

CINDY LOU

Just what everyone wants for their retirement party: A big pile of work while other people talk about themselves.

SUZY

I think a “Wonderettes check-in” sounds like fun, Missy. Why don’t you go first?

MISSY

Well, I didn’t mean for me to go first...!

BETTY JEAN

I’m pretty sure that’s exactly what you meant.

CINDY LOU

Easy peasy, Missy. You’re up.

Start

MISSY

Okay, okay. Well, I’m married now, of course, to the best teacher this school has ever had.

(rushing to Miss McPherson)

Except you, Miss McPherson. You’re really a wonderful teacher. Even with all of your various extra curricular activities...

MISSY mimes drinking as BETTY JEAN did earlier.

(to the others)

It’s just that my husband swept me off my feet, lit a fire in my soul, and life has been marvelous ever since.

SUZY

Where is he, Missy?

MISSY

Right there.

MISSY points to Mr. Lee.

BETTY JEAN, CINDY LOU & SUZY

Hello, Mr. Lee.

MISSY

Hello, Mr. Lee.

(awkwardly suggestive)

It’s me, Mrs. Lee.

(gesturing & growling panther-like)

Rowr.

BETTY JEAN

Is anyone else feeling incredibly uncomfortable right now?

MISSY

Oh stop. I’m just being silly.

BETTY JEAN

Is that what you do at home?

MISSY

What we do at home is none of your beeswax.

BETTY JEAN

You just made it everybody's beeswax.

MISSY

Well you should just mind your own, then. And if you're ready for my real check-in, I do have some news for everyone.

**Following three lines spoken in quick succession.*

***CINDY LOU**

Well, spill the beans, little Missy.

***BETTY JEAN**

It's your game. Say what you gotta say.

***SUZY**

Oh my goodness! What's your news?

MISSY

Right after we got married last year, Bill and I started house hunting over by the lake, near Nana's place. We found a cute little cottage with a picket fence just perfect for roaring fires and romantic evenings.

(panther-growling at Mr. Lee)

Rowr.

BETTY JEAN and CINDY LOU cover their eyes dramatically.

BETTY JEAN

Beeswax!

MISSY

Anyway, we had to put those house plans on hold for a little while. We found a sensible second floor apartment over here next to the school that will work just fine.

SUZY

But Missy, you've been drawing houses with picket fences since kindergarten. Why did you change your mind?

MISSY

We need to save up some money, since next year we have to start a little...

She pats her tummy.

...'college fund.'

The girls squeal and rush around her, almost simultaneously:*

***CINDY LOU**

That's amazing news— congratulations!

***BETTY JEAN**

That's one hell of a check-in!

***SUZY**

I always knew you could do it!

MISSY looks toward Mr. Lee.

MISSY

And there's the baby daddy.

They all move toward Mr. Lee, almost simultaneously.*

***CINDY LOU**

Congratulations, you two!

***BETTY JEAN**

You're finally making her an honest woman!

***SUZY**

I always knew you could do it!

MISSY crosses down toward Mr. Lee.

MISSY

(to Mr. Lee)

You know, a few years ago I could only dream of something like this.

Stop

SONG #5: FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE

This starts as a slow ballad.

(singing, rubato)

FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE
I HAVE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS ME
SOMEONE I'VE NEEDED SO LONG
FOR ONCE, UNAFRAID
I CAN GO WHERE LIFE LEADS ME
AND SOMEHOW I KNOW I'LL BE STRONG
FOR ONCE I CAN TOUCH
WHAT MY HEART USED TO DREAM OF
LONG BEFORE I KNEW
SOMEONE WARM LIKE YOU
WOULD MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE

The song now picks up in tempo, as MISSY revs up to the beat.

The girls move into formation now for backup, with CINDY LOU playing tambourine.

FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE
I HAVE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS ME
SOMEONE I'VE NEEDED SO LONG
FOR ONCE UNAFRAID
I CAN GO WHERE LIFE LEADS ME
AND SOMEHOW KNOW I'LL BE STRONG
FOR ONCE I CAN TOUCH
WHAT MY HEART USED TO DREAM OF
LONG BEFORE I KNEW
OH, SOMEONE WARM LIKE YOU