

*(The **MEN** begin to clear the baskets of clams as the **FEMALE SINGERS** settle in groups around the stage.)*

ALL.

BECAUSE IT'S JUNE!

JUNE - JUNE - JUNE -

JEST BECAUSE IT'S JUNE - JUNE - JUNE!

*(On the last "June" one **GIRL** begins to dance. **OTHERS** gradually join in.)*

[MUSIC NO. 09 "GIRLS' DANCE: JUNE IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER"]

*(The music becomes light-hearted and airy as the girls dance in celebration of this glorious June day. They welcome the warmth of the sun, opening themselves to all that nature has in store, as if experiencing everything for the first time. The **DANCERS** seem to be pressing toward the sky, as do so many living things in June, on the verge of bursting into full bloom. After the dance all exit except **NETTIE**, **CARRIE**, and a small group of **GIRLS**. **JULIE** enters.)*

START

[MUSIC NO. 10 "JULIE'S ENTRANCE"]

CARRIE. Hello, Julie.

NETTIE. Did you find him?

JULIE. No. *(Explaining to **CARRIE**.)* He went out with Jigger Craigin last night and he didn't come home.

CARRIE. Jigger Craigin?

JULIE. His new friend - he's a sailor on that big whaler, the *Nancy B*. She's sailing tomorrow. I'll be glad.

NETTIE. Why don't you two visit for a while.

*(Necks are craned, ears cocked. **NETTIE** notices this.)*

Look, girls, we got work to do. C'mon. You sweep those steps up there.

*(Herding the **GIRLS** upstage.)*

You set up there and keep outa the way and don't poke yer noses in other people's business.

JULIE. You need me, Cousin Nettie?

NETTIE. No. You stay out here and visit with Carrie. You haven't seen each other fer a long time. Do you good.

*(She exits into the house. **JULIE** and **CARRIE** sit on the bait box, **JULIE** right of **CARRIE**. All ears are open upstage.)*

CARRIE. Is he workin' yet?

JULIE. No. Nettie's been awful kind to us, lettin' us stay here with her.

CARRIE. Mr. Snow says a man that can't find work these days is jest bone lazy.

JULIE. Billy don't know any trade. He's only good at what he used to do. So now he jest don't do anythin'.

CARRIE. Wouldn't the carousel woman take him back?

JULIE. I think she would, but he won't go. I ask him why and he won't tell me... Last Monday he hit me.

CARRIE. Did you hit him back?

JULIE. No.

CARRIE. Whyn't you leave him?

JULIE. I don't want to.

CARRIE. I would. I'd leave him. Thinks he ken do whatever he likes jest because he's Billy Bigelow. Don't support you! Beats you...! He's a bad'n.

JULIE. He ain't willin'ly er meanin'ly bad.

CARRIE. (*Afraid she's hurting JULIE.*) Mebbe he ain't. That night you set on the bench together – he was gentle then, you told me.

JULIE. Yes, he was.

CARRIE. But now he's alw'ys actin' up...

JULIE. Not alw'ys. Sometimes he's gentle – even now. After supper, when he stands out here and listens to the music from the carousel – somethin' comes over him – and he's gentle.

CARRIE. What's he say?

JULIE. Nothin'. He jest sets and gets thoughtful. Y'see he's unhappy 'cause he ain't workin'. That's really why he hit me on Monday.

CARRIE. Fine reason fer hittin' you. Beats his wife 'cause he ain't workin'.

(She turns her head up left. GIRLS, caught eavesdropping, start to sweep vigorously.)

JULIE. It preys on his mind.

CARRIE. Did he hurt you?

END

JULIE. (*Very eagerly.*) Oh, no – no.

CARRIE. Julie, I got some good news to tell you about me – about Mr. Snow and me. We're goin' to be cried in church nex' Sunday!

(The GIRLS who have been upstage turn quickly, come down and cluster around CARRIE, proving they haven't missed a thing. CARRIE rises.)

ALL WOMEN. (*Ad libs of excitement.*) What's thet you say, Carrie...? Carrie...! Honest and truly...? You fixin' t'get hitched...? Well, I never...! Do tell...!