

SCENE THREE

(In the shop, RITTER is hanging tinsel icicles. KODALY and SIPOS are working nearby. ARPAD is upstairs)

RITTER

Ladislav — have you got a pack of icicles over there?

SIPOS

(Looking)

I don't see any...

RITTER

Would you please ask Mr. Kodaly if he's got them?

SIPOS

(Turning to KODALY, who is right next to him)

Miss Ritter would like to know if you've got her icicles.

KODALY

(To SIPOS)

Iceicles? Please tell her that's all I've been getting from her for several weeks.

SIPOS

(To RITTER)

He says...

RITTER

(Unamused)

I heard him. Why else would I be laughing so uncontrollably?

KODALY

Sipos — what do you think of a woman who goes with a man, tells him she loves him — and suddenly drops him?

RITTER

(To SIPOS)

Before you answer that, Ladislav — what do you think of a man who breaks three dates with a girl in a little over a week?

KODALY

A little over a week?

RITTER

Eight days!

KODALY

I don't recall three dates.

RITTER

You don't recall anything. You never did.

(SIPOS goes upstairs)

#28 Ilona

KODALY

You're so wrong, Ilona. I recall our evenings together. I recall them very well. Our private little booth at the Rathskeller. Remember? Oh, come on, Ilona, let's go there tonight. You always loved the Rathskeller, the Chinese food, the gypsy fortune teller, and that rhumba band? Ilona?

COME WITH ME, ILONA.
I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.
HOW I ENVY YOU EACH EVENING
WHEN WORK IS THROUGH
FOR I HAVE ONLY ME TO BE WITH
WHILE YOU HAVE YOU.
WITHOUT YOU, ILONA,
HOW COLD MY LONELY LIFE HAS GROWN.
ARE YOU HAPPY ALONE, ILONA?
ILONA, MY OWN!

SIPOS

NOW THAT KODALY IS HARD AT PLAY
WE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE 'TIL NEW YEARS DAY SO

SIPOS, ARPAD

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

KODALY

COME WITH ME, ILONA

RITTER

NO!

KODALY

COME WITH ME, CHERIE.
MISTLETOE, I LONG FOR SOMEONE.
PLEASE TELL ME WHO.
LIKE SOME DIVINE DIVINING ROD,
IT POINTS STRAIGHT TO YOU.
REMEMBER, ILONA,
THE SUNNY NIGHTS WE KNEW BEFORE?
IF YOU'LL JUST SAY THE WORD, ILONA,
WE'LL KNOW THEM ONCE MORE.

ARPAD

IF IT WAS ONLY UP TO ME,
GUESS WHO I WOULD HANG UPON THE CHRISTMAS TREE.