



Female Audition Pack

VIOLET NEWSTEAD Violet is a smart, efficient, widowed mother of a teenage son who is constantly being passed up for promotion in the boys'-club world of climbing the corporate ladder. She runs the office from her desk while her boss takes the credit. She is frustrated with her position, but not bitter. Witty, attractive, strong, ambitious. **Alto**

JUDY BERNLY Judy Bernly is a meek housewife with her first foray into the working world when her husband runs off with his secretary. A bit insecure, determined, and hopeful—Judy changes throughout the play into a force to be reckoned with. **Mezzo-soprano**

DORALEE RHODES Doralee Rhodes is a sexy, country gal (think Dolly!) who is the secretary for the boss, Franklin Hart. She is misunderstood at the beginning of the play due to rumours about an affair with the boss, but comes to be a strong cog in the machine that destroys Hart. Country singing. Comedy is sharp and no-nonsense. **Soprano with high belt**

ROZ KEITH Roz Keith is the office busy-body, is not-so-secretly in love with Mr. Hart, and does everything she can to undermine the rest of the office to earn his affections. Over the top comedic role. **Alto**

KATHY Office Gossip. Doubles in the Women's Ensemble. **Soprano**

MARGARET Office Drunk. Doubles in the Women's Ensemble.

MARIA Young and vibrant secretary. Doubles in the Women's Ensemble.

MISSY HART Hart's Wife. Fluttery and ditzy. Doubles in the Women's Ensemble

Violet – Audition Piece 1

ELEVATOR

VIOLET is repeatedly pushing the elevator button.

VIOLET

What is wrong with this elevator?

DORALEE

What is wrong with you! How could you believe I was sleeping with that worm?

VIOLET

Well, I mean ... aren't you?

DORALEE

No! I don't even like him.

VIOLET

Alright, okay, so I made a little mistake.

(JUDY enters)

JUDY

Violet, Hart fired Maria! You've got to do something!

VIOLET

If I got my promotion I could at least try, but I'm still just a lowly secretary.

DORALEE

I think I at least deserve a "sorry."

JUDY

Doralee, I am soooooo sorry.

DORALEE

Not from you

VIOLET

She thought you were sleeping with him, too. We all did!

DORALEE

Well that makes me feel a whole lot better.

(MARGARET enters)

MARGARET

Is it 5:00? Where's everyone going?

VIOLET

Home to get drunk.

MARGARET

Atta girl!

(MARGARET exits. VIOLET hits the button again)

VIOLET

Alright! I'm sorry!

DORALEE

Well, it ain't the sweetest apology I ever got but it'll do.

JUDY

Can you believe he fired Maria just for discussing salaries?

DORALEE

Can you believe he told everyone I was sleeping with him?

VIOLET

Can you believe he gave that promotion to someone I trained? What a rat.

DORALEE

What a liar.

JUDY

What a creep!

VIOLET

(beat)

You know what? I'm gonna start smoking again. I think I've got a pack in here somewhere.

(rummages in her purse)

DORALEE

I don't think a cigarette's gonna make me feel better

VIOLET

Bet this one will

(She produces the joint JOSH gave her)

DORALEE

You roll your own?

JUDY

(shocked)

Is that mary-juana?

VIOLET

Keep it down. I don't have enough for the whole office.

(beat)

Well, I'm going home to forget my troubles. Anyone coming?

DORALEE

I'm in

JUDY

Me too!

VIOLET

Oh hell, let's take the stairs.

(ROZ rushes in.)

ROZ

Vio-let! Where are you girls going in the middle of the afternoon?

VIOLET

GET OFF MY BACK, ROZ. WE'RE TAKING A COFFEE BREAK

Violet – Audition Piece 2

ATRIUM

VIOLET and DORALEE are chatting

VIOLET

I don't know if I can spend one more night in the house with that man.

DORALEE

I'm sorry 'bout not helping you and Judy out more with the nights but Dwayne would be way too suspicious.

VIOLET

I just hate leaving Josh alone so much. I can't wait till we nail Hart. Then things are gonna be different around here, 24-7.

