

6/2/47
McDONALD 10/24/51

This is the stage play upon
which "Casablanca" was
based.

EVERYBODY COMES TO RICK'S

By:
MURRAY BURNETT
and
JOAN ALISON

WHARTON & GABEL,
11 West 42nd Street,
New York, New York.
LA 4-8335.

WRITERS' GUILD of Amer.
22 West 48th St.
New York 36, N.Y.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of their appearance)

Richard Blaine (Rick)

The Rabbit (Sam)

Guillermo Ugarte

Arthur, A Waiter

Forrester-Smith

Luis Rinaldo

Yvonne

French Officer

Italian Officer

Senor Martinez

Captain Heinrich Strasser

Lois Meredith

Victor Laszlo

Annina Viereck

Jan Viereck

Gendarme

and

Officers, Waiter, and Guests

S C E N E S

ACT ONE

The bar of Rick's Cafe. Summer evening, 1941.

ACT TWO

Scene 1: The same. The next morning.

Scene 2: The same. That evening.

ACT THREE

The same. The following night.

EVERYBODY COMES TO RICK'S

ACT ONE

ACT ONE

SCENE:

The bar of RICK'S CAFE, Casablanca, French Morocco, 1941.

About eleven o'clock of a summer's evening. This is the bar of an expensive and chic night club which definitely possesses an impalpable air of sophistication and intrigue. There is a hectic excitement about the people and the entertainers that manifests itself in speech and manner. At Rear Centre, are double swinging doors, covered with emerald green tufted leather, leading to the street. Running from Rear wall to L. side wall is a semi-circular bar, in green tufted leather. Walls behind bar are crystal, shelved for bottles. In front are bar stools, leather topped. Behind the bar, along L. wall, is a flight of steps. This can be reached only by going behind the bar. Along L. wall Centre, is a door leading to the gambling and dance rooms, from which, at intervals, bursts of music and voices can be heard. These increase in volume whenever the door is opened. At L. front, is a table at which a man in tuxedo with white summer jacket is seated. Further front is another table marked "RESERVE". Along R. wall, set into it, are three tables and a number of seats. At extreme R. corner, is a small piano on wheels, salmon colored, ornate, and eye filling. There is a NEGRO on a stool before it. The walls are decorated with rare tropical birds, flamingoes, etc. and huge palm fronds. The place is full of people, at bar and tables, in evening dress and uniforms. People entering head for the bar, some seek admittance to the gaming rooms, but only after they have been silently approved by the MAN sitting at the table nearest the L. door. He is RICK, an American of indeterminate age. There is a drink before him, untouched. The NEGRO, in bright blue slacks and sport shirt, open at the throat, touches the keys of the

piano softly, playing STARDUST, taking liberties with it. There is a hum of voices, chatter, laughter.

The NEGRO, whose sleeves are short, has one arm completely covered by bracelets extending from wrist to elbow. The door opens, and A MAN in a beautifully cut, tropical evening suit with a cummerbund, enters. He is about forty, distinguished, with a comforting aura of solidity and dignity about him. The NEGRO suddenly bursts into wild swing. The MAN looks around, nods to several people. He then comes directly to the RESERVED table, looks questioningly at RICK, who nods. He sits, and immediately a WAITER brings a magnum of champagne in a cooler. He speaks to the WAITER, who nods and lays two other places. The NEGRO is playing just loud enough for the audience to hear. His playing softens, and he starts to improvise. The MAN leans towards Rick.

Ugarte
Join me, Senor?

Rick
No, thanks, Ugarte. You know my rule.

Ugarte
(Bowing slightly)
Ah, yes, but I thought you might make an exception.
(He waits for an answer. RICK is silent)
You see, I shall be leaving Casablanca, Senor.

Rick
A pity.

Ugarte
Then you will join me?

Rick
No, thanks.
(The WAITER opens the bottle and pours champagne into a glass).

Ugarte

(Lifting his glass)

To Senor Rick....the man who knows everything about every one in Morocco, and of whom Morocco knows...nothing.

(He drinks. RICK barely acknowledges the toast)

(The BARTENDER gets the attention of a WAITER and talks to him. The WAITER comes to Rick's table and talks earnestly for a moment. RICK listens without turning his head, holds out his hand. The WAITER gives him some cards, and what might be a passport. RICK scrutinizes this for a minute, shakes his head negatively. the WAITER speaks again. Again RICK refuses, with an air of finality)

(The WAITER returns to the bar)

(Gesturing with his thumbs down)

Eh, Senor?

Rick

Curiosity is bad business in Morocco, Ugarte.

Ugarte

It is my business, Senor, but after tonight..
(He pauses impressively)

Rick

Ugarte...I heard you say you were leaving before. I'd rather not hear about it.

(While this has been going on, the WAITER has returned to the bar, and the refusal has been relayed to a stout, red-faced gentleman, very British, in tweeds. He is obviously angry, and strides across the room to Rick, after Rick's table has been pointed out to him)

Ugarte

(With rising inflection)

Perhaps if you...

