

144 Cont.

TERRY

I'll just sit here awhile and
debate about it.

LANDLADY

(going to window
into living room)

Well, you want anything, just
holler.

She goes inside. Camera pans with her as she crosses
living room. She opens the front door, and stops dead.
Nickie is standing there. He comes into the room.

NICKIE

(to the landlady)

Does Miss McKay -- ?

TERRY'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Nickie!

NICKIE

(looking off)

Hello.

He puts hat, coat and package on a chair by piano. The
landlady looks at him as he crosses out of shot. Then,
smiling, she exits.

145 EXT. TERRACE - TWO SHOT - DAY

NICKIE

(as he takes
her hands)

How are you, Terry?

TERRY

It's good to see you.

NICKIE

It's good to see you, too.
(stepping back)
Are you feeling all right?

TERRY

Oh, yes. I'm just resting.

NICKIE

(walking back;
looking around)

Good.

Cont.

145 Cont.

TERRY

It's been a long time.

NICKIE

Yes -- yes, that's right.

TERRY

It's good to see you.

NICKIE

Yes - you said that.

(going toward
a chair)

May I?

TERRY

Yes. Sit down.

NICKIE

(as he sits down)

I'll only be a minute. You're sure
you don't mind -- ?

TERRY

No.

NICKIE

I'll bet you're wondering how I got
here.

TERRY

Uh huh.

NICKIE

(rising and coming
to her)

I was looking in the telephone book
for a man named McBride, and I saw
the name Terry McKay. So I said to
myself, 'Could that be Terry McKay -
my old friend?'

TERRY

And it was!

NICKIE

Yes. Then I said to myself, 'I
haven't been very nice to Miss McKay.
After all, I had an appointment with
her one day and I didn't keep it.'

TERRY

You di --

Cont.

145 Cont.1

NICKIE

And that's not a very nice way to treat an old friend, is it? So I said to myself, 'I must apologize.' So here I am.

TERRY

That's sweet of you.....I ----

NICKIE

I thought so.

TERRY

I've often wondered about you - and how you were --

NICKIE

You did really?

(he stirs)

I've often wondered about you, too. Then you didn't get angry because I wasn't there? You must have been at first.

TERRY

Yes, I was. At first I was furious. I said, 'He can't do this to me -- Who does he think he is?'

NICKIE

How long did you wait? I mean -- did you wait long?

TERRY

Let me see -- I waited till about --

NICKIE

Midnight.

TERRY

Oh...

NICKIE

Then what did you do?

TERRY

Then I really got mad. You can just imagine -- standing up there --

NICKIE

Yes - in a thunderstorm.

Cont.

145 Cont.2

TERRY

Yes....?

NICKIE

Then what did you say to yourself?

TERRY

Then I said, 'Why don't you go home and get tight?'

NICKIE

But you didn't do that --

TERRY

Didn't I?

NICKIE

No.

(rising)

Well, maybe you took a little one, every hour, for about a month.

TERRY

Can you blame me?

NICKIE

I should say not. The least I could have done was send you a note.

TERRY

Maybe by the time you thought of it you didn't know where to reach me.

NICKIE

But you swore that if you ever saw me again, you'd ask -- didn't you?

TERRY

No -- No -- I remembered we said if we could make it we'd be there. And if one of us didn't show up, there must have been an excellent reason.

NICKIE

Like what, for instance?

TERRY

....So there'll be no more questions asked..I hope...

(reaching for box)

Cigarette?

Cont.

145 Cont.3

NICKIE

(after a pause)

Thank you.

(he takes one)

TERRY

(watching him;

gratefully)

Thank you, Nickie.

He walks around the end of the chair, lights his cigarette, but he is gazing at her as he does so. He has to smile at the skill with which she has quieted his questions.

NICKIE

(chuckling, but

his eyes flash

a little)

I walked all the way here...ten
blocks...

(then gesturing)

....to wring your beautiful neck...
and instead I promise not even to
ask why you weren't there.

(Terry smiles

sympathetically)

You knew that was why.

TERRY

(nodding)

Umhmmmm.

NICKIE

It doesn't seem...

TERRY

(nodding)

I know....

He smiles at her challengingly, looking her in the eye, as he seems about to sit on the chair. She makes no room, so he settles for a seat on the floor beside her.

NICKIE

I don't know what happens to me
when I...

(he sees her hand

go to her throat,

glances at it)

No wedding ring, I see.

TERRY

No.

Cont.

145 Cont.4

NICKIE

Oh! I thought, at the...

TERRY

Concert last night? No...he was...
no....

NICKIE

(after difficult
pause)

I didn't mean to offend you.

TERRY

How's everything with you, Nickie?

NICKIE

(smiling)

Oh...you can ask questions?(Terry smiles,
nods)Well, I thought everything was fine
until I saw you.

(confidentially)

Then I knew there must be something
between us...even if it's only a
country.

(pause)

So I bought myself a ticket.

TERRY

(trying to appear
casual)

Oh...You're sailing.

NICKIE

(nods)

Tonight.

He rises. If she wants to offer a protest, this is her
chance. She offers none. She follows him with her eyes.

