

FINCH

You haven't told it to your uncle?

BUD

No, Ponty.

(Crosses R. to FINCH, reaches for manuscript.)

Look. if you're not interested...

FINCH

(Keeping script)

Well, Bud, the idea doesn't give me much nourishment but maybe I'll give it a bit of a think-think.

BUD

Feel free to use it.

(He starts L., stops and sings.)

24 – I Have Returned

(Bud)

(BUD)

I HAVE RETURNED.

(He goes L.)

FINCH

(Left alone, looks at manuscript carefully, crosses above desk)

Treasure hunt. Could be. A thousand dollar bond. This thing needs some kind of a new twist.

(ROSEMARY enters L.)

ROSEMARY

Ponty, I'm back. I changed my mind.

(Crosses R. to R. of C.)

FINCH

(Still lost in thought)

Oh, Miss Pilkington.

ROSEMARY

(Crosses R. to desk)

I don't blame you for being cold to me. But I did change my mind.

FINCH

(Crosses back above desk, still preoccupied with manuscript)

About what?

About what I said in the letter. **ROSEMARY**

What letter? **FINCH**

My letter of resignation. **ROSEMARY**

Your resignation from what? **FINCH**

The Girl Scouts of America. **ROSEMARY**

Oh. **FINCH**

Don't you understand? **ROSEMARY**

(She picks up letter of resignation from desk, shows it to him slams it down, then crosses L. by settee.)

I've quit, resigned, left you forever!

Why are you doing that? **FINCH**

(Yelling) **ROSEMARY**

Because I was. hurt, humiliated, ignored, upset!

(Startled) **FINCH**

Who did that to you?

You. **ROSEMARY**

FINCH

Me. It couldn't have been me. I haven't said ten words to you all week.

(ROSEMARY stares at him.)

True?

True. **ROSEMARY**

(She sits on settee.)

FINCH

Good. Now listen, Miss Pilkington.

ROSEMARY

Must you call me that? Can't you call me Rosemary?

FINCH

No. And I want you to call me Mr. Finch, until you're Mrs. Finch.

ROSEMARY

(Dreamy smile)

Am I really going to be. Mrs. Finch?

FINCH

(Crosses L. below desk to her.)

Oh, come on. I thought that was all settled.

ROSEMARY

I keep thinking maybe you forgot.

FINCH

Well, I haven't. You're going to be Mrs. Finch because we're going to be married. Now, may we discuss some serious matters?

ROSEMARY

Oh, sure.

FINCH

Miss Pilkington, I have something I want you to hear.

(Crosses it above desk.)

I have finally come up with a new idea for a television program. I'm thinking of calling it the World Wide Wicket Treasure Hunt.

(Crosses to C.)

The prize would be a thousand dollar bond. Do you think that's enough?

(ROSEMARY looks at him raptly, doesn't answer. FINCH crosses L. to her.)

Maybe we ought to make that twenty-five thousand dollars. Listen carefully, Rosemary.

(Crosses to C.)

What would you say if we gave away a hundred thousand dollars?

(She doesn't answer. He crosses to her at settee.)

Two hundred thousand?

ROSEMARY

I don't care if you give away the whole company. I love you.

FINCH

(Stares at her, then looks front with a happy smile on his face)

Say that again.

ROSEMARY

I love you.

FINCH

No, before that.

ROSEMARY

(Puzzled)

I said I don't care if you give away the whole company.

FINCH

(Crosses R.)

That's it! We'll give away the company. What a prize! Oh, I don't mean the whole company.

(Crosses R. below desk.)

I mean stock. In the company. Nobody could resist that these days. I've got to have time to work this out. I've got to speak to Mr. Biggley.

(He picks up phone. ROSEMARY rises, crosses to him.)

He's got to give me a postponement.

(Hangs up.)

No, I'll go see him.

ROSEMARY

Good luck, Mr. Finch.

FINCH

Thank you, Miss Pilkington.

(He starts off L.)

ROSEMARY

Say

(He stops and looks at her.)

What about taking me to lunch? Nobody has to see us.

FINCH

(Reprovingly)

Miss Pilkington.

ROSEMARY

(With a smile)

I'm sorry Mr. Finch.