

Rent, Tango: Maureen

[MARK]

And so into the abyss...The lot. Where a small stage is partially set up.

[JOANNE]

[playing with some wires]

"Line in"...

I went to Harvard for this?

[MARK]

Close on Mark's nose dive.

[JOANNE]

"Line out"...

[MARK]

Will he get out of here alive...?

[JOANNE notices MARK approaching.]

[JOANNE]

Mark?

[MARK]

Hi.

[JOANNE]

I told her not to call you

[MARK]

That's Maureen

But can I help since I'm here

[JOANNE]

I hired an engineer ...

[MARK]

Great!

Well, nice to have met you

[JOANNE]

Wait!

She's three hours late

The samples won't delay

But the cable --

[MARK]

There's another way

Say something -- anything

[JOANNE (into the mike)]

Test -- one, two three --

[MARK]

Anything but that

[JOANNE]

This is weird

[MARK]

It's weird

[JOANNE]

Very weird

[MARK]

Fuckin' weird

[JOANNE]

I'm so mad

That I don't know what to do

Fighting with microphones

Freezing down to my bones

And to top it all off

I'm with you

[MARK]

Feel like going insane?

Got a fire in your brain?

And you're thinking of drinking gasoline?

[JOANNE]

As a matter of fact --

[MARK]

Honey, I know this act

It's called the 'Tango Maureen'

The Tango Maureen
It's a dark, dizzy merry-go-round
As she keeps you dangling
[JOANNE]
You're wrong
[MARK]
Your heart she is mangling
[JOANNE]
It's different with me
[MARK]
And you toss and you turn
'Cause her cold eyes can burn
Yet you yearn and you churn and rebound
[JOANNE]
I think I know what you mean
[BOTH]
The Tango Maureen
[MARK]
Has she ever pouted her lips
And called you 'Pookie'
[JOANNE]
Never
[MARK]
Have you ever doubted a kiss or two?
[JOANNE]
This is spooky
Did you swoon when she walked through the door?
[MARK]
Every time -- so be cautious
[JOANNE]
Did she moon over other boys --?
[MARK]
More than moon --
[JOANNE]
I'm getting nauseous
[They begin to dance, with MARK leading.]
[MARK]
Where'd you learn to tango?
[JOANNE]
With the French Ambassador's daughter in her dorm
room at Miss Porter's. And you?
[MARK]
With Nanette Himmelfarb. The Rabbi's daughter at the
Scarsdale Jewish Community Center.
[They switch, and JOANNE leads.]
It's hard to do this backwards.
[JOANNE]
You should try it in heels!
She cheated
[MARK]
She cheated
[JOANNE]
Maureen cheated
[MARK]
Fuckin' cheated
[JOANNE]
I'm defeated
I should give up right now
[MARK]
Gotta look on the bright side
With all of your might
[JOANNE]
I'd fall for her still anyhow
[BOTH]
When you're dancing her dance

You don't stand a chance
Her grip of romance
Make you fall
[MARK]
So you think, 'Might as well'
[JOANNE]
"Dance a tango to hell"
[BOTH]
'At least I'll have tangoed at all'
The Tango Maureen
Gotta dance till your diva is through
You pretend to believe her
Cause in the end -- you can't leave her
But the end it will come
Still you have to play dumb
Till you're glum and you bum
And turn blue
[MARK]
Why do we love when she's mean?
[JOANNE]
And she can be so obscene
[MARK]
Try the mike
[JOANNE]
My Maureen (reverb: een, een, een...)
[MARK]
Patched
[JOANNE]
Thanks
[MARK]
You know -- I feel great now!
[JOANNE]
I feel lousy
[The pay phone rings. MARK hands it to JOANNE.]
Honey, we're... [pause] Pookie?!
You never call me Pookie...
Forget it, we're patched.
[She hangs up, looks at MARK.]
[BOTH]
The Tango Maureen!