

AT RISE: Lights come up slightly on the apartment. DEIDRA is sitting on ANDREWS lap; SHE squeals and laughs as ANDREW teases and tries to seduce HER.

DEIDRA  
Stop it. Come on, you know I don't have time for this.

ANDREW  
Just a little rump, love. You know how I get in the morning.

DEIDRA  
You're bad. Stop it...come on, stop it! Let go of me.

ANDREW  
I'm Baaaad!!!

DEIDRA  
I've got things to do.

(Lights rise on the apartment. DEIDRA finally manages to free herself, stands and straightens her hair and clothing.)

DEIDRA  
You're a horny little devil.

ANDREW  
Speaking of horny. (*He points to his head*) Why don't you stroke 'em for me?

DEIDRA  
Stroke 'em yo'self.

(DEIDRA crosses to the kitchen area.)

DEIDRA  
You would think you had enough last night.

ANDREW  
You gave out after the fourth time. You need to work on your stamina, love.

(DEIDRA has retrieved a canister to water the plants. SHE moves to the kitchen table and starts to water the grass.)

DEIDRA

I'd have to be one them triathlon athletes to keep up with you.

(DEIDRA is a model of efficiency, systematically doing several tasks: cooking breakfast, cleaning, and fixing her hair. ANDREW rolls his wheelchair over to the window and opens it.)

ANDREW

*(Inhaling deeply)*

Ahhh...the smell of exhaust, garbage, and Magic Wok Chinese take out. It's a great day to be alive in the Bronx.

DEIDRA

The grass is really thirsty today. I got some of that special grass you liked from the Village Nursery yesterday. The girl said it came directly from the rolling hills of Sussex, England like she would know the difference between English grass and grass from the rolling hills of the Catskills. *(Beat)* I should pick up a couple of sunlights. This apartment doesn't get enough light for all this greenery. Don't you think sunlights would help?

ANDREW

What?

DEIDRA

You weren't even listening, were you?

ANDREW

Heard every word you said.

DEIDRA

What did I say?

ANDREW

Something...something about needing more sun. That's it, ain't it, love? One of these days I'm going to take you back to England with me. You'd love it. The sunlight is amazing, especially in the spring. Nothing like it in the world.

DEIDRA

Sunlight is sunlight no matter where you are. *(Beat)* What do you want to eat?

ANDREW

Not hungry, love.

DEIDRA

You have to eat something. You're gonna let all this grass and wild flowers go to waste.

ANDREW

I'll grab a bite later. Be a dear and fix me a drink.

DEIDRA

Don't you think...?

ANDREW

The usual, love.

DEIDRA

It's a little early for vodka and wheatgrass juice

ANDREW

Light on the juice, love.

*(DEIDRA gives him a perturbed look, crosses to the refrigerator, gets out a bottle of chilled vodka and wheat-grass juice, and makes the drink.)*

ANDREW

*(Gazing out the window)*

What better way to start the day? I get me daily vitamin, and an energy boost.

*(SHE crosses to ANDREW and hands it to him.)*

ANDREW

Thanks.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

*(Uneasy and staring out the window)*

The northbound number two train is late. Philip Rodriguez is always on time. Prides himself on his punctuality.

DEIDRA

Now how would you know that?

*(ANDREW takes a moment to survey the clocks around the room.)*

ANDREW

Look! It's nearly seven twelve. *(Beat)* Something must have gone wrong..

DEIDRA

I bet Philip has himself a good breakfast before he drives that train.

ANDREW

Philip had bitter tears this morning.

*(The sound of a distant train is heard.)*

DEIDRA

You think you're so damn clairvortic.

ANDREW

Clairvoyant. The word...

DEIDRA

You knew that's what I meant. Why do you always have to correct...

ANDREW

*(Holds his hand up to indicate that he wants silence.)*

It's coming!

DEIDRA

Something always coming in yo' world.

(The sound of the train grows louder. The whole apartment begins to shake as the train streaks by the window. ANDREW sighs as the sound fade into the distant.)

DEIDRA

Well, at least Philip made it.

ANDREW

That wasn't Philip.

DEIDRA

You can't possibly know that.

ANDREW

I could see plain as day it was another motorman.

DEIDRA

You can't see any one person with the train going by that fast.

ANDREW

I see each and every face; feel every heartbeat, privy to their most secret thoughts.

DEIDRA

I wish you would learn to talk like a normal person.

ANDREW

Normal? Normal wears many masks and beneath each a different facade.

