

## The Jazz Singer

**JESS**

(playing his guitar...) You overlook the beach?

**Molly**

Yep. And sometimes the rent. *(Pause, Jess goes outside and looks at water)* Hey, Robin. Jess Robin. You can get mugged out on the beach you know?

**JESS**

You can get mugged in a recording studio. And uh... the name's Rabinovitch. *(Molly throws him a tape, Jess catches it)* What is it?

**Molly**

"Love on the Rocks", by Jess Robin. The soundman gave it to me as a going away present. Nobody should sing your songs but you, Jess.

**JESS**

So far, nobody has.

**Molly**

Well, look it's a tough business. Lennox is singing your song all wrong, but he is singing it. You'll make it. I knew it the moment I heard you in that recording studio. It might take a little while, but you'll make it.

**JESS**

Well, I don't have a little while. I got fired today. I'm gonna go home. *(PUTS GUITAR BACK IN CASE)*

**Molly**

Jess, you were going to stay two weeks. Why don't you at least give yourself the two weeks?

**JESS**

What can you do in two weeks?

**Molly**

Yeah, you're right. It takes three weeks to become a superstar. To become a legend, at least a month.

**JESS**

Well, I guess I'm out of luck then.

**Molly**

Jess, why don't you stay? What do you have going for you back in New York?

**JESS**

A job for one thing. I really am a Cantor. Come from a family of cantors. For five generations there have been a Cantor Rabinovitch.

**Molly**

So, now all of a sudden there's a Jess Robin.

**JESS**

There's always been a Jess Robin. Ever since I was a kid. You know the songs... that go through your head. I don't know. I guess I came out here to see if they were any good. See if I'm any good. I just don't want to go through life thinking... I could've been.

**Molly**

My father did that. He wanted to be a concert pianist when he was young. Nobody listened to him. Nobody tried to help. So, after awhile, he just played it safe, became a sound engineer. He was really good too. I guess he died thinking maybe I could've been.

**JESS**

*(Pause)* Well, if I was going to stay out here for a couple of weeks, you seem to know the ropes.

**Molly**

I should, I've been knocked through them enough times.

**JESS**

Well, what would I do?

**Molly**

Well, the first thing you got to do is find somebody to handle you. You have to get somebody tough and smart. Somebody who really cares about your talent. And they, who ever, they have to find out who's doing what, and where, and try and get you there ahead of everybody else.

**JESS**

Well, I'm going to need a place to stay.

**Molly**

I have an extra room, you can stay here with me.

**JESS**

I have to let Pop know, call Rifka.

**Molly**

Rifka?

**JESS**

My wife.

**Molly**

You can't stay here with me. Maybe you can stay with Bubba.

**JESS**

And, like you said, I have to find somebody who can handle me, someone who's tough and smart and someone who cares (*looks at Molly*) Now where am I going to find someone like that?

**Molly**

(*smiles and laughs*) Oh well, I guess I have been out of work long enough. Okay.