

*If needed **PLAY TRACK**. BC #3 - TO WVAM
one extra*

SCENE 2 - THE TWO CASTS

WVAM stage is revealed. There is a lit sign, "WVAM" (W-Victory America Hour)

JACK (band leader), VIOLET (soloist for WVAM), KING (Crooner for WHTS, visiting his Cousin VIOLET because he's happy about the war, even though the two competing casts don't usually mix), LUKE (stage manager) and his sister, LACEY (costume mistress), STEVE and BUDDY, (WVAM crooner and his comedic side-kick) are all talking about the war being over. JACK sits on a stool near his music stand.

JACKVERONICAMWHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT? ANYBODY?

LACEY

Luke and I sure do miss our parents! Maybe they can come home now.

JACK

Ah...Military?

LUKE

Red Cross.

JACK

Violet?

VIOLET

Hmm. Besides my brother being on his way home? Chocolate!

KING

I'm with my cousin on that one!

STEVE

Forget chocolate - I'm looking forward to *real* butter!

ALL

Butter. Mmmm.

BUDDY

And here comes the woman with a voice like butter....

VERONICA BLAKE, glamorous diva of Radio, comes swooshing in late, with REPORTER and PHOTOGRAPH, cozies up and poses with STEVE, after ignoring BUDDY.

BUDDY

Hi, Miss Blake. You're looking wonderful today, which is nothing unusual, because you always look won... Isn't it great that the war is over and everyth--

VERONICA

(Ignoring BUDDY, as usual)

Hello, Steve, darling.

STEVE is a little stiff, but plays along for the sake of publicity.

STEVE

Veronica.

REPORTER

What are your thoughts on the war being over, Miss Blake?

VERONICA

I can't wait to wear green again. All those soldiers, taking away my best color for their uniforms and tanks.

(She giggles coyly.)

REPORTER

How about you two lovebirds? You got any special plans?

STEVE

Well, as a matter of fact --

VERONICA

Oh, let's keep them in suspense a little while longer, darling.

(to Reporter)

Don't worry, you'll get the exclusive when we're ready to make our announcement.

REPORTER

Great. One more shot?

VERONICA

Of course.

(Gushes over Steve)

PHOTOGRAPHER takes another picture and leaves with REPORTER.

Enter WHTS manager, MELVIN SKINK

SKINK

King, what are you doing here? We have rehearsal shortly and I expect you to be on time.

SKINK sees VERONICA, forgets he's irritated at KING and gushes over her a bit. They have a side conversation FAR SR, apart from the quiet excitement of the cast.

SKINK

Well, Miss Blake. Lots of changes happening in the world. I hope one of them works out in my favor.

VERONICA

Let's just say I'm mulling it over...

Enter WVAM manager BENJAMIN GRUNDY, looking for the HARRISON SISTERS (CONNIE, JOY, and ALICE, his jingle girls). He is happy that the war is over but trying to settle everyone down. At first, he does not notice SKINK on his stage.

GRUNDY

Alright everybody, the war will still be over tomorrow, you can talk about it then. Meanwhile, I still have a radio station to run. AND a sponsor to keep satisfied or we will be out of business. Where are those jingle girls?

VIOLET

Are you really worried about the show getting cancelled, Boss?

GRUNDY

We may have to make some changes, Violet. A show called, “ Victory America Hour” may be considered passe’, now that the war is over. We’ve got to do everything we can to keep our sponsor happy.

As some of the people on stage split apart, he sees his rival, SKINK, talking to VERONICA.

GRUNDY

And that includes keeping Veronica. What’s Skink doing here?

GRUNDY starts to move to confront SKINK when the HARRISON SISTERS come rushing in, one after the other. Their excuses layer one on top of the other overlap so that their last ten words are said simultaneously.

CONNIE

(speaking hurriedly and out of breath)

I’m sorry, Mr. Grundy, I don’t know why my sisters are late, but as for me, I kind of got way-laid by a very enthusiastic sailor, and then everyone was so happy dancing in the streets, because of the war being over and all, so that’s why I’m late and it won’t happen again.

JOY

(speaking hurriedly and out of breath)

I’m sorry, Mr. Grundy, the restaurant was so full of people celebrating today that I couldn’t even get out the door after my shift. I joined in the dancing, of course, so that’s why I’m late and it won’t happen again.

ALICE

(speaking hurriedly and out of breath)

I’m sorry, Mr. Grundy, there were people dancing in the streets, and I joined in of course, so that’s why I’m late and it won’t happen again.

GRUNDY understands, sort of, but is dismissive as he is more concerned about SKINK and VERONICA and what they might be up to. He goes to them, leaving the jingle girls to catch their breath.

GRUNDY

Melvin Skink. What brings you here?

SKINK

Can’t even be friendly on a day when a war is over, huh, Grouchy Grundy?

GRUNDY

As I recall, you weren't exactly friendly the day the *last* world war was over.

SKINK

Hard to be friendly when the best friend you grew up with all your life steals your girl right out from under your nose --

GRUNDY

Steal? You know very well why Molly chose me, after what you --- Well you certainly couldn't expect her to- - I lost her fifteen years ago this month anyway-- but you already *know* what month it is, don't you--

(he softens a bit, knowing this old argument will never be won and gives up pleading his case)

Like you said, Skink, the war is over.

SKINK

Some wars last a life time.

The two old friends, now enemies, stare each other down for a long beat.

GRUNDY

Just keep to your own side of the street.

SKINK

Just keep to your own side of the street.

SKINK

(storming off)

King, you better have that new song ready for rehearsal today.

GRUNDY

Get back to business, everyone. Rehearsal will go on as planned. (*Exits.*)

VERONICA starts to exit.

STEVE

(moving after her, obviously irritated)

A word with you, Veronica...

VERONICA

(dismissive)

Later!

BUDDY, enraptured, starts to slightly “goo-goo-ga-ga” after VERONICA.

BUDDY

Golly, Steve, if you don't like her, I'd be happy to take my chances. Oh, she doesn't notice me *now*, but one of these days....

JACK

(getting a kick out of BUDDY)

Today's not your day, Buddy.

LUKE

Tomorrow doesn't look good either.

(They all laugh.)

BUDDY

(good natured as always)

Aw, what the heck. The war is over. It's still a GREAT DAY!

PLAY TRACK. BC #4 - What a Great Day
Accomp.

SONG - WHAT A GREAT DAY

ALL ON STAGE

(Solos, duets, trios assigned at director's discretion or use indications on lead sheet)

WHAT A GREAT DAY

IT'S FEELIN' LIKE THE VERY BEST DAY

A DAY TO TELL TROUBLE, "GET OUT ON THE DOUBLE"

AND SEE IT SCRAM - JUST DISAPPEAR

NO GRUMBLIN' OR COMPLAININ' HERE

A GREAT DAY. THIS JUST MIGHT BE THE VERY BEST DAY

SO, SUN, KEEP ON SHINING, THAT BIG SILVER LINING

TODAY IS A REALLY GREAT DAY

YOU SAY, "BUT WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?"

WHAT IF DANGER'S JUST AROUND THE BEND?"