

ACT I Scene 4

VIOLET and MARIE are behind Sam's Quarter Note. Marie is smoking a cigarette.

VIOLET

Hey Marie, where y'at?

MARIE

Whatcha doin' here?

VIOLET

How's things going for you at Sam's bar?

MARIE

Awright. I guess Sam's a decent boss. It's a joy to hear Jasmine singing at the club. Sam is real good to her, helpin' her with her songs. Hey . . . you still lovin' on Sam?

VIOLET

Well, I've actually been itchin' to tell you. Girl, he asked me to marry him yesterday!

MARIE

What you tell him?

VIOLET

I said I'd have to think about it.

MARIE

He sure is good lookin' and has a way about him.

VIOLET

I know. But I always fall for musicians and it doesn't usually turn out so good. Like with my ex.

MARIE

But Sam's got money. You could live the highlife! Something I never got a chance to do.

VIOLET

Yeah, but you know me, I like my independence. And besides, he's sort of condescending sometimes.

MARIE

(Looks at her watch) Oh shoot, I gotta go into the club now. Catch up later?

VIOLET

I'll go in with you. I was planning to come by to hear Jasmine practice for her gig tonight.

VIOLET and MARIE enter Sam's Quarter Note. Inside, a few people are seated at tables. SAM and BEAU are standing by the bar. BEAU is drinking a beer.

BEAU

Damn, Baltimore whupped my Saints yesterday 21 to 6. It was just a pre-season game.

SAM

You saw them in the Dome?

BEAU

Nah, just on TV. What do I owe you for the lager?

SAM

Forget it, man. I'll add it to your "tab" (*winks at Beau*).

BEAU

Thanks, dude. Hey, you followin' that hurricane that's brewin' off Florida?

SAM

Yeah, I heard them talkin' about it on the news. I'm not payin' it no mind til they know f'sure that it will hit us.

BEAU

Yep. I'm more worried about the Saints right now than this Katrina.

SAM walks over to Jasmine, who is on a small stage with a few musicians. VIOLET and MARIE are close by. SAM smiles at Violet.

SAM

Jasmine, so you're gonna sing the old jazz standards tonight, right?

JASMINE

Well, uh, yeah, but I was thinkin' I could sing one of the songs I wrote too.

SAM

Oh I'd love to hear it.

JASMINE

OK, let me know what you think. (*To saxophonist in band*) Could you start me out? We'll vamp in F for four bars. Here goes. (*Sax plays four bars*)

5. Dreamer

JASMINE

DREAMER . . . ALL YOUR LIFE'S A DREAM, JUST WAITING FOR
SOMETHING TO CHANGE...OR SO IT SEEMS.
WAKE UP . . . TAKE A LOOK AROUND, YOU'D BETTER START SWIMMING
FOR SHORE...OR ELSE YOU'LL DROWN.
GRAB FOR THAT RING, COME ON TAKE A CHANCE, WHAT CAN YOU
LOSE?
OR STAY IN YOUR CHAIR WATCHING EVERYONE DANCE...THEN YOU CAN
KEEP ON SINGING THOSE BLUES.
REACH OUT AND EVERY DAY YOU'LL FIND...YOUR DREAMS GETTING
CLOSER AND YOUR DREAM WORLD LEFT BEHIND.
LA DA DA, LA DA DA, LA DA DA DA

VIOLET (to Jasmine)

Wow, baby, that was great!

JASMINE

So . . . ya liked it?

SAM

That was beautiful. I'm so proud of you!

JASMINE

Oh, wow, thanks.

VIOLET (to Jasmine)

Hey, when's our next mother-daughter date?

JASMINE

Soon, Mama, soon. *(To the band)* OK guys, see ya around nine tonight.

JASMINE gives Violet a kiss on her cheek and exits. SAM
moves closer to Violet.

SAM

Babe, I'm thinking we could share a bottle of wine and some po' boys by your place
later tonight. And continue that discussion we started yesterday.

VIOLET

Uh, I'm not sure.

A JANITOR is mopping the floor.

SAM (pointing to a spot on the floor)
I pay you good money, and you can't even mop the floor right! Don't you see that little bit you missed over there? It isn't rocket science, you know.

The JANITOR holds their head down and goes over and mops the small area on the floor.

