Company Song." MOLLY sees that FREDDYS jacket collar is folded up in the back, and she straightens it in a friendly, not intimate, way.

**SONG #2: THE COMPANY SONG
(ENTIRE CAST, MINUS CHLOE AND TRÜSTY)**

MOLLY and FREDDY join in this song along with the rest of the chorus of office workers on stage (or who come on.) MOLLY sings somewhat lackadaisically. CHEESEMANS NORVALL and RHONDA come out partway through the song. CHEESEMANS is self-styled as a casual employer, dressed in a cardigan sweater. However, he is definitely enjoying the adulation of "The Company Song." NORVALL CHITWOOD, III also comes out of CHEESEMANS office and stands proudly behind CHEESEMANS. Office Manager RHONDA STURGILL stands behind CHEESEMANS to the other side with a steno pad and pen in hand. NORVALL and RHONDA join in the song, while CHEESEMANS looks on approvingly.

CHORUS:

GLORY TO CHEESEMANS REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT, INC.!
NEVER WAS THERE A FIRM SO GREAT.
TO CHEESEMANS RAISE YOUR DRINK.

Several raise Starbucks' coffee cups and Diet Cokes.

GLORY TO CHEESEMANS REAL ESTATE
AND TO OUR FOUNDER ALL GIVE HAIL!
ABOUT EARL CHEESEMANS THERE IS NO DEBATE,
HE WILL ALWAYS MAKE THE SALE!

C-H-E-E-S-E-M-A-N!(Spelling it out like a cheer.)
CHEESEMANS! CHEESEMANS! SHOUT IT MEN!

GOT IT MADE

HAIL TO THE BEST FIRM EVER YET.
SING IT OUT AS LOUD AS YOU CAN!
IF YOU HAVE LUCK ENOUGH TO GET
EMPLOYED BY EARL CHEESEMAM!

GLORY TO CHEESEMAM'S REAL ESTATE,
'CAUSE THAT'S OUR COMPANY.
WE ARE COGS IN THE WHEEL OF THE REAL ESTATE DEAL,
AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE PROUD TO BE!

WE ARE COGS IN THE WHEEL OF THE REAL ESTATE DEAL.
YES! THAT'S WHAT WE'RE PROUD TO BE!
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE PROUD TO BE!
H - - A - - I - - L CHEESEMAM!

CHEESEMAM: (*Addresses the crowd; speaks cheerily, but with an underlying intensity.*) You know that I think of all of you as my family. However, certain things have made me wonder whether some of us here at Cheeseman's Real Estate Development and Management, Inc. have forgotten the fundamental principles on which I founded this firm. Who can tell me your first obligation as an employee of Cheeseman's?

NORVALL: (*Steps forward raising his hand tentatively - - when CHEESEMAM doesn't see him at first, clears his throat - - CHEESEMAM nods to him.*) To demonstrate complete loyalty to the firm and to you, sir?

CHEESEMAM: (*Nods approvingly.*) That's right, Norvall.

Puts an arm around NORVALL's neck and gives him a noogie while NORVALL smiles and looks pleased. CHEESEMAM sings. Backup sung by NORVALL CHITWOOD and RHONDA STURGILL and/or others in the group of employees who pop up. RHONDA can demonstrate some of her more threatening lines by blowing a whistle, if desired.

SONG #3: THE BIG CHEESE (CHEESEMAM, NORVALL, RHONDA, CAST)

CHEESEMAM:
I AM THE ONLY ONE AROUND HERE YOU MUST PLEASE.

RHONDA AND NORVALL:

HE'S THE BIG CHEESE.

CHEESEMEN:

BUT YOU ALL KNOW THAT ISN'T VERY HARD TO DO.

NORVALL: (*Playfully punching CHEESEMEN's arm.*)

HIS HEART IS TRUE.

CHEESEMEN:

I NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO ME
WHILE YOU'RE LOGGED IN ON YOUR PC,
IN SUN OR RAIN OR SNOW, NIGHT, NOON AND MORN.

RHONDA:

AND PLEASE, NO PORN!

CHEESEMEN:

AND IF YOU WISELY FOLLOW EACH OF THESE FEW RULES,

NORVALL AND RHONDA:

HIS RULES ARE JEWELS.

CHEESEMEN:

THEN YOU WILL FIND I WILL REWARD YOU FOR YOUR WORK.

NORVALL:

YOU MUSTN'T SHIRK.

CHEESEMEN:

THOUGH I'M NOT KNOWN TO BE EXTRAVAGANT,
YOU'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO PAY YOUR RENT,
AND WHAT IS MORE, YOU'LL EARN MY FAITH AND TRUST!

THREE CHORUS MEMBERS:

AND THAT WE MUST!

CHEESEMAM: (*Speaks as music continues underneath.*) For the third time in seven months, I have been within days of completing an important deal when I have been secretly outbid by Ormond Crouch of Crouch Properties. (*Looks around meaningfully at the group.*) I must assume that we have a mole who is feeding Crouch the critical information that has allowed him to best me. I suggest that you give yourself up right now, and face your punishment. (*Pauses expectantly - - no one steps forward.*) Very well, if you don't want to do this the easy way, you need to know, I'm coming after you. Because there is nothing worse than being betrayed by family! So I've got my eye on you. And everyone who is loyal to this company, I expect you to do the same. If you see any suspicious behavior - - my door will always be open to you. So keep a sharp eye on your brothers and sisters and let me know what you see.

CHEESEMAM: (*Resumes singing.*)
IT'S GENEROSITY THAT I PERSONIFY,

NORVALL AND RHONDA:
HE'S SUCH A GUY!

CHEESEMAM:
BUT THERE IS ONE THING OVER ALL I DO DEMAND.

