

more I thought about you the madder I got. By Act Four poor sweet Mimì was looking like Joan Crawford with a kidney stone. Rodolfo had to sing “What a cold little hand!” to my hot little fist! It was the worst performance of Mimì in opera history. Critics called Mimì’s death a mercy killing. Everybody said I choked on opening night. I never lived it down. Oh, I auditioned for everything that came up. I even tried musicals. I auditioned for Kiss Me Kate. They said I brought too much anger to the role of Katherine. Face it Connor: you ruined my career!

CONNOR hangs his head in shame.

After a beat FORD enters.

FORD

Say, there you are, Carly. I’ve been looking for you.

CARLY

I guess I sort of wandered off.

FORD

I see you two have been hitting it off.

CONNOR

Yep.

CARLY

Connor has already regaled me with a bit of his favorite composer.

FORD

Who’s that?

For Ford’s benefit, CONNOR gives a very slow and Americanized pronunciation of Giuseppe Verdi.

CONNOR

Giuseppe Verdi.

FORD

Who?

CARLY

Joe Green.

FORD

Right. Anyway, Carly, here's the key to your hotel room. It's just the other side of the parking lot. You can't miss it.

CARLY

Why thank you. What a long day it's been.

She pronounces "been" with a long e, as Connor did.

FORD

Oh, and your agent—I forgot her name—

CARLY

Kit.

FORD

She's gonna arrive later on tonight. We got her her own room.

CARLY

That was a wise precaution.

CARLY exits. CONNOR realizes she has left her boots. He picks them up and starts after her, then reconsiders.

CONNOR

Say, Ford, this isn't working out the way I hoped it would.

FORD

What are you talking about? She's perfect!

CONNOR

I don't think Carly is completely happy that I arranged for her to come here and sing. Fortunately she doesn't know I'm Earl Conway.

FORD

What! Are you sure about that?

CONNOR

I'm sure. And when she finds out, I don't think she's going to be too pleased.

FORD

Then we've got to make sure she doesn't find out.