NICKIE

You're happy, aren't you?

TERRY

Yes -- and you?

NICKIE

(smiling)

I don't know! I'm worried about the
future. What will people think of
me? They will say..

Cont.

145 Cont.5

NICKIE (Cont.)

(acting it out)

"There goes Ferrante, the mad painter! There's something the matter with him! He..doesn't... like...women!!!"

TERRY

(as though listening
to a fairy story)

He won't even speak to 'em.

NICKIE

(quickly)

Oh yes! He sails the seven seas...
and to every woman he meets he says:
(seductively)
"Where will you be in six months?"
(he laughs)

TERRY

And they're there?

NICKIE

(nodding solemnly)

Everywhere...tall buildings, pyramids
- cathedrals everywhere...waiting...
waiting...waiting...

TERRY

And where is he?

NICKIE

(smiling, as his
presence beside Terry
answers the question)

Waiting.

(pause)

Do you want to change the subject?

TERRY

(nodding)

Merry Christmas, Nickie...

NICKIE

I almost forgot. Six months ago
who'd have thought we'd be spending
Christmas together...

(he smiles at

Terry)

Oh..and before I go -- I brought you
a present.

Cont.

145 Cont.6

He exits into living room. A beat. Terry, alone. He returns with package.

TERRY

(touched,
embarrassed)

I'm sorry I haven't one for you...
I didn't know I would see you...

NICKIE

(handing her
package)

It isn't really a Christmas present...
You can open it after I'm gone...

Terry feels the package and intuitively knows what is in it. The theme music "Love Affair" comes into the scoring as she looks up at Nickie.

TERRY

That's why my letters to her came
back...

(he nods, as she
opens the package)

NICKIE

I would have sent it to you, except
I didn't know the address until
today...

(as she sees shawl)

She wanted you to have it.

Terry's eyes warm as she takes up the shawl. She puts it about her shoulders. Nickie's eyes are reflecting Terry's beauty and remembrance of things past.

NICKIE

(awkwardly)

Well, goodbye, Terry...

TERRY

(she starts to speak,
knows she shouldn't,
gives him her hands
in goodbye)

Goodbye, Nickie.

He kisses her hands and she sees him go to the door, put on his coat, take his hat. He turns back to her, sees her with the shawl about her, her eyes on him. He hesitates.

Cont.

145 Cont.7

NICKIE

(haltingly)

I painted you like that...with the shawl...I wish you'd seen it. Courbet said it was my best...I didn't think I would ever part with it...but there was no reason for keeping it any more ... A girl came into Courbet's gallery ...he told me about her...She saw in the painting what I hoped you'd see... So I told Courbet to give it to her.

(smiles sheepishly)

Because he said she was poor, and not only that, she was...

(he gets sudden thought)

Well, anyway..I said, "Give it to her..."

(wondering, he looks at her covered legs)

"It is the Christmas season and..."

(he looks around room, unable to believe his own thoughts)

"If she can't afford..."

(Terry is gazing at him, holding her breath)

And you know me...big-hearted Nickie...

Terry is nodding, but her heart is in his wandering eyes. Nickie, as he has spoken these last lines, has walked into living room, then toward bedroom door. He enters it.

146 INT. TERRY'S BEDROOM - PAINTING IN MIRROR - DAY

We see The Lady With Shawl in the mirror as seen from the entrance to the room. Now we see Nickie's head in the mirror as he gazes at the painting, at himself, as he realizes why Terry...

147 EXT. TERRACE - CLOSE SHOT TERRY - DAY

She is looking after Nickie with the realization that he has seen the picture now...her heart is panicky...how much more does he know? Her eyes are on him as he re-enters.

148 EXT. TERRACE - MED. SHOT - NICKIE - DAY

His eyes are stricken as he comes back. He gazes at Terry and walks to her.

Cont.

148 Cont.

NICKIE

(eyes stricken)

There's one thing more Courbet told
me about the girl...

(he indicates
other room)

...you know...the girl who saw in my
painting...

149 MED. CLOSE SHOT - TERRY

in chair. She realizes he knows. Her eyes follow him
as he comes into the scene beside her.

NICKIE

(stricken)

Why didn't you tell me, Terry... If
anything had to happen to either of
us...why did it have to be you...?

TERRY

(seeing the remorse
in his eyes, the knowledge,
tries to smile)

Darling...don't look at me like that...

(warmly)

It was nobody's fault but my own...I
was looking up into the sky...

(smiling, her eyes
moistening)

You see, it was the nearest thing
there was to heaven...because you
were there.

As Nickie's arms go about her, she clings to him, tears
of happiness and sureness in her eyes as she smiles
shakily, joyously.

TERRY

If you can paint...I can walk...the
world can turn upside down...if....

The chorus comes into the scoring, singing "Love Affair."

DISSOLVE TO:

150 EXT. VILLA - NAPLES - DAY (CHORAL MUSIC IN SCORING)

The dog, lying down, looks off, his ears perk up and he
starts running. Camera pans with him. As the dog reaches
the entrance to the villa we see Nickie carrying Terry
over the threshold, and we do not know whether or not
Terry is able to walk again.

FADE OUT

THE END