

Side 8 - Sylvia, Lorraine, Natalie, Dennis

I-4

SCENE 2

(SYLVIA'S HONKY-TONK)

~~(The bar is segregated, whites on one side, African-Americans on other. It is a dreary bar for the people SYLVIA tends bar as her daughter lounges)~~

SYLVIA

C'mon, Lorraine, quit goofin' off, we got customers.

LORRAINE

Oh, Mother, it's the same old drunks every day.

SYLVIA

How many times have I told you? They're not drunks. They're alcohol enthusiasts.

(NATALIE, wearing her greasy mechanics uniform, enters)

NATALIE

Hey, Lorraine -

LORRAINE

Hi, Natalie. How're things at the gas station today?

NATALIE

Dead as ever. Have you seen my dad?

LORRAINE

Not yet.

(DENNIS enters)

DENNIS

Natalie! Natalie, thank goodness you're here! Look what came in the mail this morning.

(Holds up a letter)

I'm shipping out in a couple of weeks!

NATALIE

The army?

DENNIS

Dental school.

NATALIE

Oh, Dennis, you got in, congratulations!

LORRAINE

Oh, you're so lucky to be getting out of this town!

DENNIS

Well, actually I've been maybe thinking of... not going.

NATALIE

What? But it's your dream -

LORRAINE

And you're so smart -

NATALIE

And it's not like there's anyone to keep you here.

DENNIS

Well, what if there was. What if there was girl who I was in love with, but she doesn't know it yet -

NATALIE

Oh, my gosh, who?

LORRAINE

Yeah, who?

(DENNIS tries to say it but cannot)

DENNIS

No one, there's no girl. I was just joking.

(DENNIS crosses away. LORRAINE follows)

LORRAINE

It's Natalie, isn't it?

DENNIS

Oh gosh, yeah -

LORRAINE

HEY, NATALIE!

(NATALIE turns)

DENNIS

No, please don't tell her, I'll die!

NATALIE

What?

LORRAINE

Nothin'.

(NATALIE turns away)

Gosh, I wish someone was secretly in love with me.

SYLVIA

You're too young.

LORRAINE

I'm not too young to be in love, Mother, I'm 16 years old.

SYLVIA

Yeah, well I fell in love when I was 16, and looked what happened.

LORRAINE

What?

SYLVIA

You. Now back to work.

(NATALIE crosses to DENNIS)

NATALIE

You know, Dennis, I wish I was coming with you.

DENNIS

You do? You really do?!

NATALIE

Yeah. Maybe I'd meet a fella there.

LORRAINE

Well, what if there was a guy for you right in this town?

NATALIE

Yeah, I wish.

LORRAINE

But what would he be like? Would he be real brainy?

NATALIE

No, he'd have to be real different, have a real sense of adventure, probably ride a motorbike -

DENNIS

Hey, I'm thinkin' about getting a motorbike!

NATALIE

You are?

DENNIS

No.

NATALIE

Ah, who am I kidding? Hey Sylvia, what are the chances of a girl meeting the man of her dreams in this town?

SYLVIA

Eight billion to one.

NATALIE

See! This is the most depressing town on earth. How can you ever be in love in a place like this? Ain't that right, Henrietta?

(HENRIETTA, a big-voiced BARFLY, steps forward)

#3 HEARTBREAK HOTEL

HENRIETTA

WELL SINCE MY BABY LEFT ME -
I FOUND A NEW PLACE TO DWELL -

DENNIS

IT'S DOWN AT THE END OF LONELY STREET CALLED

DENNIS AND HENRIETTA

HEARTBREAK HOTEL

FEMALE BARFLY TRIO

I BEEN SO LONELY, BABY
I BEEN SO LONELY
I BEEN SO LONELY I COULD DIE

ALL

ALTHOUGH IT'S ALWAYS CROWDED
YOU STILL CAN FIND SOME ROOM
FOR BROKEN-HEARTED LOVERS
TO CRY AWAY THEIR GLOOM

I BEEN SO LONELY, BABY
I BEEN SO LONELY,