

Side 5- Gretchen, Bernard, Robert, Berthe

START

(GRETCHEN *comes out of the bedroom.*)GRETCHEN Bernard *liebling!* You've come back.

BERNARD Well yes- I have- just now.

GRETCHEN I am so happy.

BERNARD So am I. But now, I'm afraid, I have got to go out again.

GRETCHEN No.

BERNARD Afraid so.

GRETCHEN Then I'll come with you.

BERNARD Can't be done.

ROBERT Can't be done.

GRETCHEN What?

ROBERT Can't be done.

GRETCHEN Look, do you mind?

BERNARD You two have met, then?

GRETCHEN Yes...yes...So I can't come with you?

BERNARD No, it's business.

ROBERT You know what it's like...

GRETCHEN Leave us alone, can't you?

ROBERT Me?

GRETCHEN Yes. Go to your room.

ROBERT My room?

GRETCHEN Yes.

ROBERT Certainly.

BERNARD Oh, he can stay- he won't be in the way.

GRETCHEN He will.

BERNARD But he's a friend, and I've got to go out.

(BERTHA *enters.*)

BERTHA Ah. You've come back, Monsieur.

BERNARD Apparently.

BERTHA Mlle Gretchen gave you quite a surprise, I expect.

BERNARD Yes. Yes.

BERTHA Will you be eating at home, sir?

BERNARD No, no. I can't make it. But my friend will be eating with Mlle Gretchen, if that's all right, darling?

GRETCHEN Without you?

BERNARD But I'll be back straight away...well, as soon as I can.

GRETCHEN Then I don't want any dinner. I'll just have a bath and wait for you in bed.

BERNARD If you like.

GRETCHEN I adore you. And did you know that I've got three whole days this time?

BERNARD That is good news.

ROBERT Oh yes, indeed. It is very good news.

GRETCHEN What's it got to do with you?

ROBERT I'm so happy for everybody.

BERNARD Isn't that's nice of him. He's participating.

BERTHA He certainly is.

BERNARD Now you go and have your bath, darling...I'll give you a kiss before I go.

GRETCHEN I'll have a little one on account now, please.

ROBERT Quick, quick!

GRETCHEN Quick, quick? What do you mean, quick?

BERNARD He's right. Got to get on. There. Have a nice bath! (*he semi-pushes her toward the bathroom*) Have a nice bath!

GRETCHEN I won't be long.
(*She goes into bathroom and the door shuts at the moment GABRIELLA comes in from the bedroom.*)

GABRIELLA I knew I was right- I looked an absolute fright.

BERTHA Oh! Oh! Mademoiselle is still here.

GABRIELLA Yes, Bertha...As you see...I don't take off until tomorrow.

END