

ACT ONE
SCENE 2

#1a – Into the Bullpen

OFFICE BULLPEN. A little anthill of activity. The rhythm of the typewriters and key punch machines and the lack of computers remind us once again that this is a very different world than we live in today.

JUDY has finally found the office. She stands beside a desk waiting for someone to notice her. VIOLET is talking to secretaries MARIA DELGADO, young and vibrant, and KATHY, the office gossip.

VIOLET

Good Lord. What is that?

(KATHY glances over at JUDY.)

KATHY

New girl. First day. She's in your section.

VIOLET

My section? Why are they always in my section?!

MARIA

Just lucky I guess.

VIOLET

We're going to need a special locker just for the hat!

(As VIOLET crosses to JUDY:)

Oh brother.

(VIOLET extends her hand to JUDY.)

Hi, I'm Violet Newstead. I'll be training you here at Consolidated.

JUDY

Judy Bernly. Nice to meet you. This is quite a big day for me.

VIOLET

Big day, big hat.

JUDY

Thank you. I left an hour early to make sure I was here on time but the parking was impossible. Fun fact: parking meters were invented in Oklahoma City in 1935.

Sorry – I share trivia when I'm nervous.

VIOLET

Okay, this will all be yours. Thrilling, isn't it? So, let's get started with a typing test. I'm going to dictate and you type.

(VIOLET picks up a memo and begins to read rapidly.)

(VIOLET)

From Franklin Hart, President, Consolidated Industries. To the employees: when planning for your retirement, why diversify? And ...

(VIOLET stops, looks over at JUDY who is frantically trying to keep up.)

It works a lot better with paper in the typewriter.

JUDY

Oops.

VIOLET

Where did you say you worked before?

JUDY

I've never really had a job in an office.

VIOLET

No kidding.

JUDY

You're not going to tell them are you?

VIOLET

I sorta have to ...

JUDY

Yeah.

(starts to get upset)

Well, I'm sorry, but I wasn't sure where on my resume to write, "I have no skills because I've spent my entire adult life taking care of a husband who just dumped me for a nineteen year old named Mindi." With an "i"!

(JUDY sobs.)

VIOLET

Alright, come on now, don't ... cry.

(beat)

So you have absolutely no office skills whatsoever?

JUDY

None.

(beat)

Is this where you call Security?

(VIOLET takes a moment, considers.)

VIOLET

No.

(reluctantly)

This is where I tell you I love a challenge and welcome to Consolidated.

JUDY

Oh thank you. Thank you so much. I just hope I can do the job.

#2 – Around Here**VIOLET**

Relax, I've been at Consolidated for fifteen years. You'll get it. You've got the very best training you.

JUDY

Really? Who?

VIOLET

Me!

YOU GOTTA KNOW WHAT TO DO, YOU GOTTA DO IT IN A HURRY;
GOTTA HUSTLE, GOTTA BUSTLE, GOTTA SCOOT, YOU GOTTA SCURRY
'CAUSE WE

ALL

GOT NO TIME

VIOLET

TO FOOL AROUND, AROUND HERE

VIOLET & ENSEMBLE

AROUND HERE.

VIOLET

YOU GOTTA

ENSEMBLE

GET IT RIGHT

VIOLET

ON THE FIRST TRY, HONEY.

CAUSE EACH MISTAKE MEANS THEY'RE LOSING LOTS OF MONEY AND

VIOLET & ENSEMBLE

WE GOT NO TIME

VIOLET

TO WASTE A DIME