NORVALL:
OR YOU'LL BE CANNED.

CHEESEMAM:
WHEN AN EMPLOYEE IS DISLOYAL,
THEN MY BLOOD BEGINS TO BOIL
AND I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I FIND THE LOUT.

RHONDA:
DON'T HAVE A DOUBT.

CHEESEMAM:
SO I WILL TURN THIS FIRM RIGHT UPSIDE DOWN AND SHAKE

NORVALL AND RHONDA:
MAKE NO MISTAKE.

CHEESEMAN:

AND AS I SEARCH YOU OUT, I'LL LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED.

NORVALL:

YOU WILL GET BURNED.

CHEESEMAN:

'CAUSE IF MY COMPANY HAS BEEN BETRAYED,
THEN JUSTICE MUST NOT BE DELAYED.

YOU CANNOT HIDE NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO!

NORVALL, RHONDA, AND SELECTED CHORUS MEMBERS:

HOW TRUE!

CHEESEMAN: Now listen, this firm cannot afford to lose any more deals to Ormond Crouch, or I'll have to start thinking about laying some of you off. AND I've got the police looking into this - - this - - corporate espionage. It's illegal!! *(Pause.)* That's it. Back to your jobs. And my office door is open to anyone with information about the mole.

The employees meander back to their offices. MOLLY and FREDDY return to their adjacent offices.

FREDDY: Dude!

MOLLY: Cheeseman threatens layoffs at least once a month.

FREDDY: Do ya think there's really a mole?

MOLLY: No! Ormond Crouch is the sharpest real estate man in the city. I'm sure he is capable of outbidding "Earl" without having a mole in this company. Besides, the Cheese Man is always looking for any excuse to have his employees spy on each other. Honestly, the level of paranoia around here.

NORVALL: *(Peeks his head around the door into MOLLY's office.)*
Molly!

MOLLY: *(Jumping, she reveals her own paranoia.)* Oh, hi, Norvall.

NORVALL: Molly, I thought you were going to meet with me this morning.

MOLLY: I was. I was ready, but you were in with Earl.

NORVALL: I was in my office at 7:00 a.m. this morning, as usual.

MOLLY: Our meeting was set for 8:45 . . .

NORVALL: You need to get up early in the morning to make a mark in this business, Molly.

MOLLY: Well, of course, Norvall, but I . . .

NORVALL: Well, never mind all that. (*Checks his watch.*) I have about fifteen minutes. Can you do this right now?

MOLLY: Sure, just let me pull up the file.

NORVALL: (*Turns to leave.*) Meet me in my office.

He strides out without missing a beat. He goes to the other side of the stage where his office is set - - a significantly more elaborate office than MOLLY's, with a window and a nice view. MOLLY has hit a few keys on her computer before following him across the hall just a few paces behind. NORVALL sits behind his desk as MOLLY moves to a chair in front of his desk, and NORVALL looks up at her as if surprised. She sits in the chair; NORVALL smiles and pours on the charm.

NORVALL: Molly - - I'm so glad that you've gotten to work on this Park Place project - - I'm anxious to see what you've done with it. I hope you've given it your magic touch. I was impressed by the financing structure you used on the KittyKorner warehouses. Innovative! Of course, you want to be careful about getting *too* creative.

MOLLY: (*Launches into "presentation mode."*) Okay, Norvall. Let me take you through this deal . . .

NORVALL's phone rings. He glances at it casually.

NORVALL: Oh, I've got to take this - - hold on. (*He picks up; speaks much more positively than he does to MOLLY.*) Thanks for calling me back, Howie. Jackie? Oh, you're both there? Good. I was wondering if you two could stop by here when you get a chance. I wanted to look over that project you've been working on. It is? Great! Yeah, okay. Well, when would be good for you? Five minutes? Perfect. See you then. (*Hangs up, folds his hands on desk and looks at MOLLY.*) Now, where were we? Oh yeah, I think you've learned a lot from me, and you applied it well on your last deal. I hope you're ready for a deal this big, but I don't really have the time I would have liked to go over it with you now. Well, briefly, where does it stand?

MOLLY: (*coming into her confidence - - she knows she's got a good deal here and is excited about it.*) Norvall, this is an excellent deal. We finished the due diligence just yesterday. We've got our numbers lined up, and they look great. If you take a look at the attachment I just e-mailed you, you'll see. (*Back into presentation mode.*) As you review that, I'd like to take you through this deal from the beginning. As you will see, the financing structure that I have put together allows . . .

NORVALL: (*Hits a few keys on his computer.*) Are these really the numbers? (*Sounding skeptical.*) Humph. Well, of course, we need to get the due diligence done.

MOLLY: As I said, we finished that yesterday. It's all in there. (*Back to her presentation.*) The financing structure . . .

NORVALL: (*Seems distracted.*) Oh, really? Well, I'll look it over. I'll get back to you when I've had a chance.

MOLLY: (*Rises somewhat hesitantly.*) Okay. (*Asserting herself.*) But Norvall, I'm really excited by this project, and I think it's important that we jump on this deal as soon as possible.

NORVALL: (*Not looking up.*) Uh-huh.

MOLLY: (*Still eager.*) So do you think we should set up a time to present this to Earl? I'd like to contribute to the presentation.

NORVALL: (*Still not looking up.*) Uh-huh. We'll see. I'll be in touch.

MOLLY: But Norvall, the numbers may change if we don't grab it.

