

BEppo BEppo. I would like that very much. And my producer will pay you big money. He like to pay out lots of money, it make him happy.

(They share a laugh.)

You are the most beautiful creature I ever see.

RACÓN. Oh, Tito. You are remembering the happy times we had here in Paris together?

BEppo. I remember like a-yesterday.

RACÓN. The lights of the city.

BEppo. The water.

RACÓN. The walks.

BEppo. The food.

RACÓN. Our son.

BEppo. Our son. Our son?

RACÓN. The little boy we saw playing on bank of river and we are saying "oh, if we are having child some day he will be just like this one."

BEppo. Of course. And I would like such a boy. I would play soccer with him and show him American movie.

RACÓN. But would you take so much time from big career to be having son like this?

BEppo. Is what I dream of at night when my eyes are closing.

RACÓN. Oh Tito, me too! I am wanting child so badly now!

(She throws herself at him and kisses him deeply.)

You have changed so much. You are whole new man!

MARIA. (offstage) Tito!! Are you ready?

BEppo. (calling) Uno momento.

RACÓN. Who is that?

BEppo. My mother. She travel with me to do the cleaning.

RACÓN. What about your wife?

BEppo. She is dead.

RACÓN. Dead? Since when?

BEppo. Not so long ago.

RACÓN. Oh, Tito!

(She leaps on top of him and smothers him with kisses.)

I am thinking where is bedroom.

BEppo. That is quite a coincidence.

RACÓN. Be giving me five minutes.

BEppo. Okay.

(She disappears into the bedroom stage right and closes the door. BEppo is alone onstage.)

I have spent many years in the wilderness, but I think the drought is a-finally over. I begin as gondolier in Venezia when I am eight years old, one of fourteen children, and I felt a-very lucky. I pole the boat through the dark canal and I sing about life - and what do you know?, the more I sing, the better I become. So I move to Paris to be in the opera, but life is life and I become bellhop. It is not what I hope for, but it is also not, how you say?, *infelice*. It is not unhappy. I do honest work and get honest pay. But suddenly life has done somersault. In that room is Russian tiger waiting to pounce all over me; and over there is Italian antelope wanting to devour my body without a-mercy. Meanwhile, I am living in hotel suite with marble bathroom, and I just eat my first good meal in a-three weeks. Life is a-full of surprises, eh? The trick is to be patient. You take a deep breath, you thank God for all the things you have, you wait a-you turn, and then, like a miracle, life come to you.

(MARIA opens her bedroom door.)

MARIA. Tito. I am ready for you.

(She exits, and RACÓN opens her door.)

RACÓN. In Russia we are beink very efficient. I am ready when you are.

(She exits, closing the door.)