Forrester-Smith

Now, look here! I've been in every gambling room between Honolulu and Calcutta, and if you think that I'm going to be kept out of a bloody dive like this without going to the authorities, you're very much mistaken, sir.

Rick

(Not rising, completely under control, looking directly up at Smith)

And you've left rubber checks in every gambling place between Honolulu and Calcutta. Your money's good at the bar.

Forrester-Smith

Why....what...it's an...

Rick

(Quietly)

No dice, feller. You're lucky the bar's still open to you.

(FORRESTER-SMITH stares at him, speechless,
walks back to the bar)

Ugarte

Watching you just now, one would think that you had been
doing this all your life.

Rick

(Stiffening)

What makes you think I haven't?

Ugarte

(Vaguely)

When you first came, I thought...

Rick

(Coldly)

Yes?

Ugarte

And now I suppose you are going to tell me that it is bad
business to think in Morocco.

Rick

(Leaning toward Ugarte)

Would you like me to tell you what you did in Rio before
you discovered there was a fortune to be made selling exit
visas in Casablanca.

Ugarte

(Laughing)

Ah, no, Senor Rick. You cannot frighten me...you forget...
I am leaving.

Rick

You don't let me forget it.

(He rises)

And now if you will pardon me....

Ugarte

(Putting out a restraining hand)

Not yet. I am in a mood to make confidences, even though
I know how much you dislike confidences, Senor.

(RICK shrugs and seats himself)

Rick

What is it with you tonight, Ugarte? If you want something
from me....come out with it.

Ugarte
It is very simple, Senor. I want you to listen to me.
For two years now, I have been selling exit visas.

Rick

That's not news.

Ugarte

And you have been watching me....and despising me.

Rick

So?

Ugarte

You know something about Europe, Senor. You have seen these refugees. They may have everything...money, permission to enter the United States or South America, and yet they can not leave. Why?

Rick

Do you have to go through all this?

Ugarte

I insist. They need exit visas from the country that they wish to leave, and they are very difficult to obtain.

Rick

And that's where you come in.

Ugarte

Right, Senor. Just as the lowest animals have their reasons for existing...so have I. I supply these poor people with the necessary exit visas.

Rick

For a price, Ugarte, for a price.

Ugarte

(Nodding)

And why not? People pay well to get out of Europe today.
(He takes envelope from pocket, taps it
on his hand)

But until tonight, no one has had enough money to get one of these.

Rick

A diamond studded exit visa?

Ugarte

No. Something that not even you have ever seen. Letters of transit signed by Marshall Weygand. They cannot be rescinded or questioned.

Rick

You've got something there. Let me see them.

Ugarte
In a moment. I was saving these for myself. But tonight, with luck, I will sell them for more money than even I ever dreamed of...and that, my friend, will be my escape from a risky business, and a nasty one.

Rick
Now it's a nasty business. You remind me of a pimp who's had a windfall. When he quits, he's so sorry for the girls.

Ugarte
You have your virtues, M'sieur Rick, but an understanding heart is not one of them. However, despite your opinion of me, you are the only man in Europe whom I would trust with these. Will you keep them for me?

Rick
For how long?

Ugarte
Perhaps an hour, perhaps longer,

Rick
(Taking them)
I don't want them here overnight.

Ugarte
No fear of that.
(He beckons to the Waiter)
Any messages for me?

Waiter
No, M'sieur.

Ugarte
I am expecting some people. If anyone asks for me, I will be inside.

(To Rick)
I will make my further confidences to the roulette wheel. Sometimes it is so understanding.
(He bows, exits through door L)

Woman at Bar
(Turning on stool)
We want the Rabbit!

Man at Bar
Yes, the Rabbit!

Ad Lib
(Various parts of the room)
The Rabbit! Bravo! Yes, yes, Come on! Rabbit!

(THE NEGRO at the piano grins, waves his hand, plays louder, looks at RICK: who nods)

Rabbit
 Whut you want to hear?

Woman
 The Rabbit song.

(There is applause and enthusiastic seconding of the idea. The lights dim and the NEGRO wheels the piano out to the centre of the floor and starts to play "RUN RABBIT". The audience knows the song and participate. For example, when he comes to the part, "Bang, bang, bang," the audience yells it, while he hides behind the piano. He darts out and continues it, and when he comes to "Run, run, run," the audience makes noise on whatever is handy to imitate the sound of footsteps. Everyone seems to be having a marvelous time. The NEGRO is good and also seems to enjoy the song. At the end they want more, and yell vociferously for an encore, but the NEGRO wheels the piano back, smilingly and starts to play. They keep applauding and he holds up his hand for silence. They quiet down and the lights come on)

Negro
 Ther's more comin'. Hang around, folk, hang around. Just now de old Rabbit is tired. You folks can go in and dance or maybe.....