NORVALL: (*Putting on his most charming and "confidential" demeanor.*)

Molly, I really want to help you move forward in this company. As I always say, you've got potential. Now, you may have noticed that Earl is coming to rely on my insight more and more. If I took him this deal prematurely, I'd undermine my own credibility. Let me give you some advice about success:

SONG #4: THE KEY TO SUCCESS

(NORVALL)

NORVALL:

IF YOU ARE HOPING TO RISE UP LIKE CREAM,
THEN QUIT YOUR MOPING, AND FOLLOW MY THEME.
TO PROVE YOUR MERIT,
YOU CAN'T JUST SHARE IT.
YOU NEED TO GET THE BOSS ON YOUR TEAM.

SO FROM THE FIRST DAY YOU LAND IN YOUR JOB,
FIND EV'RY NEW WAY YOU CAN TO HOB-NOB.
ALL TRUE GO-GETTERS
PURSUE THEIR BETTERS
TO HOIST THEM HIGH UP OVER THE MOB.

AND IF, LIKE MINE, YOUR EFFORTS FIND THEIR REWARD
WITH THE CEO OR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD,
YOU HOLD A PRECIOUS ASSET, GUARD IT WELL,
AND PROTECT HIM FROM UNWORTHY PERSONNEL!

Dance break where NORVALL leads a production number type dance with a lot of sycophantic OFFICE WORKERS as his back up. JACKIE FRIEZE and HOWIE POSENECKER can be featured here, if desired.

WHILE YOU ARE HEEDING HIS EV'RY COMMAND,
YOU'LL BE SUCCEEDING IN ALL YOU HAVE PLANNED.
JUST LOOK AT ME NOW
AND YOU WILL SEE HOW
I'VE GOT HIM IN THE PALM OF MY HAND!

HE'S EATING RIGHT OUT OF MY HAND!

MOLLY: You know, Norvall, that's exactly what I'm talking about. I want to help present Park Place to Earl precisely because I need to raise my profile with him.

NORVALL: *(Pouring the charm on.)* Molly, Earl is not the boss that you need to worry about. I am. Stick with me, kid, and I'll get you where you want to go. You know what? Earl has asked me to take a more involved role in some of our brokerage deals. I have the files on several buildings that we've been asked to take condo. I might ask you to help me with that. *(MOLLY looks disappointed.)* I know it's not as glamorous as building a tower, Molly, but it is our bread and butter. If we don't get our fundamentals in order, this firm could be in real trouble. *(JACKIE and HOWIE appear in NORVALL's doorway. NORVALL's manner towards them is markedly friendlier than towards MOLLY.)* Oh hi, Jackie, Howie! Are you ready?

JACKIE: *(Very smiling.)* Yes, Norvall.

NORVALL: Great. I've been here since seven. Why don't we hit that new restaurant and you can show me what you have ready for Earl over oysters? *(Grabs his suit coat from the back of his chair; prepares to leave his office.)* Molly, I'll be in touch with the additional work I need you to do on Park Place after I've had a chance to look it over. And remind me to send you those condo files. *(JACKIE and HOWIE make amused/horrified faces at each other at the mention of the "condo files.")* Bye.

JACKIE AND HOWIE: *(Smarmy and in unison.)* Bye, Molly.

The three of them head out, leaving MOLLY with her mouth hanging open. As they exit, they talk to NORVALL.

JACKIE: We've got some great stuff to show you, Norvall.

HOWIE: This project is so cutting-edge, Norvall, it just inspires us.

JACKIE: That's why I love being at Cheeseman's, Norvall. The work is so exciting.

MOLLY: (*Momentarily dazed, MOLLY then laughs to herself and addresses NORVALL's empty office.*) So, in conclusion, I direct your attention to the exceptional profit margin, which is a result of the financing structure I pioneered for this project. Norvall, you are so perceptive to be supporting this deal - - It will make your name - - and mine! (*Bows in several directions.*) Thank you, thank you, thank you!

MOLLY heads back to her office. FREDDY is coming out of his office into MOLLY's office as she walks in.

FREDDY: Oh, hey. How did your meeting with Chitwood go?

MOLLY: (*Chuckles slightly and nods.*) The usual.

FREDDY: That good, eh?

MOLLY: Freddy, what are we doing here?

FREDDY: (*Taken aback - - shrugs a little.*) Being cogs in the wheel of the real estate deal?

MOLLY: Right. But lately, I'm feeling like the gears are jammed. Every time I get revved up about a potential deal, Norvall gums up the works. (*Pause.*) Have I ever told you why I got into this business?

SONG #5: MOLLY'S GRANDFATHER (MOLLY)

"Molly's Grandfather" music starts to play softly underneath. FREDDY reacts with inevitability - - he has heard it all before. He rolls his eyes gently. If desired, he gets out his newsboy cap and newspaper and puts them on his desk - - ready to act out his role.

Lights dim. Voices reverb.

MOLLY:

IT BEGAN WITH MY GRANDFATHER, ARCHIBALD MERRIWEATHER,
ARCHITECT OF RENOWN.

TO MY FAM'LY'S PRIDE, HE DESIGNED THE MOST
SPECTACULAR BUILDINGS IN TOWN.

AS HE ADDED EACH YEAR TO THE SKYLINE,

HE BUILT HIS PRESTIGE AND HIS POWER,

AND THE CROWNING SUCCESS OF HIS SOARING CAREER WAS THE
GREAT MERRIWEATHER TOWER.

Music pauses; if desired, the fantasy lighting and reverb can cease.

FREDDY: *(Speaks.)* The Merriweather Tower? But wasn't that the building where it . . . umm . . . snowed . . . ?

MOLLY: *(Nodding and smiling ruefully.)* Snowed . . . on the inside? That's the one.

MOLLY: *(Singing.)*

IN THE THIRTIETH YEAR OF HIS BRILLIANT CAREER, HE LEARNED HIS CONTRACTOR WAS A FRAUD.
HE HAD SKIMMED AND SKIMPED ON MATERIALS SO
MY GRANDFATHER'S BUILDINGS WERE FLAWED.
THOUGH IT DIDN'T APPEAR FOR A LONG TIME,
A MASSIVE INTRUSION OF WATER
WHEN COMBINED WITH HIS SYSTEM FOR COOLING THE AIR LED MY
GRANDFATHER'S NAME TO SLAUGHTER.