DEIDRA

WHATEVA! I'm going to fix myself a couple of eggs. Want some?

ANDREW

No thank you.

DEIDRA

Suit yourself. I'm gonna put the kettle on for tea.

(DEIDRA puts the water container away and crosses to the kitchen and begins to prepare her breakfast. DEIDRA places a teakettle on the stove and turns the heat on under it.)

ANDREW  
His wife was having an affair.

DEIDRA  
Whose wife?

ANDREW  
Philip's.

DEIDRA  
*(Excited by the prospect of gossip)*  
Philip who? Do we know him? Is that the new tenant that moved in downstairs? I thought there was something...

ANDREW  
Philip, the motorman on the seven O eight.

DEIDRA  
This isn't about that stupid train, is it?

ANDREW  
His wife, Maria, met a young man hanging around a local bodega. His eyes were hellfire with the touch of ice. She shivered at the sight of him and wanted to be bath in brimstone. *(Beat)* Philip found out. How could she do this to me after twenty-three years of marriage?

DEIDRA  
After twenty-three years of marriage, people get tired of each other.

ANDREW  
Passion sometimes overwhelms our tenuous hold on reality.

DEIDRA  
Oh, you and your fancy-shmancy words.

ANDREW  
Maria's lover is dead with Philip's hunting knife through his left ventricle.

*(DEIDRA has completed her food and sets down at the table to eat.)*

DEIDRA

Come sit with me. Rest your vivid imagination for a while.

(ANDREW checks the clocks and rolls his wheelchair to the kitchen table.)

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

You scare me sometimes.

ANDREW

I scare myself sometimes.

DEIDRA

Then why don't you try to control yourself? They just think you're weird if you keep saying things they can't understand.

ANDREW

Do you understand me?

DEIDRA

Oh, honey, I try. God knows I try. *(Beat)* Sometimes you just got to internalize things, you know what I mean. That's the only way to survive.

ANDREW

How are the eggs?

DEIDRA

Good. You want some?

ANDREW

No, but I think I'll try some of the new stuff you bought.

(HE picks up scissors lying on the table, snips off a section of grass, and begins to chew it. DEIDRA intensely watches him.)

DEIDRA

How is it?

ANDREW

Humm... Good stuff.

DEIDRA

I don't know how you stand the taste.

ANDREW

You should try some.

DEIDRA

I'll stick with the bacon and eggs, thank you very much. *(Beat)*  
I had it out with Marilyn yesterday.

*(ANDREW is contently chewing his  
grass, off in his own world.)*

ANDREW

Oh?

DEIDRA

The bitch thinks she's the goddamn supervisor.

ANDREW

Really?

DEIDRA

Deidra, do this. Deidra, do that. Do it yourself, you stupid ho!  
That's what I wanted to tell her, but she might take it the  
wrong way. "Don't take a break until I get mine." *(She tightens  
a fist)* Oooooohhh! If I'd snatch that cheap wig off her nappy  
head, she be looking real stupid. *(Beat)* I was making my rounds  
and she tells me there's a clean up in 516. That's her room. You  
hear me; her damn responsibility not mines. "You ain't Queen  
Latifah, miss thing." All she wants to do is sit on her big,  
fat, funky ass and give orders. The woman is allergic to work.

*(The sound of the ticking  
increases slightly.)*

ANDREW

Yeah?

*(DEIDRA realizes that ANDREW isn't  
listening to her.)*

DEIDRA

Uhummm... You know what I did?

ANDREW

What?

DEIDRA

Well, I got out my thermometer out and jammed it in her right eye.

ANDREW

That's nice.

DEIDRA

That's nice? Where the hell are you?

ANDREW

What?

DEIDRA

You're not listening to me.

ANDREW

I'm listening.

(DEIDRA rises and crosses to the sink and deposits her dishes with a crash. SHE begins to angrily wipe the kitchen surfaces and slam things around.)

DEIDRA

What I say isn't worth listening to.

ANDREW

That's not true...

DEIDRA

I'm not smart enough...I'm not-

ANDREW

Come on, hun.

DEIDRA

You're off somewhere in your own world. God knows where you go. Don't I interest you anymore? Am I that dull? Am I just someone to clean the house, pay the bills, and water the grass? I don't have all your complicated thoughts, but I...I need you to listen. I need you to be here with me, not off in some...some Shangri-La. I don't want to be alone.

(DEIDRA begins to tear up.)

ANDREW

Ahh...come on, love. I'm sorry. (*Considers what to do and begins to sing*) BAA, baa black sheep, have you any wool? Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.