(He makes a gesture imitating people shooting craps. THEY laugh. He starts to play softly again. During this last speech, the door opens and a dark, very handsome MAN, with a moustache and dressed in a gorgeous full dress military uniform enters. He smiles at the Negro, and heads unhesitatingly for Rick's table)

Rinaldo
 Good evening, Ricky.

Rick
 Hello, Rinaldo.

(LUIS RINALDO pulls out a chair at Rick's table with the assured air of a man who knows he is welcome and sits down)

Rinaldo
 Ricky, I am in love.

Rick
 Still or again?

Rinaldo
 Again, and I hope it will be again and again and again. Ricky, she is..
 (He gropes for words, gesturing)
 beautiful.

Naturally.

(There is a short silence. RINALDO makes a gesture of despair)

Rinaldo

Ricky, Ricky, I will never understand you. You are inhuman, incredible, you do not...er...you do not exist!

Rick

(Taking from his coat pocket an unusual, large wooden key on an attractive loop, and twirling it idly)

All right, Luis. What's her name?

Rinaldo

But of course, I do not know.

Rick

Of course.

Rinaldo

I saw her for the first time this afternoon. She was like a painting, a symphony, a poem. That is why I am here.

Rick

You made an appointment.

Rinaldo

But of course not. She is not the type of woman you can...

(He whistles)

like that. This is a campaign, Ricky. She is almost virginal in her beauty, but she will be here, and from now on the Prefect of Police will haunt your bar.

Rick

What makes you so sure she will come?

Rinaldo

She is a stranger...a refugee...on her way to America with her husband, a bird of passage...and everybody comes to Rick's.

Rick

You know, Luis, I.....

Rinaldo

Say it, my friend, say it.

Rick

Why do you have to pick these kids? There are plenty of good looking sophisticated women around here who know what it's all about, you....

Rinaldo

Pour le sport, Ricky, pour le sport. There is something that attracts me about these unawakened girls, something that

challenges...and after all, what is the harm.

Rick
Remember Muti....the little girl who jumped out of the window?

Rinaldo
She was a fool.

Rick
Maybe, but I still....

Rinaldo
They are buying something...they must pay for it...and what a pleasant way of paying!

Rick
Forget it. You're incorrigible.

Waiter
(Who has approached the table)
Pardon, M'sieu, but the people at table five would like you to join them.

Rick
(Without looking up)
Tell them....

Waiter
(Apologetically)
I said that you never drink with the guests. But they spend so much money....
(He spreads his hand in a gesture of untold wealth)
and the lady...she said that you fascinate her.

Rinaldo
(Deliberately twisting around to stare)
Ah, a lady.

Rick
Tell them, I'm sorry.

(The WAITER bows, leaves, goes over to a party sitting at a table on the opposite side to make explanations)

Rinaldo
If my lady of the afternoon comes, you will change your mind.

Rick
Don't forget I've seen other of your 'ladies of the afternoon'

Rinaldo and Rick
(Speaking together)
But this one is differ....
(THEY laugh)

Rinaldo
But I did not come here tonight just to discuss women.

Rick
What could be more interesting to you?

Rinaldo
(Very seriously)
Victor Laszlo.

Rick
In Casablanca?

Rinaldo
He is. And that's what I want to talk to you about.

Rick
Why me?

Rinaldo
That will give you some idea of his importance...when I speak to you about him. Rick, there are a lot of exit visas sold in this cafe. That is fine. We know about them, and we know that you have never sold them. That is one of the reasons we permit you to remain open.

Rick
That's very decent of you.

Rinaldo
Do not joke. Laszlo is prepared to offer a fortune to anyone who can furnish him with a visa, and in case you might be tempted, Ricky...I wanted to tell you that he must stay here!

Rick
Of course this fortune offers no temptation for you.

Rinaldo
None whatever.

Rick
It will be interesting to see how he manages.

Rinaldo
Manages what?

Rick
His escape.

Rinaldo
(Expostulating)
But I just told you...

Rick
(Calmly interrupting)
I'm not a child, Luis. This is no sudden interest that has

Rick (Cont)

been taken in Laszlo. In order to get here, he must have taken the refugee trail. I know that he was in Paris, and from Paris to Marseilles, from Marseilles to Oran, from Oran to Casablanca is a long, long, way...and they must have been after him every step of it.

Rinaldo

We do not care about the way he came. We are going to see that he stays.

Rick

How about a wager?

Rinaldo

If it's reasonable.

Rick

Five thousand francs he reaches Lisbon.

Rinaldo

Done. No matter how clever he is...he still needs an exit visa, or I should say, two.

Rick

Why, two?

Rinaldo

He is travelling with a lady.

Rick

He'll take one.

Rinaldo

I think not. I have seen the lady.

Rick

No one can keep him here.

Rinaldo

You have not seen this woman. And if he did not leave her in Marseilles, nor in Oran, he will not leave her in Casablanca.

Rick

Perhaps he is not as romantic as you.

