

ALL

GO, MAMBO!

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(It is at this moment that TONY and MARIA – at opposite sides of the hall – see each other. They have been cheering on their respective friends, clapping in rhythm. Now, as they see each other, their voices die, their smiles fade, their hands slowly go to their sides. The LIGHTS fade on the others who disappear into the haze of the background as a delicate cha cha begins and TONY and MARIA slowly walk forward to meet each other.)

4C – Cha-Cha

(Orchestra)

Slowly, as though in a dream, they drift into the steps of the dance, always looking at each other, completely lost in each other; unaware of anything, any place, any time, anything but one another. Then:)

4D – Meeting Scene

(Orchestra)

Start

TONY

You're not thinking I'm someone else?

MARIA

I know you are not.

TONY

Or that we have met before?

MARIA

I know we have not.

TONY

I felt, I knew something-never-before was going to happen, had to happen.
But this is –

MARIA

(Interrupting)

My hands are cold.

(HE takes them in his)

Yours, too.

(HE moves her hands to his face)

So warm.

(SHE moves his hands to her face)

TONY

Yours, too.

MARIA

But of course. They are the same.

TONY

It's so much to believe — you're not joking me?

MARIA

I have not yet learned how to joke that way. I think now I never will.

*(Impulsively, HE stops to kiss her hands;
then tenderly, innocently, her lips.)*

4E — Jump

(Orchestra)

The music bursts out, the lights flare up and BERNARDO is upon them in an icy rage)

BERNARDO

Go home, "American."

TONY

Slow down, Bernardo.

BERNARDO

Stay away from my sister!

TONY

...Sister?

(RIFF steps up)

BERNARDO

(To MARIA)

Couldn't you see he's one of them?

MARIA

No; I saw only him.

BERNARDO

(As CHINO comes up)

I told you: there's only one thing they want from a Puerto Rican girl!

TONY

That's a lie!

Stop
Cool, boy.



RIFF

CHINO

(To TONY)

Get away.

TONY

You keep out, Chino.

(To MARIA)

Don't listen to them!

BERNARDO

She will listen to her brother before —

RIFF

(Overlapping)

If you characters want to settle —

GLAD HAND

Please! Everything was going so well! Do you fellows get pleasure out of making