

Side 4- Robert, Berthe, Gretchen

START

ROBERT I'll do without.

BERTHA Well, you'll have to. Is Monsieur in business?

ROBERT Yes.

BERTHA Same business as Monsieur Bernard?

ROBERT No.

BERTHA Ah. There are so many different businesses but its all business, isn't it?

ROBERT That's right.

BERTHA Are you married?

ROBERT No.

BERTHA Perhaps you should be.

ROBERT Why?

BERTHA You're still quite nice.

ROBERT Thank you.

BERTHA But old age is fast approaching.

ROBERT I've got a few good years ahead of me!

BERTHA That's what they all say. You take my advice. You get married while you're still worth it.

ROBERT I intend to, but now I've seen Bernard's setup. I think I'll wait a bit.

BERTHA That's a mistake. This isn't the life for you, you're not the type. You have to have your wits about you. You have to be in your physical prime.

ROBERT Who says I'm not?

BERTHA Oh no, sir. Oh no! It's obvious, Sir, if I may say so, it's obvious to the naked eye.

ROBERT For God's sake! Give me some peace!

BERTHA Very good, Monsieur.

ROBERT Honestly! It's too much!

BERTHA Very good, Monsieur.

ROBERT Goodbye Bertha.

BERTHA Goodbye Monsieur.
 ROBERT Goodbye!
 BERTHA Goodbye.
 ROBERT Well. I think I'd better go into the other room.
 BERTHA You do what you want.
 ROBERT I think I'll have a little rest. (*Going exits*)
 BERTHA They pitch up from the provinces, totally out of their depth.
 (*GRETCHEN enters. She is in her Lufthansa uniform.*)
 GRETCHEN Bernard *liebling!* Berta!
 (*BERTHA enters.*)
 BERTHA Ah, Hello Mlle Gretchen. You're here already.
 GRETCHEN Ja. I came as fast as I could. If you only knew how happy I am to be home.
 BERTHA I can see that.
 GRETCHEN Herr Bernard isn't in?
 BERTHA No, no. He's gone out – on business.
 GRETCHEN Oh!
 BERTHA But he'll be back in a minute.
 GRETCHEN Are you sure?
 BERTHA Oh yes. It's nothing very serious. He went out just before you telephoned.
 GRETCHEN And is he happy?
 BERTHA He's marvellously happy. You know how he looks forward to seeing you.
 GRETCHEN Do you think he loves me as much as I love him?
 BERTHA Well, now, that I don't know. I mean, how could I know a thing like that?
 GRETCHEN Doesn't he talk about me when I'm not here?
 BERTHA Oh, yes, he never stops talking about you, but I can't tell you if he loves you as much as you love him, if I don't know how much you love him.

END