

Hennesey! No one can stop the bubble machine. (HENNESEY rushes out. LUCKY looks at watch.) Five minutes. (LUCKY out.)

DICK. (He enters.) Darling!

RUBY. (Without looking at him.) I'm very busy, Dick.

DICK. These are yours. (She doesn't answer.) They're good luck telegrams from all over the world. Here's one from Gertie Lawrence. Maurice Chevalier. Al Jolson.

RUBY. Richard!

DICK. Ruby, all I want to say is, if you forget your lines, and miss your cues and fall flat on your face, just remember I'll be standing in the wings, waiting to take you in my arms, no matter what happens, no matter what! Good luck, darling. Give 'em heck! (He clips her affectionately on jaw, practically dislocating it; exits.)

LUCKY. (Rushing across.) Ruby, they changed the flag to stage right. (Exits.)

(JOAN enters.)

RUBY. Oh, Joan, I'm frightened.

(They BOTH hug.)

JOAN. Oh, Ruby, it's only natural. Your first time on a stage with the critics out there ready to tear you to bits. I'd be scared stiff!

RUBY. (Petrieved.) Oh, Joan, I can't go out there, I can't!

JOAN. (Seizing RUBY by shoulders.) Listen, Ruby, you're going out on that poopdeck a chorus girl but you're coming back a star!

LUCKY. (He crosses over with gloves.) Ruby, your gloves! (Hands them to her and exits.)

JOAN. Ruby— (Clinch.) Break a leg! (JOAN socks RUBY encouragingly on arm, bruising it quite badly; exits.)

(MONA, looking deathly ill, enters with the CAPTAIN, whose robe she is wearing. She stands behind RUBY for a moment and sadly observes her.)

MONA. Ruby—

RUBY. (Turning around.) Miss Kent! What are you doing out of bed?

MONA. (Softly and dramatically.) I just wanted to tell you—

LUCKY. (Crossing over again.) Ruby, your hat! (Hands it to her and exits.)

RUBY. (Putting on hat and gloves.) Captain! Why have you let her out of Sick Bay?

CAPTAIN. She insisted, the brave soul, she insisted.

Start

MONA. (*Desperately.*) Ruby, Ruby—

LUCKY. (*Racing across Stage and off.*) Places! Places!

CAPTAIN. Now, darling. Remember what the doctor said. You're weak—

(*With a sudden burst of energy MONA gives him a push which sends him staggering back. She faces RUBY.*)

MONA. Ruby, I want you to be so darn good, I'll hate you for the rest of my life. (*She pinches RUBY's cheek kindly, and painfully.*)

LUCKY. (*Offstage.*) YOU'RE ON, RUBY. YOU'RE ON!

BLACKOUT

STOP

ACT TWO

SCENE 5

MUSIC intro to number. Backstage CURTAIN out. Show TRAVELLER in. SPOT picks up RUBY's entrance. She is dressed in her Star Tar costume, and is radiantly confident.

SONG: "THE TAR STAR"

RUBY.

I'M THE STAR TAR OF THE NAVY,
I'M THE HIT MISS OF THE SEA,
WHEN THE OCEAN'S GETTING WAVY,
LEAVE THOSE HANDSOME SAILORS TO ME.

I'M THE SWELL SWAB ON THE POOP DECK,
I'M THE SHIPSHAPE SHIPMATE IN THE HOLD,
I'M THE TAR STAR,
I'M THE STAR TAR,
OF THE NAVY BLUE AND GOLD! (HEAVE HO!)

I'M THE TOP GOB IN THE CROW'S NEST,
I'M THE BIG BELL SAILORS LOVE TO RING,
IN THE FOC'SLE I GET NO REST,
IN THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN I'M THE THING,
I'M THE SWEET SALT OF THE MESSHALL,
I'M A TRUE BLUE JACKET TO BEHOLD,
I'M THE STAR TAR,
I'M THE TAR STAR,
OF THE NAVY BLUE AND GOLD!