

MARSHALL

*(In doorway.)*

We'll be the happiest couple in Seaport.

*(He exits. VAL sits, dejected. BILLIE SMITH, a girl of seventeen or so, walks in from the street to the screen door in the back. She has traveled far in the most informal fashion. She wears dilapidated slacks and a beret.)*

May I come in, please?

BILLIE

Sure.

VAL

Oh, I don't know what to say – I – Oh, I just can't...

BILLIE

Why, what's the matter?

VAL

Oh, this is very embarrassing. You see, my car is stalled...

BILLIE

Where?

VAL

Oh, down the street. We were on our way back to school – Miss Finley's –

BILLIE

You hit something?

VAL

No – we ran out of gas...

BILLIE

But you can get gas over at Tony's.

VAL

Well, you see I had nothing smaller than a hundred dollar bill. Oh, it's very embarrassing. We need a dollar.

BILLIE

This is embarrassing. You see, my folks are vaudeville actors and...

VAL

Vaudeville actors! Well, how about a dime?

BILLIE

Well, I...

VAL

I know. I know. All right. I'll settle for a cup of coffee.

BILLIE

And you're going to finishing school?

VAL

I shouldn't have tried that finishing school gag in this little Schiaparelli number.

BILLIE

You look tired.

VAL

I've traveled all the way from California.

BILLIE

What were you doing there?

VAL

I couldn't find work, and I'd read a lot of movie magazines and...

BILLIE

You tried to get in pictures?

VAL

I got everybody in Hollywood to agree on something.

BILLIE

What was that?

VAL

That I was no actress.

BILLIE

And now you're going home?

VAL

Home is anywhere I get a job.

BILLIE

What's your name?

VAL

Wilhemina Smith. Billie to you.

BILLIE

Mine's Valentine LaMar, and Val to you.

VAL

Glad to meet you, Val. It seems a shame we won't get to know each other better.

BILLIE

You're not going out hitch-hiking till you've had some dinner and some bed.

VAL

Whose bed?

BILLIE

M-m-mine.

VAL

And where will you sleep?

BILLIE

On the sleeping porch. Maybe you won't like it. It connects with my bedroom and there's no lock on the door.

VAL

I don't mind.

BILLIE

You don't?

VAL

No. I've seen those moving pictures. Nothing ever happens. Besides, I've traveled three thousand miles with some pretty tough characters.

BILLIE

Maybe I need the lock on the door. It's a good thing my folks aren't here. They're pretty straight-laced.

VAL

And I take it you're not?

BILLIE

Oh, no. I have very liberal ideas.

VAL

You're just full of ideas, aren't you?

BILLIE

How did you know that? I pick up a book like "Das Kapital" by Karl Marx and I think it's wonderful. Then I read a book on individualism by Nietzsche and I think Marx is crazy. Then I listen to Roosevelt on the radio and I think I'm crazy.

VAL

There's nothing like being open minded.

BILLIE

Then I have ideas about love. There seems to be quite a difference of opinion about that, too.

VAL

I'll bet you've read an awful lot about love.

BILLIE

Oh, yes. But you know, you sometimes meet somebody who sort of makes you forget everything – all that you've read and...

VAL

And you don't know what you think?

BILLIE

I don't care what I think. Not now. I've never met anybody like you before, and I think you're wonderful.  
*(He moves to kiss her but she resists.)*  
On the other hand, it doesn't make much sense, does it?

VAL

I guess it doesn't. We've just met –

BILLIE

Oh, I – I didn't mean...

VAL

I know you didn't. That's what makes it all right.

BILLIE

You're not angry?

VAL

Do you want to try again?

BILLIE

**Music 3: WHERE OR WHEN**

*(He kisses her and she doesn't resist.)*

Gee, that's funny.

VAL

Funny?

BILLIE

VAL  
IT SEEMS WE STOOD AND TALKED LIKE THIS BEFORE.  
WE LOOKED AT EACH OTHER IN THE SAME WAY THEN,  
BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE OR WHEN.

THE CLOTHES YOU'RE WEARING ARE THE CLOTHES YOU WORE.  
THE SMILE YOU ARE SMILING YOU WERE SMILING THEN,  
BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE OR WHEN.

SOME THINGS THAT HAPPEN FOR THE FIRST TIME  
SEEM TO BE HAPPENING AGAIN.

AND SO IT SEEMS THAT WE HAVE MET BEFORE,  
AND LAUGHED BEFORE, AND LOVED BEFORE,  
BUT WHO KNOWS WHERE OR WHEN!