DORALEE

24-7. What's that supposed to mean?

VIOLET

I don't know. I just made it up. Shhhhhh here comes Joe.

(JOE walks in and greets the WOMEN.)

JOE

I never thought I'd love getting up and coming to work. If I didn't know better, I'd think someone else was running the office.

VIOLET

Exactly what are you trying to say, Joe?

JOE

Hmmm, let me try again. Good morning, Violet, Doralee, beautiful day, isn't it?

VIOLET

Are you saying some other than Hart is running the office?

JOE

Violet, what's the matter with you?

VIOLET

Why would anything be the matter? I'm fantastic!

JOE

(not buying it)

If you say so.

VIOLET

Well I just did. I said so. Just said it.

JOE

Doralee, could you give us a second?

DORALEE

'Scuse me, I got an office to run.

(DORALEE slips out.)

VIOLET

I've got work, too

(JOE stops VIOLET from leaving.)

JOE

What's going on?

VIOLET

Would you stop.

JOE

I know you. Something's wrong ...

VIOLET

I'm telling you, I'm fine.

JOE

Stop pushing me away. Talk to me. Seriously, you can tell me *anything*.

VIOLET

(In one breath, blurting it out)

We've got Hart tied up in his house while we try to prove he's been stealing from the company.

We're following the money trail to collect enough evidence to prove he's been cooking the books!

JOE

Not what I was expecting.

VIOLET

Me either.

JOE

You actually kidnapped Hart?

VIOLET

No! We just, we sort of ... yup, we kidnapped Hart. And I'll tell you, if we don't find more evidence on him before Mrs. Hart comes back next week we're screwed.

JOE

I have access to every financial account in this company. I bet I could help you.

VIOLET

Really?

JOE

See what happens when you actually talk to me?

VIOLET

Joe, you're the best.

JOE

I'm the best. Okay, move fast Joe. Violet, have dinner with me. No time to think about it, say yes!

VIOLET

Oh Joe. I think you're a great guy ...

JOE

No, no, no, not the "great guy" speech. Give me one good reason why you won't go out with me. And not some bull about age. C'mon Violet, it's not like I'm not in my thirties.

VIOLET

Oh my god! You're still in your thirties?

JOE

What is it? Really.

VIOLET

I'm a one-man woman. And I had my one man.

JOE

He's been gone over three years now, hasn't he?

VIOLET

Sometimes it seems like he was just here a moment ago, sometimes it seems like he's been gone a lifetime.

Judy – Audition Piece 1

OFFICE BULLPEN. A little anthill of activity. The rhythm of the typewriters and key punch machines and the lack of computers remind us once again that this is a very different world that we live in today.

JUDY has finally found the office. She stands beside a desk waiting for someone to notice her. VIOLET is talking to secretaries MARIA DELGADO, young and vibrant, and KATHY, the office gossip.

VIOLET

Good Lod. What is that?

(KATHY glances over at JUDY.)

KATHY

New girl. First day. She's in your section?!

VIOLET

My section? Why are they always in my section?!

MARIA

Just lucky I guess.

VIOLET

We're going to need a special locker just for the hat!

(As VIOLET crosses to JUDY:)

Oh brother.

(VIOLET extends her hand to JUDY.)

Hi, I'm Violet Newstead. I'll be training you here at Consolidated.

JUDY

Judy Bernly. Nice to meet you. This is quite a big day for me.

VIOLET

Big day, big hat.

JUDY

Thank you. I left an hour early to make sure I was here on time but the parking was impossible. Fun fact: parking metres were invented in Oklahoma City in 1935. Sorry – I share trivia when I'm nervous.

VIOLET

Okay, this will be yours. Thrilling, isn't it? So, let's get started with a typing test. I'm going to dictate and you type.

(VIOLET picks up a memo and begins to type rapidly.)

From Franklin Har, President, Consolidated Industries. To the employees: When planning for your retirement, why diversify? And...

(VIOLET stops, looks over at JUDY who is frantically trying to keep up.)

It works a lot better with paper in the typewriter.

JUDY

Oops.

