

Nicola – Leicester, teenage

### CITY SUGAR STEPHEN POLLAKOFF

First presented at the Bush Theatre, London, in 1975 and then at the Comedy Theatre, London, in the following year.

The action takes place in the Sound Studio of a commercial radio station in Leicester, where disc-jockey Leonard Brazil is running a competition for his teenage listeners. The coveted prize is to meet one of the boys from the pop group, The Yellow Jacks, at their concert in Leicester, and then to travel to London with them and stay there for four days at the expense of the studio. One of the 'phone-in' contestants is Nicola Davies, who works at the local supermarket.

In this scene Nicola has been brought into the studio. She has fought her way through the preliminary stages of the contest and has reached the final. So far she has answered most of the questions correctly and is neck-to-neck with the other finalist, Jane. She is seated in front of the microphone and Leonard asks her to talk for one minute on 'the last pop concert she went to'.

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### Nicola

The last – the last pop concert I went to . . . it was here in Leicester – *(she swallows)* – and Ross and the group were playing, and I queued to get in for a long time . . . I don't know, not . . . We queued for a day and a night, I think – it was a bit wet – you see, and the stone, the pavement, was very hard and cold, much harder than you think – because we slept there you see – it was all right and – and then a man came up, it was late you know then, dark and everything, and he'd come to sell us hot dogs and things, he came out there and he set up along the side of the queue, it was a very long queue, and then soon another – another came up out of the dark, and then there was another one, till there were lots and lots all along the line, really close. *(She looks up)* . . . Oh! I thought it was enough . . . Oh – and – *(lost for words, she is extremely nervous)* – and then we went inside – and the concert – and it was then of course, and it was, you know – well it was all squashed – and some people rushed up and fought to get close – and there was a bit of biting, and that sort of thing, when they called out to us; they seemed a long way off – a very long way away, in their yellow and everything. They weren't very loud – but they made you feel – I felt something come up, you know, a little sort of . . . *(A second of slightly clenched feeling)* I got, you know, a bit worked up inside – they were moving very slowly on the stage like they'd been slowed down, made me feel strange – then they held things up, waved it at us, smiling and everything, they waved yellow scarves, Ross had a bit of yellow string he waved. I think it was, a bit of yellow rope, and I half wanted to kick the girl in front of me or something because I couldn't see; all the way through I had to look at her great back, pressed right up against it. I remember I half wanted to get at it. Move it. And I nearly dropped a ring. *(Pulling at her finger)* I'd been pulling at, put it on specially. *(Very nervously)* If you drop anything it's gone for ever, you know – can't bend down if you're standing – and if you drop yourself – then you'd be gone. When you rush out at the end, you can see all the millions of things that have been dropped shimming all over the floor, nobody gets a chance to pick them up. And then it was finished – you know, the concert, and I came outside. It was cold, I was feeling a bit funny. Just walked along out there and I thought maybe I was bleeding. I looked but I wasn't. Some people like to be after a concert, but I wasn't.