

LILLI. Merde.

*Gangsters*

FRED goes into his room, closing the door between the dressing rooms. LILLI exits behind her screen. FRED sits at his dressing table, rummaging in his make-up box, as TWO MEN enter. Music out.

~~BEGIN~~  
1ST MAN. Hello.

FRED. Who are you? What are you doing backstage?

1ST MAN. Fine looking fella.

2ND MAN. Clean cut.

1ST MAN. What a figger!

2ND MAN. What a profile!

FRED. Gentlemen, I'm very touched by your admiration and devotion but I see my fans after the—

1ST MAN. What diction.

2ND MAN. Very elocutionary.

1ST MAN. And note how he does not spit when he talks.

2ND MAN. High type fella.

FRED. As I was saying, this is all very flattering, but I receive my public **after** the performance, not before.

1ST MAN. Oh, what grace!

2ND MAN. If I hadda do something to him, I would cry like a baby.

1ST MAN. Remember that professor who played the ponies? You weren't yourself for a week after you dumped him in the Potomac.

FRED. Gentlemen, come back after the show. I'll be very happy to present you with my autograph.

1ST MAN. No, we got your autograph. That's why we're here.

FRED. What?

1ST MAN. A little matter of a I.O.U. Oh, here it is—Ten G's. Mr. Hogan, that's our employer—regards this as a debt of honor.

FRED. Mr. Hogan?

1ST MAN. How's about it, Mr. Graham.

FRED. You're mad,— *(calls)* Paul, Paul! Alright, let me see that. This is not even my signature!

1ST MAN. They all say that. I'm surprised at you, Mr. Graham. You signed it only this afternoon after quite a little game down to the hotel. We wasn't there, of course. Mr. Hogan says he plied you plenty with good liquor, too.

FRED. You're really mad. I've been in this theatre since eight this morning.

1ST MAN. He forgot.

2ND MAN. That's human nature for you.

1ST MAN. The minute a man signs a I.O.U. everything goes dark.

2ND MAN. The doctors call it magnesia.

1ST MAN. We cure it.

2ND MAN. You know, I would cry like a baby, if I hadda do something to such a high type fella. Last week—remember that high type fella—I used up three handkerchiefs.

1ST MAN. *(looking over Fred's shoulder into the mirror)* I don't like my face. Do you?

2ND MAN. No!

FRED. Gentlemen, would you mind leaving?

1ST MAN. Ohh! Ain't he virile? We now wish to express all best wishes for a magnificent opening and the success your brilliant talents deserve! I copied that out of Western Union.

2ND MAN. Heartiest felicitations! I made that up myself.

1ST MAN. Mr. Graham, during the performance tonight, remember we'll be watching from the front box. Try and jostle your memory.

2ND MAN. We'll be back.

~~LOIS knocks and pokes her head in.~~

~~LOIS. Freddie! Oh, Mr. Graham.~~

~~1ST MAN takes off his hat and growls. 2ND MAN takes off his hat and whistles.~~

~~Break a leg! (LOIS kisses FRED and quickly exits)~~

1ST MAN. Or we'll do it for you.

~~MEN exit. HATTIE enters from behind the screen and adjusts the position of LILLI'S chair. PAUL carrying a box of flowers, knocks on Lilli's door. HATTIE opens it. FRED exits into his closet.~~

**END**  
HATTIE. Hello, Paul!

PAUL. Hiya, Beautiful!

~~PAUL kisses her cheek and hands Hattie the box of flowers, then he exits.~~

HATTIE. Here's some flowers, Miss Lilli. *(removing the card envelope)*  
They must be from Mr. Fred.

*Music in. LILLI enters, HATTIE hands her the box.  
LILLI lifts the lid and takes out a beautiful bouquet.*

LILLI. Snowdrops and pansies and rosemary. My wedding bouquet! Oh Hattie, he didn't forget.

HATTIE. Of course not, honey. I'll get a vase. *(HATTIE exits)*

## No. 5 "So In Love"

(Lilli)

LILLI. Strange, dear, but true, dear,  
When I'm close to you, dear,  
The stars fill the sky,  
So in love with you am I.  
Even without you  
My arms fold about you.  
You know, darling, why,  
So in love with you am I.  
In love with the night mysterious  
The night when you first were there,  
In love with my joy delirious  
When I knew that you could care.  
So taunt me and hurt me,