

ACT ONE

Scene 3

#3b - Hudson River Pier

A Hudson River pier. Sunset. The HMS QUEEN MURRAY is about to set sail for Europe. Late-arriving PASSENGERS are going aboard, checked in by a uniformed PURSER and CRUISE DIRECTOR. A STEWARD stands at the stairs to the ship. FREDERICK is searching for ELIZABETH.

STEWARD

(with a British accent; banging a gong)

All aboard, please! All aboard! All aboard who are going aboard, all aboard who are going aboard! Sailing in ten minutes! Ten minutes, please!

HE bangs the gong once more

FREDERICK

(calling off)

Elizabeth! Elizabeth, hurry, hurry, my boat's about to sail!

ELIZABETH

(calling from off-stage)

I'm coming, darling! I'm coming! I'm coming!

(as SHE enters and stops)

I'm here!

(SHE walks towards FREDERICK)

Oh, my sweet darling. Oh my dearest love. I'll count the hours that you're away.

FREDERICK

Oh, darling, so will I.

STEWARD

All aboard! All aboard!

The STEWARD bangs the gong

ELIZABETH

How could fate tear us apart like this? Me, your adorable madcap fiancée, in a Park Avenue penthouse, dancing 'til dawn with one good-lookin' guy after another, and you, all alone on the stormy seas, desperately clinging to your masthead.

Oh, Freddie, I can't let you go, I simply can't let you go...

FREDERICK

What?

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry. I have to go to that party tonight at Nicky and Nana's.

FREDERICK

Oh, of course, darling. I'm sorry.

STEWARD

All aboard! Last call! All aboard!

The STEWARD bangs the gong

ELIZABETH

Oh, darling! How can I say in just a few minutes what it's taken me a lifetime to understand?

FREDERICK

Does that mean you love me?

ELIZABETH

You bet your boots it does, mister.

FREDERICK

(trying to take her hands)

Oh, Elizabeth, the love of my life...

ELIZABETH

(pulling hands away from him)

Nails! The nails, darling. I'm sorry, they take three months to dry.

SHE blows on her nails

FREDERICK

Oh, sorry.

HE takes ELIZABETH's hand, blowing on her nails to help them dry.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, darling.

(as HE blows)

Hey you.

FREDERICK

Hey.

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FREDERICK

I prefer old-fashioned wedding nights!

ELIZABETH

Oh darling, you're incorrigible...

(as FREDERICK reaches out to tenderly pat her head)

HAIR! The hair, darling! I just had it done! Marcelled for six hours, by Marcel himself.

#4 - Please Don't Touch Me

FREDERICK

Of course. Well, I promise, my darling, not to step a step closer.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, darling.

FREDERICK

I can still dream, can't I?

ELIZABETH

DREAM ALL YOU WANT,
MY DARLING,
OF EV'RY LUSTFUL SITUATION,
THOSE NAUGHTY THOUGHTS,
ARE FINE WITH ME,
AS LONG AS THEY
STAY LOCKED AWAY
IN YOUR IMAGINATION...

(spoken)

YOU CAN HUG ME TILL I SCREAM,
IF IT'S ONLY IN A DREAM
BUT PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME!

YOU CAN FEEL ME TILL I SQUEEL,
JUST AS LONG AS IT'S NOT REAL,
BUT PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME!

(sings)

Sc
YOU CAN STICK ME, YOU CAN LICK ME,
YOU CAN PINCH ME TILL I'M BLUE,
YOU CAN BITE ME AND DELIGHT ME
TILL I'M BLIND!

(ENTOURAGE)

OH WHEN YOUR SPIRIT'S DRAGGING,
AND YOU'RE OH SO BLUE,
NOW IT ALL CAN CHANGE, IF THE FATES ARRANGE
A NICE SURPRISE FOR YOU!
OH ALL THE WORLD ENJOYS A LOVELY SURPRISE
LIFE'S A CHORE, A BORE, WITHOUT

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ELIZABETH

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IT'S ME! IT'S ME! IT'S ME! IT'S ME!

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FREDERICK DARLING

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IT'S ME YOU SEE

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IT'S ME!

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NOW STOP YOUR DRAGGING AND DON'T BE BLUE

'CAUSE IT ALL CAN CHANGE

WELL HERE'S A NICE SURPRISE FOR YOU

Elizab
Inga.

OH ALL THE WORLD ENJOYS A LOVELY SURPRISE

SURPRISE!

Yes, sl
tell wl

SURPRISE!

The table, with FREDERICK and INGA intertwined yet still covered by a sheet, arrives at ground level. Everyone sees them except ELIZABETH.

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WONDERFUL SUR -

ELIZABETH bumps into the table just as FREDERICK and INGA have untangled themselves from under the sheet. SHE sees them.

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Frederick!

FREDERICK

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Elizabeth!

INGA

Scheise!

FRAU BLUCHER, IGOR & THE ENTOURAGE

SURPRISE!

*ELIZABETH screams and faints dead away into the arms of her ENTOURAGE.
FREDERICK and INGA race to get dressed.*

ELIZABETH

(as she comes to)

What happened... what happened? Freddie?

FREDERICK

It's all right. It's all right, Elizabeth. I'm here. I'm here and you're fine.

ELIZABETH

(seeing FREDERICK)

Oh, Freddie! Oh, it's you! Thank goodness. The strangest thing, for a second there I could have sworn that I saw you laying on a table with a beautiful blonde gir...

As she leans against the lab table, ELIZABETH's hand comes to rest on INGA's thigh, then slowly makes its way up to her left breast before finally coming to rest on the right one. ELIZABETH turns sharply to FREDERICK.

FREDERICK

Elizabeth, please allow me to introduce my laboratory assistant, Inga's... uh, I mean Inga.

FRAU BLUCHER

Yes, she's his assistant. She works under him, day and night. Sometimes you can't tell where he begins and she ends... I'm not helping.

ELIZABETH

(pulling him away)

Freddie, darling, please explain to me just exactly what the two of you were doing together just now under that sheet?

FREDERICK

I assure you, Elizabeth, what you just witnessed was pure science, you have to believe me.

ELIZABETH

Well... all right, I will believe you, if you promise me that there was nothing "funny" going on between you and that Transylvanian Trollop.

FREDERICK

I promise, there was nothing funny about it, was there Inga?

INGA

I only laughed once.

ELIZABETH

Well all right, my darling, you promised, and so I believe you! Glad to see me?

FREDERICK

Of course I am. But, Elizabeth, there's something I must tell you. Right here, in this laboratory, I brought a dead man back to life.

ELIZABETH

(taking out a compact to check her face)

Oh darling, that must have been so hard to do. Who's my big boy?

FREDERICK

(anxious to leave)

I'm sorry, Elizabeth. It's imperative I must go.

(to INGA and IGOR)

Inga, Igor! Let's go catch a monster.

Together FREDERICK, INGA and IGOR exit up the stairs.

FRAU BLUCHER

(crossing to ELIZABETH with her unlit candelabra)

If you will follow me. Stay close to the candles. The staircase can be treacherous.

ELIZABETH

No.

Once again, FRAU BLUCHER places her hand on ELIZABETH'S thigh.

Alright.

#18 - Please Send Me Someone

BLACKOUT and we transition to...