VIOLET

Jeez, Sam, what are you doing?

SAM

What . . . ?

MARIE

Hey, Sam, Do you got my paycheck ready?

SAM

Sure, here you go.

SAM hands Marie a paycheck. MARIE looks at it.

MARIE

Uh, I thought you were gonna give me a raise. Remember, you agreed to that last week?

Yeah, I'm going to have to wait on that. I bought new speakers for the club and screwed up my cash flow. But I promise I'll give you that raise real soon.

MARIE

I was countin' on that money to cover bills for my mother and son. I can't wait till next week.

SAM

Oh come on. Certainly you've got some cash to tide you over. At your age you should have some money in the bank.

MARIE

No I don't.

SAM

Well there's nothing I can do about it now—the money's been spent. Plus, just think how much better the sound will be with the new speakers.

VIOLET

That's it, Sam! I can't overlook this anymore! You have no compassion for anybody who's less fortunate than you. If you would treat Marie like that, I don't even know if you really respect me.

SAM moves closer to Violet.

SAM

Babe, let me explain. I'm just protecting my investment in the club. It's for the two of us —and our future.

VIOLET

You have to be kidding! We don't have a future. I have my own future!

SAM

But babe, really? We've been so happy. You're the light of my life.

VIOLET turns her back on Sam.

SAM

C'mon babe . . .

6. Violet with Skin Like Velvet

SAM

VIOLET WITH SKIN LIKE VELVET, LIKE THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN
SPRING,
YOU CAUSE MY PULSE TO QUICKEN, MY LONELY HEART TO SING.
WHEN YOU SMILE IT'S LIKE THE SUNSHINE ON A COLD AND DREARY DAY
YOU CHASE THE CLOUDS AWAY AND DREAMS OF LOVE YOU BRING.

I'M ONLY A LOWLY WEED WHO'S NEVER SEEN A FLOWER LIKE YOU.
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT TO DO TO BRING YOUR LOVE TO ME.
VIOLET MY PRECIOUS FLOWER, I PRAY THAT WE WON'T PART.
DON'T LEAVE DON'T BREAK MY HEART, MY BEAUTIFUL VIOLET.

VIOLET shakes her head at Sam.

VIOLET

You put a new speaker before a human being. You think it's OK to humiliate somebody working for you. I'm done, done, done. I never want to see you again. Don't call me anymore or come around. You hear me?

7. Sam, You're Not My Man

VIOLET (sings to Sam)

YEARS AGO MY HUSBAND KILLED ALL THE FAITH I HAD IN MEN
I SWORE I'D NEVER LET MYSELF BE FOOLED THAT WAY AGAIN
BUT I FELT MY HEART AWAKENING AS LOVE WAS GROWING STRONG
I WANTED TO BELIEVE IN YOU, BUT I WAS WRONG!

YOU'RE A SCAM AND A SHAM, SAM . . . YOU'RE NOT MY MAN!
YOU MAY BE RICH AND CHARMING BUT I DON'T GIVE A DAMN.
THOUGH OTHER GALS MAY LOOK AT YOU AND THINK THAT YOU'RE FINE,
NOW THAT I SEE YOUR ARROGANCE, NO I AIN'T BUYIN'.

I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' ALL AROUND BUT NOWHERE HAVE I SEEN
A MAN WHO I RESPECTED, WHO WOULD GIVE HIS HEART TO ME.
I'M GONNA KEEP ON SEARCHIN' FOR A MAN WHO QUALIFIES,
BUT WHAT YOU OFFER AIN'T ENOUGH, IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE!

I'VE SEEN AN UGLY SIDE OF YOU AND NOW I UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE A
SCAM AND A SHAM, SAM, YOU'RE NOT MY MAN!

VIOLET squeezes Jasmine's arm, then exits.

BEAU

Sammy, bro, you got to run after that woman. Tell her you'll change. Tonight, bring her roses. I never met a woman who could resist roses. She'll be back in your arms in no time.

SAM

(Laughs) Thanks for the advice, dude. But I think I know the best way to her heart.

BLACKOUT

ACT I Scene 5

Inside Sam's Quarter Note, which is closed for the night.
SAM, JASMINE, and BEAU are standing close together.

