Psycho Beach Party
by
CHARLES BUSCH
ACT [1]

SCENE [1]

(Malibu Beach, 1962. Two handsome, young beach bums named YO YO and NICKY, and a sexy chick in a bikini named DEE DEE, are madly cavorting with a beach ball.)

YO YO
(to DEE DEE)
Baby, shake those maracas.

DEE DEE
(Squeals)
Stop teasing me, Yo Yo.

NICKY
Look at that butt.

DEE DEE
You guys have a one track mind.

(PROVOLONEY, a scrappy, little surfer, the joker of the group, runs on.)

PROVOLONEY
Girls! Girls! Girls!

YO YO
Hey there, Provoloney!

NICKY & DEE DEE
Hi, Provoloney.

PROVOLONEY
What a fantabulous day.

DEE DEE
Gosh, I love the sun.

NICKY
Aw shoot, we've got to get back to the malt shop. Our lunch break is almost over.

YO YO
Call in sick.
PROVOLONEY
Say you were run over by a hit-and-run surfer.

NICKY
Nah, old Augie's a great guy. I couldn't let him down.

DEE DEE
Gosh, I really love him.

(STARTCAT, the most handsome of the group, enters with a surf board.)

YO YO
Hey Star Cat, how's my man?

START CAT
What are you clowns doing? Those waves are as high as Mount Everest.

PROVOLONEY
(Looks out)
Oh wow, look at them, man.

START CAT
It's time to hit the water.

NICKY
It's more BLT's for us. Let's hit the road, Dee Dee.

DEE DEE
Sure thing. Gosh, I'm so happy.

(THEY exit)

BOYS
Bye!

START CAT
Come on guys, grab your boards, it's time to shoot the curl.

PROVOLONEY
Hot diggity!

(THEY all run offstage.)

(CHICKLET, a perky, fifteen-year-old girl skips on.)
Hi folks, welcome to Malibu Beach. I hope you brought your suntan lotion cause here it's what you call endless summer. My name's Chicklet. Sort of a kooky name and believe me, it has nothing to do with chewing gum. You see, I've always been so darn skinny, a stick, a shrimp, so when other girls turned into gorgeous chicks, I became a Chicklet. Can't say I've always been thrilled with that particular nomenclature but it sure beats the heck out of my real name, Florence. I'm supposed to meet my girlfriends, Marvel Ann and Berdine here at the beach. Marvel Ann calls it a "man hunt." I don't know what's wrong with me. I like boys, but not when they get all icky and unglued over you. All that kissy kissy stuff just sticks in my craw. I don't know, maybe I need some hormone shots. I do have a deep, all-consuming passion. The mere thought fills me with tingles and ecstasy. It's for surfing. I'm absolutely flaked out about riding the waves. Of course, I don't know how to do it, not yet, but I'm scouting around for a teacher and when I do, look out world. You'll be seeing old Chicklet flying over those waves like a comet.

(KANAKA, the macho king of the surfers, enters, drinking from a coffee mug.)

I can't believe it. You're the great Kanaka, aren't you?

Yes, I am the party to whom you are genuflecting.

Oh gosh, I'm just like your biggest fan. I was standing down front during the surfing competition—

Hey, cool down. Pour some water on that carburetor.

I haven't even introduced myself, I'm Chicklet Forrest. You're like a living legend. Did you really ride the killer wave off the coast of Bali?
KANAKA
In handcuffs. So how come you know so much about surfing?

CHICKLET
I don't but I'm dying to learn.

KANAKA
A girl surfer? That's like a bad joke.

CHICKLET
Why? Couldn't you teach me? I'm a great swimmer.

KANAKA
You're a tadpole. You're not meant to hit the high waves. It's like a mystical calling. Sorry, babe, sign up with the YMCA.

CHICKLET
But Kanaka...

KANAKA
Hey, little girl. I'm drinking my morning java, my grey cells are still dozing, in other words, angel, buzz off.

BERDINE
(Offstage)
Chicklet! Come on!

CHICKLET
Well, you haven't heard the last of me. You'll see, I'm going to be your greatest student if it kills you. Tootles.

(SHE exits)

(STAR CAR, YO YO, and PROVOLONEY run on, excited.)

STAR CAT
Hey Kanaka! You won't believe what's going on.

PROVOLONEY
I swear Malibu Mac is going to kill the joker.

KANAKA
I'm trying to drink my mother lovin java...

YO YO
Didn't you see the cop cars down the beach?
KANAKA
(Sees them.)
Oh yeah, what's happening?

STAR CAT
It's like a bad dream. Malibu Mac has been dating that high school chick, Beverly Jo.

KANAKA
The homecoming queen, right?

PROVOLONEY
They spent the night on the beach.

YO YO
They were knocked out cold.

STAR CAT
This morning they woke up, naked as they were born and some weirdo had shaved their bodies head to toe.

YO YO
Not a whisker on 'em. Twin bowling balls.

KANAKA
And Malibu Mac had a thing about his pompadour.

PROVOLONEY
He looks like a six-foot wiener.

YO YO
Talking about wieners, my stomach's saying "Feed me."

STAR CAT
You're always stuffing your face.

YO YO
Food is my hobby.

PROVOLONEY
Yo Yo's a great chef. We've set up like a whole kitchen in our beach shack.

KANAKA
Our beach shack? I never heard of two surf bums shacking up together.

PROVOLONEY
You should see how Yo Yo has fixed up the place with fishnet curtains, rattan furniture, hanging plants.
Hanging plants?

YO YO
(Innocently)
I do wonderful things with Hibithcuth
(THEY all do a take)

PROVOLONEY
My innards are screaming "chow."

YO YO
Mine are screaming "give me chile dogs!"

See you clowns later.

PROVOLONEY
(Exiting with YO YO)
Food! Food! Food!
(THEY exit)

Kanaka, I talked to my dad yesterday.

Yeah?

I told him I wasn't going back to college. This pre-med stuff is for squares.

But I thought you wanted to be a psychiatrist.

I was a kid. Now I know I want to be a surf bum. My dad hit the roof but he doesn't understand. He grew up dirt poor and made his money tooth and nail. I can't compete with that. More than anything I want his respect and I'll get that by bumming around with you.

But you know, being a surf bum is a tall order. Only a few make the grade. It's like being a high priest, kinda. No involvements, no commitments, just following the sun. You gotta be a man.
STAR CAT
I swear I won't let you down.

KANAKA
You're a good guy, Star Cat. I think this is the time I show you some of my treasures. I got in my shack a necklace composed of genuine human eyeballs presented to the great Kanaka by a witch doctor in Peru.

STAR CAT
Oh wow!

KANAKA
Let's go!

(THEY exit)

(MARVEL ANN and BERDINE enter carrying beach bags. MARVEL ANN is a gorgeous blonde high school vamp and BERDINE is a hopeless nerd, but a nerd with spunk.)

MARVEL ANN
Honestly Berdine, did you have to put that disgusting white gook all over your nose?

BERDINE
Sorry, Marvel Ann, but I got this allergy that flares up whenever I go to the beach.

MARVEL ANN
What are you allergic to?

BERDINE
The sun. It's ghastly. My face turns beet red, my eyes close up, and I get this terrible chafing between my legs.

MARVEL ANN
Charming. Help me spread out the blanket.

(THEY do.)

BERDINE
Marvel Ann, this blanket is really divoon.

MARVEL ANN
It's coordinated with my skin tone. Chicklet, help up.

(CHICKLET enters)
I found something in the sand.

What is it, a shell?

No look.

(SHE dangles a spider in front of Marvel Ann.)

A black widow!

(SHE pushes it out of Chicklet's hand.)

You scared it.

Listen you two weirdos, my nerves are a frazzle. I can't believe what happened to Beverly Jo. I'm going to have nightmares all night from seeing her like that.

I wonder what the penalty is for shaving someone's head.

It wasn't just her head. Couldn't you see, they also shaved her...

(SHE whispers "pussy" in Berdine's ear and THEY are dissolved in giggles.)

Cut that out. I think you two have forgotten the reason we're here. This is a man hunt, capiche?

Why do we have to bother with them? Can't we just have a good time by ourselves?

You have a severe problem, Chicklet. You've got the sex drive of a marshmallow, you're pushing sixteen. So what if you're an A student, that's parent's stuff. Get with it.
CHICKLET

Maybe I'm just some kind of freak. Maybe I'll never fall in love.

BERDINE

Oh you will, you will.

CHICKLET

But how will I know when it hits me?

BERDINE

You will, you will.

MARVEL ANN

Chicklet, what are you trying to do, spoil the picture? Take off your top. You've got your swim suit on, don't you? Peel, girl, peel.

CHICKLET

Darn it, it's in my bag and there's no ladies room to change in.

MARVEL ANN

There's no one around. You better hurry.

BERDINE

You can't take your top off here.

CHICKLET

Hold the blanket up and no one will see me.

(THEY hold up the blanket, CHICKLET takes off her smock, revealing her nude, flat chest.)

I'm hopeless. I'm built just like a boy. I wonder if I'll ever fill out.

BERDINE

Hurry up, Chicklet. Marvel Ann, hold the blanket up so I can help Chicklet with her top.

(CHICKLET pulls on her bathing suit top.)

MARVEL ANN

We're in luck. Look at those four gorgeous hunks of male, over there, almost enough for second helpings. Now a maneuver like this takes technique. Talk to me. Don't let them think we're looking at them.
CHICKLET
What should we talk about?

MARVEL ANN
Anything.

BERDINE
I'm reading the most exciting book. It's by Jean Paul Sartre. It's called "Nausea."

MARVEL ANN
(Posing and not paying attention)
Oh, really.

BERDINE
It's the most clear-headed explanation of existentialism. The whole concept of free will being a conscious choice against the determining...

MARVEL ANN
(With extreme bitchiness)
I'll see the movie.

CHICKLET
Gosh, Berdine, I'm impressed. You're a real egghead.

MARVEL ANN
They're looking this way. Now very slowly, let's turn our heads in their direction.
(THEY simultaneously turn their heads.)
Slowly. Cock your head to the side and give a little smile.
(THEY cock their heads and smile in unison.)
Not like that, Berdine, you look like you've got whiplash.
(BERDINE straightens up.)
The blonde one is giggling.
(SHE giggles.)

CHICKLET
What's so funny?

MARVEL ANN
Shut up. Now we go in for the kill.
(SHE makes a sexy growl.)

CHICKLET
What's she doing now?
BERDINE
I believe she's displaying animal magnetism.
(BERDINE and CHICKLET start growing and barking like wild dogs and apes.)

MARVEL ANN
What the hell are you two doing? Oh, now you've done it. They're laughing at us. How dare you. I hate you both.

CHICKLET
Marvel Ann, don't lose your sense of humor.

MARVEL ANN
(Stands up.)
Oh, I'm laughing all right and so is everyone else at school, laughing at how backward you are. I ought to get the purple heart just for being seen with you.
(Turns to leave.)

