

ACT IIScene 6

PEGGY'S DRESSING ROOM. PEGGY
alone as DOROTHY, her right leg
in a cast, is wheeled on by PAT.

DOROTHY

They said I'd find you here.

PEGGY

Miss Brock....

DOROTHY

Pat, leave us alone.

PAT

Is this the time for this, Dorothy? They've just called
half-hour.

DOROTHY

I've got some things to say to Miss Sawyer.

(PAT goes. MUSIC out)

So you're going to take my place.

PEGGY

I'm sorry, I know how tough it must be.

DOROTHY

Do you? I'm not sure. When I started for the theatre this
afternoon, I wanted to tear your heart out. I wanted to hate
you, I wanted to see you fail. You, singing my songs, wearing my
costumes, playing my role! But sitting there in that theatre and
watching you rehearse, I found I couldn't hate you....Because
you're good. Maybe even better than I would have been. The
public wants youth, freshness, beauty, and Peggy, that's what
you've got. Only I'm getting something too. For ten years the
theatre has kept me away from the only thing I've ever wanted.
And it was a broken ankle that finally made me realize it. Pat
Denning and I were married this morning!

PEGGY

Oh, Miss Brock!

DOROTHY

I have only one last wish for you, my dear. Get out there and be
so swell you'll make me hate you. Sawyer, one more thing, I hope
you won't mind, but it's about the next to closing number.
You've got to take it easy, let the audience come to you. Would
you let me show you what I mean?

(MUSIC starts)