

CRYSTAL, RONNETTE, CHIFFON & AUDREY

(Get familiar with the whole scene – you may be asked to read any role)

CRYSTAL. *(Sees AUDREY and executes a “hold everything” arm gesture to cue the PLAYOFF music to stop)* Well, look who’s here.

AUDREY. Hi, Crystal. Hi, Ronnette. Hi, Chiffon. Am I late? Did I miss it?

RONNETTE. Sure are.

CHIFFON. And sure did.

AUDREY. Seymour’s first radio broadcast. I wanted to cheer him on. I tried to be on time, but ...

CRYSTAL. Don’t tell me ...

ALL THREE. You got tied up.

AUDREY. No, just ... handcuffed ... a little.

RONNETTE. Girl, I don’t know who this mess is you hangin’ out with, but he is hazardous to your health.

AUDREY. That’s for sure, but I can’t leave him.

CHIFFON. Why not?

AUDREY. He’d get angry. And if he does this to me when he *likes* me, imagine what he’d do if he ever got mad.

CRYSTAL. So dump the chump, get another guy, and let him protect you.

CHIFFON. And we got one all picked out.

RONNETTE. A little botanical genius.

CRYSTAL. And she ain’t talking about George Washington Carver.

AUDREY. Seymour?

ALL THREE. Bingo.

AUDREY. Oh, we’re just friends. I could never be Seymour’s girl. I’ve got a past.

CHIFFON. And who amongst us has not?

AUDREY. I don’t even deserve a sweet, considerate, suddenly successful guy like Seymour.

RONNETTE. Mm, mm, mm. This child suffers from low-self-image.

CHIFFON. You have a point.

CRYSTAL. She have a problem.