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Begin

**BELLHOP.** *(offstage)* You did so! Ask Max!

**SAUNDERS.** Well, it's cancelled!

**JULIA.** *(going to the door)* Oh stop it, Henry. You can't just let him stand there.

**SAUNDERS.** Don't – !

*(She opens the door. The BELLHOP enters, holding a tray with a coffee service on it. He also has a camera hanging around his neck. He leaves the door open.)*

**BELLHOP.** Thank you, madam.

**JULIA.** On the table, please.

**SAUNDERS.** And then get out.

**JULIA.** He's only doing his job, Henry.

**SAUNDERS.** Well, he can do it somewhere else.

**BELLHOP.** Shall I pour, madam?

**JULIA.** Thank you, that would be very nice.

**SAUNDERS.** Julia, I want you out of here!

**BELLHOP.** He's not very friendly, is he?

**SAUNDERS.** Julia, please! You promised!

**JULIA.** I wonder what's keeping Mr. Merelli?

**BELLHOP.** Is he getting dressed?

**JULIA.** Apparently.

**BELLHOP.** *(going to the connecting door)* Perhaps he needs some help with his buttons. You know these opera stars, they're helpless-

**SAUNDERS.** STOP!

*(The BELLHOP stops, his hand on the doorknob.)*

Take one step into that room and I will *kill* you.

**BELLHOP.** Fair enough. I'll wait out here.

**SAUNDERS.** You're not waiting anyplace, you're getting out!

**BELLHOP.** Fine....As soon as I meet him. *(He sits.)*

**SAUNDERS.** You're not meeting him.

**BELLHOP.** Max promised. That's why I brought the coffee.

I'm a bellhop, not a waiter.

SAUNDERS. Listen, you-!!

*(In a burst of anger, SAUNDERS grabs the BELLHOP by his shirtfront and hoists him to his feet. Simultaneously MAGGIE appears at the sitting room/corridor door dressed for the evening. She carries a single red rose.)*

JULIA. Henry!

BELLHOP. Help!

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End MAGGIE. *(rushing in)* Daddy!

BELLHOP. Help!

MAGGIE. What are you doing?

SAUNDERS. *(to the BELLHOP)* Are you getting out?

BELLHOP. I'm getting wrinkled.

MAGGIE. Daddy, stop it! What's the matter?

*(SAUNDERS drops the BELLHOP.)*

BELLHOP. *(smoothing himself out)* We had a slight misunderstanding. Then he went insane.

SAUNDERS. *(to MAGGIE)* What the hell are you doing here?

MAGGIE. I came to see Mr. Merelli. To – to wish him luck.

SAUNDERS. Well, you're not going to, so get out!

MAGGIE. Daddy, what's the matter with you? Has something happened?

SAUNDERS. *(after a slight pause)* No.

JULIA. He's been under a lot of strain lately. Haven't you, Henry?

SAUNDERS. No!

BELLHOP. Yes, you have, Henry. I can tell.

SAUNDERS. Get him out of here. I'm warning you.

MAGGIE. *(to the BELLHOP)* This isn't like him at all.

BELLHOP. Oh yes it is.

SAUNDERS. Get out!! Now!!

BELLHOP. All right!! *(with dignity)* I will be happy to leave –

JULIA. *(to SAUNDERS)* There.

BELLHOP. As soon as I get one picture.