Music pauses again; as MOLLY continues to narrate; snow falls from ceiling onto desks, if desired.

MOLLY: *(Speaks.)* The workers showed up at their offices to find a half inch of snow on their desks.

FREDDY rubs an index finger through the snow on his desk and then begins brushing it off of his papers. MOLLY looks up and holds her hands up as if astounded by the snow falling.

MOLLY: *(Singing.)*

IN HIS LAST FIFTEEN YEARS, MY POOR GRANDFATHER SEARCHED FOR HOW TO PATCH UP THE FAULT THEY'D FOUND,
BUT THE DAMAGE WAS DONE AND SO ONE BY ONE
HIS BUILDINGS WERE TORN TO THE GROUND.
WHERE ONCE HE WAS KNOWN AS A GENIUS
WITH GUTS AND EXCEPTIONAL VISION,
HE BECAME JUST THE GUY WITH THE BUILDINGS THAT SNOWED - -
HIS NAME A SOURCE OF DERISION.

Music pauses so MOLLY can speak.

MOLLY: *(Speaking.)* It didn't help that it was Merriweather, either . . .

FREDDY: (*Becoming an old-fashioned newsboy, with cap and armful of papers.*) Extry, extry, read all about it: "Scary Weather at the Merriweather."

MOLLY: Every month brought more bad news.

FREDDY: (*Still as newsboy.*) "Christmas Comes Early at Another Downtown Building."

MOLLY: (*Singing.*)

I WAS WITH HIM THE DAY THEY TORE DOWN HIS LAST BUILDING. I WAS TWELVE, AND I MADE HIM A VOW:

"I'LL PUT BACK OUR NAME ON THE BRIGHT SKYLINE
AND RESTORE OUR HONOR SOMEHOW!"

AND I'VE WORKED ON IT THAT DAY 'TIL NOW!
TO KEEP MY VOW!

FREDDY: Well, at least you've always known what you wanted to do.

MOLLY: Sort of. Before that, I wanted to be a private eye. (*FREDDY looks surprised. MOLLY shrugs.*) Big Nancy Drew fan. (*Laughs.*) I used to prowl around my neighborhood looking for something suspicious to investigate. But I never got the opportunity! I was so jealous. Suspicious things *always* were happening in Nancy Drew's neighborhood! But once I made that promise to my grandfather, I thought I knew my destiny: to put up building after building, until one day I'd erect the great New Merriweather Building to tower over the city. And after just two years at Trombone Holdings, I was doing so well, Cheeseman's headhunters recruited me here, and Norvall got ahold of my career.

FREDDY: Norvall is definitely threatened by you, Molly. Every time he looks over one of your deals, he gets this look on his face and says "Innovative" - - like it's an insult.

MOLLY: (*Smiles sadly.*) When I got here, I offered to work on anything where Norvall needed the help. He promptly stuck me on every dog deal in the office. Most of them were never going to happen at all. Of course, whenever I'm feeling bad, I can always drive thirty-five miles out Highway 169 [*choose a local highway that leads out to farmland, if desired*] to gaze upon my (*With a big flourish.*) "Industrial Distribution Center" . . .

FREDDY: (*Knowingly.*) I think you mean . . . (*Imitating MOLLY's flourish.*) . . . your warehouse.

MOLLY: (*Back down to earth and playing along.*) Exactly. And not just any warehouse - - nooo - - a kitty litter warehouse! I've built the largest litter box on the planet! And now I'm the kitty litter warehouse expert.

FREDDY: Well, the Park Place project - - that's a downtown office tower - - maybe this one will come through!

MOLLY: You know, when we were putting it together last night, I actually felt that old excitement. Lately, that's the signal for Norvall to knock me down again. I wonder if I should be looking for another job.

FREDDY: (*Nodding sympathetically.*) And if this deal does happen, Norvall will probably grab it from you.

MOLLY: I should, shouldn't I? I need to brush up the old résumé. (*Laughs.*) Or maybe I should chuck the whole real estate thing and go to private eye school after all.

FREDDY: Do you feel like you might be pursuing your grandfather's dream instead of your own?

MOLLY: I never did feel that. He didn't push me into this - - I chose this dream. The irony is, I decided to go into the business side of things instead of architecture like my grandfather because I thought I'd have more control over quality - - I'd control the contracting. Instead, I have no control over anything.

FREDDY: (*Very subdued.*) I know what you mean.

MOLLY: What's with you? (*Suddenly realizing.*) Oh no! Freddy! That's your "break-up shirt!" And you let me go on all morning. What happened?

FREDDY: When I finally got home last night, Estella left me.

MOLLY: Oh, I'm so sorry.

FREDDY: And the thing is, she was so strong. I'm really not sure I'll be able to stand up without her.

MOLLY: Strong? I thought you told me that she was as "delicate as a flower."

FREDDY: (*Incredulously.*) A Venus Flytrap, maybe. Estella works out every day. She can bench press, well . . . (*With a wistful smile.*) . . . me!

MOLLY: Freddy, it was just, like, two weeks ago you told me how romantic you found it when she fainted, 'cause you didn't think anyone actually did that anymore.

FREDDY: (*Confused.*) Fainted? Oh - - you're thinking of Annabelle - - we broke up eight days ago.

MOLLY: Okay, then. So how long have you been with this Estella?

FREDDY: The best week of my life.

MOLLY: Oh, Freddy.

