

ACT ONE
Scene 5

THE SHIP'S DECK.
HOPE & MRS. HARCOURT are present.

MRS. HARCOURT
Hope, I'm tired of this chasing around the boat. Let's find the deck steward and get our chairs placed.

HOPE
But Mother, I don't want to sit down.

MRS. HARCOURT
Well, I should think you'd want to rest, staying up on deck with Evelyn till seven o'clock this morning. I told you, dear, that under the proper conditions you'd find Evelyn romantic.

HOPE
Now, Mother, you go and get our deck chairs. I want to explore the boat some more. I'll find you.

EVELYN
(Entering)
Ah, there you are. Jolly bracing this morning, what?

MRS. HARCOURT
I don't know how you young people do it -- after staying up all night --

EVELYN
Oh, did you stay up all night? Shame, shame, shame on you, you, you!

HOPE
Mother, have a chair for Evelyn placed next to ours.

MRS. HARCOURT
Now, Evelyn, you mustn't keep Hope up all night every night. You know it was after seven when you brought her to the state room this morning.

EVELYN
I say, really?

MRS. HARCOURT
Still I mustn't forget that I was in love once too - with your father ... the old buzzard!
(Exits)

HOPE

Well, Evie, what are you going to say to me?

EVELYN

(Exercising)

What about?

HOPE

What about? Well, you know now that I didn't get to my cabin until seven o'clock this morning ...

EVELYN

Well, where were you?

HOPE

Here on deck in the moonlight.

EVELYN

(Breathes)

Not all alone, I hope.

HOPE

No. That's just it.

EVELYN

(Stops exercising)

Oh, you mean that chappie I left you with. Did he stick it out with you? Damn decent of him.

HOPE

Evelyn, aren't you angry?

EVELYN

Angry? Why should I be angry? You got your moonlight, I got my beddy-by! Perfect night for both of us.

HOPE

Well, if you must know, it was perfect.

EVELYN

Look here, Hope, I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll look that chap up and buy him a drink. He probably needs it, poor devil.

(EVELYN exits. SAILORS enter;

BILLY is with them dressed in sailor suit)

END

BILLY

(Passing HOPE)

How 'ye, kid?

(Slaps HER)

HOPE

Sailor, come back here. How dare you!