

JENNIE

She thinks Mussolini is gonna want us back and take us.

ADA

Mine thinks the Americans aren't gonna let us back in.
What's takin' her so long with those drinks?

JENNIE

She probably got lost. How'd she ever get this far?

ADA

She's good. She's one of the best.

JENNIE

Not if she keeps drinkin' that hooch.

ADA

Ah leave her alone. This is the only time in her whole life she's ever gonna have a chance to swing.

She glances across the empty dance floor; makes a face at the men.

JENNIE

Isn't that Frank over there?

ADA

Maybe.

JENNIE

How come he isn't over here?

ADA

Maybe because he don't talk to me anymore.

JENNIE

How come?

ADA

I'm not sure. Maybe because I broke up with him.

JENNIE

No!

ADA

Yeah.

JENNIE

Ada! Why?

ADA

He wants in and I won't let him.

JENNIE

What if he was your only chance?

ADA

There's plenty of other guys.

JENNIE

Yeah, but you're old.

ADA

I'm 24!

JENNIE

My point exactly!

ADA

Once you let them in it's all over. Then nobody wants you!

JENNIE

Yeah, but—

ADA

I don't want him! He don't know me!

JENNIE

What's to know?

ADA

Me! Who I really am!

JENNIE

What good will that do him? (Gesturing to the dance floor) Let's just dance without them! (Falls off her shoes) Ow!

ADA

They'll think we're *all* queer! I am not dancin' with you!

JENNIE

All this good music is goin' to waste. I feel sorry for the band. What if they think we don't like them or somethin'. Maybe we could get them to dance with us!

ADA

Except then there wouldn't be no music. Those boys over there better get over here if they know what's good for 'em.

JENNIE

I should probably not dance anyway. I don't wanna strain nothin'.

ADA

Nothin' more, you mean. The one in the middle is lookin' at you.

JENNIE

He has a very suspicious rash. I just don't find that attractive!

ADA

Well you better! Make an effort. They're our ticket to the dancefloor, got it?

JENNIE

You really think I don't know that? My Ma's been shovin' me at the boys for years. She says she's gonna fix me! Well take it from me, boys don't fix nothin'!

ADA

I toldja—they're talkin'!

JENNIE

What are they sayin' exactly?

ADA

It doesn't matter! Listen to me! It gets on all of us! *Stop! Do not be the way you are!* Once this whole thing is over, we gotta go home! We gotta survive back in our neighborhoods! Don't you wanna survive?

JENNIE

I want to win, Ada.

ADA

So do I. Which is why you gotta behave.

JENNIE

Everybody is always tellin' me how to behave.

BEAT

...You really don't want Frank anymore? I thought you two were an item.

ADA

Every time I do bad he yells at me and every time I do good he yells at me and whenever I do better than him he don't say a word. Is that love?

JENNIE

I have no idea. What does *he* say?

ADA

All he says is Let me in! He says, It's a gift!

JENNIE

Well, I mean, if it's free... Don't you want to take it?

ADA

I don't know! Yes! But I can't. So no. But I don't know how much longer I can hold out. What's gonna happen to me? I gotta stay away from him!

JENNIE

He has cute quads.

ADA

One mistake, and no Olympics. No parties, no life. No nothin'.

JENNIE

It's not fair. You're better than him.

ADA

I *know*.

JENNIE

This is how come I don't find men attractive.

MARY returns with 3 cups. Raises them in the air.

MARY

Here's to losin'!

They grab their drinks from her and gulp.

JENNIE

Shut up, Mary!

ADA

We are not goin' to lose!

MARY

Might as well face the truth now, so you can get used to it.

ADA

You don't know that.

JENNIE

You don't know anythin'!

ADA

You think like that it'll happen!

JENNIE

I did not go through all that trainin' so I can lose!

MARY

You probably did. (*beat*) At least we got to go to the beauty parlor.