FREDDY: (*Sheepishly.*) I know, I know. But Molly, I can't help it. I love women. And they love me too! But only for a while. To them I'm just a plaything. How do I hang on to one?

MOLLY: I don't know, Freddy. Maybe if you acted a little . . . less needy?

FREDDY: But I am needy! I need them! And what is so *wrong* with that?

Music starts. FREDDY sings this song. Both FREDDY and MOLLY have spoken parts over the music where indicated.

SONG #6: FREDDY'S LAMENT (FREDDY)

FREDDY: (*Speaks.*) Estella, oh Estella, my bodybuilding power-lifter, how can I make it without you - - you were my surrogate backbone . . .

FREDDY: (*Singing.*)
HOW SHE SUPPORTED ME,
HOW SHE WAS STRONG,
AND WHEN SHE COURTED ME,
I SANG HER SONG.
BUT THEN SHE THWARTED ME.
NOW SHE IS GONE.
THIS NEW, DISTORTED ME
CANNOT GO ON.

MOLLY: (*Speaks.*) So what were you telling me about the previous one - - Annabelle, was it?

FREDDY: (*Speaks.*) Oh yes, Annabelle, my sweet fragile soul. It seemed as though the weaker she was, the stronger I became . . .

FREDDY: (*Singing.*)
HOW SHE ENCHANTED ME,
DELICATE FLOWER.
'T WAS SHE WHO GRANTED ME
MY MANLY POWER.
THAT SHE RECANTED ME
TURNED MY LIFE SOUR.
WHEN SHE SUPPLANTED ME,
MY DARKEST HOUR.

MOLLY: (*Speaks.*) So in the end, I guess she was strong enough to walk away. Now, remind me - - was Annabelle the research scientist?

FREDDY: (*Speaks.*) Oh, no - - you're thinking of Emily. Oh, Emily was so brilliant. Do you know - - she was working on a cure for semathelioma? I don't even know what that is!

FREDDY: (*Singing.*)
HOW SHE INSPIRED ME
WITH HER SHARP BRAIN.
AND SHE DESIRED ME,
THAT HAD ME SLAIN!
THEN SHE RETIRED ME;
ALL THAT REMAIN
OF THE EXPIRED ME
ARE WOE AND PAIN.

MOLLY: (*Speaks sympathetically.*) Too bad she didn't have a cure for infatuatioma. Maybe you were in just a little over your head with her.

Whatever happened to that darling little waitress you were seeing?

FREDDY: (*Speaks.*) Oh, yeah - - Mindy. You know what I loved about her? She was so uncomplicated. She just loved to have fun.

FREDDY: (*Singing.*)
MINDY HAD A SMILE WARM AND TRUE,
WHILE BETH WAS SWEETLY MELANCHOLY.
NO ONE EVER TOUCHED MY HEART LIKE SUE - -
EXCEPT PAM, NELL AND POLLY.

WHY DO THEY FLEE
AND DEMOTE ME TO FRIEND?
THEY ALL AGREE
I'M JUST YESTERDAY'S TREND.
WHAT'S THE IDEA
I'M FAILING TO SEND?
MY LOVE WILL BE
WITH THEM ALL TO THE END!

FREDDY: *(Speaks.)* Why can't they see that?

FREDDY: *(Singing.)*
I'LL LOVE THEM ALL TO THE END!

MOLLY: *(Chuckles.)* I don't know whether to be insulted or relieved. I must be the only woman you've ever met that you didn't fall in love with.

FREDDY: I would have, but on my first day, Rhonda gave me a copy of the sexual harassment policy.

MOLLY: *(Still amused, but also just explaining the policy to him.)* But I'm your boss. You couldn't sexually harass me - - only I could sexually harass you.

FREDDY: *(Hopefully.)* You could?

MOLLY gives him a look that says "Forget it," and he nods and shrugs. MOLLY's phone rings. She looks at the phone's caller ID.

MOLLY: Oooh, I've got to take this, I hope you don't mind. It's a friend who's been out of the country. *(She picks up the phone.)* Hey, Chloe - - how was your trip? Really? Oh no. How did that happen? Oh, how awful. Well, *(Checks her watch.)* yeah, we can call this lunchtime. Sure, I'll be right over. *(Hangs up, turns apologetically to FREDDY.)* My friend Chloe was robbed while she was in Europe. Someone took her spare ATM card and her PIN number out of her apartment. They've been taking nearly \$300 out of her account every day for two and a half weeks.

FREDDY: *(Still very subdued.)* That's too bad.

MOLLY: So I told her I'd come over.

FREDDY: Okay.

MOLLY: (*Looks at FREDDY; he is still moping.*) I can't leave you here like this - - but Chloe wants me there when she gives her statement to the police. (*Pause.*) I bet that won't take too long. Why don't you meet me at Chloe's apartment and we'll all go out for lunch? (*Scribbles a note and hands it to FREDDY.*) Here's the address. It overlooks Lake Calhoun. [*Choose a local neighborhood with high-rise apartments and condos in a desirable part of town, if desired.*]

FREDDY: (*Perks up immediately, reading the address.*) Okay. So who is this Chloe?

MOLLY: (*As she gathers her stuff to leave the office, MOLLY laughs fondly as she describes CHLOE.*) Haven't I ever told you about her? She's . . . well, she's an exotic creature. She was my freshman year roommate, and I could hardly believe her when I met her. She's independently wealthy, she's a high-fashion photographer, and she jets around the world at the drop of a hat. (*She starts to walk out the door, and calls back, laughingly over her shoulder.*) Oh yeah, and she's gorgeous. (*Shaking head smilingly as she exits.*) It just isn't fair.

FREDDY: (*To himself, looking at CHLOE's address.*) Wow!

