



Side 9

Medda, (Jack, Davey, Les & Stage Manager)

(MEDDA LARKIN, a burlesque star, appears in a revealing costume. The STAGE MANAGER and two showgirls, the BOWERY BEAUTIES, get ready for the performance.)

MEDDA

Hey, you up there, shoo! No kids allowed in the theater.

JACK

Not even me, Miss Medda?

MEDDA

(recognizing the intruder)

Jack Kelly, man of mystery. Get yourself down here and give me a hug. Where have you been keepin' yourself, kid?

(JACK, DAVEY, and LES come down to the stage.)

JACK

Never far from you, Miss Medda. Boys, may I present Miss Medda Larkin: greatest star on the Bowery today. She also owns the joint.

MEDDA

The only thing I own is the mortgage. Pleasure, gents.

DAVEY

A pleasure.

(DAVEY bows gallantly, but LES just stands wide-eyed, staring at the BOWERY BEAUTIES. DAVEY smacks him.)

What's wrong with you?

MEDDA

(to DAVEY)

Step out of his way so's he can get a better look. Theater's not only entertaining, it's educational.

(posing)

Got the picture, kid?

JACK

Miss Medda, I got a little situation out on the street. Mind if I hide out here a while?

MEDDA

Where better to escape trouble than a theater? Is Snyder after you again?

LES

Hey Jack, did you really escape jail on the back of Teddy Roosevelt's carriage? You really know the Governor?

MEDDA

He don't, but I do! Say, Jack, when you've got time, I want you to paint me some more of these backdrops.

(indicates a park scene drop behind her)

This last one you did is a doozy. Folks love it. And things have been going so well that I can actually pay.

JACK

I couldn't take your money, Miss Medda.

LES

You pictured that?

MEDDA

Your friend is quite an artist.

JACK

Don't get carried away. It's a bunch of trees.

DAVEY

You're really good.

MEDDA

That boy's got natural aptitude.

(The STAGE MANAGER calls to her.)

STAGE MANAGER

Miss Medda, you're on!

MEDDA

(strikes a pose)

Yeah? How'm I doin'?

(to the BOYS)

Boys, lock the door and stay all night. You're with Medda now!

STAGE MANAGER

(announcing MEDDA as she moves toward the stage)

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the star of our show ... Miss Medda Larkin!

(MEDDA is captured in a spotlight. The BOYS watch from the wings, completely entranced, while she performs.)

MEDDA

[see Side F for music]

I'M DOING ALL RIGHT FOR MYSELF, FOLKS:

I'M HEALTHY, I'M WEALTHY, I'M WISE

MY INVESTMENTS AND SUCH

HAVE ALL GONE UP SO MUCH—

SEEMS WHATEVER I TOUCH STARTS TO RISE

I'VE BEEN ALL KINDS OF LUCKY AND YET

THE THING I WANT MOST ...

I CAN'T GET

NOW, LISTEN, SPORT

THIS LIFE'S TOO SHORT

TO WASTE IT ON YOU

IT MAY BE ROUGH

BUT SOON ENOUGH

I'LL LEARN TO MAKE DO WITH

THE MANSION, THE OIL WELL, THE DIAMONDS, THE YACHT

WITH ANDY, EDUARDO, THE PONTIFF, AND SCOTT

AND FRANK

AND MY BANK!

(MEDDA)

SO SPILL NO TEARS FOR ME
'CAUSE THERE'S ONE THING YOU AIN'T
THAT I'LL ALWAYS BE
AND HONEY
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
THAT'S RICH!

(loud, right to "him")

THAT'S RICH!

(out to the audience)

THAT'S RICH!

(spoken)

THAT'S RICH!