ACT I

Scene 7

THE REGENCY HOTEL, a duplex set with DOROTHY BROCK'S room above, the Regency Club with party in progress below. Bar Left, OSCAR at piano Right continues playing under dialogue, as DOROTHY and ABNER enter)

DOROTHY
(A little "high," drink in hand)
Hey, Mac! Are you sure there were no calls for me?

MAC
No, Miss Brock.

DOROTHY
(Crossing to piano)
I need another drink. Hey, play something gay, will ya?
(OSCAR stops playing)
Something not from the show.
(OSCAR continues with "YOUNG AND HEALTHY" music under dialogue)

BERT
(Taking her glass)
Say, another one of those and they'll build a bridge over you.

DOROTHY
(Taking his glass from him)
Another crack like that and they'll build a monument over you.

ABNER
Kitten, I turned around and you'd disappeared!
(Putting his arm around DOROTHY)
How does that feel, Sweetie-pie?

DOROTHY
Like a dead, wet cobra.

ABNER
Dorothy!

MAGGIE
Say, what's eating you tonight?

DOROTHY
I finally figured out what the show needs. A few more songs. By Irving Berlin! Now get away from me and take Buffalo Bill with you.

ABNER
Hey, wait a minute! I've got a hundred thousand dollars in this show, so you'd better not give me the air!

DOROTHY
So I better not give you the air, huh? Well, how about just a few bubbles?

(And SHE throws contents of glass in his face. MUSIC abruptly stops)

Now get on your Kiddie Kar and pedal back to Tulsa, you beached whale!

(DOROTHY exits as MAGGIE tries to smooth things over)

MAGGIE
She didn't mean it. She's all excited. You know, the opening tomorrow.

ABNER
There ain't gonna be no opening tomorrow! Not with Dorothy Brock. She's out of the show!

JULIAN
Wrong. Brock opens tomorrow night as scheduled. Don't be a fool, Dillon! Are you going to toss away all that money because of a dame?

ABNER
It's my funeral, ain't it?

JULIAN
And the funeral of half-a-hundred kids who've been dancing their feet off to give you a show you could be proud of! Do you want to put them out on the street too?

GIRL
Oh, Mr. Dillon, you wouldn't do that, would you?

ANNIE
Not after we've put all our faith in you.

ABNER
But she called me a whale. And a cobra.

MAGGIE
Listen, in show business that's a compliment. What you need is some fun! Why don't you come to a quiet corner and I'll sing you the scores of my last six shows.

(She winks, flashes a bit of shoulder, then leads him off as Lights come up on DOROTHY on phone upstairs)

DOROTHY
I don't care how many hotels you've tried! Try the Belvedere, too. And now!

(OSCAR, at party below, begins playing again under dialogue)

BERT
(Downstairs, to JULIAN)
I don't know what's got into her. She was fine this afternoon.

JULIAN
I smell a rat, Bert. And the rat's initials are Pat Denning!

DOROTHY
(Upstairs)
Hello, Belvedere? Have you a Pat Denning there? You do? Well, give him to me, you idiot!

ANDY
(Coming on downstairs)
Hey, Boss! It's Flo at the switchboard. She's an old pal of mine, and she just told me Dorothy Brock's been calling all over town to get Pat Denning.

JULIAN
So I was right! Denning's in town!

DOROTHY
(Upstairs)
Oh, Pat, Pat darling! I can't go on like this. I've tried to forget you, but I can't, so please come back at once! At once!

BILLY
(Downstairs)
Hey, Peggy, how about the next dance?

PEGGY
In a minute, Billy.

ANDY
(As PEGGY listens)
What're you gonna do about Denning, Boss?

JULIAN
Call Nick Murphy. I think he's got a couple of Philadelphia cousins who might be able to handle the situation.

DOROTHY
(As PAT enters upstairs)
Oh, Pat, darling, I can't take it anymore, I can't!

PAT
Dorothy, will you calm down and tell me what's wrong?

DOROTHY
In a minute. Just hold me first. Hold me and never let me go!

JULIAN
(Hanging up phone downstairs)
It's all set. Two of the boys'll be over in ten minutes. And they'd better not find Denning here.

BILLY
Hey, how about that dance now?

PEGGY
Sorry, Billy, but a friend of mine is in trouble.

BILLY
A man friend or a lady friend?

PEGGY
A man, but....

BILLY
I get it. Good night, Peggy.

(OSCAR stops playing)

PEGGY
Billy, I....
(Peggy exits)

MAC
Something the matter, Billy?

BILLY
Not any more. Come on, let's have some fun!

(OSCAR starts playing again in fast tempo. BILLY dances with ANNIE as PEGGY knocks on DOROTHY'S door upstairs)

DOROTHY
Who is it?

PEGGY
Peggy Sawyer, Miss Brock.

DOROTHY
Peggy Sawyer? Oh, the fainting violet Mr. Denning took out to dinner last week.

PEGGY
(Entering)
I've got to see Pat. Pat, there's going to be trouble.
(PARTY PIANO stops)

DOROTHY
You're darn right there is unless you get the hell out of here!
(PARTY PIANO short cue)

PAT
Wait a minute, Dorothy! What is it, Peggy?

PEGGY
Two men, friends of Murphy's....
(PARTY PIANO short cue)

DOROTHY
Don't you tell me to wait a minute! And how come you're sticking up for her in the first place?

PAT
Dorothy, you don't understand.

DOROTHY
I think I understand all too well!

PAT
No, you don't.

DOROTHY
Get out of here, the both of you!

PEGGY
But, Miss Brock....

PAT
(As PEGGY exits)
It's all right, Peggy. Now, Dorothy....

DOROTHY
I said the both of you!
(PARTY PIANO cue)

PAT
Alright, if that's the way you want it!

DOROTHY
(As PAT exits)
That's the way I want it. Get out! Out! Out....
(DOROTHY, realizing what SHE'S done, leans against the door, and sings, PARTY PIANO fades out under DOROTHY'S first phrase and pit orchestra enters when SHE reaches the word "Lonely")

ACT II

Scene 6

PEGGY'S DRESSING ROOM. PEGGY alone as DOROTHY, her right leg in a cast, is wheeled on by PAT.

DOROTHY
They said I'd find you here.

PEGGY
Miss Brock....

DOROTHY
Pat, leave us alone.

PAT
Is this the time for this, Dorothy? They've just called half-hour.

DOROTHY
I've got some things to say to Miss Sawyer.
(PAT goes. MUSIC out))
So you're going to take my place.

PEGGY
I'm sorry, I know how tough it must be.

DOROTHY
Do you? I'm not sure. When I started for the theatre this afternoon, I wanted to tear your heart out. I wanted to hate you, I wanted to see you fail. You, singing my songs, wearing my costumes, playing my role! But sitting there in that theatre and watching you rehearse, I found I couldn't hate you....Because you're good. Maybe even better than I would have been. The public wants youth, freshness, beauty, and Peggy, that's what you've got. Only I'm getting something too. For ten years the theatre has kept me away from the only thing I've ever wanted. And it was a broken ankle that finally made me realize it. Pat Denning and I were married this morning!

PEGGY
Oh, Miss Brock!

DOROTHY
I have only one last wish for you, my dear. Get out there and be so swell you'll make me hate you. Sawyer, one more thing, I hope you won't mind, but it's about the next to closing number. You've got to take it easy, let the audience come to you. Would you let me show you what I mean?
(MUSIC starts)