

VIOLET LIB 2

ACT TWO

SCENE 4

ATRIUM.

VIOLET and DORALEE are chatting.

VIOLET

I don't know if I can spend one more night in the house with that man.

DORALEE

I'm sorry 'bout not helping you and Judy out more with the nights but Dwayne would be way too suspicious.

VIOLET

I just hate leaving Josh alone so much. I can't wait till we nail Hart. Then things are gonna be different around here, 24-7.

DORALEE

24-7. What's that supposed to mean?

VIOLET

I don't know. I just made it up. Shhhhh, here comes Joe.

(JOE walks in and greets the WOMEN.)

JOE

I never thought I'd love getting up and coming to work. If I didn't know better, I'd think someone else was running the office.

VIOLET

Exactly what are you trying to say, Joe?

JOE

Hmmm, let me try again. Good morning, Violet, Doralee, beautiful day, isn't it?

VIOLET

Are you saying someone other than Hart is running the office?

JOE

Violet, what's the matter with you?

VIOLET

Why would anything be the matter? I'm fantastic!

JOE

(not buying it)

If you say so.

VIOLET

Well I just did. I said so. Just said it.

JOE

Doralee, could you give us a second?

DORALEE

'Scuse me, I got an office to run.

(DORALEE slips out.)

VIOLET

I've got work, too.

(JOE stops VIOLET from leaving.)

JOE

What's going on?

VIOLET

Would you stop.

JOE

I know you. Something's wrong ...

VIOLET

I'm telling you, I'm fine.

JOE

Stop pushing me away. Talk to me. Seriously, you can tell me *anything*.

VIOLET

(in one breath, blurting it out)

We've got Hart tied up in his house while we try to prove he's been stealing from the company. We're following the money trail to collect enough evidence to prove he's been cooking the books!

JOE

Not what I was expecting.

VIOLET

Me either.

JOE

You actually kidnapped Hart?

VIOLET

No! We just, we sort of ... yup, we kidnapped Hart. And I'll tell you, if we don't find more evidence on him before Mrs. Hart comes back next week we're screwed.

JOE

I have access to every financial account in this company. I bet I could help you.

VIOLET

Really?

JOE

See what happens when you actually talk to me?

VIOLET

Joe, you're the best.

JOE

I'm the best. Okay, move fast Joe. Violet, have dinner with me. No time to think about it, say yes!

VIOLET

Oh Joe. I think you're a great guy ...

JOE

No, no, no, not the "great guy" speech. Give me one good reason why you won't go out with me. And not some bull about age. C'mon Violet, it's not like I'm not in my thirties.

VIOLET

Oh my God! You're still in your thirties?

JOE

What is it? Really.

VIOLET

I'm a one-man woman. And I had my one man.

JOE

He's been gone over three years now, hasn't he?

VIOLET

Sometimes it seems like he was just here a moment ago, sometimes it seems like he's been gone a lifetime.