

Copacabana

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INT. COPACABANA - BAR - DAY

TONY tends the bar. LOLA, head dancer at the Copacabana, walks up, intent in her eyes.

LOLA
How would you feel about a
vacation?

Tony's out of it, mindlessly scrubbing the grime out of a crystal clear glass.

Noticing, Lola clears her throat.

LOLA (CONT'D)
I said 'how would you feel about a
vacation?'

Tony rolls his eyes. Lola catches his eye.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Just a small one.

TONY
We don't have the dough, nor the
time for a vacation.

Lola turns out to the sea of people.

TONY (CONT'D)
What do you want a vacation for?
We're living the dream.

LOLA
We're living your dream, Tony.

TONY
Is this about you wanting to be the
next Cyd Charisse?

LOLA
Just because you're a dead hoofer,
doesn't mean I don't have a shot.

TONY
I ain't saying that I think you're
swell at cutting a rug. Would you
be my head dancer if you weren't?
All I'm saying is to maybe settle,
Fred Astaire ain't coming to the
Copacabana any time soon.

LOLA
Says who? You?

Lola reaches over the bar, grabbing a bottle of gin, taking a big swig and wiping the remanence off her lips.

Lola storms off. Disappearing on the dance floor.

Tony returns to scrubbing his glass.

TONY
You just had to choose the crazy
broad, didn't ya Tony.

CUT TO:

INT. COPACABANNA - BACKSTAGE - LATER

Sandra and Carolyn are putting on finishing touches before they perform.

SANDRA
What do you think of Tony?

CAROLYN
I don't think of Tony.

Sandra checks around backstage, to make sure no one can hear-

CAROLYN (CONT'D)
Don't worry, these bimbos are so
dense they wouldn't even know if
you were talking about *them*.

SANDRA
Well I don't know if I'd say that,
but... And I think Tony's pretty
swell.

CAROLYN
For a bartender.

SANDRA
He's been nothing but nice...
especially to me.

CAROLYN
Well that's not you, San, that's
his job. And Tony's job has
everything to do with Lola.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)
If she truly wants to be a star
like she blabbers on about, then
she needs to find a man who can
make her a star.

(MORE)

CAROLYN (CONT'D)
Or at the very least, move her far
away from here. Ain't nobody gonna
be a star here!

SANDRA
Yeah, but they seem so in love.

CAROLYN
Love-schmove. Some things are more
important. Like a big house, and a
nice family or being famous.

SANDRA
But--

CAROLYN
But nothin'. It's just a fact. We
all have to come to terms with it.
It's the only way to survive in
this world.

Carolyn stands up, picks up her extravagant blue headdress,
carefully places it on her head. Gives herself one more look
in the mirror.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)
It's just a fact.

BACK TO:

INT. COPACABANNA - BAR - MOMENTS LATER

RICO PEREZ, a well dressed man, sits at the bar. Rico looks
out to the dance floor, watching Lola dance.

RICO
Who's the dame?

TONY
You have to be more specific.

RICO
The one shaking her tail feather on
the dance floor.

Tony looks up at Rico.

TONY
What's ya name, pal?

RICO
Rico.

Rico extends his hand to shake Tony's.

RICO (CONT'D)
Rico Perez.

They shake hands.

TONY
So, Rico, what brings you to Miami?

RICO
The reason we all come to Miami.
The food, the music...the women.

TONY
I see.

RICO
Also I'm out on business.

TONY
Oh, yeah? What kind?

RICO
The kind that will make me a very
rich man.

TONY
And what's that?

RICO
You watch any movies, uh...

TONY
Tony.

RICO
Tony. I like that name, Tony. You
watch any movies, Tony?

TONY
I would say I do.

RICO
Who's your favorite actor, Tony?
Wait- let me guess. Bogart, am I
right?

TONY
I'd say Humphrey Bogart is a pretty
swell actor, sure.

RICO
Well what if I said I worked for
the company that got Humphrey
Bogart his big start?

TONY
I'd probably say that's a bunch of
phooey.

RICO
Oh, but it's true my friend.

TONY
And I say to you, that's a bunch of
phooey.

RICO
Tony, what would I get out of lying
to you.

TONY
I can't possibly imagine. Okay
mister talent man, what'll ya have?

RICO
I'll have a Bees Knees--straight
up.

TONY
So why you in Miami again? Gonna
make someone a star?