SONG # 7: FREDDY'S LAMENT, REPRISE (FREDDY)

FREDDY gets his jacket and steps forward as the music to "Freddy's Lament" resumes for one last verse. If possible, make the scene change behind him to transition to CHLOE's apartment. (See Director's Score Production Notes on Sets for suggestions.)

FREDDY:
HOW THEY ENTHRALL ME,
CAN MAKE ME SO VEXED.
PLEASE OVERHAUL ME,
I'M JUST OVERSEXED!
IT DOES APPALL ME
AND LEAVES ME PERPLEXED.
BUT THAT WON'T FORESTALL ME
FROM SEEKING MY NEXT!

WHO'S NEXT? WHO'S NEXT? WHO'S NEXT?

FREDDY exits.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2

SETTING:

CHLOE's apartment. Director's Score Production Notes have suggestions for easy transitions.

AT RISE:

No one on stage. Doorbell rings. MOLLY enters and answers the door. OFFICER TRÜSTY is there. He is wearing a prominent name badge. MOLLY looks at it closely and then speaks.

MOLLY: Hello, Officer uhh . . . (Reading.) "Trusty."

OFFICER TRÜSTY: That's "Trüüüsty."

He pronounces it with a strong Scandinavian accent. The "u" sound is a hard "u" made by pursing the lips in a small circle and saying "e." In all other respects, he speaks normal unaccented (if a bit clipped) American English.

MOLLY: (Bewildered, she says it without the umlaut.) Troosty?

OFFICER TRÜSTY: "ÜÜÜ." "ÜÜÜ." "Trüüüsty." And you must be Miss Crystalson?

MOLLY: No. That's my friend, Chloe. She'll be right out. She asked me to let you in. (CHLOE enters. She is dressed very high fashion, bright colors.) Here she is now. Chloe, this is Officer, uhh, "Troosty."

OFFICER TRÜSTY: (To MOLLY.) "ÜÜÜ." "ÜÜÜ."

CHLOE: (Taking it all in, she leans in and reads OFFICER TRÜSTY's nametag. With perfect pronunciation, she says:) Officer "Trüsty." Thank you for coming. I hope you don't mind my asking my friend Molly to come over. This has been so upsetting. I just feel so violated.

OFFICER TRÜSTY: That's fine, Miss. I have the notes here from the information you called in to the station. *(Pulls out a small notebook and consults it.)* I've seen this before, Miss. You received two ATM cards from the bank when you opened your account?

CHLOE: *(Tearfully.)* That's right, sir.

OFFICER TRÜSTY: And you kept the spare in a file here?

CHLOE: Yes.

OFFICER TRÜSTY: *(Scoldingly.)* And you kept a record of your PIN number in the same file?

CHLOE: *(Contrite.)* I'm afraid I did, sir.

OFFICER TRÜSTY: *(Shaking his head.)* While you were out of the country, who had access to your apartment?

CHLOE: Well, my maid came in to clean, and I hired a cat-sitter while I was gone.

OFFICER TRÜSTY: And they both have keys?

CHLOE: That's right. And my plant service came in and watered. My grocery service delivered the day before I got back. And the dry cleaners have a key. And, of course, my building management. And I think that's everyone.

OFFICER TRÜSTY: I notice the sign out front saying that your building is going condo - - the brokers probably have a master.

CHLOE: Yes, I think so. Do you think you can find whoever did this, Officer?

OFFICER TRÜSTY: Well, Miss, we'll do what we can. We've had several of these ATM card thefts in the last few weeks. I'll look into the possible connections. In the meantime, you should change your locks, Miss, and I think you would best fire all those services that had access to your apartment.

CHLOE: *(Stricken.)* Fire them? The grocery service and my plant-sitter and . . .

OFFICER TRÜSTY: It would be a wise precaution.

CHLOE: . . . my dry cleaners that DELIVER and my CAT sitter and . . .

OFFICER TRÜSTY: I would if I were . . .

CHLOE: . . . and - - MY MAID?!

OFFICER TRÜSTY: Well . . .

CHLOE: *(Playing up to him shamelessly.)* Oh, Officer Trüsty, you need to find whoever did this.

SONG #8: A MAID'S PRAYER

(CHLOE)

CHLOE:

WHEN I WAS SMALL, MY FAMILY'S WEALTH WAS VAST.
WE HAD IT ALL, AND SO MY DIE WAS CAST.
I HAD MY NANNIES AND CHAUFFEURS, BUTLERS AND GO-FERS
SCURRYING TO MY AID.
NOW THAT I'M GROWN, I REALLY NEED MY MAID.

DON'T SPECULATE MY FAMILY WAS SUPERFISH'. (*"SUPERFICIAL" SHORTENED.*)
TO EDUCATE ME PROPERLY WAS THEIR WISH.
I LEARNED TO PLAY FLUTE AND CELLO, RECITE OTHELLO,
SING ELGAR'S "SERENADE,"
BUT NOT TO CLEAN, SO I REALLY NEED MY MAID!

I THOUGHT THAT I COULD RELY ON MY PERSONALITY
IF I ALWAYS TRIED TO BE SINCERE.
I HAVE RACKED UP AWARDS, AND I SIT ON MANY BOARDS,
AND I EXCEL IN MY CAREER.

BUT MY SUCCESS IS MARRED BY MY HANDICAP.
I MUST CONFESS, I'M CAUGHT IN A GOLDEN TRAP.
YOU MIGHT SAY, "POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL," "LIFE IS A BITCH, GIRL;"
I KNOW IT'S SO CLICHÉD,
BUT STILL IT'S TRUE, I NEED MY MAID!

CHLOE: *(Speaks very flirtatiously to OFFICER TRÜSTY.)* So you see, Officer, I really need your help.