BERDINE
Where are you going?

MARVEL ANN
I didn't come to the beach to play. I came here to catch me a man. So if you'll excuse me, I think I'll set my traps elsewhere.

CHICKLET
Can we come too?

MARVEL ANN
What's the point in meeting boys? You two queerbaits should get a license and marry each other.
(SHE exits, laughing.)

CHICKLET
What sort of nasty crack is that?

BERDINE
I don't see anything wrong with having a best friend.

CHICKLET
I suppose some friends get so close that they lose their individual identities.

BERDINE
We're two very independent personalities.
CHICKLET
She's just jealous cause...

BERDINE
(Finishing her sentence.)
We've never really accepted her. How could we, she's...

CHICKLET
Dumb as a stick. I don't think she's ever read a book...

BERDINE
All the way to the end. Someday she'll be sorry...

CHICKLET
That she rushed into adulthood. We're much wiser to

BERDINE/CHICKLET
(Simultaneously)
Take our time.

CHICKLET
I don't think virginity is such a horrible

BERDINE
Degrading...

CHICKLET
Awful ting. You know of course what she did with you
know who in the...

BERDINE
(Understands perfectly.)
Uh huh. Uh huh. And did you know she...

CHICKLET
(Understands perfectly.)
Uh huh. But I think there's more to it. I think, well...you know...

BERDINE
Really?
(Giggles.)

CHICKLET
It reminds me of that book we read, what was it?

BERDINE
(Knows the book.)
Yes, yes, yes. That's exactly the same kinda...

CHICKLET
And look what...well...

BERDINE
So true, so true. I couldn't have said it better myself.

(MARVEL ANN enters with KANAKA and STAR CAT.)

MARVEL ANN
Look what I found in the sand. Two hunks of California he-man.

KANAKA
I dig a mermaid whose lips are as flip as her fins.

(MARVEL ANN)
(Coyly)
Don't swim too fast upstream, you can still lose the race.

KANAKA
I know how to glide on wave power when I have to.

STAR CAT
(To Marvel Ann)
Hey, the waves are flipping out. Come and watch me surf standing on my head.

CHICKLET
(Wildly impressed)
Can you really do that?

STAR CAT
Sure.
(To Marvel Ann)
I can do lots of special tricks.

CHICKLET
(Innocently)
Really? Like what?

STAR CAT
(To Marvel Ann)
You interested?
MARVEL ANN
(Provocatively)
Very interested.

CHICKLET
(Thinks they're talking about surfing.)
So am I. Let's go right now.

MARVEL ANN
I'd rather see you try those stunts on land.

CHICKLET
That's not the same thing at all.

MARVEL ANN
I missed your name, tall, dark and brooding.

STAR CAT
They call me Star Cat.

MARVEL ANN
I call you cute.

STAR CAT
I'd like to call you sometime.

MARVEL ANN
I'm in the phone book under my father's name, Franklin McCallister, I'm Marvel Ann.

CHICKLET
You can call me too. I'm Chicklet. Here. I'll write down my number cause golly, I'd do anything to see you surf standing on your...

MARVEL ANN
Oh pooh, the sun's playing hookey. No use sitting around here.

KANAKA
Star Cat, let's help the lady.

STAR CAT
You bet!

MARVEL ANN
(SHE holds up the blanket, the BOYS help her.)
Why thank you, gentlemen. Come, girls.
CHICKLET
That's okay, Marvel Ann. I think I'll stay out a little longer. I'll call you when I get home, Berdine. Okle dokle?

BERDINE
(Wary)
Okle dokle.

MARVEL ANN
(Suspiciously)
Okle dokle.
(THEY exit.)

KANAKA
(To Star Cat)
Good going, pal. I bet she's hot and spicy between the enchilada.

CHICKLET
If Kanaka won't teach me to surf, will you? I'm a quick study. Straight A's in all my classes.

STAR CAT
You think I'm impressed? Listen little girl, surfing is a man's work. Be a girl. You're more fish than dish. Me teach you how to surf? Don't make me laugh. I'd rather go teach a chicken to lay an elephant's turd. Go home to mama and run, don't walk.
(HE exits.)

CHICKLET
Boy, he's a grump.

KANAKA
Aw, Star Cat's a raw pearl. He's just a sensitive kind of fella. Hey, look at that kite.

Which one?

CHICKLET

KANAKA
The red one with the flying fish.

(CHICKLET'S face becomes distorted and she becomes her alter ego, ANN BOWMAN, a glamorous femme fatale.)
KANAKA
(Oblivious)
When I was a kid, I was bananas over flying kites. More than anything, I'd like to be running with a kite against the wind.

CHICKLET
(Laughs)
Darling, more than anything, I'd like a cold martini, dry with a twist.

KANAKA
Say what?

CHICKLET
You do know what a martini is, my delicious Neanderthal.

KANAKA
Chicklet?

CHICKLET
(Laughs)
I'm afraid you've got the wrong girl. Chicklet is not my name.

KANAKA
Who are you?

CHICKLET
My name is Ann Bowman.

KANAKA
(Laughs)
That's pretty good. You wanna be an actress?

CHICKLET
I'm revealing my true nature.
(Fingers his fly.)
I'd like to see you strip down to your truest self.

KANAKA
(Pushes her hand away)
Hey, you shouldn't do that.

CHICKLET
Give me one good reason.

KANAKA
You're underage.
CHICKLET
My energy is as old as the Incan temples. You ever been to Peru, baby?

KANAKA
Can't say that I have.

CHICKLET
Someday, you and I must explore the ancient temple of Aca Jo Tep. But enough about that for now, what about us?

KANAKA
Hey, cool your jets, babe. If I didn't live by my personal code of honor, I might take advantage of this situation erotically, as it were.

CHICKLET
Give into the feeling, Daddy-O.

KANAKA
Cut the soundtrack for a minute and listen up. Let me give you the number one rule of sexual relations. No stud digs a heavy come-on from a babe. A chick can play it tough but underneath the makeup, a dude's gotta know the chick's a lady. In straight lingo, no pigs need apply.

CHICKLET
(Lies on the ground)
Forget the rules, lie here on the sand with me. Doncha love the feel of hot sand against your nude flesh?

KANAKA
I don't know what you're up to but you've got the wrong hep cat.

CHICKLET
Perhaps I do. I thought you were the man with the big cigar. What are you packing, a tiparillo?

KANAKA
More than you can handle, kid. They ought to send you to the juvenile detention hall.

CHICKLET
Aw, I'm scaring the "wittle" boy.
KANAKA
Doll, when I dance, I make the moves, the chick always follows.

(HE turns to leave.)

CHICKLET
(With mad ferocity)
Don'y you turn your butt to me!

KANAKA
(Turns around shocked)
Chicklet?

CHICKLET
I am not Chicklet, you lobotomized numbskull!!!

KANAKA
C'mon stop fooling.

CHICKLET
Do not test me. I will have my way.
(Laughs)
I frighten you, don't I?

KANAKA
No, I ain't scared.

CHICKLET
You're lying. You're yellow as a traffic light, you sniveling little prick. You're scared.

KANAKA
No.

CHICKLET
Look at your hands, they're shaking like jello.

KANAKA
(Hides his hands)
No, they ain't.

CHICKLET
You're scared. Say it, you're scared.

KANAKA
Yes!

CHICKLET
Yes what?
KANAKA

Yes, ma'am.

CHICKLET

Ah, that's better. You're just a little slave boy, aren't you, sonny?

KANAKA

I gotta get outta here.

CHICKLET

You ain't going anywhere, punk. You know, I'm going to give you what you always wanted.

You are?

CHICKLET

I think we understand each other very well. I know what you fantasize about, I know what you dream about and I'm going to give it to you in spades. Now I want you to go into town and buy yourself a slave collar and a garter belt and a pair of black silk stockings. Spike heels will complete the ensemble and then my dear darling Kanaka, I'm gonna shave all that man fur off you and you'll look just like the little boy that you are.

KANAKA

But what will the rest of the fellas think?

CHICKLET

(In a rage)
To hell with the rest of the fellas! I am the most important! Me! Ann Bowman! I will not be cast aside, I will not be...

(Becomes CHICKLET again)
Of course, my Mom's an old prude, she won't think surfing is ladylike but I know I can win her over.

KANAKA

(In shock)
What?

CHICKLET

My mom. I'm gonna have to ask her permission.

KANAKA

Ann?
CHICKLET
My name's Chicklet, silly. So are you gonna teach me, please, please, pretty please.

KANAKA
Do you remember what we were just talking about?

CHICKLET
Surfing lessons.

KANAKA
No after that, I mean before that.

CHICKLET
Your friend Star Cat? I'm wearing down your resistance, aren't I?

KANAKA
(Very confused)
Yeah, I'll say.

CHICKLET
Can we start tomorrow?

KANAKA
Yeah, sure.

CHICKLET
Yippee! I gotta get moving, gotta round up a board, get my Mom's okay and then tomorrow, we hit the old H20. Tootles.

(SHE exits)

KANAKA
(Scratching his head in disbelief)
A red kite with a flying fish.

BLACKOUT
ACT [1]

SCENE [2]

(Chicklet's house. SHE enters)

CHICKLET
Mom, I'm home. Gosh, the place looks spotless. Was Sadie here today?

(MRS. FORREST enters, the splitting image of Joan Crawford.)

MRS. FORREST
Unfortunately no. Poor Sadie's brother Bubba was run over by a hit-and-run driver. You know our Sadie, always an excuse not to work. I've been on my hands and knees scrubbing all morning. And to top it off, I was experimenting cooking a veal scallopini in the pressure cooker. The darn thing exploded and I'm still finding bits of scallopini in my wiglet.

CHICKLET
Well, the house looks swell.

MRS. FORREST
Thank you, dear. Did you enjoy yourself at the beach?
(Puts arm around her)

I guess so.

MRS. FORREST
I detect a sphinx-like expression. Penny for your thoughts.

CHICKLET
(Looking for a way to tell her about surfing)
I just hate thinking of you doing all that nasty housework. You're so beautiful.

MRS. FORREST
(Laughs)
My darling daughter, I am just an old widow and a little hard work never hurt anyone.

CHICKLET
You're still young. Haven't you ever thought of remarrying?
MRS. FORREST
Your father was the great love of my life. I've always regretted that he died before you were born, that you never knew him. He was quite a guy. A damn good provider. And, darling, to even think of another man would betray his memory.

CHICKLET
I really love you but I don't think I'm pulling my weight around here. I've been thinking, there must be more chores for me to do, painting the inside of the trash cans, polishing the cactus plants.

MRS. FORREST
Chicklet, I smell a rat.

CHICKLET
I'll exterminate it.

MRS. FORREST
Chicklet, what's going on up there in the old attic? (Indicating her brain)

CHICKLET
Okay, Mom, cards on the table. I need twenty-five dollars to buy a surf board.

Out of the question.

