

ACT I - SCENE IV

SETTING: Chicago Street. Afternoon.

AT RISE: OSCAR is interviewing JOE BAGS, who has a black eye. TOWNSPEOPLE are going about their business, some staring at JOE BAGS & OSCAR curiously as they pass.

OSCAR

Alright, what happened this time, Joe?

JOE BAGS

There was this horrible man. I was just minding my own business, tending to my squab when-

OSCAR

Wait, did you say squab?

JOE BAGS

Yes, squab. Birds. My birds. Squab.

OSCAR

Right, of course.

JOE BAGS

So I'm tending to my squab, when out of nowhere this horrible man comes stomping down the street. As he passed I offered a friendly 'hello there', and I thought he might return the gesture, but when my squab began to sing, he went nuts and kicked over one of my birdcages! I was horrified, naturally, and voiced my outrage.

OSCAR

Naturally.

JOE BAGS

Anyhow, the man began picking up the cages and throwing them everywhere, scaring my squab and, when I tried to stop him, he sucker punched me, right in the eye!

OSCAR

He attacked you? Just like that?

JOE BAGS

Exactly! One account of human assault and six accounts of squab assault!

OSCAR

Okay, then. Well, the city of Chicago thanks you for your testimony. We'll do our best to apprehend the suspect as soon as possible.

(LIZZIE and TRIPP approach OSCAR)

OSCAR, contd.

Great, you again.

LIZZIE

Good morning, Inspector. Oh my, what happened here?

OSCAR

Nothing, doll-face. Be on your way.

TRIPP

Why Lizzie, it looks like a crime scene.

LIZZIE

You know what, Tripp, I think you might be right.

(LIZZIE and TRIPP turn to stare at OSCAR expectantly)

OSCAR

...Fine. A man assaulted this young bird enthusiast over here. That's it. No story, just another knucklehead in Chicago. Satisfied?

LIZZIE

Interesting.

(to JOE BAGS)

Excuse me, sir, can I ask you a couple questions?

OSCAR

Leave him alone, Lizzie.

LIZZIE

Sir, could you describe the man who committed this atrocious crime?

JOE BAGS

He was horrible!

LIZZIE

But, what did he look like?

JOE BAGS

What? Oh, uh...

LIZZIE

Height? Weight? Hair color? That sort of thing.

JOE BAGS

Er...it was hard to tell. It was kind of dark, you know. I can't seem to picture him now that you mention it.

LIZZIE
Interesting. Hey, Tripp?

TRIPP
Yeah, Lizzie?

LIZZIE
Wasn't there another crime where no one could describe the criminal?

TRIPP
I think there was, just last week in fact.

LIZZIE
And what was that criminal's name?

TRIPP
Mr. Hyde, I believe.

OSCAR
Oh, brother.

('HYDE AND SEEK' music begins)

LIZZIE
The shop vandalism last week, the pub upset a few days ago, and now this? Multiple crimes, all committed by someone that no one seems to be able to describe.

TRIPP
Seems that way.

LIZZIE
Could be a crime spree.
(to OSCAR)

Now, wouldn't you say that a crime spree in the heart of Chicago is newsworthy, Inspector?

OSCAR
Leave it alone, Lizzie. You won't find your big story here, so stop sniffing around my crime scenes, you hear me?

LIZZIE
Oh yes, of course, Inspector. No problem.

(LIZZIE and TRIPP begin to exit. OSCAR exits in the other direction. After OSCAR's gone, LIZZIE and TRIPP walk back to the crime scene)

LIZZIE
Let's get started.

TRIPP

Ready.

(TRIPP pulls out a pen and pad. LIZZIE begins to inspect the scene)

Hyde and Seek

LIZZIE

*May I have this dance?
Oh, you're far too kind
Let's begin
Do you think that you can keep up?
One false step and I'll drop you
One trip and I'll take down*

(OSCAR walks by, LIZZIE and TRIPP try to act inconspicuous. OSCAR is suspicious, but leaves again)

LIZZIE, contd.

Nice to meet you, sir

TOWNSPEOPLE

Ahhhh!

LIZZIE

*You've made quite the mess
But you left me your secrets
They're here somewhere*

TOWNSPEOPLE

Oooooo!

LIZZIE

*You can't keep them from me
You can run, but you cannot hide*

*I'm gonna figure you out
Sir, I will not rest 'til
Your life is laid bare for the world to read
No locked door can keep me out, my friend
And if you call yourself "Mister Hyde"
I'll be Seek*

(TOWNSPEOPLE exit as they sing and WAITRESSES enter, setting up The Golden Lily)

TOWNSPEOPLE & WAITRESSES (behind dialogue)

*La-da-da, La-da-da
La-da-da-da-da-da
La-da-da, La-da-da
La-da-da-dum!*

(LIZZIE finds a ticket stub on the ground and picks it up)

LIZZIE

What do we have here?

TRIPP

Find something?

LIZZIE

It's a piece of a ticket of some sort...for The Golden Lily.

(TRIPP and LIZZIE enter The Golden Lily)

LIZZIE, contd.

Oh, you will not win

WAITRESSES

Ahhhh!

LIZZIE

*I will beat your game
I will never relent
'Til I find the truth*

WAITRESSES

Ooooo!

LIZZIE

*Your secret's not safe
Yeah, nowhere is safe*

*I'm gonna figure you out
Sir, I will not rest 'til
Your life is laid bare for the world to read
No locked door can keep me out, my friend
And if you call yourself "Mister Hyde"
I'll be Seek*

*You ain't got nowhere to hide
Go ahead and test me
I've got fire in my eyes and a will cast in iron
Breaking news, Mr. Hyde, you cannot beat me
I'll show the world
That Lizzie O'Connell always gets the scoop*

*I'm gonna figure you out
Bet your life, I'll find you
You won't be so tough with your face on page one*

*With God as my witness I'll end this game
So if you call yourself "Mister Hyde"*

*I'll be Seek
I'll be Seek
I'll be Seek*

SAMPLE