

Dinah Shore, Tess's Torch Song

I HAD A MAN.
HE WAS A GOOD MAN.
THAT IS, YOU SEE, WHAT I MEAN IS
I THOUGHT HE WAS A GOOD MAN.
I HAD A FRIEND.
SHE WAS A GOOD FRIEND.
I TOLD MY FRIEND BOUT MY MAN CAUSE
I THOUGHT SHE WAS A GOOD FRIEND.
LIFE WAS SWEET.
DIDNT I HAVE MY MAN?
WORLD COMPLETE...
THEN THE FIREWORKS BEGAN.
AINT GOT NO MAN.
AINT GOT NO FRIEND.
I BET YOU CAN GUESS
JUST EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.
THAT WAS THE END,
THE END OF MY FRIEND,
THE END OF MY MAN,
AND ALMOST THE END OF ME.
OH YES, OH YES, I HAD A MAN.
OOO-DOO-DOO-DOO-DOO,
THAT IS, YOU SEE, WHAT I MEAN IS
I THOUGHT HE WAS A GOOD MAN.
I HAD A FRIEND
I SAID, I HAD A FRIEND
UMM-MMM-MMM-MMM-MMM
I TOLD MY FRIEND BOUT MY MAN
CAUSE I THOUGHT SHE WAS A GOOD FRIEND.
LIFE WAS SWEET.
DIDNT I HAVE MY MAN, MY MAN
WORLD COMPLETE...
THEN THE FIREWORKS BEGAN.
AINT GOT NO MAN.
AINT GOT NO FRIEND.
I BET YOU CAN GUESS
JUST EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.
THAT WAS THE END,
THE END OF MY FRIEND,
THE END OF MY MAN,
AND DARNED NEAR THE END OF ME.

Danny Kaye's wife, Sylvia Fine, adapted it to a jive version that was done in a "Mail Call" program in 1944 by Danny and Dinah:

TESSS TORCH SONG - JIVE

Dinah: LOVE, IT CAN GET YOU IN THE STRANGEST MESSSES.
I KNOW YOUR STORY WELL, ITS JUST LIKE TORCH OF TESSS:
YOU HAD A GAL...

Danny: I SWEAR ME MOMMA, OH WHAT A GAL WAS MARY.

Dinah: SHE WAS YOUR BEST GAL...

Danny: OH BEAT ME DADDY, WHAT A PAL WAS MARY.

Dinah: THAT IS, YOU SEE, WHAT I MEAN IS
YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS YOUR BEST GAL.

Danny: SHOOT THE BARE FACTS TO ME, FAIRFAX.

I HAD A FRIEND...

Dinah: OH, JOE, JOE, JOE THE ROCK OF GI-GIBRALTAR.

Danny: HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND...

Dinah: OH, SO-SO-SO SO SWEET AS CHOCOLATE MALTER.

Danny: I TOLD MY FRIEND BOUT MY GAL
CAUSE I THOUGHT HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND!

Dinah: SHOOT THE BROMO TO ME, RAMON.

LIFE WAS SWEET...

Danny: I WAS A HA-AA-APPY MAN!

Dinah: WORLD COMPLETE...

Danny: THEN CAME THE BUST-UP, THEY BUSTED MY TRUST UP.

THE FIREWORKS BEGAN.
 Dinah: YOU LOST YOUR GAL...
 Danny: OH, LEARNED JACKSON, BLOW THOSE BLUES FOR ME.
 Dinah: YOU LOST YOUR FRIEND...
 Danny: OH, MURDER, MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE!
 Dinah: I GOT A FEELIN THAT SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN.
 Both: THIS WONT BE THE END -- NO, NO
 ILL FIND A NEW FRIEND -- YES, YES
 ILL FIND A NEW GAL -- HO, HO
 THIS WONT BE THE END OF ME.
 Both: WELL ZOOT, WELL BOOT, WELL WELL ALL-ROOT
 WITH A HEP-A-HEP-A-HEP-A AND A STEP-STEP-STEP
 Dinah: GREETINGS, GATE, HOWYA BEEN?
 Danny: OH FEELIN GREAT, GIMME SOME SKIN!
 Dinah: LOOKIN SHARP!
 Danny: OH, SHARP AS A HARP!
 Dinah: FEELIN KEEN?
 Danny: HEY, KEEN AS A BEAN.
 Dinah: NO TEARS FOR MARY?
 Danny: AS DRY AS A PRAIRIE.
 Dinah: NO WOE FOR JOE?
 Danny: OH NO, NO, NO.
 Dinah: NO BEATIN THE GRAY?
 Danny: OH NAY, NAY, NAY.
 Dinah: NO BUSTED TICKER?
 Danny: OH, TICKER TICKIN SLICKER.
 Dinah: WELL, TOAST ME, MELBA
 IS THIS A FACT?
 Danny: BEAT ME DADDY --[hand slap]-- AND ILL HIT YOU BACK!
 Both: WELL ZOOT, WELL BOOT, WELL-WELL ALL-ROOT
 WITH A HEP-A-HEP-A-HEP-A AND A STEP-STEP-STEP
 Danny: HEY, GOOD LOOKIN!
 Dinah: WHATSA IS-A COOKIN?
 Danny: FEELIN GROOVY?
 Dinah: GROOVY AS A MOVIE!
 Danny: SOFT AND MELLOW?
 Dinah: MELLOW AS-A JELLO.
 Danny: WANNA BE MY CHICKEN?
 Dinah: NOW YOUS A-CLICKIN!
 Danny: NO YAK-YAK?
 Dinah: SOLID, JACK!
 Danny: WELL, RATION ME SOME PASSION,
 PITCH ME SOME WOO
 Dinah: ON THE BUTTON, GLUTTON --(kiss)--SMACKEROO!
 Danny: WELL, GRILL ME, LAMB CHOP
 WELL, ALL RIGHT!
 Dinah: CROWD ME, MAMA, CAUSE ITS SATURDAY NIGHT!
 Both: WELL ZOOT, WELL BOOT, WELL-WELL ALL-ROOT
 WITH A HEP-A-HEP-A-HEP-A AND A STEP-STEP-STEP
 (They do a verse of echo-scat, Danny leading.)
 Both: WELL ZOOT, WELL BOOT, WELL-WELL ALL-ROOT
 WITH A HEP-HEP-HEP-HEP-HEP!