

# SONG (Conrad and Teen Chorus) "HONESTLY SINCERE"











# SIDE (4) Mrs. MacAfee+Kim

Kim. (continued)

You're what they're whistling at!

It's wonderful to feel
The way a woman feels,
It gives you such a glow
Just to know
You're wearing lipstick and heels.

How lovely to be a woman,
And have one job to do:
To pick out a boy and train him,
And then when you are through,
You've made him the man you want him to be
Life's lovely when you're a woman like me!

As the song ends, we hear MRS. MACAFEE's voice.

MRS. MACAFEE. (entering) Kim, there's a call for you. The operator said she's been trying to get through for nearly three-quarters of an hour!

KIM. Thank you Doris. I'll take it down here.

MRS. MACAFEE. What did you say?

KIM. I said, thank you Doris. There is no need to look so upset. It's modern to call your mother by her first name.

MRS. MACAFEE. And your father?

Kim. I'll call him Harry, naturally. By the way, I think Harry took the news about Hugo and I awfully well, don't you, Doris?

Kim picks up the phone as Mrs. MacAfee leaves.

This is she ... Conrad Birdie is coming here ... to kiss me? (Kim looks around for her mother) Doris? (a bit louder) Mother? (a shout) Mommy!

MRS. MACAFEE comes running back in.

MRS. MACAFEE. Baby, what is it?! What's wrong?!

KIM. It's Conrad Birdie, Mommy. He's coming to Sweet Apple to kiss me goodbye!!

MRS. MACAFEE. That's nice dear. Now just put your head on Mommy's shoulder.

Mrs. MacAfee comforts Kim, then looks up to the sky.

God bless you, Conrad Birdie.



MRS. PETERSON. (calls to heaven) Lou. Where are you, Lou? (to ALBERT) What about Lou?

ALBERT. Well, Mama, Rose thinks, and I agree, that I should give up Almaelou.

Mrs. Peterson staggers.

What's the matter, Mama?

Mrs. Peterson. Nothing's the matter. You killed me, that's all. (looks up) Lou, I'm coming. I'm on my way up.

ALBERT. Look Mama, here's some money. Take a cab home. The subways are too crowded.

MRS. PETERSON. Nothing is too crowded for a mother. Wait a minute, how many blocks is it after all? Only a hundred and seven. I'll walk. (She starts to leave) Enjoy yourself, son. Take care. Wear a heavy coat. And eat a hot lunch ...

MRS. PETERSON exits as Rosie enters from the opposite side of the stage.

Rosie. Abert, I thought you were going to break it to her gently.

ALBERT. Well, as a matter of fact, Rosie, I didn't tell her at all. I mean, she was so upset ...

Rosie. You mean you didn't ...?

POLICEMAN. He's coming! He's coming. Conrad Birdie is coming!

ALBERT. Later, Rosie! Conrad's coming and we can't let him talk to those reporters alone.

Screams and cries fill/the air. Conrad Birdie and his Guardsmen enter surrounded by Kros Reporters, etc. A Reporter starts to take his picture, but Conrad stops him. All action is suspended as Conrad takes a comb from his pocket, combs his pompadour and then signals he is ready to pose. Flash bulbs pop.

#### No. 9

#### "A Healthy, Normal, American Boy"

(Albert, Rosie, Reporters, Adults & Teens)

FIRST REPORTER. Hey, Conrad! How do you feel about going into the Army?

ALBERT and Rosie push their way to the Front.

ALBERT.

(spoken)

How does he feel?
You ask how he feels?
He's much too shy to tell you
So I'll tell you how he feels,

### **PROLOGUE**

No. 1

#### "Overture"

(Girls)

Through a window, we see Conrad Birdie, in shadow, dancing and singing. A group of Teens are staring into the window mesmerized.

GIRLS.

We love you, Conrad, Oh, yes we do. We love you, Conrad,

We love you, Conrad, And we'll be true.

When you're not near us,

We're blue. Oh, Conrad, We love ...

## SCENE ONE

No. 2

### "Opening Curtain"

(Orchestra)

Action changes to the OFFICE OF ALMAELOU MUSIC CORP. ALBERT is talking on the phone.

ALBERT.

(on the phone) ... I know that, sir, but think of the disastrous effect this might have on the morale of the American teenager! ... No, I am not suggesting the boy doesn't want to go into the Army! ... Two weeks from today? ... He'll be there.



Albert hangs up as Rosie briskly enters.

Rosie, thank goodness you've come! This is the end of Almaelou Music Corporation! Conrad Birdie is going into the Army!

ROSIE.

And your faithful secretary is hereby submitting her resignation.

Rosie slaps a letter down on his desk.

ALBERT.

Hah?

ROSIE.

I just dropped in to say goodbye, Albert.

ALBERT.

Rosie, you can't! Not today of all days!

ALBERT frantically looks through his desk drawers.

ALBERT. My pills, where are my pills ... the little white ones I take when I'm overwrought.

Roise. Here.

ALBERT. Not so much. Break it in half.

Rosie. You're thirty-three years old, Albert. You can take a whole aspirin.

Albert takes the aspirin as Rosie starts pouring him a glass of water.

My mind is made up. I've been with Almaelou eight years now and for what? A five-dollar raise in 1954. I want something more than that.

ALBERT. Rosie, if you're referring to anything of a more permanent nature between you and me, I'm not ready for it. And if it's part of the company you're after, the answer is no to that too. Almaelou is me, Mama, and Lou ... And any change in it would kill that wonderful woman.

Rosie. Nothing could kill your mother, Albert. Except maybe a silver bullet!

ALBERT. And I won't drop poor old Lou either. He loved you, Rose!

Rosie. I loved Lou, too, but he died six years ago and, besides, he was a wire-haired terrier. Anyhow, I don't want a part of the company. This is something much more important...

ALBERT. Rosie, if you're going to discuss what I think you're going to discuss, I'm in no mood to discuss it.

Rosie. There's nothing to discuss, Albert. Conrad Birdie's going in the Army; I've quit. There's nothing you can do but give up the business and go back to college and get your ...

Rosie, I'm up to my ears in debt! Conrad's got a fifty-thousand dollar guarantee which I can't pay. And I've just taken a severe overdose of aspirin ...

No. 3

ALBERT.

#### "An English Teacher"

(Rosie)

Rosie. Will you listen to me, Albert ... I'm serious!

(sung) His going in the Army
Is the best thing he could do!
Now you're free to start to do
What you wanted to,
Albert! Albert! Al – bert!