

Side A

Nickie, Helene, Charity 1

CHARITY

He made a grab for me but all he got was my handbag and I fell in...

HELENE

Oh, sure.

CHARITY

... he started to come in after me but he didn't because of his bad back, which he received in the army...

HELENE

Honey -- didn't you leave a tiny little detail out of that story?

CHARITY

Like what?

HELENE

Like there ain't one word of truth in it.

(Nickie enters)

NICKIE

Hello, men.

HELENE

Hey, Nickie, did you hear about Charity and her new boyfriend? They're gonna be married!

NICKIE

Honey... all the luck in the world!

HELENE

But... he stole her money and pushed her in the lake.

NICKIE

He wasn't for you.

CHARITY

I bet Charlie is out there right this minute. With a perfectly logical explanation. You'll see.

NICKIE

Aw, baby, look -- you know that I, Nickie Pignatellie, does not like to say harsh or cruel things... Despite the fact that I may have spent a few quiet years in an upstate government hotel, I am still warm, kindhearted, and basically sincere.

(to Helene)

True?

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HELENE

True.

NICKIE

True. So as a friend, someone who cares and loves you, I feel I owe ya this ... you're a stupid broad! Your big problem is you run your heart like a hotel -- you got guys checkin' in and out all the time.

CHARITY

But this time it's different. Every time I say to him, "I love you," he always says ... "Ditto". Does that sound like a man who would push a girl in the lake for two hundred bucks?

NICKIE

Right.

HELENE

Ditto.

CHARITY

He'll come tonight, like he's come every night for the last two months, with a gardenia in his lapel and a cigarette dangling from his lips.

HELENE

And a pound and a half of Vaseline in his hair.

NICKIE

Ah, bet that's why he never wore a hat. It kept sliding off his head.

CHARITY

He will be here tonight. I know it. He will. He will. He will.

NICKIE

He won't.

CHARITY

I know he won't.

(in tears)

Oh, Nickie, I'm the biggest pushover that ever lived.