

MARTHA

So court-martial me.
(MARTHA exits.)

PHIL

New York? What for?

BOB

Sheldrake. He's the contact for the 151st. Ralph's office sends out a letter to all the guys, we get some of the division up here for Christmas and buck up the Old Man.

PHIL

Wow. You know what I call that?

BOB & PHIL

A million-dollar proposition!

WE'LL TAKE THE JOB OF ASSIGNING HIM
LET'S START WINING AND DINING HIM.
BECAUSE THIS COUNTRY NEVER HAS ENJOYED
SO MANY ONE-AND-TWO-AND THREE-
AND FOUR-STAR GENERALS UNEMPLOYED.

BUT WE'VE GOT A JOB FOR A GENERAL
WHO'S RETIRED!

Music 9A: "General" Scene Change

(THEY exit, the curtain closes, and the scene changes to...)

Scene 7

The Barn Rehearsal Hall - the next day

(MARTHA enters in front of the closed curtain with some old props, wearing a Follies-style hat.)

MARTHA

(Humming to herself.)
"There's no business like show business, like no
business I..."
(SUSAN appears, popping out from curtain.)

SUSAN

What are you doing?

MARTHA

Honey, you scared the life out of me.

SUSAN

Where did you get that silly hat?

MARTHA

Never mind. Come on give me a hand setting up the barn for rehearsal.

SUSAN

But the barn is where I work on my history report.

MARTHA

The American Revolution will still be there tomorrow. Now come on! We've got show folks coming any minute.

SUSAN

Grandpa says show business is frivolous.

MARTHA

Frivolous? Do you know what Patrick Henry said?

SUSAN

"Give me liberty or give me death."

MARTHA

Do you know where he said it?

SUSAN

Where?

MARTHA

On the stage of the Winter Garden Theatre. Class Dismissed!

(Calls out:)

Ezekiel! Ezekiel Foster!

(EZEKIEL enters in front of curtain, too. A taciturn, very slow-moving fellow.)

EZEKIEL

Ay-yup.

MARTHA

Open up the curtain.

EZEKIEL

Ay-yup.

(Ezekiel exits, pretty much in slow-motion.)

SUSAN

Who is he?

MARTHA

He came with the barn.

Music 9B: Barn Curtain

(The stage curtain opens, revealing the barn, with a piano. BOB and PHIL enter.)

BOB

Well, it's a barn, all right.

SUSAN

Mr. Wallace, the barn is my classroom.

PHIL

Wait a moment, do I smell a piano in this classroom?
Yes, I do. Odeur de Steinway, number five.

SUSAN

Mr. Davis, you didn't really smell the piano.

PHIL

I can detect a spinet at fifty feet.

BOB

Don't confuse the child.

(PHIL has sat at the piano and starts to play a little.)

Music 9C: Always - Piano Solo

MARTHA

You know, Mr. Wallace, this woman here in town, she not only sings and dances...

BOB

Tell her to send us a picture. We'll certainly consider her.

(JUDY and BETTY enter.)

JUDY

I can't believe we're performing in an actual barn.

PHIL

(Getting up from the piano.)

You look better in a barn than most girls look in a Chanel gown.

JUDY

Maybe it's all this clean, cold air.