OFFICER TRÜSTY: *(Obviously influenced by CHLOE's charms.)* Well, Miss, as I say, we will do our best. *(Tips his cap and starts to leave.)*

CHLOE: *(Accompanies OFFICER TRÜSTY to the door, and continues playing up to him.)* Thank you, Officer. I look forward to hearing from you.

OFFICER TRÜSTY exits.

MOLLY: *(Comes forward from where she had been somewhat out of the way while CHLOE talked to OFFICER TRÜSTY. She mimics CHLOE's flirtatious style.)* "So you see, Officer. I really need your help." Chloe, there you go again.

CHLOE: *(Suddenly all business.)* So what? I want him to find out who took my card.

MOLLY: I thought I had finally gotten through to you about this on our trip to Jamaica. You set feminism back thirty years just trying to get us upgraded to first class.

CHLOE: But you did enjoy the champagne?

MOLLY: *(Shaking her head, but amused.)* At this rate, women will never be taken seriously.

CHLOE: So your solution to eons of women not being taken seriously is for me to just give up my most potent weapons?

MOLLY: *(Reproachfully, points twice at both sides of CHLOE's chest.)* I'm just saying, keep 'em in their holsters!

SONG #9: MODERN GIRLS (MOLLY, CHLOE, FREDDY)

MOLLY:

ACTING ALL SWIRLY
WON'T HELP MEN'S FAULTY CONCENTRATION.
THEY JUST GET SQUIRRELLY,
FOCUSED ON ONLY YOUR FLIRTATION.
BEHAVE SECURELY,
STRAIGHTFORWARD IN YOUR CONVERSATION,
OR YOU WILL SURELY
ATTRACT UNWANTED AGGRAVATION.

CHLOE:

IF YOU ACT PURELY,
YOU'LL FAIL TO REACH YOUR DESTINATION.
MEN ARE SO SURLY
WITHOUT THE PROPER STIMULATION.
PUT ON THE "GIRLIE"
AND THE RESULTING FASCINATION
WILL MOVE YOU SURELY
TO SWIFT AND HAPPY DOMINATION.

MOLLY:

IT'S TRUE AS EVER.
DON'T GIVE THE MAN A CHANCE TO GRADE YOU.
YOU WIN WHENEVER.
YOU SHOW HIM TOUGH AND UNAFRAID YOU.
YOU THINK YOU'RE CLEVER
IN USING SEX APPEAL TO AID YOU.
YOU'LL FIND, HOWEVER,
THE GUY YOU CHARMED HAS ONLY PLAYED YOU.

CHLOE:

IN EACH ENDEAVOR,
FEMALE ALLURE HAS NOT BETRAYED ME.
FLIRT WITH WHOMEVER
I MUST AND MY GOALS DON'T EVADE ME.
LIFE'S BEEN FAIR NEVER
AND SO YOU SIMPLY WON'T PERSUADE ME.
WHY WOULD I EVER
RUN FROM THE WAY THAT GOD HAS MADE ME?

Doorbell rings. CHLOE answers it. It's FREDDY. MOLLY jumps up to introduce them. Music continues under the following dialogue.

MOLLY: (Speaks.) Oh, Freddy, I'm so glad you're here. Chloe, this is Freddy, my assistant at Cheeseman's. He was having a rough day, so I told him to meet us here. But Freddy - - you're just in time to settle an argument. As a man, tell us what you think. Don't women in a man's world have to watch how they act?

FREDDY: I guess so.

MOLLY: And we can't flirt our way to success, can we?

FREDDY: I don't think that would work.

CHLOE: (Plays up to FREDDY.) Well, Freddy, she makes a good argument, but listen to my side.

CHLOE sings Verse 2 of "Modern Girls" while FREDDY joins in with a moony Verse 6 of "Freddy's Lament," revised as follows (it's a counterpoint.)

FREDDY:

HOW THEY ENTHRALL ME,
CAN MAKE ME SO VEXED.

PLEASE OVERHAUL ME,
I'M JUST OVERSEXED.
IT DOES APPALL ME
AND LEAVES ME PERPLEXED,
BUT THAT WON'T FORESTALL ME
FROM MAKING HER NEXT.

CHLOE:

IF YOU ACT PURELY,
YOU'LL FAIL TO REACH YOUR
DESTINATION.
MEN ARE SO SURLY
WITHOUT THE PROPER STIMULATION.
PUT ON THE "GIRLIE,"
AND THE RESULTING FASCINATION
WILL MOVE YOU SURELY
TO SWIFT AND HAPPY DOMINATION.

MOLLY: (*Getting in between FREDDY and CHLOE in order to regain FREDDY's attention - - speaks.*) But Freddy, you know as well as I do what happens to women in the corporate world if they don't prove they're tough.

FREDDY: (*Still distracted by CHLOE.*) Ummm . . . yeah . . . I mean, yes, I do! . . . I suppose.

MOLLY: And women who take the wrong approach can really pay a price for it.

FREDDY: Oh yes, Molly - - of course you're right . . . for the most part . . . I think.

CHLOE: Well, Freddy, here's my point of view.

CHLOE comes in with Verse 4 of "Modern Girls." FREDDY is immediately back in her thrall, singing (revised) Verse 5 of "Freddy's Lament" as a counterpoint, as follows:

GOT IT MADE

FREDDY:

I HOPE SHE SEES
THAT I'M MORE THAN A TREND.

AND THAT SHE'LL AGREE
THAT I'M DESTINY'S FRIEND.

HERE'S THE IDEA
THAT I'VE GOT TO SEND.

MY LOVE WILL BE
WITH JUST HER TO THE END.

I'LL LOVE HER 'TIL THE END!

CHLOE:

IN EACH ENDEAVOR,
SEX APPEAL NEVER HAS BETRAYED
ME.

