

Schultz, Schneider

ACT TWO

Scene Two

The Fruit Shop

Begin
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SCHULTZ

Fraulein Schneider -- good morning.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Good morning, Herr Schultz.

SCHULTZ

New apples. Fresh off the tree. Delicious -- Please

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Perhaps later.

SCHULTZ

About the party last evening ... I do not remember it too well. Was I that inebriated?
Can you ever forgive me?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

For what? A few glasses of schnapps?

SCHULTZ

I promise you -- no more drinking. On our wedding day, you will be proud of me.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I am already proud of you. But -- as far as the wedding is concerned ...

SCHULTZ

Yes?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

There is a problem. A new problem.

SCHULTZ

A new problem?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

New to me -- because I had not thought about it. But at the party last night
my eyes were opened.

SCHULTZ

And ... ?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I saw that one can no longer dismiss the Nazis. They are my friends and neighbors. And how many others are there?

SCHULTZ

(impatiently)

Of course -- many. And many are Communists -- and Socialists -- and Social Democrats. So what is it? You wish to wait till the next election -- and then decide?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

But if the Nazis come to power ...

SCHULTZ

You will be married to a Jew. But also a German. A German as much as anyone.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I need a license to rent my rooms. If they take it away

SCHULTZ

They will take nothing away. And Fraulein Schneider -- it is not always a good thing to settle for the lowest apple on the tree -- the one easiest to reach. Climb up -- a little way. It is worth it! Up there the apples are so much more delicious!

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

But if I fall ... ?

SCHULTZ

I will catch you, I promise. I feel such tenderness for you. It is difficult to express. Are we too old for words like love?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Far too old. I am no Juliet. You are no Romeo. We must be sensible.

SCHULTZ

And live alone? How many meals have you eaten alone? A thousand?
Five thousand?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Twenty thousand.

SCHULTZ

Then be sensible. Governments come -- governments go. How much longer
can we wait?

(FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER says nothing)

Let me peel you an orange ...

(SCHULTZ starts peeling an orange - rather clumsily)

and

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I will do it.

(Underscoring from "MARRIED" begins)

SCHULTZ

(Sings)

AND THE OLD DESPAIR THAT WAS OFTEN THERE
SUDDENLY CEASES TO BE.
FOR YOU WAKE ONE DAY,
LOOK AROUND AND SAY:
"SOMEBODY WONDERFUL MARRIED --

(EMCEE drops a brick between them)

(Spoken)

It is nothing! Children on their way to school. Mischievous children! Nothing more!
I assure you! School children. Young -- full of mischief. You understand?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I understand.

ACT TWO

Scene Three

(The Emcee and a Gorilla enter)

EMCEE

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING:
YOU WONDER WHY I CHOSE HER
OUT OF ALL THE LADIES IN THE WORLD.
THAT'S JUST A FIRST IMPRESSION,
WHAT GOOD'S A FIRST IMPRESSION?
IF YOU KNEW HER LIKE I DO
IT WOULD CHANGE YOUR POINT OF VIEW.

IF YOU COULD SEE HER THROUGH MY EYES,
YOU WOULDN'T WONDER AT ALL.
IF YOU COULD SEE HER THROUGH MY EYES
I GUARANTEE YOU WOULD FALL (LIKE I DID)
WHEN WE'RE IN PUBLIC TOGETHER
I HEAR SOCIETY MOAN.
BUT IF THEY COULD SEE HER THROUGH MY EYES
MAYBE THEY'D LEAVE US ALONE

HOW CAN I SPEAK OF HER VIRTUES?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN
SHE'S 'CLEVER, SHE'S SMART, SHE READS MUSIC
SHE DOESN'T SMOKE OR DRINK GIN (LIKE I DO)
YET, WHEN WE'RE WALKING TOGETHER
THEY SNEER IF I'M HOLDING HER HAND,
BUT IF THEY COULD SEE HER THROUGH MY EYES
MAYBE THEY'D ALL UNDERSTAND.

(Dance Break)

EMCEE

WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE US ALONE?