

#11
TITO. I haven't seen you.

(She kisses him quickly, then disappears into the closet, closing the door. At which point, the bathroom door opens and DIANA enters. She wears a towel.)

DIANA. Is she gone yet?

TITO. Not yet.

DIANA. Well, get rid of her!

TITO. I do my best.

DIANA. Perhaps I'll take a bubble bath. Then you can join me.

TITO. Bubble? I wone be long.

(She exits back into the bathroom, closing the door. TITO sighs, then runs into the sitting room, closing the connecting door as he goes, then runs to the corridor door and opens it.)

SAUNDERS. *(offstage)* MAX!

TITO. Ciao.

START (SAUNDERS glares at him and enters.)

SAUNDERS. What are you *doing* in here?!

TITO. *(shrugging innocently)* Nothing.

SAUNDERS. You haven't changed yet.

TITO. Change?

SAUNDERS. I told you to change! For God's sake, you'll ruin everything!

TITO. I'm a-sorry, eh? *(trying to get him out)* Thanks a-for coming.

SAUNDERS. Will you cut the phony accent! I'm not amused.

TITO. You done like it?

SAUNDERS. Look. I know you think this is great fun. You're Il Stupendo. Big star. Hot stuff -'

TITO. Yeah.

SAUNDERS. But it's not the time to fool around! Just imagine what would happen if anybody found out. My

blood runs cold when I even -

(He stops in his tracks. He's staring at the floor - at MAGGIE's dress. He picks it up and holds it out, confirming that it is, indeed, a woman's dress. He looks at TITO.)

Is there a woman in here?

TITO. Yeah.

SAUNDERS. Are you out of your mind?

TITO. I'm not so sure.

SAUNDERS. You're really having a field day, aren't you?

TITO. *(shrugging)* Heh...

SAUNDERS. *(lowering his voice)* Can she hear us?

TITO. I dunno.

SAUNDERS. That explains the accent.

TITO. It does?

(SAUNDERS sidles over to the kitchenette.)

SAUNDERS. *(whispering)* Is she in there?

TITO. No.

SAUNDERS. *(looking around the room)* Well, where is she?

TITO. The bathroom.

SAUNDERS. The bathroom?! Are you crazy?! What about the body?!

TITO. The body?

SAUNDERS. The body!

TITO. Like I said, she's in the bathroom.

SAUNDERS. Not that body. The other body.

TITO. Oh. *(resigned)* The closet.

SAUNDERS. The closet? You stuffed the body in the closet?

TITO. Is a big closet.

SAUNDERS. Look. I would be the first to admit that you deserve a little reward for all you've been through.

TITO. Thanks.

SAUNDERS. But it's not the time!

TITO. Okay.

SAUNDERS. Now first of all, I want you to get rid of the girl –

TITO. Which one?

SAUNDERS. ...There's more than one?

TITO. (*sheepishly*) Two.

SAUNDERS. You've got two girls in there?

TITO. Yeah.

SAUNDERS. I knew you had potential, but this is incredible.

TITO. Thanks.

SAUNDERS. Look. I'm impressed. All right? I'm very impressed. But get them the hell out of here!! Do you have any idea who's downstairs right now?

TITO. No.

SAUNDERS. The police! And they're asking questions!

TITO. (*croaking*) Police?

SAUNDERS. That's what I came up to tell you. They're looking for some madman who tried to break into the theatre tonight. In costume!

TITO. Police?

(*a knock at the sitting room/corridor door*)

SAUNDERS. Oh hell. That could be them. (*lowering his voice*) All right. Here's the story. You're still Tito. You came back from the theatre and went straight to your room.

(*During the following, SAUNDERS leads TITO to the connecting door, to hide him in the bedroom.*)

You haven't seen anything unusual, whatsoever. And whatever we do, we keep them away from the closet!

(*He closes the connecting door, leaving TITO in the bedroom. Another knock at the door.*)

Coming!

(*He opens the door. MAX, still dressed as Pagliaccio, rushes in.*)

STOP

MAX. I've got to talk to you! (*He closes the door.*)

(*SAUNDERS is speechless and reels backwards. Meanwhile, TITO, still in the bedroom, leans against the connecting wall, arm outstretched; MAX does the same in the sitting room. They unknowingly create a mirror image.*)

SAUNDERS. This is no time for jokes, you idiot!!!

MAX. Jokes?

SAUNDERS. Are you out of your mind?! What's the matter with you?!

MAX. What did I do?!

SAUNDERS. This whole thing could blow up any second!!

MAX. I know!

SAUNDERS. Well, who was at the door?!

MAX. What door?

SAUNDERS. That door! Who was knocking?!

MAX. Me.

SAUNDERS. Before that!

MAX. How should I know?

SAUNDERS. You were there!

MAX. Where?!

SAUNDERS. At the door!

MAX. What door?!

SAUNDERS. That door!!!

(*Pause. They're at an impasse. At this point, TITO opens the bedroom/corridor door and exits, pulling the door closed quietly behind him. SAUNDERS goes on reasonably, restraining himself.*)

Max. A minute ago, you were standing here and I was talking to you. There was a knock at the door, and I said, "That may be the police."

MAX. It wasn't me,

SAUNDERS. I know that!

MAX. I mean, in here!