

**SCENE FOUR: Medda's Theater****JACK**

Slow down. We lost 'em.

**DAVEY**

Someone want to tell me why I'm running? I got no one chasing me. Who was that guy?

**JACK**

That was Snyder the Spider. A real sweetie. He runs a jail for underage kids called The Refuge. The more kids he locks up, the more money the city pays him. Problem is, all the money goes straight into his own pocket. Do yourself a favor and stay clear of him and The Refuge.

*(MEDDA LARKIN, a burlesque star, appears in a revealing costume. The STAGE MANAGER and two showgirls, the BOWERY BEAUTIES, get ready for the performance.)*

**MEDDA**

Hey, you up there, shoo! No kids allowed in the theater.

**JACK**

Not even me, Miss Medda?

**MEDDA**

*(recognizing the intruder)*

Jack Kelly, man of mystery. Get yourself down here and give me a hug. Where have you been keepin' yourself, kid?

*(JACK, DAVEY, and LES come down to the stage.)*

**JACK**

Never far from you, Miss Medda. Boys, may I present Miss Medda Larkin: greatest star on the Bowery today. She also owns the joint.

**MEDDA**

The only thing I own is the mortgage. Pleasure, gents.

**DAVEY**

A pleasure.

*(DAVEY bows gallantly, but LES just stands wide-eyed, staring at the BOWERY BEAUTIES. DAVEY smacks him.)*

What's wrong with you?

**LES**

Are you blind? She got no clothes on!

**DAVEY**

That's her costume.

**LES**

But I can see her legs!

**MEDDA**

*(to DAVEY)*

Step out of his way so's he can get a better look. Theater's not only entertaining, it's educational.

*(posing)*

Got the picture, kid?

**JACK**

Miss Medda, I got a little situation out on the street. Mind if I hide out here a while?

**MEDDA**

Where better to escape trouble than a theater? Is Snyder after you again?

**LES**

Hey Jack, did you really escape jail on the back of Teddy Roosevelt's carriage?

**DAVEY**

What would the Governor be doing at a juvenile jail?

**JACK**

So happens he was runnin' for office and wanted to show he cared about orphans and such. So while he got his mug in the paper, I got my butt in the back seat and off we rode together.

**LES**

You really know the Governor?

**MEDDA**

He don't, but I do! Say, Jack, when you've got time, I want you to paint me some more of these backdrops.

*(indicates a park scene drop behind her)*

This last one you did is a doozy. Folks love it. And things have been going so well that I can actually pay.

**JACK**

I couldn't take your money, Miss Medda.

**LES**

You pictured that?