

(HAROLD is starting towards the Library as the WOMEN come chattering in. EULALIE hanging back, MARCELLUS escapes. HAROLD is surrounded)

ALMA

Oh, Professor Hill, we're all agog -- simply agog!

MAUD

Oh the que veev!

MRS. SQUIRES

Everyone's so excited about the band.

ETHEL

(Loud voice)

I'm Ethel Toffelmier. The pianola girl?

MAUD

And this is Mrs. Squires, and Mrs. Hix. And of course you met Eulalie MacKecknie Shinn? Our Mayor's wife? Isn't it exciting, Eulalie?

EULALIE

Oh, I couldn't say. I could not say. Oh no. I could not say, at this time. My husband will wish to investigate, I'm sure. And naturally I'm reticent. Oh yes, I'm reticent.

HAROLD

Of course, Mrs. Shinn, I understand. But you see, part of my music plans include a committee on the dance and -- no wait -- wait! Do that again, Mrs. Shinn!

(SHE looks behind her, mystified)

Your foot! The way you raised it, just now!

EULALIE

(Lifting foot slightly)

Oh. Well. I have a bunion there that bothers --

HAROLD

Ohhh what grace! What natural flow of rhythm! What expression of line and movement!

EULALIE

Mr. Hill.

HAROLD

You must accept the charimanship of the Ladies Auxiliary for the Classic dance, mustn't she, ladies?

THE WOMEN

Oh yes! Please! You must, Eulalie.

HAROLD

Every move you make, Mrs. Shinn, bespeaks Del Sarte. Will you -- will you? Say yes, Mrs. Shinn!

EULALIE

(Moving forward amid flutters,  
SHE murmurs)

Eulalie MacKecknie Shinn -- ah -- well! I -- Ah -- that is -- Dancing! Well!

HAROLD

Then you accept?

EULALIE

Yes indeed! And I would like to say --

HAROLD

Thank you. Now the young lady who plays the piano -- Marian Paroo, I believe?

(The LADIES ALL gasp)

After all, she is the librarian.

(The LADIES, instantly huddling)

ALMA

Pickalittletalkalittlepickalittletalkalittle  
Cheepcheepcheep talkalot pickalittlemore

ALMA AND ETHEL

Pickalittletalkalittlepickalittletalkalittle  
Cheepcheepcheep talkalot pickalittlemore

THE LADIES

Pickalittletalkalittlepickalittletalkalittle  
Cheepcheepcheep talkalot pickalittlemore  
Pickalittletalkalittlepickalittletalkalittle  
Cheepcheepcheepcheepcheepcheepcheep

SECOND CHORUS

(Continues as background to  
following dialogue)

MAUD

Professor, her kind of woman doesn't belong on any committee. Of course I shouldn't tell you this but she advocates dirty books.

HAROLD

Dirty books!

ALMA

Chaucer!