

OR WHISTLING DOWN THE RIVER,  
COME ON – DELIVER  
TO ME!

WILL IT BE? YES, IT WILL.  
MAYBE JUST BY HOLDING STILL  
IT'LL BE THERE!  
COME ON, SOMETHING, COME ON IN,  
DON'T BE SHY, MEET A GUY,  
PULL UP A CHAIR!

THE AIR IS HUMMING,  
AND SOMETHING GREAT IS COMING!  
WHO KNOWS?  
IT'S ONLY JUST OUT OF REACH,  
DOWN THE BLOCK, ON A BEACH...  
MAYBE TONIGHT...

(DIM-OUT)

## END OF SCENE TWO

# 3A – *Something's Coming Chase*

(Orchestra)

## SCENE THREE

(Bridal shop.

*A small section, enough to include table with sewing machine;  
chair or two.*

*ANITA, a Puerto Rican girl with loose hair and a slightly flashy  
"American" dress, is finishing remaking what was a white commu-  
nion dress into a party dress for an extremely lovely, extremely young  
girl: MARIA. ANITA is knowing, sexual, sharp. MARIA is an  
excited, enthusiastic, obedient child mixed with the temper, stubborn  
strength and awareness of a woman)*

**MARIA**

(Holding out scissors)

Por favor, Anita. Make the neck lower!

IT IS  
LADIES  
SCENE

ANITA

Stop it, Maria.

MARIA

One inch. How much can one little inch do?

ANITA

Too much.

MARIA

*(Exasperated)*

Anita, it is now to be a dress for dancing, no longer for kneeling in front of an altar.

ANITA

With those boys you can start in dancing and end up kneeling.

MARIA

Querida, one little inch; una poca poca —

ANITA

Bernardo made me promise —

MARIA

Ai! Bernardo! One month have I been in this country — do I ever even touch excitement? I sew all day, I sit all night. For what did my fine brother bring me here?

ANITA

To marry Chino.

MARIA

When I look at Chino, nothing happens.

ANITA

What do you expect to happen?

MARIA

I dunno: something. What happens when you look at Bernardo?

ANITA

It's when I don't look that it happens.

MARIA

I think I will tell Mamma and Poppa about you and 'Nardo in the balcony of the movies.

ANITA

I'll rip this to shreds!

MARIA

No. But if you perhaps could manage to lower the neck —

ANITA

Next year.

MARIA

Next year I will be married to Chino and no one will care if it is down to here!

ANITA

Down to where?

MARIA

Down to here. I hate this dress!

ANITA

Then don't wear it and don't come with us to the dance.

MARIA

*(Shocked)*

Don't come!

*(Grabs the dress)*

Could we not dye it red, at least?

ANITA

No, we could not.

*(Starts to help MARIA into the dress)*

MARIA

White is for babies. I will be the only one there in a white —

ANITA

Well???

MARIA

Ahhhh — si! It is a beautiful dress: I love you!

*(As she hugs ANITA, BERNARDO ENTERS followed by a shy, gentle, sweet-faced boy: CHINO)*

(End  
Ladies  
Scene)

BERNARDO

Are you ready?

MARIA

Come in, 'Nardo.

*(Whirls in dress)*

Is it not beautiful?

BERNARDO

*(Looking only at MARIA'S face)*

Yes.

*(Kisses her)*

Very.

ANITA

I didn't quite hear...

BERNARDO

*(Kissing her quite differently)*

Very beautiful.

MARIA

*(Watches them a second, then turns to CHINO)*

Come in, Chino. Do not be afraid.

CHINO

But this is a shop for ladies.

BERNARDO

Our ladies!

MARIA

'Nardo, it is most important that I have a wonderful time at the dancing tonight.