MRS. FORREST
Mom, it's the chance of a lifetime. The great Kanaka has promised to teach me to surf.

The great who?

CHICKLET
The great Kanaka, why he's practically as famous as the President of the United States.

It's too dangerous.

MRS. FORREST
It's as safe as playing jacks. Please let me Mom. It'll be sheer heaven or months and months of stark solitude.
MRS. FORREST
I will not have my daughter cavorting with a band of derelict beach bums.

CHICKLET
They're great guys. You should see them shooting the curl. It's the ultimate. A gilt-edged guarantee for a summer of sheer happiness.

MRS. FORREST
Control yourself, Florence.

CHICKLET
(Fiercely)
I will not control myself! I want a mother-fucking cocksucking surfboard!!!

MRS. FORREST
I can see the effect those boys are having on you. I don't like it one bit. You will not see those boys ever again. Promise me that.

CHICKLET
I will not promise you.

MRS. FORREST
You're cold. This is what the male sex is going to do to us. It's going to tear us apart. You don't know how lucky you are being a virgin, pure and chaste.

CHICKLET
But someday I do want to marry and then I suppose I'll have to...

MRS. FORREST
Do what? Have sexual intercourse. I know how they paint it so beautifully in the movies. A man and a woman locked in embrace, soft lighting, a pitcher of Manhattans, Rachmaninoff in the background. Well, my girl, let me tell you that is not how it is. You don't know how repugnant it is having a sweaty man's thing poking at you.

(SHE jabs her finger into Chicklet)
Do you like that?

CHICKLET
Stop, you're hurting me.
MRS. FORREST
That's nothing compared to when they poke you down there.

CHICKLET
I don't believe you.

MRS. FORREST
Florence!

CHICKLET
I don't believe you. Sexual relations between a man and a woman in love is a beautiful and sacred thing. You're wrong, Mother, horribly wrong.

MRS. FORREST
The male body is coarse and ugly.

CHICKLET
Some men are beautiful.

MRS. FORREST
(In a demonic rage)
You think men are beautiful. Well, take a look at this, Missy.

(SHE pulls from her cleavage a jock strap)
For years I've kept this, anticipating this very moment. Do you know what this is?

CHICKLET
No.

MRS. FORREST
It's a peter belt. This is the pouch that holds their swollen genitalia. Isn't this beautiful? Isn't this romantic?

(SHE slaps Chicklet with the jock strap repeatedly)

CHICKLET
Stop, stop.

MRS. FORREST
(Throws the jock strap at Chicklet)
You are a very foolish girl. And to think I spent long hours toiling over that veal scallopini.
(MRS. FORREST exits. Chicklet stares at the jock strap and whimpers.)

CHICKLET
I'm sorry, Mommy, I'm sorry.
(Starts growling and making animal noises. In baby talk.)
She can't treat me this way. She's so mean and I'm too little to fight back...I'm so angry...I'm so angry! I'm...I'm...
(SHE burst into demonic laughter. As ANN BOWMAN.)
I'm alive! I'm alive! Ann Bowman lives!!!!

BLACKOUT
ACT [1]

SCENE [3]

(BERDINE is in her pajamas writing in her diary)

BERDINE

Dear Diary: Last night Chicklet showed up at my house with a real bee in her bonnet. She is determined to buy a surfboard. Her mom said nix. Boy, parents can be grumps. Anyways, it's a good thing I won that prize money for my essay on Kierkegaard, Kant and Buber. I handed it right over. Chicklet Forrest is my best friend in the whole stratosphere. I've never told this to anyone, not even you, dear diary, but sometimes I catch her talking to herself in this weird sort of voice. I suppose some people would say she's kind of a burn-out, but you see, Chicklet is a very creative person and sometimes her imagination just soft of goes blotto but in a noodly sort of way, not a complete geek-out but just a fizzle in her research center. Sorry, that's teenage talk. Well, time to sign off, your ever faithful correspondent, Berdine.

BLACKOUT
ACT [1]

SCENE [4]

(The beach. YO YO and PROVOLONEY enter talking)

YO YO
I got my menu for the luau all made up. What do you think of marinated alligator tips? You can buy 'em frozen at Ralph's. And I thought lots of finger food, but no dips, I am so tired of dips.

PROVOLONEY
Yo Yo, would you stop with the food for a minute.

YO YO
But Provoloney, the luau is only three weeks away.

PROVOLONEY
Do you realize how much of your life is obsessed with trivia? Finger food, dips. It really upsets me how little scope you have.

YO YO
What are you talking about? I've got scope.

(Switching the subject)

What do you want to do with your hair for the luau?

PROVOLONEY
(HE screams)
See what I mean? Trivial! All this talk about recipes and hairstyles. People are gonna think you're kinda of, you know, (Makes a limp wrist)
That way.

YO YO
Let 'em try. I'll bash their nuts in.

PROVOLONEY
(Trying to talk sensibly)
Yo Yo, do you ever think about the future?

YO YO
Yeah, that's why I'm asking you about the alligator tips.
PROVOLONEY
The far future. You're not going to be young forever. We need to plan ahead.

YO YO
This was such a beautiful day. You're making me so depressed.

PROVOLONEY
(Very upbeat)
Don't be depressed, kid. Stick with me and you'll never be sorry.

(STAR CAT enters)

STAR CAT
Hey guys, any of you seen Kanaka?

(KANAKA and CHICKLET enter.)

KANAKA
Gentlemen, the time has come for me to introduce you to the new Empress of the Seven Seas. Queen Chicklet is going to join us on the water today.

PROVOLONEY
This little twirp working our waves, give me a break.

CHICKLET
I'm not a twirp.

YO YO
Stick to the bathtub, baby, leave the Pacific to the big boys.

STAR CAT
We're too busy to be changing your diapers.

CHICKLET
You think you know everything, you stuck up prune face pickle eater.

KANAKA
You ready for a ride, Chickerino?

CHICKLET
Kanaka, these fins are ready to hit the foam. What do you say?
KANAKA
I say "Everybody, grab your surf boards and charge!"
(THEY ALL hoot and holler.)

(LIGHTS BLACK OUT and then come BACK ON
and we see CHICKLET and the BOYS riding
the high waves, laughing and screaming
with joy and excitement. BLACKOUT.
When the LIGHTS come up THEY are
carrying Chicklet on their shoulders,
shouting "Hip hip hooray.")

KANAKA
What did I tell you, ain't she something else?

YO YO
(Making a big formal bow and kissing
her hand.)
I bow before the Queen Chicklet.

CHICKLET
Aw, knock it off.

PROVOLONEY
Welcome to the club. What do you say we make her our
new mascot?

YO YO
Great.

STAR CAT
You know something, I am a stuck up prune face pickle
eater.

(HE gives Chicklet a big hug and they
embrace, a bit too long. EVERYONE'S
CHEERS turn to OHHHHHH, and THEY are
embarrassed.)
And I'll tell you what, I'll even teach you how to
surf standing on your head.

CHICKLET
(Thrilled)
You would? Really? Just the two of us?

YO YO
(Imitating her)
Really? Just the two of us?
(ALL THE GUYS giggle)
CHICKLET
(Embarrassed)
Well I'd need to concentrate. I can't learn anything with you jokers around.

STAR CAT
Sure, kid, just the two of us.

PROVOLONEY
(Acting silly)
Can we come, too?

YO YO
Please, please, pretty please.
(CHICKLET chases them around)

CHICKLET
Oh gosh, this is the way I like it, just kids, horsing around, having picnics.

PROVOLONEY
We need to give her an initiation.

STAR CAT
And how.

CHICKLET
Oh, no you don't.

PROVOLONEY
Yo Yo, give her the Chinese tickle torture.

(THEY grab her and YO YO pushes her head into her stomach tickling her with his hair, SHE screams. MARVEL ANN enters.)

MARVEL ANN
Star Cat.
(THEY drop Chicklet.)

STAR CAT
Hey there, Marvel Ann.

STAR CAT (should be Marvel Ann?)
(SHE wraps herself around him.)

What's all the brou-ha-ha?
KANAKA
The Chicklet turned out to be a first class surfer.

YO YO
The best.

MARVEL ANN
How marvelous for you. I wish you every...every.

CHICKLET
You should try surfing, Marvel Ann, it's great for anyone with a weight problem.

MARVEL ANN
I get my exercise indoors. Star Cat, wait till you see the dress I bought to wear to the luau. It's very...very.

CHICKLET
What, luau?

MARVEL ANN
Haven't you naughty boys told Chicklet about the luau? It's just the biggest event of the whole summer.

CHICKLET
You douche bags, why have you been holding out on me?

KANAKA
You're just not the luau type, baby.

PROVOLONEY
It's a wild night.

YO YO
Practically an orgy.

CHICKLET
I want to go.

MARVEL ANN
Besides you'll need an escort and I've already nabbed the cutest boy in town.

(Flirts with an uncomfortable Star Cat. SHE strokes his hair.)

STAR CAT
Ow, you're pulling my hair.
MARVEL ANN
You promised you'd go to the pier with me today. I'm in the mood for a nice big banana split. Doesn't that sound tasty?

STAR CAT
Very, very. See you guys later.
(THEY exit.)

CHICKLET
You all think you're real clever not telling me about the luau but I'm going and I'm going to make a splash like you've never seen.

(The incredibly glamorous movie star, BETTINA BARNES, enters in a big hat and dark glasses. THE BOYS stare at her transfixed as SHE unfolds her blanket and sits on the beach.)

YO YO
Zowie!

PROVOLONEY
Hot dog!

KANAKA
Let's check out here I.D.
(THEY approach her.)

CHICKLET
Hey guys, don't bother with her.

KANAKA
(To Bettina)
And then Papa Bear said "Who's been sleeping in my sandbox?"

BETTINA
(Surprised, lowers her sunglasses)
Pardon me?

KANAKA
What brings you here to grace our turf?

BETTINA
(Breathily innocent)
Am I trespassing? I had no idea.
PROVOLONEY
You look real familiar. Do you know Lenny Pinkowitz?

BETTINA
(Alarmed)
Is he a shutterbug?

CHICKLET
Hey guys, come on.

YO YO
Can we ask you your name?

BETTINA
I'm afraid I can't answer that.

CHICKLET
Are you incognito?

BETTINA
(Not comprehending)
No, I'm German-Irish.

KANAKA
Are there people after you?

BETTINA
I have a whole motion picture studio after me and the entire press corp. Haven't you read the newspapers? I'm Bettina Barnes.
(Gasps)
I shouldn't have told you.

CHICKLET
Bettina Barnes, the movie star.

BETTINA
Actress.

CHICKLET
You disappeared from the set of your new movie. The police think you've been kidnapped.

BETTINA
I was never kidnapped. I ran away.

PROVOLONEY
Why would you run away from a movie?
BETTINA
You don't know what it's like being exploited by those lousy flesh peddlers and power brokers. Everyone wanting a little piece. I'm not a pepperoni.