DEIDRA

Aahhh... Our song.

(DEIDRA takes a handkerchief out dries her eyes and blows her nose.)

ANDREW and DEIDRA (Singing)

One for the master,  
One for the dame,  
And one for the little boy  
Who lives down the lane.  
Baa baa Black Sheep

DEIDRA

You sang it to me outside that bar in Astoria, Queens under a full moon.

ANDREW

Beneath a canopy of stars.

DEIDRA

Destiny brought us together.

ANDREW

Like two lost ships on the restless sea of life.

(THEY sigh and look outward with nostalgia in their eyes, then look at each other again. They make nose-to-nose contact and gently rub their noses together.)

DEIDRA

You'll always be my little Woolly Billy..Woolly Billy.

ANDREW

Always and forever?

Always and forever.

DEIDRA

(There is a knock at the front door. THEY give each other a questioning look.)

Who can that be at this hour?

DEIDRA

(THEY both check the clocks.)

Seven-twenty.

ANDREW

You're not expecting anyone, are you?

DEIDRA

Do I ever get visitors, love?

ANDREW

(DEIDRA gets up and crosses to the door. SHE peers through the peephole.)

What do you want?

DEIDRA

Oh, hello. I'm looking for Andrew Smith.

DR. MARTINS (OFF-STAGE)

(DEIDRA cracks the door leaving the safety chain on.)

Why you looking for Andrew? What do you want with him?

DEIDRA

We're old friends. I was in town on business and thought I'd look...

DR. MARTINS

Andrew don't have any friends, and we don't want nothing you're selling, so...

DEIDRA

Let him in, Deidra.

ANDREW

(DEIDRA slams the door and turns to ANDREW)

DEIDRA  
I don't like the looks of him. Eyes too close together.

ANDREW  
I've been expecting him.

DEIDRA  
You didn't tell me that you were expecting...

ANDREW  
Open the door. Just open the door, will you?

(DEIDRA reluctantly opens the door and DR. MARTINS stands in the hallway, impeccably dressed in an expensive suit.)

DR. MARTINS  
Hello, I'm Dr. Martins...

(DEIDRA gives him the once over.)

ANDREW  
Come on in, doctor.

(DEIDRA steps aside and DR. MARTINS enters the apartment. DEIDRA is suspicious and keeps an eye on the doctor's every move.)

DR. MARTINS  
Good morning, Andrew.

DEIDRA  
What kind of doctor makes house calls these days?

ANDREW  
Where are your manners? Where are your...

(The high pitch whistle of the teapot is heard.)

DEIDRA  
(*Imitating Andrew's English  
accent*)

Will you listen to that? You're just in time for tea. Would you like a cup, governor?

ANDREW

Don't overdue it now. And...

DEIDRA

How about some biscuits?

ANDREW

Proper manners. Best behavior.

DR. MARTINS

You don't have to...

ANDREW

No trouble at all.

DEIDRA  
(*To ANDREW*)

Would you like me to wipe his blooming arse while I'm...

ANDREW

Deidra!

DEIDRA

I'll just get you a cup. Milk and sugar, love?

DR. MARTINS

Sugar will be fine.

DEIDRA

Sit down. You can sit on the sofa. (*Beat*) It ain't contaminated!

DR. MARTINS

I won't be staying long.

DEIDRA

It ain't gonna kill you to sit down and act like a proper visitor.

(DEIDRA crosses to the kitchen.  
DR. MARTINS crosses to the sofa  
takes out a handkerchief, places  
it on the sofa and cautiously  
sits. ANDREW looks up at the  
clocks and realizes that the seven  
twenty-five will be coming down  
the track soon.)

ANDREW

How many years has it been?

DR. MARTINS

You know this isn't a social call.

(DEIDRA crosses with the tea for  
DR. MARTINS and ANDREW.)

DEIDRA

What kind of call is it?

ANDREW

(To DEIDRA)

Love, best behavior. Oh Doctor, this is Deidra Davis. Deidra,  
Dr. Carl Martins.

(DEIDRA serves tea to DR. MARTINS  
and ANDREW.)

DEIDRA

(To DR. MARTINS)

You know Andrew from his days in England?

(DR. MARTINS has a moment of  
confusion and realize an  
opportunity has presented itself.)

DR. MARTIN

Let just say I know of Andrew's time in England.

DEIDRA

He's always going on and on about mother England.

DR. MARTIN

It is a beautiful country.