

Butterfield 8

FADE IN:

INT. BAR – NIGHT

LIGGETT sits drinking. GLORIA enters and sits next to him.

GLORIA
May Yale go bankrupt.

LIGGETT
That'll take awhile.

They drink.

LIGGETT
We didn't talk much last night, did we?

GLORIA
Hardly. But be grateful for small favors.

LIGGETT
I'm sorry about the money.

GLORIA
It's forgotten.

LIGGETT
Hey, you're with me, Kid. Remember?

GLORIA
By choice, only.

LIGGETT
You're all alike, aren't you. Playing tough.

GLORIA
I'm not like anyone. I'm me.

LIGGETT
Oh, that's right. I shouldn't knock it, should I?
You know, last night you were great company.
I've spent a little time around and about....

GLORIA

I didn't ask for your credits last night.
I don't need them now.

LIGGETT

Oh, but you're something different.....

GLORIA

Sure, I got the world by the tail.

LIGGETT

That's what I wanted to talk to you about.
What do you want?

GLORIA

Just what I'm getting.

LIGGETT

Oh, come on, Doll Face.

GLORIA

You must go to some very bad plays.

LIGGETT

OK. Gloria. Now look. You have a price.
We all have. And I can go pretty high. So
hold out for what you can get. You can make
it pretty big. On the other hand, if you try for
too much, you can end up with nothing.

GLORIA

Good night.

LIGGETT

You've got a great hand.

He holds her hand tight. She fights to get away, digging her heel into his instep while trying not to be obvious about it. He finally releases her.

LIGGETT

Go ahead. Rub your wrist. I know it hurts.

GLORIA

Not if it killed me.

LIGGETT

I want to take you in my arms and carry you right out of here.

GLORIA

That was a lesson, Pal, not a treatment.

LIGGETT

I can give you all the money you want. Think. An apartment as big as you want. Charge accounts.

GLORIA

Mr. Liggett. Put your assets away. You don't have enough.

LIGGETT

Try me.

GLORIA

You couldn't match what I've already turned down. A hundred and eighty foot yacht in the French Riviera. Van Goghs in every room. Genuine type Van Goghs. Paid for by this man with pocket money. Annuities for life. Jewelry.

LIGGETT

You'd turn this down?

GLORIA

Flatly.

LIGGETT

Why?

GLORIA

I earn my living modeling clothes like this.

LIGGETT

Oh, I wish I had a tape recorder.....

GLORIA

Command performances leave me quite cold. I've had more fun in the back seat of a '39 Ford than I could ever have in the vault of the Chase National bank.

LIGGETT

Now I get it. You pick the man. He doesn't pick you.

GLORIA

Finally! Why I'm not teaching logic at Columbia, I'll never know.

LIGGETT

One moment. Post-graduate course. You also drop the man when you want.

GLORIA

And without a parachute.

LIGGETT

Oh, I'm with you, Kid. And very, very grateful to be up there with the troops.

GLORIA

That's the first nice thing you've said since I met you. Drink up before you're too busy to reach for it.

LIGGETT

And then it's gone, gone, gone.....

GLORIA

Slowly, Friend. I have work to do.

LIGGETT

Namely?

GLORIA

I have three elegant bistros where I'm obliged to be photographed in this dress. Besides, you'll enjoy seeing my good side first. This time let's take my car.

LIGGETT

You mean the one with that crazy back seat?

GLORIA

The same.

They exit together.