KANAKA
I saw you in that movie "Sex Kittens Go To Outer Space."

BETTINA
That was a good film. The director had a vision but then I had to do the four sequels. Quel trash. I couldn't go on. They have no respect for the rights of an individual.

YO YO
We'll respect you.

BETTINA
(Touched)
Would you really? Isn't that what all human beings desire, respect? That's why I'm on the lam, to get me some.

CHICKLET
Where are you going to go?

BETTINA
New York. I've been accepted to study with Less Strasberg. But first I thought I'd hide out here to get some rest and relaxation. I've rented that beach house over there. I signed the lease under my real name Frieda Deefendorfer. You won't sequel on me, will you?

(THE BOYS all promise they won't.)
You're so sweet. You can be kind of like my brothers.

(To Chicklet)
And you, you're perky. With a new hairstyle and the right makeup, you could be almost pretty.

(BERDINE enters)

BERDINE
Chicklet! There you are. I thought I'd find you here. You were supposed to meet me at the malt shop. I was waiting there over an hour when...

(SHE sees BETTINA and screams.)
Bettina Barnes!
(THE BOYS grab her and hold her mouth closed.)

CHICKLET

She's incognito.

BERDINE

Bettina Barnes. In person. You have the most beautiful eyelashes I've ever seen on any mammal.

BETTINA

You're very kind.

BERDINE

I loved you in "The Pizza Waitress with Three Heads." You were so real. When they trapped you on top of the Pizzeria, you made me feel what it's like to have three heads and be shot in each one of them.

BETTINA

(Intensely)

Did I really?

BERDINE

Oh yes, Miss Barnes.

BETTINA

(Tenderly)

Call me Miss B. I know I could be a great actress if I found the right vehicle.

PROVOLONE

She needs wheels.

YO YO

The lady needs wheels.

KANAKA

We'll get you a car.

BERDINE

No, she means she needs a great role that will reveal the many facets of her kaleidoscopic persona.

BETTINA

(Confused)

What did she say?
BERDINE
Sometimes even the great don't understand their own power. You are more than a mere sex kitten. You are the feminine embodiment of the nietzschian superman. Ever striving, striking a blow for the truth in the eternal battle of the sexes. Onward, Bettina! "And whatever will break on our truths, let it break! Many a house hath yet to be built." Thus spake Zarathustra.

BETTINA
That's what I've been telling my agents for months. You're smart. What's your name?

BERDINE
Berdine.

BETTINA
I desperately need a secretary slash companion masseuse. How would you like a job for the summer?

BERDINE
I don't know, Miss B. I've got a big reading list to get through. And I'm still not finished with "The Idiot."

BETTINA
(With great sympathy)
You've got man trouble?

PROVOLONEY
Hey guys, let's invite Miss Barnes to the luau?

BERDINE
What luau?

KANAKA
The first full moon of the summer, we have a luau slash barbecue. It's a night no one ever forgets.

BERDINE
(Sarcastically)
Gee, thanks Chicklet for inviting me.

CHICKLET
I just heard about it.

BERDINE
Like hey I really believe that.
CHICKLET
It's the truth.

BERDINE
The truth is that we're not connecting at all anymore.

CHICKLET
What are you talking about?

BERDINE
Let me spell it out for you then. In the past few weeks, you never return my phone calls, you've canceled out of the last five times we're supposed to get together and today you stood me up at Augie's malt shop. I don't think you want to be best friends anymore.

CHICKLET
I'm sorry, I just...

BERDINE
(Holding back tears)
Everyone said we were too close. I never thought this could happen. Not to us.

BETTINA
Please don't argue on my account.

CHICKLET
Don't cry. Look, let's talk about this in private.
How about meeting me at Augie's tomorrow.

BERDINE
So you can stand me up again? No, thank you.
Chicklet, my closing remarks to you are these. I hope you enjoy all your new hipster friends cause you just lost your best and oldest one. Miss Barnes, I've reconsidered and I'd love to be your secretary. When do I start?

BETTINA
Pronto. We're going to have a great time.
(Takes her arm)
I'm going to let you in on all my innermost secrets. Let's go back to my bungalow and have lunch. You do know how to make Crab Louis, don't you?

BERDINE
I don't think so.
BETTINA
No sweat. We'll have peanut butter and jelly...
(As an afterthought)
On toast points.

PROVOLONEY
Think about the luau.

KANAKA
Think about me.

BETTINA
(Seductively)
How could I forget you.

YO YO
(Extends his hand to Bettina to shake hands.)
It's been great meeting you.

BETTINA
(SHE turns to Yo Yo and takes his hand.)
My, what great big hands you have.

YO YO
(Leering)
You know what they say about big hands and big feet.

BETTINA
(Studying his hand intently)
Yes, most interesting.

CHICKLET
Are you a palmist or something?

BETTINA
No, nothing like that. I just have these incredible instincts about people. I seem to know how they tick.

YO YO
So what do you see?

BETTINA
I bet you're very good with hair.

YO YO
You mean running my fingers through it.
BETTINA
No, I mean setting it.

YO YO
(Upset at the suggestion he's a fag.)
Hey, wait just a minute...

BETTINA
(Very soothing and gentle)
That's nothing to be ashamed of. It's a special gift.
(The OTHER GUYS snicker.)
I've got a slew of wigs with me. Let's go to my bungalow, lock the door and play beauty salon.

PROVOLONEY
(Acting sexy)
Can I come too? I'd love to lock the door and play with you.

BETTINA
Hey Berdine, as a great philosopher once said "the more the merrier." Let's go!

YO YO
Yeah, go, go go.

(BETTINA exits followed by YO YO, PROVOLONEY, and BERDINE. KANAKA pulls Chicklet back.)

KANAKA
Hey, Chicklet.

CHICKLET
Don't you want to go to Bettina's?

KANAKA
Nah, it's kids stuff to be impressed with her.
(Checks to see if they are alone.)

CHICKLET
Who are you looking for?

KANAKA
I want to make sure we're alone. Uh, it's Yo Yo's birthday coming up and...

CHICKLET
I thought he said it was...
KANAKA
No, it's real soon and I thought you could help me make him a present.

Like what?

CHICKLET

KANAKA
A kite. He's flipped over kites. What do you think of that?

CHICKLET
A kite. That's okay.

KANAKA
Kites. He becomes a different person when he's flying a kite.

CHICKLET
I never made one before but...

KANAKA
(To himself)
What were we talking about? Do you see that fish jumping out of the water?

CHICKLET
No, where?

KANAKA
I'm crazy for fish, aren't you?

CHICKLET
(Shrugs)
Feh. Kanaka, are you all right?

KANAKA
(Giving up)
No, I must be out of my mind. Forget it. Geez, I'm embarrassed. Is my face red?
(When CHICKLET hears red she laughs wildly and turns into ANN BOWMAN.)

KANAKA
(Elated)
It was a red kite!
CHICKLET
(As ANN BOWMAN)
It most certainly was, darling. As red as your ass when I finish spanking you.

KANAKA
Oh yes, Mistress Ann. I've been a bad boy. I need a spanking.

CHICKLET
I've got you under my spell. You would do anything I asked.

(SHE turns into Jolene, a Southern, gum-popping, trashy checkout girl)
But if she asked me to work overtime at that Safeway, she’s plum out of her mind.

KANAKA
Ann?

CHICKLET

KANAKA
What?

CHICKLET
I'm working at the checkout, it goin' on four-thirty and I'm fixin' to leave. My boyfriend, he's taking me to see Hank Williams.

KANAKA
Ann, come back, Ann, are you there?

CHICKLET
Would you let me finish? What I am saying is my supervisor, Miss Feeley, she asks me to work overtime. She thinks she’s so cool, she...

KANAKA
(Shakes her)
Stop it. Bring Ann back!

CHICKLET
(Indicates a pistol in her pocket)
Back off! I got a conceal and carry permit and I’ll shoot your ass.

KANAKA
(Terrified)
That's cool. That's cool.

CHICKLET
No way no Yankee son of a bitch be grabbin at me. No way, no way...
(Returns as ANN)
No way you can escape my domination. The world has tried to suppress me, to deny my very existence but I have risen like a phoenix to claim my birthright.

KANAKA
What's that?

CHICKLET
World domination. Ann Bowman, Dominatrix Empress of planet Earth. Has a catchy ring, don't you think?

KANAKA
Yes, Mistress Ann.

CHICKLET
I wonder if your little friends might make excellent slaves. We must catch them in butterfly nets and put them in cages. Once their spirit is broken, they shall learn to serve their Mistress Ann.

KANAKA
Cages. But won't they suspect you're up to no good?

CHICKLET
I am not only a first class general. I am also a brilliant actress. I will pose as dear little Chicklet and infiltrate the teen set.

KANAKA
Look, I think I've gotten in over my head. I can't do something like this.

CHICKLET
(Grabs him)
You deny me! No one denies me, darling. You need what only I can offer. Face it, you're weak, you're a pushover for me. You sing to the coppers and I'll finger you as the fall guy. You made me lose my
temper. It's time for fun and games. Shall we proceed to your place? Kanaka, move it!
(SHE throws her head back and laughs.)

(THEY exit)

BLACKOUT
ACT [1]

SCENE [5]

(The Beach. PROVOLONEY and YO YO enter.)

YO YO
I don't know, Provoloney, it sounds too easy.

PROVOLONEY
I tell you, the ideas that make millions are deceptively simple. Bettina Barnes is on the lookout for a movie that will win her an Oscar. We've got to find it for her.

YO YO
But that means writing and I'm not so good with sentences.

PROVOLONEY
In Hollywood, only flunkies do any writing. The smart guys write treatments. The studio pays big money just for ideas. We come up with a great notion for a flick and we can rake in the moola without putting in a comma.

YO YO
You have any ideas?

PROVOLONEY
My brain's bursting with them. Westerns, sci-fi, musicals.

YO YO
Well, I think...

PROVOLONEY
Quiet on the set. I need inspiration. I need a concept.

YO YO
I think Bettina should play the richest woman in the world.

PROVOLONEY
(His eyes closed)
Yeah, my mind's working now. Go on.
Her old man wants her to marry this prince but he's kind of a drip so she ankles out of Philly and heads westward to Malibu.

It's all coming to me. I'm cookin'. Go on.

She's got so much cash that she buys the whole beach. There's this real hot surf bum who lives there and he don't like the idea of being evicted. They decide to smoke the peace pipe and the stud offers to teach her to scuba dive.

This is great. I can see the whole thing. A billboard fifty feet high. Bettina Barnes in a wet suit.

I see this real big scene when they first dive underwater.

(YO YO mimes going underwater.)

(HE dives too.)
They swim past picturesque coral reefs and dolphins.

And they bump into each other.

(THEY mime all the next activity.)

And they get their feet caught in some seaweed...and their bodies are locked into each other.

They can't get out?

(Transfixed)
Uh uh. Their eyes meet. Every night he's dreamt of her long flowing hair, her ivory skin, her biceps.