VIOLET

Where did you say you worked before?

JUDY

I've never really had a job in an office.

VIOLET

No kidding.

JUDY

You're not going to tell them are you?

VIOLET

I sorta have to ...

JUDY

Yeah.

(Starts to get upset)

Well, I'm sorry, but I wasn't sure where on my resume to write, "I have no skills because I've spent my entire adult life taking care of a husband who just dumped me for a nineteen year old named Mindi." With an "i"!

(Judy sobs.)

VIOLET

Alright, come on now, don't ... cry.

(beat)

So you have absolutely no office skills whatsoever?

JUDY

None

(beat)

Is this where you call security?

(VIOLET takes a moment, considers)

VIOLET

No.

(reluctantly)

This is where I tell you I love a challenge and welcome to Consolidated.

JUDY

Oh thank you. Thank you so much. I just hope I can do the job.

VIOLET

Relax, I've been at Consolidated for fifteen years. You'll get it. You've got the very best training you.

JUDY

Really? Who?

VIOLET

Me!

Judy – Audition Piece 2

HART

Blah blah blah, for pities sae, will you stop talking!

JUDY

Ok, then. Nighty, night.

(JUDY HEARS a NOISE, she sees its DICK.)

Dick, what are you doing her? How did you know where I was?

DICK

I've been following you for a while. Whose place is this?

JUDY

You have to go.

DICK

You're here alone, aren't you?

JUDY

I'm house sitting. For a friend.

DICK

How about a cup of coffee for your husband?

JUDY

Ex husband.

DICK

Technicality

JUDY

Maybe to you. I thought you were in Mexico with whatshername.

DICK

Yeah, well ... things sorta didn't work out.

JUDY

She dumped you, didn't she?

DICK

There was this cliff diver ... long story. Not important.

(There's a sound from HART in the bedroom.)

DICK

What was that?

JUDY

Nothing. Probably the cat. I'll go check.

DICK

Big cat.

JUDY

Stay here, Dick.

(She hurries to the BEDROOM. She finds HART trying to free himself.)

Ohmygod!

HART

Get away from me!

(JUDY hits the remote, which sends him flying in the air. He grabs her and they struggle in a sort of S&M pas de deux.

DICK opens the door.)

JUDY

Stay out!

(DICKS mouth drops open as he sees HART, gagged and chained, struggling in the air.)

DICK

Who's he?

JUDY

My boss!

(She pushes DICK back into the foyer and slams the door behind her.)

DICK

Why didn't you ever do that with me?

JUDY

What?

DICK

Bondage. S & M. Sex games. You're into all that now?

JUDY

Yeah. That's right. All of it. I'm into everything. Let's go, get out of here!

DICK

So typical. Having an affair with your boss.

JUDY

You had one with your secretary!

DICK

But now I want you back! This isn't you.

JUDY

You don't know me. I've changed!

DICK

Not this much! You can't be serious –

JUDY

Don't tell me what I can do Dick! If I want to have an affair or smoke pot or do M&M's, you cant stop me!

Doralee – Audition Piece 1

HART's Office

HART

Now be a good girl and get my coffee. No sugar, just some Skinny 'N' Sweet.

VIOLET

Yes, sir.

(VIOLET marches out of HART's office, JUDY still behind her. DORALEE enters with a dictation pad as JUDY and VIOLET leave.)

DORALEE

Should we get back to that dictation, sir?

HART

First, I want to apologize for my behaviour yesterday. I got a little carried away.

DORALEE

(good-naturedly)

That's alright, I've been chased by swifter men than you and I ain't been caught yet.

HART

Y'know ever since I made that stupid mistake about that convention in San Francisco ...

DORALEE

Oh Mr. Hart, you didn't make a mistake. You see I'll just have to make sure the next time I'm asked to work at a convention that there is a convention going on.

HART

Here's a little something to say I'm sorry. I picked it out myself.

(Hands her the scarf.)

DORALEE

That's very nice.

HART

That's very nothing! I'm a rich man. I've got my checkbook right here. You just say the word and you could write your own figure!

