

ALBERT

(Quickly closing front door)

Not until I've had my say, Rose. I just want to let you know that thanks to Mamma's quick thinking, the kiss will take place after all. Tomorrow morning at the railroad station just before Conrad leaves...

(Very satisfied with HIMSELF)

...So it looks like you've failed, Rose. As anyone must fail who tries to buck Al Peterson, one of the giants, the titans, one of the King Kongs of the music industry...

(Music comes up as ALBERT continues boasting about what a world leader HE is, in pantomime, and ROSIE just looks at HIM as SHE sings...)

/23/ "WHAT DID I EVER SEE IN HIM?" - REPRISE

ROSIE

WHAT DID I EVER SEE IN HIM?
HOW COULD I EVER THINK THAT HE WAS NICE?
TAKE IT FROM ME I'VE PAID AN AWFUL PRICE!
IT WAS ROUGH,
FROM THE START,
BROKEN DATES, BROKEN NAILS, BROKEN HEART...

ALBERT

(Aloud)

...An Empire builder! A Colosseus!

(And ROSIE has had enough)

ROSIE

Out of my way...you defrocked English teacher!
(And SHE lets HIM have it in the arm with a suitcase. "Ouch!" he yells as ROSIE strikes out the door)

WHAT DID I EVER SEE...
IN HIM!

(ROSIE hurries left as ALBERT limps after HER and bellows off L through window)

ALBERT

Rosie, come back! Do you hear me? This is King Kong calling!
Rosie! Rosie, I need you. Rosie, please come back!
Rosie! ...

(As MacAFEEs and RANDOLPH enter from R, ALBERT'S tone immediately changes)

START!

ALBERT (Continued)

...And I don't care how you plead and beg, Miss Alvarez, you're through here at Almaelou! Not only do I accept your resignation, but furthermore you're fired. And just remember one more thing. Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never harm me. You big rat.

(As HE starts back from window)

Sorry to do this in front of you, folks, but I've had to let Miss Alvarez go.

(Phone rings)

I'll get that.

END!

MR. MacAFEE

Probably Hong Kong again.

ALBERT

(Picking up phone)

Hello, this is Albert Peterson speaking! I'm sorry, Mr. Lewis, but Miss Rose Alvarez is no longer with us. That's right...

(Through the last, KIM, clutching a heavy suitcase, has appeared at the head of the stairs. The following is interspersed as SHE starts down and ALBERT continues on the phone in pantomime)

KIM

...Miss Alvarez! Wait for me! I'm coming!

MR. MacAFEE

And where do you think you're going, young lady?

KIM

With Rosie! To drain deep the dregs and sip full hearty the brimming cup. To live!

MR. MacAFEE

Upstairs.

KIM

But Daddy...

MR. MacAFEE

Upstairs.

(Then bursting out)

...Do you hear me? I said...

(Controlled again)

Upstairs.

KIM

Miss Alvarez was right! You're all the same. From puberty to Mussolini...