

*Act II Scene II*

**GEORG**

And he never showed up.

**AMALIA**

I waited 'til closing.

**GEORG**

I feel very responsible.

**AMALIA**

Oh, no — it wasn't just you, Mr. Nowack. There could have been so many reasons. But — if he cared at all — he would have explained — he would have written — a letter, a note, two words — something!

*(AMALIA'S tears flow forth again. GEORG watches sadly for a minute)*

**GEORG**

*(Impulsively)*

Miss Balash, he will write!

**AMALIA**

I don't think so.

**GEORG**

He will! I'm not just guessing! I know it definitely!

**AMALIA.**

How?

**GEORG**

He told me himself!

**AMALIA**

He — himself?

**GEORG**

Yes — of course! Dear Friend! No one else!

**AMALIA**

*(Ecstatic)*

Dear Friend?! When? How? Oh — tell me, Mr. Nowack. Tell me!!

**GEORG**

Well — *(Madly improvising)* — let's see now — You know — when I left the cafe last night, I had the oddest feeling that someone was following me. And I kept looking back — and there *was* a...

**AMALIA**

*(Eagerly)*

A young man?

**GEORG**

A man — and when I was almost home — he came up and started asking questions about you and me.

**AMALIA**

What sort of questions?

**GEORG**

Oh — just what you'd expect...

**AMALIA**

But I want to know the words he said.

**GEORG**

I'm not very good at remembering exact words...

**AMALIA**

Try — please?

**GEORG**

Well — let's see. I think the first thing he said was: "Excuse me, but I'd like to ask you a question." Or something like that. And then he said: "Did you just leave the Cafe Imperiale?" You want to know what / said, too?

**AMALIA**

Of course!

**GEORG**

All right. I said: "Yes."

**AMALIA**

*(Eagerly)*

And then —

**GEORG**

He said: "Tell me — that girl you were sitting with. Is she a special friend of yours?" Those were his exact words: "Special friend." And I said: "No. We just work at the same shop. As a matter of fact, she has an appointment with someone else tonight." I'm remembering very clearly now. And I remember he suddenly looked quite sad.

**AMALIA**

*(Rapturous)*

He looked sad?

**GEORG**

Quite sad. And then he said: "I know she has an appointment. It's with me. But I've got to take the next train out of town on urgent business."

**AMALIA**

Urgent business? Is he a — manufacturer — do you think? Or a shop-owner...?

**GEORG**

It's hard to say. He certainly looked well-fed...

**AMALIA**

Well-fed?