

Act Two – Scene 1

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BOBBY stops cold; looks at ZANGLER—then drops to the ground.
A GROUP FROM THE BAR gathers 'round him in concern.

POLLY. 'Night, Bobby. Nice try.

POLLY heads for ZANGLER.

PATSY. Bobby! Are you all right?

POLLY. (To ZANGLER) Hi.

ZANGLER. How do you do.

POLLY puts her hand on ZANGLER on the mouth. BOBBY sees it and groans.

POLLY looks at ZANGLER again, with increasing passion.

BOBBY groans louder and grabs a bottle of liquor from CUSTUS.

As BOBBY takes a drink, POLLY rubs her hand down ZANGLER'S leg.

BOBBY. Oh, my God!

BOBBY heads up to the bar drinking from the bottle.

At last, POLLY breaks.

ZANGLER. Thank you.

POLLY. (Exit) 'Night, Bela. (Matter-of-factly, calling down stairs) 'Night, Bobby!

POLLY exits. BOBBY groans and exits to his room.

ZANGLER is staring at the door where POLLY exited.

TESS hurries up to ZANGLER.

TESS. Bela! What are you doing here!?

ZANGLER. I don't know, but I'm coming back.

TESS. You could ruin everything!

ZANGLER. Tessie! I have come three thousand miles just to be with you!

ZANGLER starts kissing TESS'S arm and works his way to her neck.

TESS. Stop it, stop it. Would you—oooooooooh.

(Momentarily turned on; then gets a hold of herself.)

Bela, how many times do I have to tell you!? I don't enjoy your company,
I'm bored when I'm with you, and I don't find you even remotely attractive.

ZANGLER. You see? We could be married already.

TESS. And how is Mrs. Zangler?

ZANGLER. She left me.

TESS. You're kidding.

ZANGLER. She is running around with some stinking louse!

TESS. I guess she couldn't break the habit.

ZANGLER. Tessie! Why do you say such things?!

You know I would do anything for you!

TESS. (A sudden thought.) ... Anything?

ZANGLER. Vithin reason.

TESS. ... I think I have an idea.

TESS drags ZANGLER to a corner of the room and they continue to talk. Meanwhile, IRENE and LANK enter at the balcony at the same time, each from a different room.

IRENE. Mr. Hawkins!

LANK. ...?!

IRENE. *(Throws her room-tray at LANK.)* In case you're wondering, the cooking and the food was inedible, and the cutlery was filthy.

LANK. Madam, if you don't like it here, I can show you the wide open spaces!

IRENE. I have a desire to look inside your head!

The Bell-ringer, as IRENE exits back into her room and LANK heads down the stairs and exits to the back room.

LANK. God!

And LANK is gone. At which point, we refocus on ZANGLER and TESS.

ZANGLER. I do not do shows in the desert!

TESS. We have the show! We need an audience.

ZANGLER. This is the middle of no place!

TESS. We'll advertise! Get the word out! You could do it!

ZANGLER. It is impossible!

TESS. *(A beat, then)* Fine. Don't ever kiss this neck again.

TESS walks away, but ZANGLER follows her.

ZANGLER. Tessie, please! It wouldn't vork! This is town of morons!

TESS. That is so typical.

ZANGLER. Tessie—

These are nice, normal, healthy people.

At this moment, WYATT comes up to TESS and takes her arm.

WYATT. Sugar, how 'bout a drink?

TESS. You got a buster?

ZANGLER. Tessie—

BILLY. Hey! Wait! That's my woman!

WYATT. *(Laughs)* Well, no more.

BILLY. Let her go!!

WYATT. I said no!