

#8

SAUNDERS. Max –

MAX. I was downstairs, looking for you! When I couldn't find you, I came back up!

SAUNDERS. You were looking for me?

MAX. That's what I want to tell you! He's gone.

SAUNDERS. Who?

MAX. Tito! He's gone!

SAUNDERS. Max! We all have to go sometime!

MAX. I mean he's not on the bed!! He disappeared!! Look. You told me to go change and you went downstairs. I walked in there and I tried not to look, but I couldn't help it, so I looked at the bed and he wasn't there.

SAUNDERS. He's in the closet.

MAX. Who told you that?

SAUNDERS. You – *(He freezes. He figures it out.)* Oh my God. He's alive.

MAX. Do you really think so?

SAUNDERS. I was standing here talking to him!!!

*(He bolts to the connecting door and throws it open. He looks around the bedroom and sees that it's empty.)*

He's gone.

MAX. But he's alive. That's terrific!

SAUNDERS. You moron! He could ruin everything!

*(A knock at the sitting room/corridor door. SAUNDERS and MAX freeze. SAUNDERS goes on, lowering his voice.)*

It's either him or the police.

MAX. Oh great.

SAUNDERS. Whatever I say, just play along.

*(MAX sits on the sofa as SAUNDERS walks to the corridor door and opens it. The BELLHOP enters, carrying an ice bucket, a bottle of champagne and two glasses.)*

BELLHOP. Nightcap, anyone?

Bellhop / Max / SAUNDERS

SAUNDERS. Oh no!!

BELLHOP. Mr. Merelli! Oh sir, I know how tired you must be and I won't take up much of your time, but I simply must tell you how magnificent you were tonight. You were wonderful!

MAX. Thanks.

BELLHOP. I'll never forget it as long as I live.

MAX. You liked it, eh?

BELLHOP. I adored every note.

MAX. What exactly did you like a-best?

SAUNDERS. *(to MAX)* Not now!!BELLHOP. *(dramatically)* When you realized that she was guilty, but you were still in love with her and you put on your makeup. *(Singing)* "Vesti la giubba e la faccia infarina." It was so beautiful!

SAUNDERS. Who the hell ordered champagne?!

BELLHOP. He did.

MAX. I did?

SAUNDERS. You did?

BELLHOP. That's what they told me downstairs.

SAUNDERS. Oh yes of course. I remember now. *(to MAX)* The champagne.

MAX. Oh yeah. I forget, eh?

BELLHOP. And guess what? It's on the house, and I arranged it.

SAUNDERS. Well, that's very nice of you.

BELLHOP. I did it for *him*.

SAUNDERS. Well, now you've done it, so get out.

BELLHOP. *(ignoring SAUNDERS)* Is there anything else I can do for you, Mr. Merelli?

MAX. I done think so. Thanks.

SAUNDERS. Out.

BELLHOP. Well, if you want anything, just pick up the phone. I'm on all night.

SAUNDERS. Out!!

START

BELLHOP. (*unruffled, to MAX*) I'll see you later. (*He frowns.*)

Goodbye, Henry. (*He exits, closing the door.*)

SAUNDERS. All right, now listen. Here's the plan. Number one, you change. And do it this time!

MAX. Yes, sir.

SAUNDERS. I'll go find Tito and explain everything. And then, if I have to, I'll pay him off.

(*He goes to the corridor door.*)

MAX. Sir? Since we're not doing the *Requiem*, can I do the *Carmen*?

SAUNDERS. Change!

MAX. Yes, sir.

(*SAUNDERS exits. MAX walks into the bedroom, leaving the connecting door open and heads straight for the bathroom. He walks into the bathroom and closes the door. Pause. A cry from MAX, as the door swings open, MAX holding the handle for dear life. DIANA, still in her towel, yanks him back in and the door slams. Repeat. Bubbles each time. Silence for a moment; then the closet door opens and MAGGIE cautiously emerges. She wears TITO's trench coat over her underwear.*)

MAGGIE. (*in a whisper*) Tito?

(*There's a yelp from the bathroom and MAGGIE is startled by it. Then she realizes that he must be using the bathroom.*)

Oh. (*She calls quietly.*) Sorry!

(*She sighs with relief and goes into the sitting room, smiling happily. Then she notices the champagne.*)

Oh, Tito! Champagne!

(*She picks up one of the glasses admiringly. She notices a speck of dirt on it. She picks up the other glass, decides that both glasses need washing, and walks into the kitchenette, happily humming a popular tune. As*

MAGGIE exits, the bathroom door crashes open and MAX reels out, breathing heavily. DIANA follows him out still wearing her towel.)

DIANA. Now, don't go 'way, I have a little surprise for you. I'll be right back.

(*She exits into the bathroom and closes the door. MAX catches his breath, then staggers into the sitting room, closing the connecting door behind him. MAGGIE, who's heard the door, enters from the kitchenette without the glasses.*)

MAGGIE. Darling. (*She shrugs the trench coat off her shoulders and it falls to the floor*) Alone at last.

(*MAX falls to his knees, speechless and exhausted*)

You poor thing, you look tired. You've had a rough day, haven't you?

(*MAX shakes his head "yes." MAGGIE goes to him.*)

Now, don't you worry. I'm going to make it all better.

(*She leads him to the sofa and pushes him on to it.*)

You'll see.

(*MAX is flat on his back. MAGGIE's on top of him, kissing him passionately, which is when the bedroom/corridor door opens and TITO rushes in, closing the door quickly, but quietly. He's on the lam and breathing heavily. He runs to his suitcase, grabs it and turns to go when DIANA enters from the bathroom. She wears a nightie which is extremely sexy. TITO sees her, freezes, and drops the suitcase.*)

DIANA. Well? Do you like it?

(*TITO shakes his head "yes."*)

I thought you might.

TITO. Heh...

DIANA. You poor thing, you look tired. You've had a rough day, haven't you?