RICO
Always a possibility. And your
place here is giving me some neat
ideas.

TONY
We're filled with people who wanna
be stars.

RICO
That girl could be it.

TONY
Which girl?
(knowing who he means)

RICO
The sex kitten with the pegs.

TONY
Lola?

RICO
Lola. What a swell name.

TONY
Yeah.

RICO
Introduce us.

TONY
Come again?

RICO
Introduce us. She's a swell girl.
I'm a swell guy.

TONY
Can't do that. Against store
policy.

RICO
But is it against policy to not
make sure the customer gets what he
wants?

TONY
I hear ya', Rico, but I can't break
the rules. Besides, I just met ya'.

RICO
Looks like you'll have to trust me.

TONY
I can't do that, either.

RICO
Then I guess I will take care of
this myself.

CUT TO:

INT. COPACABANNA - DANCEFLOOR - CONTINUOUS

The dance floor is heel-to-heel, packed, with people. Rico
gets his ring knocked off his finger in the crowd. The ring
falls and gets lost among the people.

RICO
Damn.

Rico scours the ground for his family ring.

RICO (CONT'D)
Where is that damn thing?

LOLA
I'm assuming this is yours.

RICO
Yes, yes, it is.

Rico gets off the ground. As Rico gets up, Lola tries on the ring.

RICO (CONT'D)
But I have to say it does look great on you.

LOLA
I might just keep it.

Lola tosses Rico back his ring.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Might wanna be more careful, folks 'round here would kill for jewelry that snazzy.

RICO
Hey...You're that dancer.
(acting as if he doesn't know exactly who she is.)

LOLA
Lola.

RICO
You're not into snazzy?

LOLA
Nah. I'm an honest girl.

Lola walks off.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Besides, glitz like that has never been my style.

Rico chases after her.

RICO
What is your style then?

All of a sudden--

A trumpet sounds out, the crowd hushes as the band begins to play.

Lola smiles at Rico as she sways her hips back and fourth.
Lola looks Rico up and down with hungry eyes.

RICO (CONT'D)
What was that?

LOLA
You asked what my style was? This
is it.

INT. COPACABANNA - DANCEFLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Sandra and Carolyn are both dancing arm-in-arm with a sailor next to each other.

Sandra and Carolyn see Lola passionately dancing in front of Rico along with Tony keeps a watchful eye on them while toweling down the bar top.

Sandra motions towards Lola, Rico and Tony and then makes an exasperated face.

SANDRA
Look at Lola! She's knockin' it
out!

CAROLYN
And for the richest man in the
room.

SANDRA
But what about Tony? I mean look at
him! Maybe I should go help him
clean the bar.

CAROLYN
Can it!

Sandra and Carolyn watch a customer try to get Tony's attention, but he is still watching Lola and Rico.

INT. COPACABANNA - DANCEFLOOR - CONTINUOUS

RICO
How long ya' been here?

LOLA
What's it to you?

RICO
A woman with your talent should be
in New York, right now. Not...*here*.
With your name in flashing lights.

LOLA
(laughing) And are you the
man to take me wherever
that is? You gonna' put
my name in lights?

RICO
I just might.

LOLA
And in return?

RICO
In return? Who says I want
something in return?

LOLA
You're a man, so common sense tells
me there's a catch.

RICO
Don't worry about it. I can afford
to have fun. Besides, your gams
speak volumes.

The music ends and Lola walks off. But before she can get too
far, Rico grabs her and spins her back around.

RICO (CONT'D)
One more thing.

Rico kisses Lola, running his hands through her hair.

TONY (O.C.)
Hey eager beaver! What's going on
over here?

Lola pulls away (somewhat reluctantly) to see Tony hopping
over the bar and storming over to where they are.

TONY (CONT'D)
Who do you think you are coming
into my joint and getting handsy
with my girl?

RICO
Your girl?

Rico looks Lola up and down.

RICO (CONT'D)
I don't see your name on her.

TONY
I'm warning ya' fathead! Stay away
from my doll. Or else.

RICO
Or else what?

Rico gets up, getting in Tony's face.

Suddenly--

Tony breaks a chair on Rico. Rico falls.

Lola kneels and places her hand on Rico's shoulder.

LOLA
Are you alright?

TONY
Why are you asking if he's alright?

Tony stomps closer to Rico, but before he can finish him,
Lola gets in his way.

LOLA
Tony! What are you doing?

TONY
Out of my way, Lo.