

EDDIE. Well . . . you never know. (*Watches her.*) You live in New York?
NIKKI. Yes.
EDDIE. Whereabouts?
NIKKI. West 64th, between Broadway and Amsterdam.
EDDIE. Yeah? I live on 50th. Across from Madison Square Garden.
NIKKI. I used to live near there. 48th. The dance belt.
EDDIE. You live alone. . . . or . . . ?
NIKKI. I have two roommates.
EDDIE. Got a boyfriend?
NIKKI. Did have. He joined the navy last year.
EDDIE. Yeah, navy's not bad. I been thinkin' maybe I should join. 'Fore I get drafted.
NIKKI. Aren't you a bit old to be drafted?
EDDIE. Yeah, right now. But look at the way things are goin'. I figure I better get a name in show business PDQ, so that if I am drafted I can get into the entertainment section of the army.
NIKKI. You wanna' kill 'em with laughs, huh?
EDDIE. They got such units.
NIKKI. A comic's battalion? Yeah, they hit the beach right after the magicians.
EDDIE. It's called Special Services.
NIKKI. Uh huh, and they pass out Ping-Pong balls.
EDDIE. You know, I'da' known you were a dancer even if you never said so.
NIKKI. Yeah?
EDDIE. You talk straight out. Like a guy. Most dames don't talk that way. Dancers do. 'Course I'm talkin' show biz, not ballet.
NIKKI. You date a lot of dancers?
EDDIE. I don't date a lot of anything.
NIKKI. You haven't got a girl?
EDDIE. Nope. See, most dames they don't wanna' get serious with a comic. Yeah, but that's okay — that's the way it's laid out.
NIKKI. What's laid out?
EDDIE. The hero gets the girl, the comic gets the laughs.
NIKKI. In the movies.

EDDIE. And in real life . . . pretty much the same.
NIKKI. I wouldn't know. I haven't met any heroes.
EDDIE. Met any comics?
NIKKI. Just one. (*Pause.*) I want to look over that second act ballad. (*Nikki crosses to the piano bench, looks at the lead sheets. Eddie watches her.*)
EDDIE. (*After a pause.*) You believe in chemistry?
NIKKI. Chemistry?
EDDIE. You know, you look at someone and something happens.
NIKKI. I don't know.
EDDIE. It's happening here. (*Nikki looks at him.*) O'Reilly and the maid. I think we're seeing the start of a hot affair. They really got eyes for each other.
NIKKI. Yeah. (*Beat . . . then quietly.*) Maybe they sense something in common.
EDDIE. Some people believe in it . . . chemistry. Never happen to you?
NIKKI. Nope.
EDDIE. How about your boyfriend?
NIKKI. We grew up together. He was just . . . always there.
EDDIE. Till now.
NIKKI. Yeah.
EDDIE. Actually it never happened to me either . . . chemistry.
NIKKI. Probably just in the movies.
EDDIE. No. It happened to my father.
NIKKI. Did?
EDDIE. From a bus window. He was on the corner. She was on the bus. They saw each other . . . Wham! He chased that bus for five blocks.
NIKKI. It was your mother?
EDDIE. No. Some girl. Never saw her again. He used to tell me, "Eddie, when it happens, you'll know. It's chemical. Just hope it ain't the number 17 to Ozone Park. That's an express." (*Nikki laughs and turns back to her music.*) Yeah, it can happen. You just gotta' be lookin' for it is all. (*He stares dreamily at her. Ken enters followed by Kelly rolling a tea cart with a full coffee service, cups, etc. He is followed on by Ken, Roger,*