Rinaldo

It does not matter...one or two...romanticist or not...there is no exit visa for him.

Rick

You're certainly determined about that, Luis.

Rinaldo

I have had my orders.

Rick

I see. Gestapo spank, eh?

Rinaldo

(Sitting back and selecting a cigarette from a magnificently jeweled case)
Sometimes you talk like your countrymen reporters, Rick. You over-estimate the influence of the Gestapo. We do not interfere with them, and they do not interfere with us. me

Rick

Sorry. It is easy to understand why the Gestapo is interested in Laszlo, but I don't see where the French police come in.

Rinaldo

It is not necessary for you to see, Rick. Would you be surprised to know that the French police are interested even in you? Yes, my friend, you and our pigeon.

(He takes a little black book from his pocket, opens it, and riffles through the pages)

Ah, here you are. Richard Blaine, American. Age (here I shall be discreet) formerly a prominent and successful attorney in Paris. Married to the daughter of Alexander Kirby. Two children. Left Paris in 1937 because...

(At this point RICK stiffens, and makes an almost threatening gesture. RINALDO looks at him slyly)

We will pass over that. Your wife obtained her divorce in Reno, in 1939 and has custody of the children.

(He pauses)

Shall I go on?

Rick

Don't bother.

Rinaldo

Of course, Ricky, where my friends are concerned, this is only a matter of routine.

Rick

(Lifting his glass)

To our continued friendship.

(They drink)

Rinaldo

(Putting down his glass, speculatively)

Now if it were the lady...I might...

Rick

You'd "make your heaven in a lady's lap."

Rinaldo

You have yet to see her.

Rick

I don't have to.

(He mimicks Rinaldo's words and gestures earlier in the scene)

She is...er...beautiful.

Rinaldo

(Sharply)

I tell you that this woman is one a man might well lose his soul for.

(While THEY were drinking their toast to friendship, a striking looking blonde enters. She is the worse for drink, but manages to walk fairly steadily to Rick's table in time to overhear the last words. She reaches for the key in Rick's hand. He withdraws it. She slips into a seat)

Yvonne

Rick has no soul.

Rinaldo

(Smoothly)

Just what I was saying, Madame.

Yvonne

But he's nice to sleep with.

Rinaldo

I would not know, Madame.

Yvonne

You want to know something? I love Rick, Rick doesn't love me.

Rinaldo

Love is like that. I will have a drink at the bar.

Rick

Don't go, Luis.

Yvonne

You see? He's afraid to be alone with me.

Rinaldo

I am sure you are mistaken. Rick is a man of great courage.
(He gets up and walks to the bar)

Rick

I'd offer you a drink, but you seem to have had enough.

Yvonne

You're angry 'cause I'm a little high.

Rick

Angry? Not at all.

Yvonne

Then kiss me.

Rick

I'll do better than that.

Yvonne

Oh, Ricky!

Rick
(Reaches out and takes her elbow)
I'm going to take you right out to your car.

Yvonne
(Pulling her arm away)
Oh, no, you don't. You did that the last time, so I sent it back tonight.

Rick
That's fine. Now you can have your choice. Either I send you back in my car, or you walk.

Yvonne
(With drunken stubbornness)
No. I'm going to stay here.

Rick
(Gestures to a WAITER, who approaches)
A special.

Yvonne
You going to buy me a drink?

Rick
Yes.

Yvonne
That's nice. You know I had to be drunk to come here, and now I'm going to stay drunk. Good old Ricky.

(THE WAITER returns with a reddish drink.
YVONNE raises the glass to her lips,
abruptly puts it down)

This is no drink!

Rick
It's what you need.

Yvonne
Why are you such a louse, Ricky?

Rick
If you want me to talk to you...drink it.

Yvonne
If I do, then you'll let me stay?

Rick
For a little while.

Yvonne
(Drinks, grimaces)
See? I'm a good girl.

Rick
Sure you are.

Yvonne

(Who has been sobering, and continues to do so, until, at the end of this scene she is completely sober)

But not good enough for you.

Rick

Too good for me, and too nice to come here alone.

Yvonne

Then how am I going to see you?

Rick

You're not.

Yvonne

(A little wearily)

Some day I'm going to write a book about men. The kind you like, Ricky. No slush. Just about men, the way they are... before...and after.

Rick

And I'll buy the first copy.

Yvonne

Sure you will. That's what's nice about you, Rick. You have all the generous instincts of a saloon keeper.

(She laughs harshly)

God, what a sucker I am! Little Yvonne comes to Europe with a show and married a swell guy, but hasn't sense enough to stay in her own back yard. Instead, I have to go and fall for a...a...a...a...punk like you.

Rick

Now look, Yvonne. Before we start that. You're over twenty-one and you knew damn well what you were doing. I never pretended this was anything more than it was.

Yvonne

What was it?

Rick

Two people who were bored...and lonely...and attracted.

Yvonne

I get it. And now you're bored again.

