

STEAL AWAY

GEORGIA
You mean Ella and God.

The LAMP OPERATOR does an urgent Rosary as Ella approaches.

ELLA
Congo Blue during a warm ballad,
Mr. Kendall?

KENDALL
I- I was going for irony.

ELLA
Irony is for conflicted poets. We
looked like ghouls out there! As I
warned your predecessor, stick to
the script!

MAGGIE
It's dictatorship.

BENNIE
It's management.

VOICE FROM THE RAFTERS
Tyranny! Tyranny is what it is!

Ella glowers at the rafters. As they reach the exit, she spots the
cowering owner.

"DRUCKER"
5/23/22

START —————> ELLA
Mr. Drucker!!

DRUCKER
(scampers over)
M-Miss Sheppard.

ELLA
The limelights sat unemployed all
night.

DRUCKER
I-I swapped them for gas lamps; I
thought them sufficiently bright.

ELLA
Your thought life is not my concern;
the limelights punch up our flesh
tones. We've been over this.

DRUCKER
F-forgive me. Regulations require
hiring a man for each unit. This
recession is killing us --

ELLA
Bad call.

DRUCKER
I-I see that now.

ELLA
We fill this house twice daily...

DRUCKER
Oh God, i-it won't happen again.

ELLA
It won't. *Our patronage is withdrawn.*

END

Drucker falls to pieces. Now FULLY DISGUISED, the Jubilees exit the building into --

EXT. CONCERT HALL

-- JUBILEEMANIA. The streets are in hysterics as fans clamor to glimpse and touch their idols. Paparazzi swarm. Lovestruck men flash diamonds. Casanovas croon wedding proposals from treetops. Cat-clawing women draw blood fighting their way to the stage door.

As the singers press INCOGNITO through the chaos, NEWSBOYS shout:

NEWSBOYS
JUBILEE HALL A NO-SHOW AGAIN!
IS POSH CHOIR BILKING DONORS TO
BANKROLL LAVISH LIFESTYLES?

The allegations alarm us. Then suddenly --

CROWD
IT'S THEM!

-- fans recognize the choir and STAMPEDE. Panicked, they race for their lives to a FLEET OF LUXURY COACHES, where White shouts --

WHITE
GET IN! GET IN!

The fans CLOSE IN. Valets furiously shove the choir into the coaches. Just as the crowd reaches them, the coaches PEEL AWAY and BOLT INTO THE CLEAR.

INT. GRAND BALLROOM - JUBILEE HALL FUNDRAISER - THAT NIGHT

A GLITTERING GRAND BALL with liquor, laughter and live Viennese waltzes. Banners everywhere depict Jubilee Hall. Aristocrats and royalty abound. The exquisitely mannered Jubilees, now darlings of high society, kiss and greet nobles in courtly Victorian fashion.