

(Necks are craned, ears cocked. NETTIE notices this.)

Look, girls, we got work to do. C'mon. You sweep those steps up there.

(Herding the GIRLS upstage.)

You set up there and keep outta the way and don't poke yer noses in other people's business.

JULIE. You need me, Cousin Nettie?

NETTIE. No. You stay out here and visit with Carrie. You haven't seen each other fer a long time. Do you good.

(She exits into the house. JULIE and CARRIE sit on the bait box, JULIE right of CARRIE. All ears are open upstage.)

CARRIE. Is he workin' yet?

JULIE. No. Nettie's been awful kind to us, lettin' us stay here with her.

CARRIE. Mr. Snow says a man that can't find work these days is jest bone lazy.

JULIE. Billy don't know any trade. He's only good at what he used to do. So now he jest don't do anythin'.

CARRIE. Wouldn't the carousel woman take him back?

JULIE. I think she would, but he won't go. I ask him why and he won't tell me... Last Monday he hit me.

CARRIE. Did you hit him back?

JULIE. No.

CARRIE. Whyn't you leave him?

JULIE. I don't want to.

CARRIE. I would. I'd leave him. Thinks he ken do whatever he likes jest because he's Billy Bigelow. Don't support you! Beats you...! He's a bad'n.

JULIE. He ain't willin'ly er meanin'ly bad.

CARRIE. (*Afraid she's hurting JULIE.*) Mebbe he ain't. That night you set on the bench together – he was gentle then, you told me.

JULIE. Yes, he was.

CARRIE. But now he's alw'ys actin' up...

JULIE. Not alw'ys. Sometimes he's gentle – even now. After supper, when he stands out here and listens to the music from the carousel – somethin' comes over him – and he's gentle.

CARRIE. What's he say?

JULIE. Nothin'. He jest sets and gets thoughtful. Y'see he's unhappy 'cause he ain't workin'. That's really why he hit me on Monday.

CARRIE. Fine reason fer hittin' you. Beats his wife 'cause he ain't workin'.

(She turns her head up left. GIRLS, caught eavesdropping, start to sweep vigorously.)

JULIE. It preys on his mind.

CARRIE. Did he hurt you?

JULIE. (*Very eagerly.*) Oh, no – no.

CARRIE. Julie, I got some good news to tell you about me – about Mr. Snow and me. We're goin' to be cried in church nex' Sunday!

~~*(The GIRLS who have been upstage turn quickly, come down and cluster around CARRIE, proving they haven't missed a thing. CARRIE rises.)*~~

~~**ALL WOMEN.** (*Ad lib of excitement.*) What's that you say, Carrie...? Carrie...! Honest and truely...? You fixin' t'get hitched...? Well, I never...! Do tell...!~~

**Scene Five:
Outside Julie's Cottage**

*(AT RISE: JULIE and CARRIE are seated
outside the cottage, having coffee.)*

CARRIE. *(Seated left of JULIE, continuing a narrative.)*
...And so the next day we all climbed to the top of the
Statue of Liberty – Enoch and me and the nine kids.

JULIE. Did you go to any theaters in New York?

CARRIE. 'Course we did!

JULIE. Did you see any of them there “extravaganzas”?

CARRIE. Enoch took me to one of them things. The curtain
went up an' the fust thing y'see is twelve hussies with
nothin' on their legs but tights!

JULIE. What happened then?

CARRIE. Well! Enoch jest grabbed hold o' my arm and
dragged me out of the theater! But I went back the
next day – to a matinee – to see how the story come
out.

JULIE. All by yerself?

(CARRIE nods.)

Lucky you didn't see anybody you know.

CARRIE. I did.

JULIE. Who?

CARRIE. Enoch!

*(JULIE clasps her hand over her mouth to
keep from laughing. Then she gets the cups
together. CARRIE gets up.)*

(Animatedly.) There was one girl who sung an awful
ketchy song.

(She walks to the back of her chair. LOUISE enters from the house, unnoticed.)

She threw her leg over a fence like this –

(As she is swinging her leg over the chair, she sees LOUISE and hastily puts her leg down.)

– and it rained all day!

(JULIE, her back toward LOUISE, stares at CARRIE in wonder. She gathers that something is up, turns right, and sees LOUISE.)

JULIE. Oh-h-h. Louise, take these cups into the kitchen, dear. That's a good girl.

(LOUISE takes the cups into the house.)

CARRIE. She threw her leg over a fence like this –

(She swings her leg over the chair and pulls her skirt up over her knee.)

and she sung –

[MUSIC NO. 29 “CARRIE’S INCIDENTAL”]

(Unaccompanied.)

I'M A TOMBOY, JEST A TOMBOY!

I'M A MADCAP MAIDEN FROM BROADWAY!

(ENOCH enters followed by their eldest son, ENOCH, JR., but CARRIE does not see them. JULIE tries to warn her.)

I'M A TOMBOY, A MERRY TOMBOY!

I'M A MADCAP MAIDEN FROM BROADWAY!

ENOCH. *(Taking his son by the shoulders.)* Turn yer eyes away, Junior!

(Turns his SON's face away.)

CARRIE. (*Taking her leg off the chair and standing there guiltily.*) I was jest tellin' Julie about that show - *Madcap Maidens*.

ENOCH. We also saw *Julius Caesar*. Wouldn't that be a better play to quote from?

CARRIE. I don't remember much of that one. All the men was dressed in nightgowns and it made me sleepy.

JULIE. (*Trying to change the subject.*) Won't you set down and visit with us?

ENOCH. Afeared we hev'n't time. Mrs. Snow and I hev to stop at the minister's on our way to the graduation. (*To CARRIE.*) And I'll thank you not to sing "I'm a Tomboy" to the minister's wife.

CARRIE. I already did.

ENOCH. (*Giving his SON a good slap on the back.*) Come, Junior!

(*LOUISE comes out of the house just as JUNIOR turns to his father. JUNIOR sees LOUISE and gets a new idea.*)

ENOCH, JR. Pa, ken I stay and talk to Louise?

(*ENOCH looks stern. CARRIE crosses to ENOCH.*)

Jest for five minutes.

ENOCH. No!

CARRIE. (*Slapping ENOCH's back in the same manner as ENOCH slapped JUNIOR.*) Aw, let him!

ENOCH. All right. Five minutes. No more.

JULIE. (*Going into house.*) Good-by.

CARRIE. See you at the graduation.

(*JULIE exits into house.*)