DORALEE

I could do that now, I sign your name better than you do.

(beat)

Let's get back to the letter.

(HART knocks over his pencil cup on DORALEE's side of the desk. Pencils scatter to the floor.)

I'll get it.

(HART gets to his feet to get a good view of DORALEE's ample cleavage as she bends over to retrieve the pencils.)

HART

Sure you don't need a little help?

(DORALEE gets to her feet and picks up her pad and pen.)

DORALEE

No, sir, I'm fine. Should we get started?

HART

To all regional managers, from Franklin Hart Jr. regarding tardiness. All employees who arrive at work more than five minutes late should be docked pay in incremental –

HART SINGS

Yours sincerely, no – firmly, Franklin Hart Jr ... Doralee, get me the Harper Davis file off the top shelf.

(DORALEE slides a library ladder over to the place HART indicated and begins to climb it)

Bob, corral the boys. Double D is flying high!

DORALEE

I just don't see it, Mr Hart.

HART

Keep on looking, honey. You've never failed me yet.

(BOB ENRIGHT, Hart's "Golden Boy" and "THE BOYS CLUB" enter Hart's office. They ogle DORALEE.)

HART SINGS WHILE LOOKING UP HER SKIRT

(HART hurries "THE BOYS CLUB" out of his office)

DORALEE

Were you saying something to me?

HART

Doralee, I can't help myself, I just gotta have you.

DORALEE

Mr. Hart, please, I'm a married woman.

HART

And I'm a married man! That's what makes it so perfect!

(He makes a grab at her as they fall onto the couch ...)

DORALEE sends HART falling to the floor just when the door opens and HART's wife, MISSY, walks in. Fluttery and ditzy she is clueless as to his true nature. She sees both DORALEE and HART lying on their backs, on the floor, looking at the ceiling.)

MISSY

Frank?

HART

You're right. The ceiling definitely needs touching up.

DORALEE

(scrambling to her feet.)

I'll send a note to maintenance, sir.

Doralee – Audition piece 2

ELEVATOR

VIOLET is repeatedly pushing the elevator button.

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DORALEE

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VIOLET

Well, I mean ... aren't you?

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No! I don't even like him.

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(MARGARET enters)

MARGARET

Is it 5:00? Where's everyone going?

VIOLET

Home to get drunk.

MARGARET

Atta girl!

(MARGARET exits. VIOLET hits the button again)

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VIOLET

Can you believe he gave that promotion to someone I trained? What a rat.

DORALEE

What a liar.

JUDY

What a creep!

VIOLET

(beat)

You know what? I'm gonna start smoking again. I think I've got a pack in here somewhere.

(rummages in her purse)

DORALEE

I don't think a cigarette's gonna make me feel better

VIOLET

Bet this one will

(She produces the joint JOSH gave her)

DORALEE

You roll your own?

JUDY

(shocked)

Is that mary-juana?

VIOLET

Keep it down. I don't have enough for the whole office.

(beat)

Well, I'm going home to forget my troubles. Anyone coming?

DORALEE

I'm in

ROZ – Audition Piece 1

ELEVATOR

ROZ rushes after HART

ROZ

Oh, Mr. Hart! Mr. Hart! Mr. Hart. We've got them at last! Violet poisoned you! She put rat poison in your coffee by mistake –

(HART immediately pales, feeling faint.)

HART

Ohmygod! Ohmygod! How long do I have?

ROZ

No, no, no, she just thinks she poisoned you.

HART

My vision is blurring!

ROZ

You only had one sip.

HART

But my knees are weak.

ROZ

Man up!

(ROZ hits HART)

HART

Ow!

ROZ

I've got her admitting it to Doralee and the new girl, hand on, I've got it right here ...

(scrolling through the toilet paper)

Here it is –

HART

Wait a minute. Wait a minute. I just got a fantastic idea.

(looks around to make sure they aren't overheard)

I'll hide and you go tell those girls I was found unconscious and rushed to the hospital in critical condition.

ROZ

Oh, that's good.

HART

Let's put the fear of God in them. You with me?

ROZ

To hell and back.

