

MID-ACT II, SCENE 4

JULIAN

Finally! What took you so long?

ADAM

Not everyone bolts out of the theater the way that you do, darling.

(JULIAN closes the door and puts the chain lock on)

JULIAN

I had to get home.

ADAM

I know that.

JULIAN

So...what did you think?

ADAM

Oh, darling, you don't care what I think. You care what they think.

JULIAN

I do care what you think!

ADAM

Well, of course, I thought you were marvelous. I mean, truly spectacular. But what I think doesn't really count right now, does it?

(tentatively)

Is Pilar awake?

JULIAN

No, she's sleeping. We'll just have to keep our voices down. Do you want to sit?

ADAM

Okay.

(THEY sit. JULIAN looks at ADAM expectantly)

They adored you.

JULIAN

They did? What did they say?

ADAM

Shhhhhhh! You don't want to wake Pilar! Or...

(looks up)

Your neighbor.

JULIAN

Did you give them my headshot and the resume with the new name?

ADAM

Of course I did! Darling, I do know how to do this, you know!

JULIAN

Okay, sorry. Go on.

ADAM

Well...

(dramatic pause)

One of them wants you to come speak with him in his office.

JULIAN

In his office? What for?

ADAM

To talk about working together, darling! What do you think?

JULIAN

Really? He wants to talk to me? An agent wants to talk to me? Are you sure you had that right?

ADAM

Darling, I know when a man wants to talk to another man. Look, he gave me his card.

(pulls a card out of his pocket and hands it to

JULIAN)

He wants you to call him to set up an appointment.

JULIAN

Adam, he must be really serious! Agents never want to talk to you in their office if they're not serious!

ADAM

Don't you think I know that, darling?

JULIAN

I just can't believe someone wants to talk to me. I even screwed up a lyric tonight, did you know that? I said "shuttle the ship" when it was supposed to be...scuttle.

ADAM

I'm sure only you noticed, darling. The other agent said something about having an opportunity for you already.

JULIAN

What?! Are you kidding me?

ADAM

No. He said you just need to go in and do the audition.

JULIAN

Okay, well, an audition doesn't guarantee me the part. I mean, everyone goes to auditions.

ADAM

No, he said the part would be yours.

JULIAN

That's crazy! How could I-- What's the role?

ADAM

I have no idea.

(beat)

Julian, this is gigantic. Do you understand that?

JULIAN

(faintly)

Sort of. We're not there yet...

ADAM

Yes, you are! And you'll get to do all of these amazing things now. Once you get an agent and you're cast in something, all kinds of doors open. Other shows will want you. Oh, and the glamorous parties we'll be invited to...!

JULIAN

Parties?

ADAM

Oh, darling. It will be wonderful! We'll get to spend more time together. And then you'll get to go on the road, like you wanted. Maybe we'll even be working in the same places,

me doing photo shoots and you doing your shows. It'll be like our rehearsal for the mansion. Wouldn't that just be phenomenal?

JULIAN

Wait. Is this show on the road? Is it going to Chicago?

ADAM

I don't know.

JULIAN

When did you say it was going to be?

ADAM

He said it starts right after Christmas.

JULIAN

(deep breath)

I don't know if I'll be able to do it.

ADAM

What do you mean?

JULIAN

I can't believe it. But I just...it was hard enough to get through the rehearsals and performances of this show. I don't even know how I'm going to do tomorrow night's show and...

ADAM

Julian, these things don't just happen whenever you're ready! They happen and you grab them! Do you think Ricardo Matleband...

JULIAN

Montalbán...

ADAM

... Montalbán...would have said "Sorry, I'm busy. Catch me next time."? Maybe he wouldn't have won a Tony award if he had said that.

JULIAN

He didn't win the Tony award, he was nominated! I've told you a million times!

ADAM

Well, nominated then! You don't get nominated by sitting at home, Julian!

JULIAN

I just can't do it right now. I'll talk to them. Maybe they'll understand.

ADAM

(getting angry)

No, Julian! They won't understand!

(beat)

You were out there doing auditions! It's not like this was some brilliant flash only in my head! You wanted this, too!

JULIAN

I know! And I do! But my mother's in Chile, Adam! I can't do anything while she's in Chile! I have to take care of Pilar!

ADAM

(Thumping heard. Beat)

So what does that mean for these shows?

JULIAN

My mother will come back soon and she'll take care of Pilar again. Then I'll be able to move out and work with the agents.

ADAM

And soon is whenever your grandmother dies.

JULIAN

(annoyed)

It's when she gets better. Pilar told you about my grandmother?

ADAM

Someone had to.

JULIAN

What else did she tell you?

ADAM

It doesn't matter..

JULIAN

It matters to me!

ADAM

It matters to you now!

(long beat. Quietly)

They're not going to wait, Julian. They'll find someone else. It's very important right now for you to keep meeting people in the industry.

(beat)

And if more shows come up, what are you going to do?

JULIAN

I'll think of something. Maybe...maybe I can tell them that I have plans to be out of town for Christmas and won't be back for a little while. Or that I'm working on another show.

ADAM

(beat. Disappointed and sad)

So you're going to make up more stories.

JULIAN

This would be special. It's not like I make up stories all the time.

ADAM

(listing on his fingers)

Reasons why you can't take the audition for a part you're guaranteed; where you really are when you say you're at the library...

JULIAN

That's different!

ADAM

...who you actually live with...

JULIAN

Who I'm actually dating? It's not like you can't tell anyone that either.

ADAM

(shouting)

Why didn't you trust me?

JULIAN

I trust you.

ADAM

With what? Not with you. Because, after eight months, I'm only just finding out who you are, Julian! And not even from you!

JULIAN

Look, Pilar doesn't always tell the truth about things.

ADAM

Neither does her brother.

JULIAN

Things in our family are private. That's just how it is.

ADAM

Yes. It is how it is.

(sighing)

All right. I'll tell the agents that you're not interested.

JULIAN

What? No! Don't do that! Things will calm down when my mother gets back. They will. And I'll be able to work with the agents.

(takes ADAM's hand)

And I'll have more time to spend more time with you. Everything will be fine when my mother comes back.

ADAM

(beat)

Well, then...call me when it's fine.

(pulls his hand away)

JULIAN

What?

ADAM

(turning around. Sadly)

I really want our mansion, Julian. I thought you wanted it, too.

JULIAN

What are you talking about? I do want it.

ADAM

(Long beat. Hands him a card)

Well, then, here is the card for the other agent. If you really want it, you'll call him and stop making excuses not to. And I do hope you call because I think you're stupendously talented, Julian. I really do.

(HE starts for the door)

JULIAN

Wait, where are you going?

ADAM

Julian, does your mother know that you're trying to be an actor?

(JULIAN is silent)

I didn't think so. So it's not really going to be fine when she comes back, is it?

JULIAN

You don't understand! Acting really isn't respected as a career in my family...

ADAM

So, you're still going to have to lie about what you're doing, where you're going, who you're with and who you are. Julian, I don't want to be here for that!

JULIAN

My mother gave up everything to come to this country! Everything! Her marriage to my father, her job, she left her mother and all of her things! You have no idea how angry my mother would be if she found out that I was wasting my American education on being an actor. I could get disowned, Adam. By my own mother! Why do you think I had to have a stage name?

ADAM

(long beat)

Well, you said it was so directors could pronounce your name. That's what you said. So I believed you. My mistake.