

(SARAH)

General Cartwright!

GENERAL

Good morning, Sarah. Arvide.

ARVIDE

Good morning, General.

SARAH

We didn't know you were coming to town, General.

GENERAL

I got in early this morning. I've spent the last hour trying to find you.

(AGATHA appears in the Mission doorway)

SARAH

Oh, I'm sorry. We've been holding some extra street meetings, trying to stimulate more interest—

AGATHA

Good morning, General.

GENERAL

Good morning—Sarah, there's something I want to talk to you about.

SARAH

Won't you come inside—have some lunch with us?

GENERAL

No, I don't have time, dear. I have several other calls to make—Sarah, we at headquarters have come to a definite conclusion. We have decided to close this branch of the Mission.

SARAH

Oh, no.

ARVIDE

Close the Mission!

SARAH

But, General, please! Someone can do good here, even if I can't.

GENERAL

Sarah, there are so many calls on us,—

(SARAH crosses to L., pass GENERAL)

—so many other places where our work is really needed.

ARVIDE

But we are doing much better now.

AGATHA

We've announced a big meeting for tomorrow night.

GENERAL

You've announced a meeting! But will anyone be here? Will anybody come?

(A second's pause, then SKY enters from R.1 with quiet dignity)

SKY

Pardon me — I couldn't help overhearing — General, my name is Sky Masterson, former sinner.

GENERAL

How do you do?

SKY

How do you do? — I wish to protest the closing of this Mission. I believe Miss Sarah can be a big success here.

GENERAL

I am glad to hear you say that, but I'm not so certain.

SKY

A dollar will get you ten.

GENERAL

What!

(Looks at Sarah)

SKY

General, might I make a suggestion —

(Goes to trash basket and picks up marker which he conceals in his hat)

GENERAL

Yes.

SKY

Why don't you come to the meeting tomorrow night and find out for yourself —

(Crosses to Sarah and drops marker in her tambourine — then crosses to R.)

Don't you think that would be a good idea?

GENERAL

Well, if I thought the Mission had a chance —

SARAH

(Looking at Marker in tambourine)

General, I personally guarantee you one dozen genuine sinners.

GENERAL

Hallelujah!

SKY

Hallelujah!

BLACKOUT

#12 – Change of Scene

#2 Street traveller closes. Stage lights dim up to full.

ACT I, Scene vii: Street off Broadway

LIGHT CUE

The crap shooters walk on – HARRY THE HORSE is in the lead followed by BIG JULE – after they are all on BENNY enters from L.

BENNY

(Crosses to R., then back to L.)

You all got your carnations?

(Ad lib "Yes")

Remember, no one will be let in to the game without they got red carnations. It's like a pass word.

HARRY

Okay, but where's the game?

(Exclamations from the mob – NATHAN enters from R.1. BENNY crosses to him)

BENNY

I'll tell you in a minute. Nathan, is it all set? Can I tell the guys that it's at the Biltmore Garage?

NATHAN

Not yet. I got to stall 'em for a while. Joey wants his dough first.

BENNY

But it's eleven o'clock – they won't stick around much longer.

NATHAN

So sue me. I left Nicely at my hotel to wait for the money from Sky. It'll be there.