

## Side 3- Robert, Gabriella, Bernard

## START

ROBERT A hermit. Yes. I suppose he is.

GABRIELLA Bernard, darling, fix me a drink, will you?

BERNARD Yes, of course.

GABRIELLA I'm worn out. You've no idea how good it is to see the sun – it was ghastly over there. You know we were held up in Helsinki?

BERNARD Really?

GABRIELLA The Met. people forecast a storm, but it was more like a hurricane! Miserable visibility, wind all over the place, and the cloud ceiling was right down to four hundred feet. Imagine it! And fog, and so cold! It only cleared over the Channel – but anyway, I'm back and that's the main thing. Have you behaved yourself, darling?

BERNARD Me? What do you think?

GABRIELLA There's a good boy. Has he told you that we're going to be married?

ROBERT No. Yes. He did say you were engaged.

BERNARD And I also told him you were beautiful. Isn't that what I told you, Robert?

ROBERT Yes, you did. Perpetual motion, pure mathematics. Like a beautiful German! A beautiful kitten! He said so many complimentary things...

GABRIELLA And are you disappointed?

ROBERT Yes. No. On the contrary. He wasn't anywhere near the truth.

GABRIELLA I like your friend, Bernard darling. He must join us for lunch.

BERNARD I've already invited him.

GABRIELLA Wonderful.

ROBERT I couldn't do that.

GABRIELLA Now, not a word. You must do as you're told.

BERNARD And I've also asked him to stay here till he finds himself a flat in Paris.

GABRIELLA Well done. You'll be company for him. He's always telling me he's so lonely and complaining that I abandon him for too long.

BERNARD You're so right, darling. I'm absolutely lost! When you're not here, I'm all alone.

ROBERT You poor chap!

BERNARD That's love for you.

GABRIELLA You're marvellous. I'll just clean up and then we'll eat. I've just three hours before we take off for Caracas! And that reminds me. It's on.

BERNARD What is?

GABRIELLA They're putting the Super-Caravelli on our route. She's so fast, I'll be able to see you more often.

BERNARD Oh good. That's great. Really great. You must remember to let me have the new timetables.

GABRIELLA Of course, darling. Uno minuto. *(She goes into the bathroom)*

ROBERT If these planes are going to go faster and faster, your mathematics aren't going to add up.

BERNARD Oh! These things take time. They won't all happen at once.

ROBERT I must congratulate you, Bernard. I was trying to work out which is the prettier, but I can't decide.

BERNARD Fortunately, it doesn't concern you. They're both engaged.

ROBERT They're both engaged!  
*(The telephone rings. BERNARD picks it up.)*

BERNARD Hello – yes? Yes, I'll hold. It's Gretchen – my German  
*(He whispers to ROBERT.)*

ROBERT But you've got one in there.

BERNARD Hello darling! You are going to be back at 23.00 instead of 19.00. What a shame. Yes, I've got that. You'll do what? And you'll eat on the plane. Yes, of course, darling. That's great...23.00 hours then.

END

*(BERTHA enters)*