

Side 2 - Jim, Sylvia

I-33

SCENE 6

(SYLVIA'S HONKY-TONK)

[LIGHTS UP on the THREE COUPLES, who are bumping and grinding to the music]

(JIM sits at the bar, drinking. SYLVIA enters, looks around -)

SYLVIA

(To the COUPLES)

Hey, knock it off!

(COUPLES stop)

What on earth is going on around here?

(NATALIE rushes in)

NATALIE

Hey, Dad, you mind if I take the rest of the day off?

JIM

Sure, I - Oh my God, Natalie, you're wearin' a dress!

SYLVIA

Something's going on in this town!

JIM

I didn't even know you owned a dress.

NATALIE

How do I look?

SYLVIA

Do you know you've got a grease stain on it the size of Alaska?

NATALIE

Does it really show?

LORRAINE

Hey, Natalie, I've got plenty of dresses! C'mon, let's go pick one out for you!

(NATALIE rushes off with LORRAINE)

JIM

Why on earth would she be wearin' a dress?

SYLVIA

Only one reason a girl wears a dress - and it begins with a "B", ends in a "Y."

(JIM looks at her blankly)

And has an "O" in the middle.

JIM

You think it's for some boy?

SYLVIA

Oh, yeah.

JIM

But she's never shown any interest in a boy before. Hey, you don't think it's for that roustabout?

SYLVIA

Now why would she be interested in him? Just 'cause of his sultry eyes or his pouty lips or those tight, tight jeans that make a woman go, "Oh, baby, oh, baby, oh...!"

(Notices the look of concern on JIM'S face)

No, I doubt it's him.

JIM

Gosh, my little girl is dressin' up for some boy. Hey, some day she's gonna leave me, isn't she?

SYLVIA

What're you talkin' about?

JIM

You know - she's gonna meet the right boy and move out and start a family of her own. And I want her to be happy, I do, but I'd be lost without her -

SYLVIA

You know what you need, Jim? A new wife. Or a dog.

JIM

I don't know, Sylvia, maybe I should discourage all this -

SYLVIA

Look Jim, do I ever butt into your business?

JIM

About once an hour.

SYLVIA

Well, that's 'cause you make a lot of mistakes. Now when she comes back out, just be sure to tell her how nice she looks -

(LORRAINE enters)

LORRAINE

And here she is! She's beautiful! She's fashionable! She's glamorous! She's...

SYLVIA

Just let her in, Lorraine!

LORRAINE

Ta-da!

(NATALIE enters. She is wearing a simple but pretty dress. And she looks great)

SYLVIA

Oh, my goodness -

JIM

Natalie, my God. You look ...

NATALIE

Silly?

JIM

No, no. You look just like ...
(Stops)

NATALIE

Like?

(beat)

SYLVIA

You look just like your Mother, sweetheart.

NATALIE

Oh. You're not crying, Dad, are ya?

(JIM turns away)

SYLVIA

You go and have a good time, Natalie.
(Pouring JIM a big drink)