FLIRT WITH WHOMEVER
I MUST AND MY GOALS DON'T EVADE
ME.

LIFE'S BEEN FAIR NEVER
AND SO YOU SIMPLY WON'T
PERSUADE ME.

WHY WOULD I EVER
RUN FROM THE WAY THAT GOD HAS
MADE ME?

THAT'S HOW GOD MADE ME!

MOLLY: *(As the song is ending, she picks up and looks at some papers lying on CHLOE's desk or table. Getting excited.)* Look at these bank records! Chloe, whoever has been doing this has gone to one of three ATMs every night between 6:00 and 6:15.

CHLOE: Yeah - - I noticed that.

FREDDY: *(Playing up to CHLOE.)* I heard about your burglary, Chloe. And I met that policeman coming out of your building - - Officer Trüsty?

He pronounces it well. CHLOE flashes him a smile. MOLLY looks up, temporarily flummoxed by everyone else getting the name right.

MOLLY: The police officer didn't say anything about staking out these ATMs tonight, did he?

CHLOE: No.

MOLLY: Of course, from their point of view, a theft of this size wouldn't warrant three different stakeouts . . . but tonight is the final chance - - your ATM card has been canceled, hasn't it?

CHLOE: Yes.

MOLLY: So tonight will be the last night that the thief tries to use it. Once he sees that the card has been canceled, he won't come back. *(Gets a flash.)* We should do it!

FREDDY AND CHLOE: Do what?

MOLLY: Look - - three ATMs - - three of us - - we could each stake one out.

FREDDY: Yes!

CHLOE: Let me guess. You're channeling Nancy Drew again?

MOLLY: This is just the opportunity I've always wanted! It wouldn't even be that hard - - here is a window of just fifteen minutes when the thief uses your card. If we each stationed ourselves across from one of the ATMs and took a picture of every person who used it during that time, maybe you would recognize one of the people from your cat sitters or something. Or we might be able to tell when the thief realizes the card has been canceled and the machine spits it back out!

CHLOE: Molly, I don't know, I'm awfully tired after my trip.

MOLLY: (*Getting exasperated.*) Well, take a nap - - we have six hours before we even have to do it. Freddy, help me out here.

FREDDY: Yeah - - well - - Chloe - - how about it?

MOLLY: (*Hands out pages of the bank records to each of them and circles something on each page.*) Chloe - - you could cover this ATM. Freddy - - you take this one. And I'll cover this third one. To be safe, we'd have to get there by 5:45 and stay through 6:30. We'll need each other's cell phone numbers - - I know both of yours, so you two exchange numbers.

FREDDY: (*Pretends to be bashful as he and CHLOE write their numbers down.*) Oh, okay.

CHLOE takes FREDDY's hand and begins to write her number on it while he is happily stunned.

MOLLY: We should get in touch by phone as soon as we set out tonight. If we're going to do this, I need to run back to the office now and make sure all my work is done ahead of time. I wouldn't want to get held up at the critical moment.

FREDDY: (*Still gazing at CHLOE.*) I hate that.

MOLLY: It'll be fun! Wear something dark tonight, Chloe - - you don't want to stand out. You are on board, right?

CHLOE: (*She and FREDDY exchange looks, enraptured.*) I guess if the two of you are willing to do this for me, how can I say no?

FREDDY: (*Right into CHLOE's eyes.*) How can either of us say "no," really?

CHLOE: (*Coming around.*) I guess it could be fun.

MOLLY: That's the spirit! Something suspicious to investigate - - finally! We can't ignore a chance like this when it falls right in our laps!

SONG #10: OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

(MOLLY, FREDDY, CHLOE)

MOLLY:

OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING AT THE DOOR AS IF TO SAY, "WHY DON'T YOU COME OUTSIDE AND PLAY?"

IF YOU LISTEN CLOSELY, YOU CAN HEAR IT MURMUR, "YOU DON'T GET A CHANCE LIKE THIS ONE EV'RY DAY."

IF YOU LET THIS PASS YOU BY NOW,

IT MAY NEVER COME AGAIN.

WHEN OPPORTUNITY COMES ASKING YOU TO PLAY, YOU SIMPLY SAY, "AMEN."

YOU SIMPLY SAY, "AMEN."

MOLLY, FREDDY AND CHLOE:

SERENDIPITY HAS OPENED UP THE DOOR AND WONDERS IF YOU MIGHT BE GAME TO TAKE A CHANCE?

WHEN YOUR TURN HAS COME TO ROLL THE DICE, JUST ASK YOURSELF IF YOU'LL RETREAT OR IF YOU WILL ADVANCE?

IF YOU TURN AND WALK AWAY NOW,

YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

WHEN SERENDIPITY IS STANDING ON YOUR STOOP, YOU MUST INVITE IT IN.

YOU MUST INVITE IT IN.

MOLLY:

YOU HANG AROUND ALL DAY COMPLAINING LIFE IS DULL AND DRAB,

BUT FUN JUST CAME TO GET YOU IN A TAXICAB.

IF YOU MISS OUT, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE YOURSELF TO BLAME,

SO GET INTO THE GAME!

POSSIBILITIES ARE CROWDING ALL AROUND YOU AND THEY'RE FIGHTING JUST TO WHISPER IN YOUR EAR.

THEY HAVE GOT A PLAN THAT'S GUARANTEED TO SCINTILLATE AND NOW THEY ONLY NEED A VOLUNTEER.

MOLLY, FREDDY AND CHLOE:

FATE MAY BE AROUND THE CORNER.

THAT YOU SIMPLY CAN'T IGNORE.

WHEN POSSIBILITIES WALK UP AND INTRODUCE THEMSELVES, DON'T SLAM THE DOOR.

DON'T SLAM THE DOOR!

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