(There is a short silence as RICK makes no reply to her last line)

O.K. Thanks for the drink.

(She gets up and exits through the swinging doors. RICK watches her go with a wry smile on his face. While the last few lines of dialogue were being spoken an OFFICER in an Italian uniform, and a French OFFICER have been in a heated argument with gestures. After Yvonne leaves, the OFFICERS move away from

French Officer (Cont)

the bar, but before he can reach them, RICK, who was out of his seat instantaneously and smoothly, grasps the FRENCHMAN by the arm in a jiu-jitsu grip and propels him rapidly to the door)

Attendez un moment. Je vous expliqu....

Rick

On your way, soldier.

(A WAITER and RINALDO are helping the ITALIAN OFFICER to his feet. RICK comes back and stands before them. To the Italian)

You, too. Outside.

(THE OFFICER exits slowly, and there is a low, critical grumbling from the patrons. The uniformed men move, dangerously restless. RINALDO takes a small, silver whistle from his pocket. RICK holds up his hand, standing erect in the centre of the room)

Ladies and gentlemen.

(The place quiets, listening)

This is a place of entertainment. When you come here you leave your political opinions behind. That's where they belong, anyway.

(There is a ripple of laughter)

While you're here I'll do everything I can to make your stay pleasant but...there is no war.

(Cheers and shouts of approval)

You come to forget it. Forget it!

(The tension has broken. RICK turns to his table. RINALDO catches sight of a man, not in uniform, and in street clothes, entering)

Rinaldo

(Calling)

M'sieu Martinez.

(RICK has almost reached his table)

Martinez

(Sees Rinaldo)

Ah, Captain. Good evening. I am glad you are here.

Rinaldo

But I said I would be.

(He takes MARTINEZ by the arm, and steers him towards Rick's table)

Ricky.

(RICK looks up as he is sitting down and waves them over. THEY approach and seat themselves)

Martinez
offer.

Rick
...at any price.

Rinaldo
dia I tell you? Rick is the only foreigner
want to leave.

Martinez
your mind, Senor? You are certain?

Rick
Martinez
ll, perhaps you might consider part-

Rick
er.
Martinez
Do you give me your permission

abit. The NEGRO
e)
tion for you.

own the BLUE PARROT.
is O.K. with me.

spend what ah

job with me.

1-18

Rinaldo
Martinez.
(actions)
He owns the BLUE PARROT.

You've got a good spot there.

ez
, but we do not blame you for
with this.

k

RICK orders)

Martinez
ever get homesick.

Rick

Rinaldo
for the key to his room.

Martinez
nd.

Rick
er at the Parrot?

Martinez
should never complain, but I am dissatisfied.

Rinaldo
there more often, Carlos, then there would be
adies, naturally, and business would be better.

Martinez
hat. I need a larger place.

Rick
you build an addition?

Martinez
rather move.

Rinaldo
th it, Carlos, out with it,

Martinez
(Smiling wryly)
tain Rinaldo is always a very impatient man. The truth
, Senor, I want to buy your cafe.

Rick
t's not for sale.

Martinez
You haven't heard my offer.

Rick
It's not for sale...at any price.

Rinaldo
See, Carlos, what did I tell you? Rick is the only foreigner
I know who doesn't want to leave.

Martinez
You will not change your mind, Senor? You are certain?

Rick
Positive.

Martinez
If you do not wish to sell, perhaps you might consider part-
ing with an entertainer.

Rick
That's up to the entertainer.

Martinez
I had thought of the Rabbit. Do you give me your permission
to speak with him, M'sieu.

Rick
Certainly.
(He beckons to the Rabbit. The NEGRO
comes over to the table)
Sam, Senor Martinez has a proposition for you.

Rabbit
(To Martinez)
Yassuh?

Martinez
How would you like to work for me? I own the BLUE PARROT.

Rick
Sam, it's up to you. Whatever you want is O.K. with me.

Rabbit
Ah likes it fine here.

Martinez
I would double whatever you make here.

Rabbit
Thank yuh, suh, but ah ain't got no time to spend whut ah
makes here.

Martinez
(Smiling)
All right. But remember, you can always have a job with me.

Rabbit

Yassuh. Thank yuh.

(He exits past the piano and out of the room
into gaming room)

Martinez

He is very loyal.

Rick

He's been with me a long while -- Have another drink.

Martinez

Thank you.

(He drinks)

If you should ever change your mind about selling...

Rick

You'll be the first to know.

(The door opens. A YOUNG MAN in German
uniform enters. He is saluted smartly by
other Germans in the room. He is fresh-
faced, with a clear healthy complexion,
bright blue eyes, and the typical cropped
head of the Prussian. He walks easily and
directly to the table)

Officer

(With no trace of accent)

Good evening, Captain.

Rinaldo

(Rising)

Captain Strasser. Won't you sit down?

