

EMILY

Actually, I'm on my way to work. Would you like to walk with me?

WAYNE

Who wouldn't?!

(WAYNE somewhat self-consciously offers EMILY his arm and they exit as the scene shifts to reveal:)

Scene 4: The Midway at the Temple of Wonder – immediately following

(To one side of the stage is the Temple of Wonder, the Test-Your-Strength game to the other side. FAIRGOERS are coming and going as THE ASTOUNDING STRALENKO gives his pitch on a platform in front of the Temple of Wonder. He's decked out in harem pants, a bejeweled vest and a heroic turban. Despite his getup, there is something about him more Grossinger's than Marrakech – maybe it's the black horn-rimmed glasses.)

STRALENKO

(In a faux Eastern European accent.)

Step right up, ladies and gents! Welcome to The Temple of Wonder. Presenting the saucy Siamese twins, Ruth and Esther, and those maidens of Marrakech – Cleopatra's Carnal Cuties!

(He hits a gong; VIVIAN and JEANNE, two Egyptian-esque cooch dancers, go into their enticing preview performance. PAT GILBERT enters, the press pass in his hat indicating that he's a newspaper reporter. He's followed by CHARLIE, a photographer.)

PAT

I tell ya, Charlie, I've had some lousy assignments in my day but the old man really stuck me this time.

CHARLIE

He thinks you've gotten too big for your britches so he's taking ya down a peg.

PAT

With what I wrote during the war, for crying-out-loud. I covered Bataan – I covered Midway.

CHARLIE

Yeah, well now you're covering the midway. Look, enjoy the sunshine, do your job and shut up about it.

PAT

I got no interest in this human interest junk.

(Music out.)

STRALENKO

And believe me, gentlemen, you'll see a lot more of these exotic beauties, but only on the inside. Step right up!

(STRALENKO exits through a curtain upstage on the platform followed by JEANNE and SEVERAL MEN; VIVIAN calls to PAT.)

VIVIAN

Hey, Pat! I haven't seen you since V-J Day in Indianapolis! What say we knock back a few after the late show tonight?

PAT

You're on, Valerie.

VIVIAN

It's Vivian.

PAT

Oh, right.

VIVIAN

Same old Pat.

(She exits through the curtain.)

CHARLIE

You must know every dame on the grounds.

PAT

Only the refined types.

CHARLIE

I wish I had your knack with women, but I ain't got the gift o' gab. I never know what to say.

PAT

That's easy. Just talk about them.

(MARGY enters.)

For instance -

(He sidles up next to MARGY.)

Say, did you know your hair bounces up and down when you walk?

MARGY

(Apprehensively)

Everybody's hair bounces when they walk.

PAT

(Tipping his hat.)

Mine doesn't.

MARGY

I mean girls.

(CHARLIE enters urgently, interrupting PAT'S reverie.)

CHARLIE

Hey, Gilbert - I been lookin' all over the grounds for ya.

PAT

So ya found me. What's up?

CHARLIE

Ya got a call from the Chicago Trib. Seems the Managing Editor has to fly to the coast so he's moved your interview up to first thing tomorrow. We got just enough time to get ya on the last train out tonight.

PAT

But I can't leave now. Margy's meeting me here.

CHARLIE

So you'll find another girl in Chicago.

PAT

She's not just another girl.

CHARLIE

And this is not just another job. This is the chance ya been waitin' for, Pat. Now if ya wanna throw it all away for some girl you've known for two days, it's no skin off my nose, but ya better decide fast 'cause that train's not gonna wait.

(He exits; PAT takes a moment, looks at the bench.)

PAT

Same old Pat.

(He races off after CHARLIE.)

Music 20: Reprise - ISN'T IT KINDA FUN?

(A few FAIRGOERS are strolling along as WAYNE enters and crosses. MARGY enters and sees WAYNE.)

MARGY

Meeting someone?

(WAYNE spins around, caught off guard.)

WAYNE

Uh-huh.

(MARGY sits down on the bench.)

Waiting for someone?

MARGY

Uh-huh.