

Backstage at the Hi-Hat Club, Rosie observes Rita (on her sax) and Nadine (on the piano) jamming and teaching Ernie Mae how to do a Latin rhythm. Rosie approaches.

ROSIE

Hey.

NADINE

Hey Rosie.

ROSIE

Can I play?

NADINE

Sorry, we don't have a chart, we're just jamming.

ROSIE

But that's great, that's what I want to learn. To improvise, you know, take off and ride.

NADINE

Oh boy.

ROSIE

Will you teach me?

NADINE

It's a feeling, Rosie, it's a hard thing to teach.

ROSIE

Not you, too.

Rosie turns away.

NADINE

Wait, we'll try. Grab your horn.

ROSIE

Ok!

Rosie gets her trumpet.

NADINE

How about we start with something we have written down, like "Stompin' the Trace".

Nadine and Rita start to pull out sheet music.

ROSIE

What about -- what about "Battle of the Bugles"?

NADINE

Whoa.... Somebody's gotten big for her britches all of a sudden.

ROSIE

I've been looking over the music, and I know I can play it.

NADINE

I'm not saying you can't, it's.... That was Velma and Bessie's big number and if Velma heard us teaching you that, she would blow a gasket. Or three.

ROSIE

Come on, please. I know it was one of your big numbers, Willy even said \ it was his favorite and --

NADINE

Willy? What, you sweet on him, hoping to impress him?

ROSIE

No, no, it's not that, I want to impress Mrs. Lafayette. I want to prove to her that I can solo. I figure if I can play that, then she'll give me a chance.

Pause.

NADINE

All right. But it's your neck.