

BILLIS turns, does up the remaining buttons on his shirt, crosses to NELLIE C. terribly embarrassed that the men are watching him. He is a different BILLIS in front of NELLIE. He is unassured and has lost all his brashness. To him, NELLIE has "class".

BILLIS [*Crossing to C.*]. Yes, Miss Forbush.

All eyes follow him.

NELLIE. Have you done what you promised?

BILLIS. Yes, Miss Forbush.

BILLIS crosses U.S. to L. takes a parcel of laundry from shelf under rostrum. As he crosses U.S. he is followed by men on stage R. These include STEWPOT and PROFESSOR. As BILLIS walks back D.S., men form group follow him down. STEWPOT is to R. of BILLIS, PROFESSOR to R. of STEWPOT. He hands the parcel shyly to NELLIE.

I did it all last night.

NELLIE starts to open package.

You don't have to open it here.

Inside the package is NELLIE's laundry, neatly folded. She holds up a pair of polka dot underpants and shows them.

NELLIE. Oh. You do beautiful work, Luther. You've even done the pleats in my shorts.

BILLIS. Aw, pleats ain't hard.

STEW POT clings painfully to PROFESSOR and shakes his head. BILLIS glares at him.

BILLIS. You better run along now and catch up to your gang.

NELLIE. Pleats are very hard. How do you do such delicate work at night—in the dark.

BILLIS [*Romantic*]. There was a moon.

STEW POT [*Puts head on PROFESSOR's shoulder*]. There was a moon!

BILLIS [*Turns to men, realising that they have heard this, and shouts defiantly*].

A full moon!

NELLIE [*Wraps up package, puts it under R. arm*]. How much, Luther?

BILLIS. Oh, no, not from . . . you.

NELLIE. Gosh, I guess I'm just about the luckiest nurse on this island to have found you. [*She puts left hand on BILLIS's shoulder, all men in a slow movement lean in to her, she looks around her, sees that men are eyeing her.*] Well, goodbye, Luther. [*She turns and starts to exit 3 E.L.*] Hut, two, three, four. Hut, two, three four.

BILLIS watches her exit, on musical beat turns and glares at the men. This is cue for END OF TREMOLO, and start of "There is nothing Like a Dame". Men whistle the music in groups. BILLIS slowly and defiantly, faces the men, crosses R. trying to bluff it out. He walks belligerently past PROFESSOR and STEWPOT, the second group of men join in whistling and as BILLIS turns to cross back to C. all men whistle. BILLIS shrugs his shoulders and crosses to L.C. looking after NELLIE. At climax to whistling grouping spreads out. STEWPOT and PROFESSOR are C.

STEW POT. She's a nice little girl but some of them nurses—the officers can have them.

PROFESSOR. They got them.

STEW POT. Well, they can have them.

O'BRIEN [*R.C. singing*].

So suppose a dame ain't bright,
Or completely free from flaws,

STEEVES [*R.C.*]. Or as faithful as a bird dog,