

Henry & Miravel

Sides 5

CASKERS JAZZ CLUB - NEW YEARS

3...2...1.. Happy New Year!

A New Years Party - gaudy decorations. A few party poppers. A few years later. Alphonso and his band are playing NEW YEARS SONG (AULD LANG SYNE & HAPPY BIRTHDAY mixed together as a Blues) - they play the end of the melody - then, Henry enters, gallantly making a show of holding the door for Miravel. He's in a tux, and she's wearing an evening gown. The band continues, underneath:

START

MIRAVEL

You're a real gent.

HENRY

Why thank you Madam.

MIRAVEL

You try this every new year's and every time I say no - why do you keep at it?

HENRY

Because eventually you will succumb to my advances. I've not failed yet. Until you.

MIRAVEL

I'm the only hold out, huh?

HENRY

Yep. This is my first new year's eve not playing since I don't know when. You sure we have to spend it here? I wouldn't mind a night off from this place.

MIRAVEL

You're always complaining I'm shut in with Alphonso all the time, so here we are. I got him this gig so we could come - and here we are. Make it worth my while, buddy.

HENRY

I like taking my muse out for a twirl.

MIRAVEL

Think you have a chance?

HENRY

I wouldn't be here if I didn't.

MIRAVEL

Don't get cocky.

HENRY

Remind me why I try so hard for you?

She turns and looks at him - icy.

HENRY

Sorry. Thought we were playing.

MIRAVEL

Your dissatisfaction isn't particularly funny. It's too constant to be funny.

HENRY

Don't take it so personally.

MIRAVEL

I don't. I know it's not about me. It's just unpleasant. Jesus! Guys like you -

HENRY

Guys like me what?

MIRAVEL

Nevermind.

HENRY

I promise to make up for it later.

MIRAVEL

Oh, you will.

She playfully slaps his chops. They sit at a table -

MIRAVEL

Just so we're clear, I'm here to see him. You're just wallpaper. Cute, but wallpaper.

HENRY

I've never been so delighted and insulted at the same time in all my life.

Alphonso plays a solo - makes his instrument 'Cry' - Henry gets it. He stands up and looks at Miravel, who is lost in the music. He goes to the bar. After the solo, Miravel notices he is gone, and joins him at the bar. The band continues underneath:

MIRAVEL

What, didn't like it?

HENRY

I liked it fine.

MIRAVEL

What's your problem, then?

HENRY

You don't get it, do you?

MIRAVEL

Get what?

HENRY

(bangs fist on the bar)

He's still - Jesus! Am I the only one here who can call things by their proper names?!

MIRAVEL

If you're going to be in one of your moods again, I don't think I want -

HENRY

No no no. You stay, enjoy your night.

MIRAVEL

You have no idea, do you? You get so damn angry all the time-

HENRY

(rising to the bait)

When you're always holding something back - I've got better things to do, hon!

MIRAVEL

You know what? This is why. Because I never know which version of you is going to show up - and it changes at a moments notice. We walked in - you were fine. Trying, even.

Then something happened during the song, pissed you off - and you turned into Angry Frankenstein.

HENRY

Afraid of a little temper? Don't I get a little creative license?

MIRAVEL

You don't actually make anything - you're just a meat machine who makes noise - so what do you need a muse for?

This strikes Henry hard - he can't riposte.

MIRAVEL

I'm all for giving a fellow a shot - but this is really ridiculous. Get a hold of yourself, would you, please!

She grabs her coat and leaves. The Band finishes the song with a burst of the end of the melody.

END