SAM (to Jasmine)

You had everybody spellbound tonight. Your voice reminds me so much of your mama's. You two sing like nightingales.

JASMINE

Thanks, Sam.

JASMINE

Hey, Beau, you need me to walk Buddy this week?

BEAU

Yeah, sure, how about around lunchtime? Except they're saying there's this Katrina comin'. Could make things a bit crazy.

JASMINE

I'll get over there if I can.

BEAU

Buddy's been actin' weird since last night. Doin' a lot of pacing. Think he's feelin' the storm comin'?

JASMINE

Yeah, probably. Animals can sense those things. My kitty wouldn't eat this morning. See you tomorrow, guys, God willing, if Katrina doesn't blow us away.

SAM

Speaking of the hurricane, any chance you could calm your mama down and mend things between me and her? You have such a special way with her.

JASMINE

Mmm, there's about as much chance of that as Katrina turning into a light rain shower!

There's a knock at the door. SAM opens it. LARINDA enters.

SAM

Miss Larinda, what are you doing here at this time of night?

LARINDA

I couldn't sleep, so I've been walking the streets. I'm feelin' Katrina's vibes, and the spirits have been calling to me, telling me this is gonna be a bad one. I came by to warn ya'll to take care of yourselves.

JASMINE

I will, I promise, Miss Larinda. Hey, I've been wondering if you would give me a reading? I really want to know where my life is headed.

LARINDA

I think I can do that, Honey. How about you come by my place tomorrow morning?

JASMINE

Sure thing!

LARINDA

I'll walk you home. A pretty young thing like you shouldn't be out alone so late.

JASMINE

Oh, I'll be fine!

LARINDA

No, your mama would want me to.

JASMINE nods. LARINDA and JASMINE exit.

BEAU

Hey, bro, it's time to be fixin' to get your woman back. That Violet is stubborn, so you've got to lay it on as thick as a muffuletta.

SAM

I really messed up. God, I'm gonna miss her laughter . . . and how she tells it like it is . . . even how she stands up to me when I'm out of line.

BEAU

Katrina is a perfect excuse to go see her. See if she's all worried and everything. Women just swoon over caring and sympathetic men.

SAM

I don't know. Sounds too simple. Violet is a complicated and independent woman.

BEAU

Just sit down . . . and listen to the master.

8. Make that Woman Swoon

BEAU

CHORUS: I'M GONNA TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE THAT WOMAN SWOON
SHARE MY OWN TECHNIQUE TO SEND HER OVER THE MOON

SHOOT HER A SMILE AS YOU WALK IN THE DOOR

TELL HER SOMETHING THAT SHE JUST CAN'T IGNORE
LIKE "YOU'RE SO PRETTY GIRL, YOU SMELL SO SWEET
YOU WOULDN'T MIND IF I TOOK THIS SEAT?"

CHORUS

NEXT DAY YOU SEND HER A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS
SHE'LL BE THINKIN' OF YOU, COUNTING THE HOURS
THEN SURPRISE HER WITH A BOTTLE OF BRANDY
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, SHE'LL BE FEELING RANDY

BEAU and SAM start a pantomime with BEAU playing Sam
and SAM playing Violet.

CHORUS

IF SHE STILL HAS HER FEET ON THE GROUND
HERE'S A LINE TO MAKE HER HEAD SPIN AROUND
SAY YOU DREAM OF HER BOTH DAY AND NIGHT
JUST THE TWO OF YOU AND CANDLELIGHT

INSTRUMENTAL

Pantomime continues

CHORUS

BRIDGE: LOOK AT MY HISTORY, AND IT SURELY PROVES
IF YOU USE MY METHODS, SAM, AND COPY MY MOVES
RESULTS ARE GUARANTEED, JUST FOLLOW MY PLAN
YOU'LL BE SITTING PRETTY WITH HER HEART IN YOUR HAND

REPEAT 1ST LINE OF CHORUS: I'M GONNA TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE
THAT WOMAN SWOON (repeat and fade out)

SAM

(Laughs) I think I'll try to win Violet back my own way . . . with my saxophone.

BEAU

I've gotta go. My poor dog has been waiting all day for me to feed him.

SAM

You're lucky to have Buddy. He's so loyal. And a lot easier than a woman!

BLACKOUT