She feels powerless to resist his raw brute strength. Is this where they kiss for the first time?
They've always wanted to but they were too scared.

I guess underwater it doesn't matter much.

I guess not.

(THEY slowly kiss. CANNONS go off. BELLS ring. The 1812 Overture is played. THEY break apart.)

Uh, Yo Yo, I better write this down before I forget it.

I won't forget it.

I met this lady who works in the library. She said she'd teach me how to use her typewriter.

That's good.

Yeah. Maybe afterwards, I'll...I'll ball her.

(PROVOLONEY exits.)

BLACKOUT
ACT [1]

SCENE [6]

(The beach beyond Bettina's house. BERDINE is writing in her diary.)

BERDINE

dear diary: gear up for another helping of Berdine's flaming self pity. i miss chicklet so much. ever since she got that darn surf board, nothing's been the same. i wish i'd never given her that money. a girl's best friend is something very special. and chicklet's more than just my best friend. it's like we're one person. i know that sounds kooky but it's true. oh, life is but a meaningless charade, death the ultimate absurdity. i am living proof of sartre's existential concept of nausea. gosh, i wish i had a tums. of course, i've been very busy working for miss barnes. she's a nice lady but very complicated.

(bettina enters stretching.)

BERDINE

good morning, miss b!

BETTINA

what a splendiforous morning. i can't tell you how grand it feels to be away from that salacious hollywood rat race. i was so tense. you can't imagine the hubbub in my lower lumbar region.

BERDINE

well, this week has done wonders for you. you look like a completely different person.

BETTINA

(suspicious and paranoid)

who? what's her measurements?

BERDINE

no, what i meant was...oh...

(sees telegram in her hand)

oh! miss barnes, that telegram arrived that you were waiting for.
BETTINA  
(Excited)  
Oh wow, I'm scared to open it. It's from the studio. I've asked them to release me from my contract.  
(Opens it)  
I'm too scared to read it. It's awful being this vulnerable.  
(To Berdine)  
You read it to me.  

BERDINE  
(Reading)  
Dear Bettina, up yours, stop, with turpentine, stop. New picture "Sex Kittens Go Bossa Nova" starts lensing September first. Be there or expect legal action. Stop. Love Sid Rosen.  
(Stops reading)  
Oh Bettina, I'm so sorry. You poor little thing.  

BETTINA  
(Tough as nails and in a low rough voice)  
That cheap son of a bitch can't do this to me. He slaps me with a subpoena and I'll have his balls on a plate.  

BERDINE  
(Shocked)  
Bettina.  

BETTINA  
(Pacing furious)  
After all the money I made for those bastards. They can't do this to me. I'm Bettina Barnes. I'm no flash in the pan that'll take any piece of crap. I'm playing hard ball, baby.  

BERDINE  
Have you read the script? Maybe it's not bad.  

BETTINA  
Not bad! Lassie could fart out a better script.  

(YO YO and PROVOLONEY enter. PROVOLONEY is tricked up in his notion of a hollywood movie mogul)
Hey there, Miss Barnes, I hear you got some work you'd like us to do.

(Bettina, soft and vulnerable)
Oh, yeah, something. I needed something done. I'm so forgetful.

(Remembers)
Oh, yes. Last night I was sleepwalking and I suddenly woke up and discovered this adorable little garden in my back yard. During the last storm, all the little trees and shrubbery must have broken and it's a dreadful mess. Could you clear it up for me? And then we can have swell parties. I make delicious jalapeño pancakes.

Sure thing. We'll clean it up.

Excuse me Miss Barnes, do you think I could talk to you for a moment?

But of course.

I never told you this before but this surf bum business is just a façade, I'm really a screenwriter.

You're what?

He's a screenwriter.

Written tons of stuff, TV, radio. I've got a development deal going for me at Columbia. Meeting you yesterday gave me the inspiration for a new picture. A big picture, cinemascope, 3-D, smell-o-vision.

Really, I inspired you?
PROVOLONEY
You certainly did. It's just a treatment, really, an idea.

YO YO
But it's a great one.

BETTINA
I love a man with a big idea.

PROVOLONEY
Columbia's been putting the screws on me to make it with Kim.

BETTINA
(Very impressed)
You know Kim Novak?

PROVOLONEY
Great gal but dead eyes, blank, an empty screen. This idea...

BETTINA
Oh, tell me all about it.

PROVOLONEY
The setting: Malibu Beach. I see you as the daughter of a shipping tycoon. You...

BERDINE

PROVOLONEY
Yeah, well, it's like that, only better. You can have the hole megillah for two thousand dollars.

BETTINA
Two thousand dollars. It sounds most intriguing but I think for my first independent feature, I should play a typical girl of today, someone who the audience can identify with and yet a girl with a personal problem, like psoriasis. However, maybe we can develop this further.

PROVOLONEY
Bettina baby, I don't want to pressure you but...
BETTINA
(Looks offstage)
Oh, look, there's your little friend, Chicklet. I don't know, there's something kind of funny about her.

(CHICKLET enters with a wild red feather boa, and smoking out of a long cigarette holder.)

CHICKLET
(In ANN BOWMAN'S voice)
Berdine darling! It's been eons since we last met.

BERDINE
(Shocked)
Chicklet?

CHICKLET
Miss Barnes, a delight as always.
(To the boys)
Hello, boys.
(THEY ALL say "Hi" in a dazed manner.)
I do hope these boys have been showing you a good time. They taught me how to surf and now I'm positively addicted to shooting the curl, as they say.

BETTINA
They're helping me fix up my backyard

CHICKLET
How utterly fab. Boys, I have a little job for you.

YO YO
Chicklet, are you feeling all right?

CHICKLET
Just swellsville. I'd like to have a cage built.

PROVOLONEY
A bird cage?

CHICKLET
No, something suitable for a bigger animal, or animals.

BERDINE
Chicklet, what are you talking about?

CHICKLET
(Becomes herself)
Berdine. Where am I?  
(Sees boa and cigarette holder)  
What's all this?  

BERDINE  
You tell me.  

CHICKLET  
(At a loss)  
Ohhh, I found it in the garbage outside The 'Sco.  
(SHE laughs hysterically but no one else does.)  
Eek.  

PROVOLONEY  
You wanted us to build you a cage.  

CHICKLET  
A cage? Don't be a doofus...Anyways, now that I am here...Berdine, I feel awful for the way I've been treating you. I don't know what could possess me being so rude like that. You should just belt me. Go on and belt me.  

BERDINE  
I couldn't.  

CHICKLET  
Really. You're like my...How do I...  

BERDINE  
I know. You are too.  

CHICKLET  
But more than that. We've always...  

BERDINE  
That's true. But still sometimes...  

CHICKLET  
Oh, but we...  

BERDINE  
Yeah, but I wouldn't want...  

CHICKLET  
You don't really want...  

BERDINE  
I just don't...
CHICKLET
Trust me. C'mon. Please Berdine, please go on being my best friend for a zillion more years. What do you say?

BERDINE
For a zillion trillion more years. To infinity.

(THEY hug.)

CHICKLET
Will you be my escort to the luau?

BERDINE
You don't think I'm too much of a nerd-brain?

Of course not.

CHICKLET
Provoloney
What are you two going to do for the talent show?

CHICKLET
What talent show?

YO YO
That's part of the tradition. Everyone's gotta get up and do an act. I'm doing my Jane Russell imitation. (Pulls his shirt out like bosoms)

Boom titty boom.

BERDINE
I know. Remember that act we did for the Kiwanis Club Variety Night? The costume is in my attic.

CHICKLET
You got yourself a partner.

(THEY shake.)

BETTINA
I'm glad you patched things up. I'm so in awe of friendship. I mean, never having any. We better get started on the garden before it gets dark. Come on, kids.

(ALL THE KIDS including CHICKLET and BERDINE exit laughing and singing.)

(Star Cat and Marvel Ann stroll on)
MARVEL ANN
Star Cat, you mean little devil, I was up all night thinking about you.

STAR CAT
(Excited)
You were?

MARVEL ANN
Uh huh. Couldn't sleep a wink. You wanna know what I was thinking?

STAR CAT
Empty that beautiful head of yours.

MARVEL ANN
I was thinking that you and I are going to be united as one forever.

STAR CAT
(Nervously)
Gee, Marvel Ann, are you sure I'm good enough for you? I wouldn't want you to settle.

MARVEL ANN
Settle? You're the dreamboat of all time, generous, always thinking of others, sensitive.

STAR CAT
Aw, I'm just a good for nothing surf bum.

MARVEL ANN
That's not true. You're just riddled with greatness. I look in your eyes and honestly, I see dollar signs.

STAR CAT
You don't understand. I'm rejecting those false values. I refuse to worship the golden calf.

MARVEL ANN
(Petulant but still pleasant)
You don't know what you want. I think it's a horrid shame that you're throwing away a great future as a psychiatrist. All your wonderful compassion going to waste.

(STAR CAT tries to interject)
Oh, I know what you're going to say, "I just want a little shack by the water." Well you can't expect me
to live like that. Imagine me serving my friends Steak Diana Flambe in a lean-to.

(START CAT tries to interject)
Don't say a word, I know what you're thinking, "Marvel Ann is such a lovely person, in time she'd grow used to such a life."

(With growing emotion and intensity)
Well I'd be humiliated. Oh, I can read you like the funny papers.

(With growing fury)
You think I'm so head over heels in love with you, I'll accept whatever crumbs you have to offer. Well, no siree Bob, I am hardly a desperate female. Ohhh, look at that awful expression in your eyes. I bet you think you don't even have to marry me, that I'd shack up with you like a common whore. Now you've really don it. I am livid. How could you think of such filth! You are a selfish, egocentric creep and my advice to you is to straighten up, buckle down and apply yourself like any other decent, normal Presbyterian!!

(SHE stalks off in a fury.)

(CHICKLET enters)

STAR CAT

(Angrily)
Hey, what are you doing here?

CHICKLET
I didn't know you owned this beach. I don't see your initials carved into the ocean.

STAR CAT
Sorry. I didn't mean to bark at you.

CHICKLET
(Sympathetically)
Girl trouble?

STAR CAT
Yeah, that dame wants to put a ball and chain around my neck.

CHICKLET
Well, don't you dare let her. I think it's swell the way you guys live.
STAR CAT
You do?

CHICKLET
Sure. Flying about as free as a gull, never having a care in the world.

STAR CAT
You're on my beam. Marvel Ann doesn't understand me at all. She thinks she can see through me like wax paper but she's wrong. I'm an extremely complex person with deep rooted neuroses and anxieties. You wouldn't understand, you're just a kid.

CHICKLET
(Offended)
I am not just a kid. I'm capable of intensely passionate adult feelings. If you didn't have so much sea foam in your eyes, you'd notice I'm a budding young woman.

STAR CAT
(Amused)
Honey, your buds have a long way to bloom.