HART

That's my girl.

(ROZ melts as he exits.)

ROZ

I'm his girl.

Missy – Audition Piece 1

DORALEE

Mr. Hart, please, I'm a married woman.

HART

And I'm a married man! That's what makes it so perfect!

(He makes a grab at her as they fall onto the couch ...)

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MISSY

Frank?

HART

You're right. The ceiling definitely needs touching up.

DORALEE

(scrambling to her feet.)

I'll send a note to maintenance, sir.

HART

Missy, what are you doing here? You know I don't like you dropping by the office.

MISSY

Oh Frank, don't get mad. I just was dying to show you some of these brochures for cruises I picked up.

DORALEE

How are you, Mrs. Hart?

(VIOLET re-enters with HART's coffee. She instantly sees the scarf.)

MISSY

Just fine, Doralee. My, that's a lovely scarf you're wearing.

VIOLET

Yes, Doralee. What a lovely scarf you're wearing.

DORALEE

It was a present from your husband.

MISSY

Oh Frank, how thoughtful of you.

(to DORALEE)

I'm so glad he appreciates all you do for him.

VIOLET

Oh he appreciates her all right.

DORALEE

Nice seeing you Mrs. Hart.

(DORALEE and VIOLET exit. MISSY brings the brochure to HART.)

MISSY

Here's my favorite. An Italian line. Four weeks of sunshine –

HART

Four weeks? Are you out of your mind? I can't take off four weeks to go paddling around on some spaghetti Love Boat!

(She smiles and points at his coffee.)

MISSY

Somebody needs to switch to Sanka! There are some shorter cruises. Take a look at them when you have time. I'm sorry I bothered you, Frank.

(MISSY exits).

Maria, Margaret and Kathy – Audition Piece 1

FILING ROOM

VIOLET, MARIA, KATHY and MARGARET are gossiping.

MARIA

I hate my typewriter. This morning the self-correcting tape broke, mira, I had to go back to the es-Stone Ages and use the White Out.

VIOLET

That's nothing. In the old days, you made a mistake; you had to retype the entire document.

MARGARET

You said it, sister.

KATHY

I hear they're coming out with a new typewriter next year with tiple pitch, electronic keyboards and ... wait for it ... automatic right-margin justification!

ALL

(impressed)

Oooooooooohhhhhhhhhh

(JOE the cute, young, office accountant enters. He's smitten with VIOLET.)

KATHY

Heads up, hunky accountant at eleven o'clock!

MARIA

Word in the ladies room is that he has the hots for you!

VIOLET

Stop. I'm a widow.

MARGARET

Just because you're not going to order doesn't mean you can't peruse the menu.

(JOE approaches)

JOE

Hey, Violet.

KATHY

I think I hear my typewriter calling.

(The other SECRETARIES exit, except for MARGARET.)

JOE

Have you had a chance to take care of the Ajax file?

VIOLET

Here it is all signed and sealed by Hart.

*(KATHY comes back, grabs MARGARET's arm.
MARGARET elbows VIOLET.)*

MARGARET

(sort of sotto voice)

Atta girl.

(KATHY and MARGARET exit.)

Margaret – Audition Piece 2

HARTS OFFICE

MARGARET enters, unrecognisable to HART as he new sober self. HART hides the gun, but makes sure it's still visible to the three women.

MARGARET

Mr. Hart, it's so good to see you!

HART

Who are you?

MARGARET

Don't you recognise me? I'm Margaret Pomerance.

HART

You're the old lush - ?

MARGARET

I was, but thanks to Consolidated's Alcoholism treatment program I'm a new woman. And I especially want to thank you for those notes of encouragement while I was in rehab. I can't tell you how much it meant to me to have some say, "Atta Girl".

DORALEE, JUDY, VIOLET

Doesn't she look great?/She really does/That color on her ...

HART

Rehab? What's she talking about? I never agreed to that.

DORALEE

Why sure you did, Mr. Hart. Your signature's on every memo.

HART

Every memo?

MARGARET

Oh, I almost forgot. A Mr. Tinsworthy's on his way up.