

CLIFF

SALLY

But Max! Max! Bastard!

(But HE is gone)

(SALLY exhales some noise)

Start

(KNOCK at the door)

Come in!

(CLIFF enters)

CLIFF

I'm not sure I'm in the right place

SALLY

(pulling herself together)

Oh, Chris!

CLIFF

Uh, Cliff.

SALLY

Ah, Cliff. Did you come for your drink?

CLIFF

Sorry?

SALLY

I promised to buy you a drink -- and here you are! Is gin all right?
Of course it is. It's all I've got.

CLIFF

Gin? I guess so. Why not?

SALLY

Will you pour?

(SHE continues to work on her make-up)

I only have a few minutes ...

(CLIFF pours out two drinks)

Why did you say you were English?

CLIFF

I don't know, a whim. You ever had a whim?

SALLY

Constantly! I used to love pretending I was someone else -- someone quite mysterious and fascinating. Until one day I grew up -- and realized I was mysterious and fascinating. I'm Sally Bowles.

(Toasting)
Happy New Year, darling!
(She kisses him - he kisses her back)
Are you new in Berlin?

CLIFF

I've only been here three hours.

SALLY

Three hours! Welcome! How long are staying?

CLIFF

I'm working on a novel. I'll stay till it's finished.

SALLY

Oh, you're a novelist. How marvelous! You can write about what swine people are and have a huge success and make pots of money.

CLIFF

Let's talk about Sally Bowles. What part of England are you from? London? Stratford-on-Avon? Stonehenge?

SALLY

Oh, Cliff -- you mustn't ever ask me questions. If I want to tell you anything, I will. Why did you come to Berlin to do your novel?

CLIFF

I'd already tried London and Paris.

SALLY

Just looking for a place to write?

CLIFF

Something to write about.

SALLY

Where are you staying?

CLIFF

The Nollendorfplatz.

SALLY

The Nollendorfplatz! I'd love to live in the Nollendorfplatz! It's so -- racy! I just live upstairs here. It would be too divine to invite you up but Max is most terribly jealous ...

CLIFF

Max? Your husband?

SALLY

Oh, no! He's just the man I'm sleeping with. This week. I say -- am I shocking you, talking this way?

CLIFF

I say -- are you trying to shock me?

SALLY

You're quite right, you know.

(SALLY's cue light flashes)

Ooh, there's my cue. Is there really a place called Mudville?

CLIFF

Absolutely. It's in New Jersey.

SALLY

Don't forget to leave your number -- Toodle-pip!

(She exits quickly. CLIFF looks around)

(He goes to the dressing-table and looks in the mirror)

(BOBBY enters with VICTOR)

BOBBY

(To CLIFF)

That was never a good color for you. Cliff, this is Victor, he is sharing my apartment.

VICTOR

Hello.

CLIFF

(To VICTOR)

How do you do?

BOBBY

He's heard all about you.

VICTOR

All about you.

BOBBY

I can't stay. But will you ring me?