(STRASSER looks pointedly at Rick and
Martinez)

I forgot you hadn't met. Rick, this is Captain Heinrich
Strasser, new attache to the German Consulate. Captain
Strasser, this is Rick, the most celebrated cafe owner in
Casablanca, and Senor Martinez, who is also the proprietor
of a famous cafe.

Rick

Will you join us?

Strasser

(Seating himself)

Thank you.

Martinez

I also have a business to attend to. Captain Strasser, you
must honor the Blue Parrot with a visit some night.

(He rises, preparing to leave)

Rick

Stay awhile. It's early.

Martinez
Not tonight, thank you. Some other time. Goodnight,
gentlemen.

(He bows and exits past the bar)

Rick

(To Strasser)

Can I order something for you?

Strasser

(Picking up list)

You will permit me...

(To the Waiter)

Champagne...and a tin of caviar...very cold.

Rick

(To the Waiter)

Bring some of mine.

Strasser

(to Rick)

That is thoughtful of you.

Rick

Not at all.

Strasser

We are unaccustomed to such consideration from an American.

Rinaldo

(Quickly)

Rick is unlike any American you have ever met, Captain. He is completely neutral.

Strasser

So I have heard. I understand you came here from Paris in '37.

Rick

(With a slightly sour smile)

That seems to be no secret.

Strasser

(With a lightning glance at Rinaldo)

I have always been happy in Paris. I had hoped to be stationed there.

Rick

A pity.

Strasser

Ah. So you are not one of those people who cannot imagine the Germans in their beloved Paris.

Rick

Oh no. I can imagine anyone anywhere.

Strasser

How about London?

Rick

Yes. But first you have to get there, Captain.

Strasser

Most people did not think we were going to get to Paris.

Rick

Only stupid people.

Strasser

Had I said that I should have been accused of intolerance. It was not that they were stupid. They simply failed to realize the might of the German military machine.

Rick

Only partially, Captain. The French were careless, and lazy, and they reaped their reward.

Rinaldo

That is a little part of Ricky's philosophy, Captain. Everyone gets what he deserves, oh, Rick?

Rick

Generally. Life usually balances the books.

Strasser

You are very clever. Who do you think will win the war?

Rick

I haven't the slightest idea.

Rinaldo

Nor the slightest interest, Captain.

Strasser

That is almost suspicious.

Rick

Isn't it?

Rinaldo

Now, Ricky.

(Then to Strasser)

Captain Strasser, I assure you, Rick is....

Rick

Rick is a cafe owner. His political opinions do not interfere with the operation of this cafe. When they do, Captain Strasser, I shall be very glad to answer any questions you may ask.

Rinaldo

There is no one like Rick. You will find that to be so after you spend some time in Casablanca.

Strasser
I do not know how long I shall be here. I have come on a mission.

Rinaldo
We shall have time to amuse ourselves.

Strasser
No doubt.
(Turning to Rick)
I understand Guillermo Ugarte frequents your cafe.

Rick
He comes here often.

Strasser
Of course, you know what his business is.

Rick
I have no idea...nor am I particularly interested.

Rinaldo
(Delightedly)
What did I tell you, Captain! The soul of discretion.
What a magnificent liar!

Strasser
Admirable. And now we will have the truth. Is he here now?

Rick
I think so.

Strasser
Where?

Rick
As far as I know, at the roulette table.

Rinaldo
I told you that it was all arranged, Captain. Let us drink.

(They drink. RICK looks questioningly at RINALDO, who, in turn, glances at Strasser. The latter nods. Then RINALDO turns to Rick)

I have already told you that Victor Laszlo is here....
(RICK nods)

Our friend Ugarte has decided to sell him some very valuable papers, although he was warned how we feel about that.

Rick
Exit visas?

Rinaldo
(Hesitating)
Er...you might call them that.

Strasser
It does not matter what they are. They are not to be delivered.

I see. Rick

Rinaldo
We are waiting for Laszlo now. We expect that Ugarte arranged to meet him here.

Rick
So Laszlo gets cold decked. You're a fine fellow to bet with.

Strasser
He is an enemy of the Reich.

Rick
There are others.

Strasser
You do not seem to understand. Victor Laszlo never ceased publishing the foulest lies in his Prague newspapers until the very day we marched in. And even after, he continues to print scandal sheets in a cellar.

Rinaldo
One must admit that he has great courage.

Strasser
Yes. He is clever, too. He managed to escape from Prague just as we were closing in. In Paris, he continued his activities with the French press. We almost had him there, but once again he slipped through our hands and we lost all trace of him. Until now!

Rinaldo
There will be no violation of the law?

Strasser
You need not be concerned. We shall make certain that he does not leave until he has returned the fortune which is rightfully ours...the money he made spreading lies about the German government.

Rinaldo
And the woman?

Strasser
She is of no importance.

Rick
Somehow I never associated Laszlo with women.

Rinaldo
Associate all men with women, my friend.

Strasser
You know him?

Rick
No. Naturally, I have heard of him.

Rinaldo

And who has not?

