

Side D

Vittorio, Charity 2

VIDAL

You're a funny girl.

CHARITY

Yeah? Is that good or bad?

VIDAL

It's good, very good.

CHARITY

No kidding? Hey, keep talking.

VIDAL

You know, I just realized. I don't know a thing about you.

CHARITY

Oh, I could tell you everything about me. Who I am and what I do but it would be a waste of time 'cause I'm gonna lie.

VIDAL

Why would you lie?

CHARITY

Because I want to impress you and if I told you what I really did you wouldn't be very impressed.

VIDAL

Let me be the judge of that. What do you do?

CHARITY

I'm a dance hall hostess.

VIDAL

... Oh.

CHARITY

You see. You shoulda let me lie. I was gonna be an Assistant Dental Technician.

VIDAL

That doesn't sound very impressive.

CHARITY

It is to a dance hall hostess.

VIDAL

You're the one who doesn't seem very impressed. Why did you ever take a job like that?

CHARITY

I don't know. Fickle finger of fate, I guess.

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VIDAL

What?

CHARITY

Fickle finger of fate. Don't you know what that means?

VIDAL

Yes, I think so.

CHARITY

I don't. Not really. But so many things seem to happen to me and I don't know why or how. People always ask me "Why did you take up with that guy?" or "How did you wind up in that joint?" I got so embarrassed always saying "I don't know." But it was the truth. I don't.

(Spits out olive pit.)

Scousi. But I guess you're supposed to know why you do things or how you wind up in places...

(SHE shrugs)

... anyway, now when anyone asks me "why?" or "how?" I just say - "Fickle finger of fate" ... and I don't get embarrassed anymore.

VIDAL

I think you just like saying it.

CHARITY

I think you're right. Fickle finger of fate ... Fickle finger of fate.

(SHE laughs)

Feels good. It cools the mouth. You wanna try it?

VIDAL

All right ... Fickle finger of fate.

CHARITY

You like it?

VIDAL

Very nice.

CHARITY

I got lots of phrases I like to say, even when they don't exactly fit. Like if some wise-acre at the Fan-Dango says to me something fresh or something dirty and I just can't think quick enough to answer, I like to say ... "Up yours."

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VIDAL
(A little surprised)

You do?

CHARITY
Oh, yeah. That's a good one. Fits almost any question. Of course I wouldn't say it to a nice refined gentleman like you. I mean it wouldn't be right. You say to me, "Why did you ever take a job like a dance hall hostess?" And then I say, "Up yours" ... It just isn't nice ... But I can say "Fickle finger of fate," can't I?

VIDAL
(Laughs)

You certainly can. Here. Let's drink to it.

CHARITY
Okay.

VIDAL
(Holds up glass.)

To the fickle finger --

CHARITY
--- of fate.

(THEY clink glasses.)

VIDAL
Bottoms up!

CHARITY
Up yours!

(Hand quickly over mouth.)

It just slipped out.