

Scene 2

(Four hours later. About 6:30 p.m. MAX and TITO are asleep. MAX is in the sitting room on the sofa. TITO is stretched out on the bed, under the covers. As the music fades, the telephone starts ringing. MAX wakes up, disoriented. He answers the phone.)

MAX. Hello?

BELLHOP. *(singing through the phone)*

LARGO AL FACTOTUM
DELLA CITTA, LARGO!
LA RAN LA, LA RAN LA,
LA RAN LA, LA!

MAX. Thank you –

BELLHOP. *(through the phone)* It's six-thirty! This is your wake-up call!

MAX. *(into the phone)* Thanks...Hm?...No. He's sleeping... No, you can't meet him...Not now! N – *(MAX sighs.)* Look. All right. If you bring up some coffee, you can meet him for a second...I promise!

BELLHOP. *(through the phone)* Yahooooo!

Begin *(There's a knock at the sitting room/corridor door.)*

MAX. *(hanging up the phone)* Coming!

(MAX goes to the door and opens it. It's DIANA. She's in her mid-thirties. Beautiful and very sexy.)

Diana.

DIANA. Hi, Max. *(She strolls in, looks around.)* Nice place.

MAX. Yeah. Well, you know. Tito Merelli.

DIANA. Of course.

(She wanders into the room, in no hurry.)

MAX. How was rehearsal?

DIANA. Not too bad. Considering I had to sing the duets by myself.

MAX. Yeah, I'm – I'm sorry about that. He'll be there tonight, though. No problem.

DIANA. It might work better that way.

(MAX looks at his watch.)

MAX. Diana...is there, uh, anything I can do for you?

DIANA. I just thought I'd stop by and say hello. I thought it might be preferable to meeting him onstage.

MAX. Gee, that's-that's nice of you, but the thing is, he's uh, he's sleeping right now. He's taking a nap.

DIANA. (*sitting*) I can wait. There's no hurry.

MAX. Yeah, well-actually, I – I thought it might be better if I got him to the theatre first and then he could meet everybody at the same time. I mean, I've got to wake him, and he has to get ready and – and he might want some time alone. If you see what I mean.

DIANA. Do you know what he could do for me, Max? One call from Tito Merelli and I'd be at the Met in two days.

MAX. Yeah –

DIANA. So you see, Max, it's very important to me that I get to know him. Spend a little time with him. Do you understand?

MAX. Yeah, I do. I really do. Except right now, the thing is just to get him there and-and then later, you'll have plenty of time. I mean he'll – he'll be here tomorrow. Right? Okay.

(*pause*)

DIANA. You're very cute, Max. Has anyone ever told you that before?

MAX. Sure. My – my mother. My Aunt Harriet.

DIANA. Anyone single?

MAX. My Uncle Bud.

DIANA. You aren't going to let me see him, are you, Max?

MAX. Later. I promise. I'll – I'll arrange it so you have lots of time with him. Alone. Okay? I promise.

DIANA. Will you give him a message for me?

MAX. Sure. Anything.

End