Strasser

What time does Ugarte usually meet his...er clients?
(He glances at his wrist watch)

Rick

I wouldn't know.

(At this point the door from the gaming room opens and UGARTE emerges. He looks around, sees Rick, Rinaldo and Strasser, and starts rapidly for the door. STRASSER leaps up)

Rinaldo

(Warningly)

Everything has been taken care of, Captain.
(he takes the silver whistle from his pocket and blows it. UGARTE breaks into a run at the sound of the whistle. TWO MOROCCAN POLICEMEN enter through the swinging doors. UGARTE checks and looks around desperately when he sees that he is trapped. STRASSER has reached him by this time. When he sees Strasser he starts to scream.)

Ugarte

I want a trial. Get me a lawyer. I want a ---
(STRASSER'S hand comes over his mouth choking off the remainder of the sentence. The POLICEMEN take him by the arms, and as they do so, STRASSER'S hand slips from his mouth. As he is being dragged to the door)

Rick! Rick! Don't let them do this.

(The speech ends in spluttering as he is dragged out through the doors. RICK has risen, as have most of the people. He goes to the piano, and wheels it out on the floor, saying something to a WAITER as he does this. The WAITER runs offstage and returns with the RABBIT)

Rabbit

(Sitting at the piano and playing loudly and singing)

Now I believe.

(He shouts at the audience)

C'mon, folks.

(He starts again)

Now I believe.

(he waits and plays the next phrase. There is a half hearted response from the crowd)

Crowd

Now we believe.

Rabbit

(Grinning and showing his teeth as only a negro can. Playing louder and faster)
 Dat's right. "Now I believe. Dat Old Man Mose is dead."
 (he continues through the rest of the song, the audience gradually forgetting and joining in vociferously, even gayly towards the end)

(RICK walks behind the bar and slowly climbs up the stairs)

(The song is finished, the swinging doors open and VICTOR LASZLO, slender, small boned, intense looking, with the face of a poet, enters. He is forty. With him is LOIS MEREDITH, a strikingly beautiful woman, a tall, lissome brunette with startlingly blue eyes and ivory complexion. She wears a magnificent white gown, and a full length cape of the same fabric. Her jewels are fabulous. Her beauty and chic are such that people turn to stare. They are ushered to the first table, front, on the right. As they come past the piano, the RABBIT sees the woman, his playing breaks momentarily)

Lois

Hello, Sam.

Rabbit

Wh....er....uh....hello. Miss Lois.

Lois

When you finish you might drop over to the table.

Rabbit

Yes, Ma'am.

(They are seated at the table. RINALDO, who has watched with interest, walks over and bows. They nod, greet him, he sits down)

Lois

What a pleasant surprise, Captain Rinaldo.

Rinaldo

Madame, your presence makes a simple bar in Casablanca the most glamorous cafe in the world.

Lois

Thank you. What a wonderful welcome!

Victor

There seemed to be some trouble outside.

Rinaldo
There is never any real trouble.

Victor
I saw a man in uniform dragging someone into a car.

Rinaldo
Possibly. As Prefect of Police I shall be informed about it.

Victor
Yes, I suppose so.

Lois
Tell us about this Rick, Captain.

Rinaldo
What can I say? Everyone has heard of Rick. He has made this the most famous rendezvous in Morocco.

Lois
Really? He sounds simply fascinating.

Rinaldo
Ho is!
(He strikes his forehead dramatically)
What a fool I am! Talking to a beautiful woman about another man.

Lois
That only adds to your charm, Captain.

Victor
I must remember that.

(The RABBIT concludes his playing and rolls the piano swiftly to their table)

Rabbit
Ah never expected to see you again, Miss Lois.

Rinaldo
Oh, you know the Rabbit, Madam?

Lois
Yes, indeed. We were old friends in Paris.

Victor
By the way, Captain, as Prefect you probably know everyone here. Did you ever happen to run across a Senor Ugarte?

Lois
(To the Rabbit)
Play some of those old things I used to like so well.
(He starts to play very softly)

Rinaldo
Ugarte? Ugarte? I seem to have heard the name. It will come to me, M'sieur. Ugarte, Ugarte. Oh, yes, I love it.

Victor
Well?
Rinaldo
What was it you wanted to know?

Victor
If you knew a man named Ugarte.

Rinaldo
Oh. Yes, I do.

Victor
Perhaps you could tell me where I might see him.

Rinaldo
But have you not heard? It is so sad. Senor Ugarte...he
...well...Frankly...he is in jail.

(LOIS becomes alert. VICTOR is imperturbable)

Victor
Too bad.

Lois
A pity.

(RINALDO glances swiftly at Lois)

Victor
I respect the law, but I'm always a little sorry for the
fellow in jail.

Rinaldo
So I have heard, but I did not think you would know such a
one as Ugarte.

Victor
I do not. I had a message for him, but it is not impor-
tant.

(A WAITER is hovering near)
A brandy for you, Lois?

