

ACT ONE
Scene 3

As lights come up, we see URSULA MERKLE, a dark-haired, hyper-enthusiastic young lady of about fifteen, sitting in a window DL talking excitedly on the phone.

START!

URSULA

...Kim MacAfee, what do you mean you're resigning from the Fan Club! I mean just because Hugo Peabody gave you his pin doesn't mean you have to retire from all social life! Going steady is very important but there are some things more important than very important and the Conrad Birdie Fan Club is one of them.

(In event of a technical problem and MacAFEE house is not in DS position, SHE may add:)
I mean, after all, where else can we girls gather together to worship that wonderful creature? I mean, do you realize what you'd be giving up, Kim?

(The MacAFEE HOUSE has moved DS, the scrim is up and we see KIM UR in HER upstairs bedroom. House is a two-story affair, bedroom upstairs, combination family room and kitchen downstairs. KIM is a month or two older than URSULA, very pretty, quite self-possessed)

KIM

(Into phone)
I'm sorry, Ursula, but my mind's made up. Of course, I'll still play his records, but things like the Pledge and the Conrad Birdie Scream are past me know.

URSULA

You're giving up the scream? You mean when Conrad Birdie sings, on television, you're not going to go AAAAAAAA!
(Tragically)
....Oh, Kim!

(Downstairs, MRS. MacAFEE has crossed L and lifted the telephone through the last of above. SHE now puts it down and calls upstairs)

MRS. MacAFEE

Kim Dear, would you please get off the phone. I've got some calls to make.

KIM
(Calling down to HER)
All right, Mother!
(Then back into phone)
....Sorry, Ursula, I've got to hang up. You'll explain
everything to the other kids, won't you?

URSULA
I suppose I'll have to. 'Bye, Kim....
(SHE hangs up. KIM hangs up.
URSULA leans out window)
...Kim, are you sure? I mean after all! I mean really, Kim,
are you absolutely sure?

KIM
(Also leaning. THEY evidently live
right next door to each other)
Positive. After all, I'm fifteen years old and it's time I
settled down.

(Through the course of following song,
KIM puts on jeans, huge sweater, socks
and baseball cap)

epd!

6 "HOW LOVELY TO BE A WOMAN"

KIM
WHEN YOU'RE A SKINNY CHILD OF FOURTEEN
WIRED WITH BRACES FROM EAR TO EAR,
YOU DOUBT THAT YOU COULD EVER BE APPEALING.

THEN HALLELUJAH! YOU ARE FIFTEEN
AND THE BRACES DISAPPEAR
AND YOUR SKIN IS SMOOTH AND CLEAR
AND YOU HAVE THAT HAPPY, GROWN-UP, FEMALE FEELING!

HOW LOVELY TO BE A WOMAN!
THE WAIT WAS WELL WORTH WHILE,
HOW LOVELY TO WEAR MASCARA,
AND SMILE A WOMAN'S SMILE.

HOW LOVELY TO HAVE A FIGURE
THAT'S ROUND INSTEAD OF FLAT,
WHenever YOU HEAR BOYS WHISTLE
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