

Audition Sides: Dolly & Horace

Dolly

Congratulations, congratulations, a thousand congratulations!

Horace

What? What?

Dolly

Congratulations, Mr. Vandergelder! All New York is buzzing with the news that you've practically proposed to Irene Molloy. The streets are lined with eligible young ladies prostrate with grief. All my congratulations and sympathy.

Horace

Sympathy?

Dolly

Did I say that? A slip of the tongue, that's all. No, I'm delighted with the happy news. After all, she wasn't easy to unload. By that I mean... you know what people said...although I for one never believe the rumors... no, I didn't.

Horace

Rumors? What rumors?

Dolly

Nothing to get upset about, Mr. Vandergelder. I mean, according to all known facts, her first husband passed on quite naturally. It's just that he went so sudden... a few spoons of chowder she made special for him and pfft! But it could happen to anyone. No, there's no truth in it. Just one word of advice, Mr. Vandergelder. Eat out!

Horace

Now hold on, Mrs. Levi. You mean to say that Mrs. Molloy...

Dolly

I mean to say nothing. Just friendly advice. Keep away from the chowder. By the way, she's ordered her wedding gown, beautiful. You should see it. Black. Well, as I said before, Mr. Vandergelder, congratulations on your upcoming nuptials and may you rest in... I mean, may Guardian Angels watch over you both. Particularly at dinner.

Horace

Look here, Mrs. Levi, you introduced me to Mrs. Molloy, and rumors or not, I intend calling on her this afternoon... as arranged!

Dolly

Very well, Mr. Vandergelder, then there's nothing more for me to do but go back to New York and tell the other girl... the heiress... not to wait.

Horace

What did you say?

Dolly

Nothing, a word. Heiress.

Horace

Particulars, Mrs. Levi. I demand particulars. Her name!

Dolly

Her name? Money. Ernestina Money.

Horace

What a lovely, lovely name.

Dolly

Picture it if you will. Hair as shiny as a newly minted dime. Eyes as big and round as silver dollars. Skin as soft and mossy as an old greenback.

Horace

I can feel her now.

Dolly

Age? Nineteen. Weight? One hundred and two. Waist? Forty-seven.

Horace

Waist, forty-seven?

Dolly

That's with the money belt. Now, I could arrange for you to meet this Ernestina this very afternoon.

Horace

I ain't got time, Mrs. Levi. I got to bring my niece, Ermengarde to New York this afternoon until she forgets a certain Ambrose Kemper!

Dolly

I could do that for you, Mr. Vandergelder! I know just how to handle such things.

Horace

Then I'm watching the 14th Street parade!

Dolly

What an amazing coincidence! Guess who's been chosen to ride on the main float, the Spirit of Fourteenth Street? Miss Money! Her mother was a Cash, you know.

Horace

All right, Mrs. Levi. I'll meet this Money at the parade, but I still intend paying another call on Ms. Molloy first!

Dolly

Oh dear, what races you make me run! Very well, Mr. Vandergelder, I'll meet you on that bench in front of Mrs. Molloy's hat shop at two-thirty as usual.

Horace

One more thing, Mrs. Levi! Suppose I decide against Mrs. Molloy and I don't like Miss Money neither?

Dolly

Well, then I happen to have one more name on my list, Mr. Vandergelder, a name I know as well as my own but let's not go into that now. It'll come up by itself all in good time, don't you worry about it! Oh, but wait'll you see Ernestina, Horace! A vision! A dream!