CHICKLET
Evidently some people don't share that opinion.

Like who?

STAR CAT

CHICKLET
Oh, some people.

Like nobody.

STAR CAT

CHICKLET
Like Kanaka. He thinks I'm, how did he put it? I'm a luscious voluptuary.

STAR CAT
Liar. I know Kanaka. He could have any dame in Malibu.

CHICKLET
Well, he wants me.

STAR CAT

How do you know?
CHICKLET
It's one of those mystical things a woman feels instinctively in her soul.

STAR CAT
Get over it.

CHICKLET
(Defensively)
He taught me how to surf, didn't he? And he tries to see me every day and he always makes sure we're completely alone. As a matter of fact, I'm headed over to Kanaka's shack right now, for an extremely intimate tête-à-tête.

STAR CAT
I don't believe it.

CHICKLET
Chacon á son gout. That means, each to his own, you dope. He thinks I'm special.

STAR CAT
I think you're trying to make me jealous. What a screwy kid you are. I bet you've got a great big fat crush on me.

CHICKLET
(Blushing)
You've got a great big fat ego.

STAR CAT
Hey c'mon, let's call it a truce. I like you, kid. I do. And I think you're very special.

CHICKLET
Please don't patronize me.

STAR CAT
(Turns her around and holds her chin)
You are special.

CHICKLET
(Vulnerable)
I am?

STAR CAT
And cute.
CHICKLET
I am?

STAR CAT
You need somebody to protect you.

CHICKLET
Protect me from what?

STAR CAT
(Friendly)
Oh, from big bad wolves. You could be a tasty morse, to some wolf.

CHICKLET
What about to you?

STAR CAT
I suppose I could be dangerously tempted.

CHICKLET
Oh, Star Cat.

(STAR CAT opens his mouth to sing. We hear an obviously dubbed recording of a teen idol singing the "Chicklet Theme Song." Suddenly, the record gets stuck, and we hear the needle scratch across the record. There is an uncomfortable silence.)

STAR CAT
I guess I'll have to tell you how I feel. You're a one of a kind girl, Chicklet, like no one I've ever met.

CHICKLET
What about Marvel Ann? Is she one of a kind too?

STAR CAT
(Smiles, embarrassed)
Well...

CHICKLET
Star Cat, what do boys do when they're alone with a girl?

STAR CAT
You can't ask me such a question.
CHICKLET
Why not? I want to know.

STAR CAT
They neck. I don't know.

CHICKLET
What do you do with Marvel Ann?

STAR CAT
This is embarrassing, Chicklet.

Tell me.

(Romantic music sneaks in through the end of the scene.)

STAR CAT
She nestles real close to me.

CHICKLET
(Cuddles next to him)
Kind of like this?

STAR CAT
(Horny and nervous)
Yeah, sort of like that. I hold her in my arms. And she holds me back.

CHICKLET
Like this? And then what do you do?

STAR CAT
I kiss the back of her neck. I can't do this with you.

CHICKLET
Pretend I'm Marvel Ann. I need to know this sort of thing. For my own protection.

STAR CAT
I stroke her arm and she kisses my chest. (CHICKLET kisses his chest) And we can feel our hearts beating as one. We find ourselves swaying to the same personal rhythm.

CHICKLET
You take your clothes off, right?
STAR CAT

(Lost in the moment)

Uh huh.

CHICKLET

You got your clothes off. Then what?

STAR CAT

I caress her smooth satiny flesh. It glistens in the moonlight. She gently touches my muscles with her fingertips. Our bodies seem to float to the ground. We're entwined. And then I slowly slide my penis into her vagina. Simultaneously, she licks her index finger and inserts it up my rectum as I pump my penis...

(During this last graphic part, CHICKLET is horrified and at the end of his speech, SHE screams as if in a horror movie and runs away.)

STAR CAT

(Shouting after her)

Chicklet, come back!

BLACKOUT
ACT [1]

SCENE [7]

(Kanaka's shack. STAR CAT enters)

STAR CAT
Kanaka, where are you? You home?

(KANAKA enters)

KANAKA
Hey pal, what are you doing in my shack without an invite? I don’t dig surprise visits.

STAR CAT
I'm looking for Chicklet.

KANAKA
She's not here, not yet.

STAR CAT
But she will be.

KANAKA
Yeah, and what's it to you? She's not your chick.

STAR CAT
And she shouldn’t be yours either. She's only a kid.

KANAKA
That's all you know.

STAR CAT
If you've laid a finger on her...

KANAKA
Hey, cool out. You don’t know the score. There is more to that Chicklet than meets the old eyeball. There's like two Chiclets in one, man.

STAR CAT
What are you talking about?

KANAKA
It's wild. She's like twins in one bod. One's an angel and the other's a she devil. She calls herself Ann Bowman and she's like a demon. And the weird thing is, I can turn her off and on like a flashlight.
STAR CAT
You're talking crazy.

KANAKA
(Desperate)
Can I trust you, buddy? Will you swear by the code of the King of the Sea you won't tell anyone any of this?

STAR CAT
Yeah, I swear.

KANAKA
I got it heavy for Ann Bowman. She's like a drug running through my veins and I can't shake her. I'm even gonna let her shave me, man.

STAR CAT
You're not making any sense.

KANAKA
Nothing makes sense. But I need her. I need Mistress Ann.

STAR CAT
Get a hold of yourself.

KANAKA
She's power mad. She's plotting to take over the world. First Malibu and then Sacramento. She wants to set up concentration camps for her enemies and public executions and her own NBC variety series.

(CHICKLET enters unseen by them)

STAR CAT
If this is true, you've got to stop this!

KANAKA
I can't give her up, I'd kill for Ann Bowman.

CHICKLET
Who's Ann Bowman?

STAR CAT
Stay out of this.

KANAKA
Star Cat, I want you to meet a friend of mine. Hey Chicklet, you remember that kit we saw, that...
STAR CAT
You son of a...

(STAR CAT tries to punch out Kanaka. THEY fight. CHICKLET tries to get between them. Suddenly THEY ALL start to move in slow motion and we see Chicklet get in the way of STAR CAT's punch and slowly drift to the floor.)

Chicklet, are you all right?

KANAKA
Now you've done it, man.

(THEY BOTH hold her as SHE comes to.)

CHICKLET
What happened? Where am I?

KANAKA
In my beach shack.

(There's WILD KNOCKING at the door)

KANAKA
The door's open.

(MRS. FORREST enters in a furious state)

MRS. FORREST
Well, this is a pretty sight, I must say.

KANAKA
Who the hell are you?

CHICKLET
Mom, what are you doing here?

MRS. FORREST
Young lady, you are in big trouble.

STAR CAT
Mrs. Forrest, you don't understand.

MRS. FORREST
Indeed I do understand. I also know the penalty for seducing a minor. You and your buddy will be sitting in stir for quite a while.
CHICKLET
Mother, would you stop. Kanaka and Star Cat are my friends. There was nothing dirty involved.

MRS. FORREST
How dare you speak to me in that manner. I see now clearly the effect of a permissive childhood. All the gentle caring, the indulgences, the little treats. How wrong I was. Life will be quite different from now on. I am going to mete out a severe punishment for you, young lady, most severe indeed.

CHICKLET
Mother.

MRS. FORREST
Get in the car.

(CHICKLET exits. To the boys.)
You two scum bags had better get yourselves a good mouthpiece, cause I'm gonna tear your peckers off in that courtroom. Good evening, gentlemen.

BLACKOUT
ACT [1]

SCENE [8]

(BERDINE is in her bedroom writing in her diary.)

BERDINE

Dear Diary: This entry is strictly confidential. Chicklet's Mom is on the warpath. She locked the Chicklet in her room and has refused her all visitors, yours truly included. Panicsville, here I come. The luau is tomorrow night! Chicklet and I simply have to be there. We've been rehearsing our Siamese twin act all week. It's gonna be the greatest thing ever. I swear, grownups think they can run the whole world. Like Nathan Hale or Lafayette Escadrille, there is only one person who refuses to bow down before tyranny, I Berdine! I'm marching over to Chicklet's right now and get her out of there. I defy you stars, nothing and I mean nothing is going to stop us from going to the luau.

BLACKOUT

(Chicklet's bedroom. CHICKLET is bound and gagged. A TV tray with dinner is placed before her. MRS. FORREST enters with creepy serenity.)

MRS. FORREST

What a dinner. I'm so stuffed I can hardly move. I certainly enjoyed my T-bone steak, so bloody rare and juicy.

(Thoughtfully)

I may have overcooked the fava beans. Vegetables are delicate creatures. (a la Silence of The Lambs)

(With vulnerable charm)

Still, I have to admit, it was delicious.

(Still lovely)

This meal could have been yours, Chicklet, if you hadn't chosen to disobey me. Do you finally see what I mean about making the right choices in life? It's a rough world, darling, with a lot of crummy people out there. You can't be impressed with them.

(With force)

Believe me, they stink!

(Back to her charming manner)
I'm afraid I still see defiance in your eyes. You have so much to learn.

(SHE touches the gag restraint. Jokes.)

I bet you think I've taken this gag too far.

(Laughs at her joke)

That's funny.

(SHE gives the gag a tighter tug)

I think we'll keep this on a wee bit longer.

(SHE exits.)

(BERDINE enters swinging in through the window on a rope made of bedsheets.)

BERDINE

Chicklet! What has she done to you?

(SHE tries to untie her)

You poor helpless thing. How did she do this? These must be army knots. Don't be mad but I think our top priority should be your arms. I hope this experience won't make you bitter and pessimistic. Just hold on. I'm not saying you should be a grinning idiot but as Schopenhauer says "we should strive for a tragic optimism."

(CHICKLET grunts)

It's not easy, the greater the intelligence, the greater the capacity for suffering.

(CHICKLET grunts)

(MRS. FORREST enters unbeknownst to Berdine whose back is to her. CHICKLET sees Mrs. Forrest and grunts trying to warn Berdine.)

BERDINE

I can't get it. We'll have to get you out of here the way you are. Give a little hop.

(BERDINE turns around and sees Mrs. Forrest.)

MRS. FORREST

(Exuding charm)

Hello Berdine. How kind of you to visit us. I've made a terrific bunt cake. Care for a slice?

BERDINE

(Totally freaked)

That's okay. My Mom made butterscotch pudding for dessert. I've really got to get along.
MRS. FORREST
Such a pity. I was hoping you'd watch "Bonanza" with us. Are you planning to take Chicklet with you?

BERDINE
Uh yes, actually. We've been rehearsing...I mean we've been working on a science project together. Mendel's theory of propagation and all that stuff.

MRS. FORREST
I'm afraid Mendel will have to propagate without the help of my Chicklet. She's been a naughty girl and naughtiness must be punished. Chicklet lied to me and more importantly she lied to herself. Berdine, you must be brutally honest with yourself, cruelly honest. Rip away the cobwebs of delusion. Dig and find the ugliness at the base of your soul, expose it to the light, examine it, let it wither, then kill it!!! Girl, know thyself!
(Trying to control her emotions)
It's the only way.

