

Henry, Miravel, Alphonso

Sides 1

START

He goes back to the piano. Works on a melody. There's a WOMAN under a blanket under the piano. Alphonso doesn't see her. Works on the melody - is frustrated.

SUDDENLY, Henry bursts into the room:

HENRY

Shhh!

Henry shuts the door and hides behind it.

ALPHONSO

What?

HENRY

Shhh!

They wait.

HENRY

Ok. (Breathes out. Starts laughing.)

ALPHONSO

What?

HENRY

She's gone. Thank god.

ALPHONSO

Who?

HENRY

Clara. I've tried to tell her I'm not interested anymore, she doesn't get it - anything I say to her just makes her want to try harder, and to be honest, I can't stand it.

ALPHONSO

You've been with her for months.

HENRY

It is not months. Is it months? I don't know. It doesn't really count until we -

ALPHONSO

Come on.

HENRY

I'm just saying I broke it off and she won't take no for answer -

The woman throws off her blanket and pops her head out.

WOMAN

I can't listen to this crap anymore.

Alphonso is shocked - Henry just laughs.

HENRY

(to Alphonso)

You sly dog - I didn't know you were 'working' in here!

ALPHONSO

I didn't - How long have you -

WOMAN

I came in here to take a nap, and you came in and started working on a melody and it was nice so I stayed. (To Henry) And then you happened.

She gets out from under the piano. She is striking, dark hair, a dancer's posture. Henry looks at her. He sees that Alphonso is love struck. His demeanor changes instantly. Smooth.

HENRY

Hi, I'm Henry.

(He offers his hand)

WOMAN

Skip it.

(She goes to leave)

HENRY

No no - don't let me interrupt. (He winks at Alphonso) You were enjoying nap and a frustrated melody -

ALPHONSO

Hey -

HENRY

- and I certainly don't want to get in the middle of anything - I'll go.

ALPHONSO

I didn't even know she was here!

WOMAN

The way you treat Clara is despicable.

This stops Henry.

HENRY

At least I'm not frustrated or scared -

WOMAN

What gives you the right to say that?

HENRY

You don't like it? Fine. You're hiding under the piano, and you're (Alphonso) hiding on top of it. I came in here to save the poor girl some pain - so she didn't have to humiliate herself again - and then come back and apologize later. I saved her two trips, actually.

WOMAN

What gives you the right to say I'm scared?

HENRY

Where are you supposed to be?

WOMAN

I have a week pass. I don't want it -

HENRY

And you're spending it under a piano?

WOMAN

I know who you are. You're on the radio already so you are the cock of the walk. And you treat women disgracefully - you have a horrible reputation, you should know, people do talk about that. And I for one -

HENRY

What 19th century Jane Austen novel did you step out of?

WOMAN

It's called manners, perhaps you should read up on them.

She goes to Alphonso - kisses him on the cheek.

MIRAVEL

I'm Miravel. And I don't think your melody is frustrated at all. Good day.

She leaves. Silence. Alphonso puts his hands behind his head and smirks a little.

HENRY

Oh - don't. That's wasn't for you- that was merely against me. Man, she is cute. (His mood darkens) That was bullshit!

He takes out a flask, offers.

ALPHONSO

I don't.

HENRY

(taking a swig)

-and I said I would sing anything you sent my way - and you got nothin!

ALPHONSO

Don't get at me because you're embarrassed.

HENRY

I'm not embarrassed - I don't like being called out by a -

Miravel comes back in.

MIRAVEL

I've thought about it - and everything was perfectly pleasant before you came in - and there's no reason why I should leave - or he should be interrupted. So if you don't mind -

She shows Henry the door.

HENRY

You're a real peach, you know that.

MIRAVEL

Sweetest kind. Bye.

Henry gives Alphonso a steely look. And goes.

END