

MISSY

I agree.

SUZY

That sounds fair.

MISSY*(sotto voce to Suzy)*

I'm just dying to find out.

SUZY*(sotto voce to Missy)*

She never tells us anything.

*SUZY and MISSY look toward CINDY LOU with big smiles.***CINDY LOU**

Fine. You'll find out soon enough.

*SUZY and MISSY react, thrilled they're going to get the gossip straight from the source.**CINDY LOU takes a mic down right.**She speaks back toward the girls, who have gathered down left.*

After Missy's wedding last year, Coach and I started seeing each other every once in a while. And then we started seeing each other every day. It got pretty hot and heavy for a while.

(to Coach Warner)

Right Coach?

(back to the girls)

There was even a time I thought he was going to propose to me. Can you imagine? Me as Mrs. Coach?

(out to the audience)

Whatever happens, I don't want to end up unhappy like Mrs. Varney. And I have zero interest in becoming some boring housewife raising kids for a living.

(turns to Suzy)

No offense, Suzy.

SUZY

That's okay. You can't help it.

CINDY LOU

Don't get me wrong— I loved all the attention Coach gave me. I was really falling for the guy. But one day it all changed. He stopped visiting me at work, he stopped calling every night, he just... stopped. I was surprised. This had never happened to me before. I had never, ever, in my entire life, been...

*CINDY LOU looks to the others, searching for the word***BETTY JEAN, MISSY & SUZY**

Dumped.

SONG #9: BUILD ME UP BUTTERCUP

CINDY LOU

Yeah. Dumped.

CINDY LOU moves her mic facing Coach Warner.

And so Coach, I just have to know. What the hell happened?

stop

(singing)

WHY DO YOU BUILD ME UP
 BUTTERCUP, BABY
 JUST TO LET ME DOWN
 AND MESS ME AROUND?
 AND THEN WORST OF ALL
 YOU NEVER CALL, BABY
 WHEN YOU SAY YOU WILL
 BUT I LOVE YOU STILL
 I NEED YOU
 MORE THAN ANYONE, DARLIN'
 YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE FROM THE START
 SO BUILD ME UP
 BUTTERCUP
 DON'T BREAK MY HEART!

"I'LL BE OVER AT TEN"
 YOU TOLD ME TIME AND AGAIN
 BUT YOU'RE LATE
 I WAIT AROUND AND THEN

I WENT TO THE DOOR
 I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE
 IT'S NOT YOU
 YOU LET ME DOWN AGAIN

BABY, BABY
 TRY TO FIND
 A LITTLE TIME AND
 I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY
 I'LL BE HOME
 I'LL BE BESIDE THE PHONE
 WAITING FOR YOU!
 OOOH!

WHY DO YOU BUILD ME UP
 BUTTERCUP, BABY

BJ, M & S

BUILD ME UP
 BUTTERCUP, BABY
 LET ME DOWN

WORST OF ALL
 NEVER CALL, BABY
 SAY YOU WILL

SHE NEEDS YOU

AAH
 BUILD ME UP
 BUTTERCUP
 DON'T BREAK HER HEART!

I WAIT AROUND AND THEN
 BAH-DAH-DAH!

YOU LET ME DOWN AGAIN
 HEY, HEY, HEY

HEY, HEY, HEY

HEY, HEY, HEY

WAITING FOR YOU!
 OOOH!

BUILD ME UP
 BUTTERCUP, BABY

CINDY LOU

No, I want to sing more than just at every class reunion or silly retirement party.
(to Miss McPherson)

No offense, Miss McPherson.

BETTY JEAN

That's okay. You can't help it.

CINDY LOU

Now that Coach Warner has shown his true colors, it's the perfect time for a quick exit. I just feel like there's something really big waiting for me out there.

BETTY JEAN

I knew it! I knew something was brewing in that head of yours.

CINDY LOU crosses to MISSY.

CINDY LOU

Missy, you have your new life with Mr. Lee, with a beautiful mini Mr. Lee on the way.

MISSY pats her tummy, giggling.

CINDY LOU crosses to SUZY.

Suzy, you have your family, your kids, your mother-in-law.

SUZY laugh-giggle-cries a bit.

SUZY

(cry-sobbing again)

Is she still here?

CINDY LOU crosses back to BETTY JEAN.

CINDY LOU

And Betty Jean...

BETTY JEAN

Yeah? What have I got?

CINDY LOU

Who knows?

(sincerely)

But when you find it, it's going to be all yours. I need to go out to find what's going to be all mine. I feel like my life is stuck in a big circle, going 'round and 'round. I've gotta move forward.

BETTY JEAN

But you can move forward right here.

CINDY LOU

I already booked my ticket.

BETTY JEAN, MISSY & SUZY

(ad-libs)

What? Huh? No! Etc.

CINDY LOU

I'm headed to New York next week.

Start

BETTY JEAN

Just when I needed you most, Cindy Lou. Dammit.

MISSY

(admonishing quietly)

Language, Betty Jean.

CINDY LOU

You know I have to see if I can make it in the music business.

(looking toward Coach Warner)

Perhaps find a real boyfriend along the way, ya know?

(back to the girls)

This is something I have to do for myself. I don't want to live a life of "what-ifs" and regrets.

Stop

BETTY JEAN

Well, the farewell signs are already up, so your timing is perfect.

SONG #11: TOGETHER FOREVER: REACH OUT (I'LL BE THERE)/SOMEDAY WE'LL BE TOGETHER

MISSY

I can't believe this is happening.

SUZY

The group is breaking up. Again.

The girls sing to CINDY LOU.

BETTY JEAN

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU CAN'T GO ON
'CAUSE ALL OF YOUR HOPE IS GONE

MISSY

AND YOUR LIFE IS FILLED WITH CONFUSION

SUZY

AND HAPPINESS IS JUST AN ILLUSION

BETTY JEAN

AND YOUR WORLD AROUND IS TUMBLIN' DOWN
DARLING, REACH OUT
REACH OUT
OH, REACH OUT
WE'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE LOVE YOU NEED
I'LL BE THERE
YOU CAN ALWAYS DEPEND ON ME

MISSY & SUZY

REACH OUT
REACH OUT
REACH OUT

I'LL BE THERE

The tempo picks up as CINDY LOU sings to BETTY JEAN.

CINDY LOU

I CAN TELL THE WAY YOU HANG YOUR HEAD
YOU'RE WITHOUT LOVE, NOW YOU'RE AFRAID

MISSY & SUZY

YEAH—

BETTY JEAN

YEAH—