BERDINE
(Caught up in the debate and forgetting Chicklet)
Mrs. Forrest, I fervently disagree.
(CHICKLET grunts desperately)
One must seek self knowledge but illusion is necessary to preserve a sense of innocence.

MRS. FORREST
(Pulls Chicklet to her)
None are innocent, all are guilty.

BERDINE
(Realizes Mrs. Forrest isn't on her wavelength)
Mrs. Forrest, you're a fascinating conversationalist but I've really got to get Chicklet out of here.

MRS. FORREST
(Forcefully)
Chicklet is grounded!

BERDINE
Get out of my way, Mrs. Forrest. I am rescuing Chicklet. You are not responsible for your actions.
MRS. FORREST
You take one more step and you'll be a nerd with no teeth.

BERDINE
To save Chicklet, I would gladly wear a complete bridge.

(BERDINE moves and MRS. FORREST grabs her. THEY wrestle to the ground and fight it out. Finally BERDINE gets the upper hand and sits on Mrs. Forrest's chest, pinning her down.)

Chicklet, run for it!

MRS. FORREST
(Gasping)
Get off me! You big cow.

(CHICKLET with her feet bound slowly hops offstage while BERDINE talks to Mrs. Forrest)

BERDINE
(Ties Mrs. Forrest up with bedsheets)
I'm really sorry, Mrs. Forrest, for being so disrespectful. This is highly uncharacteristic behavior for me but you know, lately I've been cramming myself with Sartrean existentialism so maybe I'm unduly influenced by his commitment to extreme action. Gosh, this is deep.

BLACKOUT
ACT [1]

SCENE [9]

(The luau. LIGHTS up and PROVOLONEY, YO YO, KANAKA, BETTINA, NICKY, and DEE DEE are all having a wild time. STAR CAT enters.)

STAR CAT
Marvel Ann, Marvel Ann! Has anybody seen Marvel Ann?

EVERYONE
No!

NICKY
Hey cats, let's Party!

(THERE ENSUES A FULL-ON DRAG SHOW. At the height of the festivities MARVEL ANN enters, her hair half shaved off. BETTINA is the first to see her and screams.)

MARVEL ANN
(Hysterical)
My hair! My hair! I'm gonna kill the bastard who did this.

STAR CAT
Marvel Ann, what happened?

MARVEL ANN
I was lying on the beach with my eyes closed. Someone knocked me out. I work up and the bastard was shaving my head. They'd already shaved my beaver.

PROVOLONEY
Couldn't you see who it was?

MARVEL ANN
No, they had glued stripper's pasties over my eyes. I'm so humiliated.

KANAKA
(In terror to STAR CAT)
Ann Bowman strikes again.
BETTINA
Honey, in a few months you'll have a cute pixie.
(MARVEL ANN groans. PROVOLONEY jumps up trying to get everyone's attention.)

PROVOLONEY
Quiet, everybody. QUIET!
(EVERYONE settles down to watch the show)
Good evening and welcome to Provoloney's Pacific Follies. How is everyone out there? Ready for a great show? Let me hear you.

NICKY
Boo! Get on with the show.
(EVERYONE joins in booing)

PROVOLONEY
I love these audiences, the greatest in the world. I tell you, coming over here tonight I couldn't help but be reminded of the story of the Stewardess in from Cleveland. She arrives at...

NICKY
We heard that already. Bring on the girls.
(EVERYONE joins in.)

PROVOLONEY
Rough house. Okay, you want entertainment, I'll give you entertainment with a capital E. There's nothing I like better than discovering young talent. And I...

NICKY
Where did they discover you? Under a rock? Get on with it.

PROVOLONEY
(Getting mad)
What I'm doing is laying the foundation for the evening at...

NICKY
You're laying an egg.
(EVERYONE laughs)

PROVOLONEY
I've gotten big laughs from tougher crowds than you.
NICKY
Before or after you dropped your pants?
(EVERYONE laughs)

PROVOLONEY
(Furious)
That does it! I don't have to take this. Do your own stinkin' show.

(_STAR CAT jumps up and soothes Provoloney's ego_

STAR CAT
Aw, c'mon, he's just joshing you. You're doing great. Go on. Guys, give him some support.
(THEY applaud)

PROVOLONEY
Well, if you insist. Without further ado
(HE gives Nicky a dirty look)
Please give a warm hand to a sister act that ends all sister acts. Straight from the Vaudeville Circuit, the spectacular, the inseparable, Daisy and Violet. Take if away girls.

(CHICKLET and BERDINE enter in a wild red costume joined at the hip)

CHICKLET
My name is Daisy.

BERDINE
My name is Violet.

BERDINE/CHICKLET
(In unison)
LIFE AIN'T ALWAYS A PIP
WHEN YOU'RE JOINED AT THE HIP.

IF JUST A SMALL BUMP
DOES STRANGE THINGS TO YOUR RUMP,

AND A HOT STRIPPER'S GRIND
REALLY ACHES YOUR BEHIND,

BUT ENUF OF THIS KVETCHING
WE STILL LOOK MOST FETCHING,

SO VO DE OH DO,
LET'S GET ON WITH THE SHOW.
(CHICKLET and BERDINE begin singing a song such as "The Lady in Red". In the middle of the song, CHICKLET begins talking to herself. BERDINE continues to sing.)

CHICKLET

Red...red...red dress.
(mutters)
Take that off. You look like a whore. Take that dress off.
(Cries like a baby)
I'm angry. I'm angry. I don’t like this. I can't move. Get me out.
(BERDINE continues to sing nervously, CHICKLET makes animal sounds)

BERDINE

Chicklet, please. "The Lady in Red," the fellas are crazy about the...

CHICKLET

(Muttering)
Crazy, crazy, the fellas are crazy...about ME! Me, Ann Bowman, live, onstage!
(Laughs raucously)
At last, in the spotlight.

BERDINE

(Nervously improvising)
Now Chicklet's going to do some impersonations for you. Who are you doing, Chicklet?

CHICKLET

(As ANN)
Get your hands off me, you blithering bull dyke.

BETTINA

What's going on?

CHICKLET

(As ANN)
Silence! Now that I have your attention, I'd like to sing my song, my SOLO!
(Crooning)
More than the greatest love the world has known...
(A LITTLE GIRL)
Stop, I don’t like your singing, you scare me.
(As ANN)
Shut up you little bitch!
(As Jolene)
Don’t you be talking to that sweet child like that.
(As ANN)
Do not underestimate my fury, Jolene.
(As JOLENE)
I ain’t scared of you, Mama.
(As DR. ROSE MAYER)
Excuse me, if I may interject. This is Dr. Rose Mayer speaking. If you have a personal grievance, by all means you are entitled to a fair hearing but let us not air out our dirty laundry in public.
(As ANN)
Butt out, you blabbering battleax
(As DR. ROSE MAYER)
Once more I must interject. Ann, the question I ask of you is why? Why cause all this tsouris, this unhappiness.
(As ANN)
Enough! You insolent fools! I am taking over Chicklet's mind once and for all. Chicklet is officially dead!

BERDINE
Stop it, stop it!

CHICKLET
I warned you not to touch me.
(As ANN)
(SHE starts to strangle Berdine. STAR CAT and KANAKA try to separate them. CHICKLET pulls out a straight razor and the chase is on. CHICKLET is on the rampage chasing all the kids, dragging Berdine behind her.)
It's a shave and a haircut for all of you. How about white sidewalls, honey.
(As ANN)
(SHE moves towards BETTINA)
I'll get you anyway, Peewee.

BETTINA
(Holding her ponytail)
It's a fake! It's a switch! Help! Help!
(As STAR CAT and KANAKA subdue Chicklet. THEY pin her arms back and grab the razor. BERDINE is in hysterics.)

STAR CAT
Let's get them out of that costume.
(THEY break away the Hilton twins costume, freeing them. BETTINA comforts Berdine.)

(MRS. FORREST enters)

MRS. FORREST
I thought I'd find her here. I'm going to have all of you arrested for kidnapping.

STAR CAT
Mrs. Forrest, your daughter is mentally ill.

MRS. FORREST
My little girl is as normal as I am.

CHICKLET
(In the voice of Jolene)
I gotta go back to work at the Safeway.

MRS. FORREST
(Near hysteria, grasping at straws)
She wants to be an actress. She's putting on a character.
(Breaks down)
She's not sick!

CHICKLET
(As ANN)
You're so right, Mrs. Forrest, I am hardly the lunatic they are painting me to be. I am totally in control.

STAR CAT
You are merely a delusion of Chicklet Forrest that enables her to express anger and rage.

CHICKLET
(As ANN)
Fancy phrases. And a big basket. I'd like to strap you on sometime.

STAR CAT
That is highly unlikely since you are about to be obliterated.

CHICKLET
(As ANN)
Party pooper.
STAR CAT
You don't frighten me. I'm flesh and blood. You're a psychological manifestation. I can conquer you.

CHICKLET
(As ANN)
There's no man alive strong enough to conquer me...maybe Bob Hope.

STAR CAT
I'm going to place you under hypnosis and through the technique of past regression get to the root of the trauma that fragmented Chicklet's personality.

MRS. FORREST
I can't allow this. He doesn't know what he's doing.

PROVOLONEY
He's had three semesters of psychiatric training.

STAR CAT
Look into my eyes. I'm taking you back in time.

MRS. FORREST
Someone stop this madness!

CHICKLET
(As ANN)
Oh shut your hole. Go on darling Doctor Star Cat.

STAR CAT
I want to speak to Chicklet. Chicklet, are you there?

CHICKLET
It's hard, I feel so far away, I can't...
(SHE begins to sound like a radio with static)

MRS. FORREST
She's babbling.
(SHE exits)

STAR CAT
It's a bad connection. Chicklet, I know you are there. We are here to help you. Trust me. Are you there?

(CHICKLET is sounding like a radio quickly switching stations)
KANAKA
(Sincerely)
Maybe you should try her on FM.

STAR CAT
Talk to us Chicklet, talk to us.

CHICKLET
(States noises clearing as DR. ROSE)
...lieve you will have greater success conversing with one of us.

STAR CAT
Who am I talking to?

CHICKLET
(As DR. ROSE)
Dr. Rose Mayer, you're on the air.

STAR CAT
Who exactly are you?

CHICKLET
(As DR. ROSE)
A radio personality, and a syndicated columnist.

PROVOLONEY
This is weird, man, too weird.

CHICKLET
(As DR. ROSE)
I serve a very important function in Chicklet's life. Any situation that gets a little mishugga, that requires tact or diplomacy, I come in. In toto, I'm a people person.

STAR CAT
And who is Jolene?

CHICKLET
(As Jolene)
I am her ambitious self. Come September first, I am attending night school where I can study keypunch and office management skills.

