

ACT ONEScene 1

THE OFFICE OF ALMAELOU MUSIC CORP.,
in New York. At rise, ALBERT
PETERSON, a nervous young man in HIS
early thirties, is talking excitedly
on phone, standing C.

2 OPENING CURTAIN (Orchestra)

ALBERT

...I know that, sir, but think of the disastrous effect this
might have on the morale of the American teenager! No, I am
not suggesting the boy doesn't want to go into the Army! It's
just that...No, I'm not trying to...Well, it seemed to me
that...Two weeks from today? At the Induction Center? He'll
be there.

(HE hangs up as ROSIE briskly enters)

START

Rosie, thank God you've come! This is the end of the Almaelou
Music Corporation! Conrad Birdie is going into the Army!

ROSIE

And your faithful secretary is hereby submitting...

(Slapping letter down on HIS desk)

...her resignation!

(Starts to leave)

ALBERT

Hah?

ROSIE

I just dropped in to say goodbye, Albert, darling...

(SHE blows HIM a kiss)

...Lots of luck!

(SHE goes to door. ALBERT stops HER)

ALBERT

Rosie, you can't! Not today of all days!

(Runs to HIS desk. Looks

frantically through drawers)

My pills, where are my pills... The little white ones I take
when I'm overwrought.

ROSIE

(Picking up bottle from desk
and handing HIM one)

Here.

ALBERT

Not so much. Break it in half..

ROSIE

You're thirty-three years old, Albert. You can take a whole aspirin.

(HE takes it from HER. SHE goes
UL to water pitcher, starts
pouring a glassful)

ALBERT

I am not thirty-three; I'm a long way from thirty-three; I won't be thirty-three till tomorrow... Water!

ROSIE

(Handing it to HIM)
It's no use, Albert. My mind's made up. I've been with Almaelou eight years now and as you well know I've been a lot more than just a secretary to you.

ALBERT

Rose! Those were moments of madness!

ROSIE

Well between the moments of madness and the office I've put in a good ninety hour week.

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ALBERT

I get. You want a raise.

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ROSIE

Wrong. You know what I want.

ALBERT

Rosie, if you're referring to anything of a more permanent nature between you and me, I'm not ready for it. Besides, there are religious differences.

ROSIE

Spanish is not a religion!

ALBERT

And if it's part of the company you're after, the answer is no to that, too! Almaelou is me, Mamma, and Lou...And any change in it would kill that wonderful woman who bore me.

ROSIE

Nothing could kill your mother, Albert. Except maybe a silver bullet!

ALBERT

(HE rises and goes to HER)

And I won't drop poor old Lou either. He loved you, Rose!

ROSIE

I loved Lou, too, sure he was warm, he was loyal, he was loveable, but he died six years ago and, besides, he was a wire-haired terrier.

(HE walks L)

Anyhow, I don't want a part of the company. This is something much more important....

ALBERT

(Turns)

Rosie, if you're going to discuss what I think you're going to discuss, I'm in no mood to discuss it!

(Sits at HIS desk)

ROSIE

(Goes to HIM)

There's nothing to discuss, Albert. Conrad Birdie's going in the Army; I've quit. There's nothing you can do but give up the business and go back to college and get your....

ALBERT

(Interrupting)

...Rosie, I'm up to my ears in debt! Conrad's got a fifty-thousand dollar guarantee which I can't pay! And I've just taken a severe overdose of aspirin...

ROSIE

END Albert, this may be your last chance!

(Music)

3 "AN ENGLISH TEACHER"

ROSIE

Will you listen to me, Albert....I'm serious!

HIS GOING IN THE ARMY
IS THE BEST THING HE COULD DO!
NOW YOU'RE FREE TO START TO DO
WHAT YOU WANTED TO.

ALBERT? ALBERT! AL -- BERT!

I REMEMBER HOW YOU TOLD ME
I SHOULD TRUST YOU FOR A YEAR,
IT WOULD JUST BE FOR A YEAR,
BUT IT'S EIGHT YEARS, ALBERT!
EIGHT LONG YEARS, ALBERT!