

ACT ONE
SCENE 1

As we move from prologue to scene lighting, CHORUS move downstage; one group sit down R under the lamppost, another group sit on the down C steps. The RONNETTE BACKING GROUP sit down L. CRYSTAL, RONNETTE, CHIFFON, DIAMOND and LIBERTY take places on the down L stoop, near WINO#1. They will remain there for a while, idly reading monster-movie magazines. US in the shop, LIGHTS come up on MR MUSHNIK at the worktable, reading the Skid Row Daily News and waiting for customers who do not arrive. In fact, customers very seldom if ever arrive around here. What few flowers are in evidence are on their last legs – wilted and faded. Suddenly there is an **ear splitting crash** from the off R workroom. MUSHNIK shouts in the direction of the noise, without getting up.

1A – “Tick Tocks” Applause segue from “Little Shop of Horrors”

Mrs Mushnik: Seymour, what is going on back there?

SEYMOUR: [offstage] Nothing, Mrs Mushnik.

[AUDREY enters down R, sporting a black eye. She runs across the forestage into the shop. As she enters, the **doorbell** sounds. The clock strikes two and stops.]

Mrs Mushnik: Ahh, so she finally decides to come to work

AUDREY: Good morning Mr Mushnik. Good morning Mrs Mushnik.

Mrs Mushnik: What morning? It’s two o’clock in the afternoon. [She picks up a half eaten sandwich from the worktable and starts to cross out of the shop]

Mr Mushnik: Not that we had a customer.

Mrs Mushnik: Who has customers when you run a flower shop on Skid Row? [dumps the sandwich in the down L trash can]

AUDREY: Oh, I’m sorry.

[There is another **loud crash** from the workroom]

Mrs Mushnik: Seymour! What is going on back there?

SEYMOUR: [offstage] Very little, Mrs Mushnik!

Mrs Mushnik: [quickly moving back to the shop] Audrey, you’d better go back there and see what he’s doing

Mr Mushnik: [He gets a good look at her for the first time] Audrey. Where’d you get that shiner?

AUDREY: [taking the roses from the work table and arranging them in a vase] Shiner, Mr Mushnik?

Mr Mushnik: Audrey, that greasy boyfriend of yours – he’s been beating up on you again? [she doesn’t answer] Look I know it’s not none of my business but I’m beginning to think he’s maybe not such a nice boy.

AUDREY: You don’t meet nice boys when you live on Skid Row, Mr Mushnik.

[SEYMOUR enters up R with a tray of plant pots]

SEYMOUR: I got these plants repotted for you, Mrs... [he trips over his feet and falls, sending the pots flying across the room]

Mrs Mushnik: Seymour, look what you’ve done to the inventory!

AUDREY: Don’t yell at Seymour, I’ll [clean] ...

SEYMOUR: [looking up from the floor] Hi! Audrey! You look radiant today. Is that new eye make-up?

AUDREY: [standing up] I’ll clean it up before any of the customers get here. [SEYMOUR exits up stage R]

Mrs Mushnik: Well that ought to give you plenty of time. [He steps outside the shop] Look what insistence I’ve got. Misfit employees, bums on the sidewalk, my life is a living hell. [A rustle of noise from stage L stoop: CRYSTAL and CHIFFON fighting over a magazine. MUSHNIK moves down L toward them] You! Urchins! Off the stoop! Don’t you think it’s bad enough I’ve got the winos permanently decorating this door front. I don’t need three worthless ragamuffins to complete the picture.

RONNETTE: Aw, we ain’t bothering nobody. Are we Crystal?

CRYSTAL: No we’re not Ronnette.

Mrs Mushnik: You ought to be in school

CHIFFON: We’re on a split shift

RONNETTE: Right. We went to school ‘til the fifth grade, then we split!

MUSHNIK: So how do you intend to better yourselves?

CRYSTAL: Better ourselves? *laughs* Miss, when you’re from Skid Row, ain’t there no such thing.

[She turns forwards and strikes a pose, which RONNETTE, CHIFFON, DIAMOND and LIBERTY quickly imitate]