

SCENE 4

STUDENT LOUNGE, QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

We hear BOBBY VEE singing Carole's song.

BOBBY VEE

I'M ONLY LIVING FOR THE DAY YOU'RE
HOME TO STAY
SO IT MIGHT AS WELL RAIN UNTIL
SEPTEMBER —

KIDS walk by with books and radios. A kid fools around on a piano. The big sound of the song should narrow down to a transistor radio. CAROLE and BETTY enter.

BETTY

Carole, you just fry me! Your song is in the top one hundred!

CAROLE

Top two hundred. Highest it got was 106. I've written a bunch more but Donny turned them all down. He says I need to work on my lyrics.

Enter GERRY GOFFIN, 19. Hangs out by piano.

Who's that?

BETTY

That's Gerry Goffin. He's my lab partner in bio. He's a killer flirt. Even my frog has a crush on him.

CAROLE

Oh, I wish a boy like that would fall for me. We could get married and move to the most beautiful place on earth — the suburbs!

BETTY

I know — *marriage!* When the fun part of life begins!

CAROLE

Oh, well, Gerry Goffin may be my type, but I doubt I'm his.

BETTY

Why not?

CAROLE

Boys like that want girls who look like that.

A buxom BLOND walks by and stops to talk with Gerry.

Look at her body!

BETTY

What's the matter with your body?

CAROLE

Boys want some of my parts to be bigger than they are, and some of the other parts to be smaller. I have the right amount of body, it's just not organized properly.

BETTY

You don't see yourself right. I gotta go to Home Ec. Hi, Gerry! Bye, Carole.

CAROLE

Bye, Bets.

BETTY exits. Carole and Gerry are now alone.

GERRY

How do you know Betty?

CAROLE

We're both freshman. You?

GERRY

Junior. You go here? How old are you?

CAROLE

16. I skipped two grades. What's your major?

GERRY

Chemistry. But I'm going to be a playwright.

CAROLE

Really? I write, too. Songs.

GERRY

Me, too. But just lyrics. What about you?

CAROLE

Both but I'm not so good at words. Maybe that doesn't matter in rock and roll.

GERRY

Until words matter, rock and roll won't. It's just lame-o teenybopper junk. Plus a single is three minutes. What can you say in three minutes? Songs by Cole Porter or Gershwin are like little plays. You should listen to Bach some time.

HE exits. SHE goes to the piano and plays an intricate section of Bach. GERRY comes back in, amazed.