

(AMALIA screams. The WAITER rushes over)

WAITER

ARE YOU TRYING TO RUIN ME, LADY? I WARNED YOU — GET OUT!
THAT'S ALL — GET OUT!

GEORG

Wait a minute —

WAITER

YOU TOO — GET OUT!
SCREAMING LIKE LUNATICS —
THAT'S ALL — GET OUT!!

GEORG

How dare you speak to a lady that way!

WAITER

Ladies don't scream in cafes!

GEORG

I'm afraid you don't quite understand. You see — there was a fly in the wine.

WAITER

What?

GEORG

(Much louder)

I said — a fly in the wine.

WAITER

SHHHHH! Where is it? Show it to me.

GEORG

Oh, no. I'm afraid that's quite impossible. You see, the lady swallowed it.

WAITER

(Appalled)

She swallowed...?

GEORG

Wouldn't you scream?

WAITER

Good God!

CUSTOMER

Waiter!

(The WAITER goes to another table)

Act I Scene IV

AMALIA

Really, Mr. Nowack — no matter how much you despise me or how unhappy you are, haven't you had enough revenge? I don't understand you.

GEORG

How could you, Miss Balash? You've never listened to me — you've never really looked at me...

AMALIA

How wrong you are, Mr. Nowack! I'm looking at you now — and shall I tell you what I see? A smug, pompous, petty tyrant — very sure of himself and very ambitious. But I see him ten years from now — selling shampoo. And twenty years from now — selling shampoo. And thirty years from now still selling shampoo! Because, basically, do you know what he is? Just a not-very-bright, not-very-handsome, not-very young man with balding hair and the personality of a python!

(GEORG EXITS)

Mr. Nowack — I didn't mean — all those things.

(GEORG can't hear)

Mr. Nowack!

(The WAITER comes to the table as GEORG EXITS)

WAITER

Don't call him! He'll come back.

(To BUSBOY)

It's almost closing time.

AMALIA

Closing time? But I'm still waiting for someone. He'll have a rose in his lapel

WAITER

To match the one in your book?

(AMALIA nods)

How late is he?

AMALIA

Over two hours.

WAITER

You're a very patient young lady.

AMALIA

I've waited for him all my life. What's two hours?

(The WAITER puts a clean glass and a small carafe of wine on AMALIA'S table)

WAITER

This one is on the house — for luck.