CALLBACK #4
CIOFFI, NIKI,

COMPANY (CONT'D)

AT THE LAST CURTAIN CALL
I'M THE ENVY OF ALL
SO I KNOW THE SHOW MUST

CARMEN

GO ON!

COMPANY

SO THRILLING! WE'RE SHOW PEOPLE!

CARMEN

AND ON…!

COMPANY

SO WILLING WE'RE SHOW PEOPLE

CARMEN

AND ON…!

COMPANY

SO THRILLING THAT SHOW PEOPLE GO ON!

(THE CAST APPLAUDS THEMSELVES, reminded of what they're all about.)

START HERE

CIOFFI

And listen: *Robbin' Hood* really *should* go on –

NIKI

Lieutenant, may I speak to you for a moment. My name's Niki –

CIOFFI

– Harris. Miss Niki Harris. I read your bio several times through on the bus ride home the other night. May I say I found your performance particularly memorable? It was just lovely.

NIKI

Well thank you.

CIOFFI

Lovely.

(Beat.)

NIKI

Well thank you.

CIOFFI

I'm crazy about your little vibrato.

NIKI

You're very kind. Anyway, yesterday Miss Cranshaw asked me to coach her on her lines and of course I said I'd be glad to help –

CIOFFI

That's so like you.

NIKI

Well, I'm also her understudy – at least I was – I guess I'm Georgia's now – but then these three letters fell out of Miss Cranshaw's script.

(producing from her purse:)

She didn't take them seriously but I kept them. I'm afraid my fingerprints are all over them.

(very cheery:)

They're death threats! See: the words and letters have been pasted onto the paper. Cut with little curved finger scissors from a newspaper or magazine. I would imagine.

CIOFFI

"YOU'RE MURDERING THE SCORE BUT I'LL MURDER YOU." "YOU'LL DROP BEFORE THE CURTAIN DOES." "IF YOU DON'T QUIT, YOU'LL DIE LEGIT."

NIKI

Can you tell anything from them?

CIOFFI

Well they seem pretty negative in spirit.

NIKI

Well, yes, of course.

(He sees her disappointed reaction.)

CIOFFI

Oh, I'm sorry, you were hoping for the Arthur Conan Doyle version? Unfortunately, these notes reveal very little, except that the person who sent them is a man in his early thirties, six feet four in height, who wears a pewter ring, served in the Merchant Marine, and despite being right-handed, is known to his closest friends as "Lefty."

(ADMIRING MURMURS from the CAST.)

NIKI

How … however did you know that?

CIOFFI

Oh I don't. I was just saying that, you probably hoped I would be able to tell – wow, if I could do that just from – I *mean* – wow.

END HERE

CARMEN

Gee, for a second I was impressed, as I once told my husband at the Hotel Taft. Well, what do you say we all go across the street and have ourselves one slobberknocker of a wake for the late-if-less-than-great Jessica Cranshaw? Drinks are on me!