(Suddenly CHICKLET turns into STEVE, an all American boy.)

CHICKLET
(As STEVE)
Whoa, can I just say something for a minute?

    STAR CAT
I believe we're meeting someone new. What's your name?

    CHICKLET
(As STEVE)
Steve.

    STAR CAT
Are you also a radio personality?

    CHICKLET
(As STEVE)
No. I'm a male model.

    STAR CAT
Describe yourself.

    CHICKLET
(As STEVE)
I'm a forty regular.
    (Fidgety)
I'm very important to Chicklet. I'm her athletic self. I enjoy all sports, ice hockey, kayaking, golf, competition bowling. Of course I do try to be a well-rounded person. I love old romantic movies, snuggling up by a fire. I guess what I look most for in a girl are great legs and a sense of herself.
    (HE winks at Bettina, who gasps)

    STAR CAT
Are there any more of you?

    CHICKLET
(As STEVE)
Gosh, let's see, there's a veterinarian, a couple singers, a reformed rabbi, a lighting designer, the accounting firm of Edelman and Edelman, a podiatrist...
    (As CHICKLET)
Help me.

    STAR CAT
Chicklet, is that you?

    CHICKLET
(As a LITTLE GIRL)
Uh huh. (SHE sings)
"IT'S RAINING, IT'S POURING..."

STAR CAT

How old are you?

CHICKLET

Eight. Seven and a half.

STAR CAT

Where are you?

CHICKLET

In a room, Mama calls it the hotel. There's a playground across the street. My brother Frankie and me like to go one the swings.

BERDINE

She doesn't have a brother.

CHICKLET

I do too have a brother. He's seven and a half.

YO YO

Twins.

CHICKLET

Mama says we can't go on the swings alone. She says it's too dangerous. Mama's going to take us to the movies today. She says she's gonna...

(MRS. FORREST appears in a a strange light, SHE is in the past, dressed in a red dress like a sexy young whore in the 1940's.)

MRS. FORREST

(Gently)

Baby, I'm so sorry. We're gonna have to go to the movies another day. Mama's gotta work. Fellas come on it. These are my twins, ain't they cute?

CHICKLET

But you promised you'd take us to the movies.

MRS. FORREST

Well, I'm sorry. What do you want from my life? You wanna eat, don'tcha? Anyways, we gotta do our bit for the boys who go overseas. These guys are in the Navy
and your Mama is making sure they are very well entertained.

(SHE giggles. To the children)
Now darlings, go outside and play. I'll meet you in the playground in an hour.

CHICKLET
You're not fair.

MRS. FORREST
Florence, I don't want anymore lip. Take Frankie and go outside and play. And don't you go near those swings.

(SHE turns to the sailors)
Sorry guys, being a Mom ain't easy. Now what was your name again, good looking? Please to meetcha, Johnny. Just call me Ann. Ann Bowman.

(SHE exits)

CHICKLET
(In her normal voice)
I was so angry. I wanted to hurt her. I took Frankie's hand and we crossed the street to the playground. There were these awful children playing, pounding strange primitive instruments. A sharp breeze caused the wild flowers to have the wizened faces of starving circus clowns. The sky seemed so threatening, as if the clouds were created of demented angels warning me to flee. But I couldn't. I can't. Don't make me go on. Please.

STAR CAT
You must. What happened next?

CHICKLET
I look down and there's a pale green snake slithering along the crack of the pavement, a coolly seductive creature on its way to a lizard ball. This veridian temptress stops to deliver me a message. A perverse billet-doux that I must disobey my mother. No, no, I can't do that. I love my mother. She's kind and beautiful. The snakes multiply, in a moment, there are reptiles covering the jungle gym making those steel bars as green as grass and terrifyingly alive. And all of them whispering "Go on, go on, go on the swings. Your mother doesn't love you. She loathes the very sight of you." I looked at my little brother, wearing his red overalls with the little fishes. I said, "Frankie, let's go on the swings."
It'll be fun. I don't care what Mama said." He got on the swing and I pushed him. Harder and harder I pushed him until he was soaring into the clouds and that's when I dared him. I dared him, "I bet you can't stay on with no hands." He took me up on the bet and let go, and my wonderful little twin brother, this adorable little boy who loved and trusted me, he flew off the swing and into the outstretched arms of those ghastly angels and I never saw him again until we found his crushed, little body in the dumpster next door!

(SHE dissolves into tears, STAR CAT holds her. MRS. FORREST appears again as she is today.)

MRS. FORREST
(Devastated)
It's all true. All of it true. I was so ashamed. I blamed myself for the death of my boy. But I always loved my little girl.
(To CHICKLET)
You must believe that. I did love you. I do. And when Chicklet lost her memory of that day, I took it as a blessing from God. I vowed to create a new life for us, I changed my name, moved to a new city. I suppose I tried too hard, went too far and now...now I see I'm doomed to failure.

CHICKLET
Mother, hold me.
(THEY embrace)

BERDINE
(Sobbing)
I was supposed to be her best friend but I never knew.

KANAKA
How do you feel, Chicklet?

CHICKLET
As if a thousand doors have been opened.

PROVOLONEY
But what does this all mean?

STAR CAT
It's really very simple. Chicklet did her best to suppress this traumatic childhood episode by denying
herself all normal human emotion, so she created the various alter egos to express emotion for her. She associated the sex drive with her mother, so in effect became her childhood vision of her mother, Ann Bowman, whenever placed in a potentially erotic situation.

KANAKA
Is this condition contagious?

STAR CAT
Indeed not. Over eighteen percent of all Americans suffer from some sort of multiple personality disorder. It is not communicable and in most cases, treatable with medical care.

BERDINE
(Energetically)
This is the most exciting story I've ever heard. This is the project that's going to win me an Oscar.

PROVOLONEY
Huh?

BETTINA
A surfer girl with a split personality. A prestige picture if I ever saw one.
(To Chicklet)
Honey, I want to option this property, and believe me I'll pay top dollar. I can't promise casting approval but you can trust my integrity.

MRS. FORREST
I don't know. This is an invasion of...

CHICKLET
Mother, this is important. I want the public to know what it's like to suffer from a multiple personality disorder. And Berdine, will she be in the picture? She's very important, you know.

BETTINA
Oh, sure, sure, a character part.

STAR CAT
But Bettina, do you really think you're ready to interpret such a complex role?

BETTINA
(With artistic integrity)
I don't think, I feel. I know this girl. I feel her torment. I am Chicklet!

(Suddenly switching to her practical show business nature)

Yo Yo and Provoloney, I'm taking you to New York with me as technical consultants on the Malibu scene.

YO YO

Wow, New York!

PROVOLONEY

The Philharmonic!

YO YO

The New York City Ballet!

PROVOLONEY

Balanchine!

YO YO

The Frick! Provoloney, should we tell them about us?

PROVOLONEY

Yeah, since this is the time for truth telling. Yo Yo and I are lovers.

(EVERYONE Gasps)

YO YO

Yes, and we're proud of it. I've read all about the persecution of homosexuals, how in big cities, bars are raided and innocent people arrested, their lives ruined. But someday, someday we're going to fight back and the laws will be changed, and our brothers and sisters will march down the main streets of America shouting that we are proud to be who we are!

PROVOLONEY

Oh, Yo Yo, I really love you.

(THEY embrace. The CROWD sighs in sympathy.)

BETTINA

Come on everybody, let's move this party to my place. I've got the best record collection in town.

(THEY ALL hoot and holler and exit except for BERDINE.)
BERDINE
(Alone onstage, holding the siamese twin costume)
Life sure is wacky. Here Chicklet and I were best friends and I never really knew her. If I don’t know her, can I ever truly know anyone? Star Cat thinks science can tell us everything, and Bettina says if she feels things, they’re true. Oh, sweet, lonely Schopenhauer and crazy ole Nietzsche and dear, committed Jean-Paul, all of you searching and never settling for an easy answer to life’s eternal puzzlement. I hereby vow to carry on your never-ending quest. I know now that my true calling is to be a novelist and devote my life to exploring the fathomless possibilities of the human comedy. Hey, wait for Berdine!
(SHE runs off)

BLACKOUT
ACT [1]

SCENE [10]

(The beach at twilight. STAR CAT is walking along the beach, wearing a tie and jacket. KANAKA enters carrying a suitcase.)

KANAKA

Hey, my man. It's time to shove off. You gonna say farewell to your old chum, Kanaka?

STAR CAT

You off to Tahiti?

KANAKA

(Embarrassed)
No, uh not Tahiti, exactly.

STAR CAT

The Ivory Coast?

KANAKA

New York.

STAR CAT

New York. What kind of place is that for the King of the Surfers?

KANAKA

Bettina. She wants me with her. She needs me.

STAR CAT

I had no idea. You and Bettina.

KANAKA

Yeah well, you know Bettina and her incredible instincts about people. She says our personalities sort of fit together like a crazy jigsaw puzzle. But I told her, I'm the kind of guy that needs my freedom. I don't put up with no bunk, no star tantrums.

(From offstage, we hear BETTINA shouting like a fishwife)

BETTINA

Kanaka! Don't keep me waiting! We've got a nine o'clock plane to catch and I'm not missing it on account of some slow as molasses beach bum. Move it!
KANAKA
(Subservient)
Yes, Bettina.
(To Star Cat)
Ciaou, kid.
(HE exits.)

STAR CAT
(To himself)
The great Kanaka. What a mystery.

(CHICKLET appears in a beautiful gown, somehow grown up and lovely)

CHICKLET
Good evening, Star Cat.

STAR CAT
(In shock)
Chicklet?

CHICKLET
It's a beautiful night. The King of the Sea must be having cocktails.

STAR CAT
Chicklet, you've become a young woman.

CHICKLET
Have I? Star Cat, I...

STAR CAT
I'm not Star Cat anymore. Call me Herbert. Herbert Mullin. Everything seems so different now. I'm leaving the beach.

CHICKLET
Where are you going?

STAR CAT
Back to college. I think I could make a good psychiatrist.

CHICKLET
Do you really want to, with all your heart?

STAR CAT
I do. I want to make sure a monster like Ann Bowman never appears again.
CHICKLET
I'll miss you, Star Cat...I mean, Herb.

STAR CAT
I was wondering...would you wear my pin?

CHICKLET
(Thrilled)
Your pin. Does this mean we're exclusive?

STAR CAT
Well, I'll be all the way in Boston. You can't expect a guy to...

CHICKLET
(Mad)
Well, forget it, you creep. I'll be darned if I'll keep the home fires burning while you're pawning some Beacon Hill, blue-blooded beasel.

STAR CAT
That sounds like Ann Bowman.

CHICKLET
I hope so.

STAR CAT
You're quite a girl. The only girl for me. So will you wear my pin?

CHICKLET
Will I ever! It's the ultimate. It positively surpasses every living emotion I've ever had!
(SHE whips around and takes his arm and THEY walk down the surf to their new happiness.)

BLACKOUT