

Scene Seven

LIZZIE, nineteen, 1923, New York.
She picks up a photograph album.

LIZZIE (contd.)

I love to look at this, my photograph album. Pictures I've taken. I mean, of course, they aren't like in Photoplay or Motion Picture Classic or anything. Just my own little record. I started working, see? For this company near Madison Avenue? Not right on the Avenue, but thereabouts. And, well -

No.7: Frenchie

WITH MY FIRST PAYCHECK
SECRETLY I'D ALWAYS PLANNED
TO BUY A CAMERA
A CHEAP BOX BROWNIE, NOTHING GRAND
FOR TAKING SNAPSHOTS
OF ALL THE PLACES I WOULD GO
TAKE SIMPLE PORTRAITS
OF ALL THE PEOPLE THAT I KNOW

She looks through her photos

Now let me see, here take a look at this.

THIS ONE IS TOMMY
HE KIDS AROUND WITH ME A LOT
HE CALLS ME FRENCHIE
AND NOW THE NAME HAS KIND OF CAUGHT
AND HERE'S MISS LUCAS
I LIKE THAT HAT, IT'S AWFUL CUTE
I LOVE HER LIPSTICK
AND THAT'S THE NEATEST TWO-PIECE SUIT

THIS ONE'S ROBERTA

THEY CALL HER BOBBY, LIKE THE PIN
HERE'S MR ANDREWS
WE ALL STAND UP WHEN HE WALKS IN
AND THEN THESE OTHERS
ARE JUST SOME PEOPLE WHO I MET
I SNAP THEM WORKING
I WOULDN'T SAY WE'RE BEST FRIENDS YET

THEY CALL ME FRENCHIE
THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR
THEY SAY, FRENCHIE
HURRY, PUT ME THROUGH
MISS, IT'S URGENT
DON'T YOU SIT AROUND AND DREAM
THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY WILL NOT STAND STILL FOR YOU

It's what they say. Everyone is in such a big hurry!

REMEMBER TOMMY?
HE STARTED GETTING FRESH, THE RAT
I SAID, HEY, MISTER!
THE ELEVATOR'S NOT FOR THAT!
HE SAID, LOOK, FRENCHIE
I GOTTA ASK YOU THIS FOR SURE
WHAT'S WITH THE CAMERA?
YOU LIKE TO WATCH, BUT D'YOU TAKE PART?

The music stops.

Just because I was born in France, Tommy thinks I'm some kind of loose woman.

Music picks up again.

Anyway, look at this one.

I LIKE THIS PHOTO
THOUGH I'M NOT REALLY CERTAIN WHY

THIS IS MY CITY
BENEATH THE BIG OLD EMPTY SKY
AND HERE'S MY FAV'RITE
IT'S BROOKLYN BRIDGE, I GUESS YOU KNOW
IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY
YOU CAN MAKE OUT THE BOATS BELOW

NOW EV'RY EVENING
I SIT ALONE HERE IN MY ROOM
ME AND MY ALBUM
UNTIL THE TWILIGHT TURNS TO GLOOM
AND WHEN THE STREETLAMP
IS CASTING SHADOWS ON MY WALL
AND I'M HALF SLEEPING
I DREAM I HEAR MY PAPA CALL

HE CALLS ME FRENCHIE
THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR
THOUGH HE NEVER KNEW IT'S
WHO I'D BE
IN THE DREAM I SHOW THESE
PHOTOGRAPHS TO HIM
AND SAY, "THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY'S WAITING FOR ME!
THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY IS READY FOR ME!"
I KNOW THAT HE'D BE PROUD OF ME
HIS PHOTO-SNAPPING FRENCHIE
THAT'S ME!

- not in the pictures. Behind the lens. Who cares what Tommy says? I
like taking photographs.

THAT'S ME

I think.