(SHE nods)
Captain?
(THEY order)

Lois
Sam, where's Rick?

Rabbit
(Nervously)
He ain't here, Miss Lois.
(His eyes roll towards the stairs)

Lois
Are there rooms upstairs?

Rabbit
Yessum, but he ain't here.

Victor

The man we had the message for is in jail, dear.

Lois

I was asking Sam about Rick.

Victor

Do you know him, too?

Lois

It appears he's an old friend of mine.

Rinaldo

Wonderful! Now we can all be friends.

Victor

He must be an interesting man. The atmosphere of a night club generally reflects the personality of its owner.

Rinaldo

He is Rick. There is no more to be said.

Lois

Sam, play "AS TIME GOES BY".

Rabbit

I don't know it, Miss Lois.

Lois

Nonsense. Of course you do.

Rinaldo

(Seeing STRASSER enter)

You will excuse me for a tiny moment, please.

Victor

This is awkward about Ugarte, Lois.

Lois

Rinaldo may be lying. And if it is true, we'll just have to manage without him.

(to Rabbit)

When will Mr. Rick be back?

Rabbit

Not tonight no more. He ain't comin'. He went home.

Lois

Does he always leave so early?

Rabbit

He never...I mean...

(Desperately)

He's got a girl up at the...The Blue Parrot...he....

Lois

Sam, you're rather a dear, but an awful liar.

(VICTOR looks questioningly at Lois,
but before he can speak, STRASSER and
RINALDO approach)

Rinaldo
May I introduce a friend of mine. Captain Strasser,
Madame Meredith, M. Laszlo.

Strasser
(Clicking heels, bowing)
How do you do.

(RINALDO and STRASSER wait to seat themselves)

Victor
I am sure you will excuse me if I am not gracious...but
you see, Captain Strasser...I am a Czech.

Lois
Sam, Rick didn't forget to include a dressing room in this
luxurious establishment, did he?

Rabbit
A dressing room...a...oh, sure. Right down that way. ³
(He points to Rear R. She heads there.
He prepares to move the piano, VICTOR
hands him a bill)

Victor
Buy yourself a drink.

Rabbit
Thanks. Ah could use one.
(He shoves the piano away, nops his head
with a large silk handkerchief)

Strasser
I am glad of this opportunity --

Victor
You evidently did not hear me. I repeat. I am a Czech.
This is my table and I find your presence offensive.

Strasser
My hearing is excellent. I have something to say, and I
intend to say it. It would be regrettable indeed, if you
were to cause a disturbance and be taken to jail.

Victor
What is it?

Strasser
That is more like it. May I?
(Indicating chair. VICTOR shrugs
indifferently)
We shall not mince words. We have hunted you for the past
three years. You have been very fortunate so far, but now

Strasser (Cont)

we have run you to earth. You have reached Casablanca...
and you will stay in Casablanca!

Victor

That is problematical.

Strasser

Not at all. Captain Rinaldo is not only Prefect of Police,
but also head of emigration...the man whose signature is
necessary on every exit visa.

Victor

I am perfectly aware of the Captain's official duties.

Strasser

Then you will understand. Captain Rinaldo, do you think
it possible that M. Laszlo will receive a visa?

Rinaldo

I am afraid not. I regret, M'sieur. You see....

Victor

Save your apologies.

Strasser

So you see.

Victor

Perhaps I shall like it in Casablanca.

Rinaldo

And Madame?

Victor

You need not be concerned about her.

Rinaldo

No? Ah, pardon. Perhaps you are right. She may find it
pleasant here with her old friends.

Victor

(Raging, but forcing a smile)
Your solicitude is quite touching, Captain.

(There are now more people leaving, the
room is taking on that late appearance
which presages the closing of a night club)

Strasser

Laszlo, we are not unreasonable. You can stay here indef-
initely...or you can leave in the morning for Lisbon.
On one condition.

Victor

And that is?

Strasser

(Leaning forward, speaking intently)
When you left Prague, you had on deposit in various other countries a sum amounting to seven million dollars. You made this money by vilifying the German government and its people. Germany is entitled to it!

Victor

I see.

Strasser

After all, you have your permit to enter the United States. For a man of your background and ability, it should be an easy matter for you to start all over again. In such a receptive country, you can amass another fortune by following the same tactics you used in Prague and Paris.

Victor

You anticipate my intentions perfectly. But Germany gets nothing.

Strasser

You are quite certain of yourself.

Victor

I have come this far successfully and I do not believe that you or anybody else can stop me now.

Strasser

You will find things vastly different. We have not really tried...until now.

Victor

Now that we have had our little chat, I would appreciate having my table to myself again.

Strasser

There is one other thing. Your stay in Morocco may not be as pleasant as you expect.

Victor

You will not dare to interfere with me here. This is still Unoccupied France. Any violation of neutrality will reflect on Captain Rinaldo. And I am certain that it will be his unpleasant duty to see that there is none.

Rinaldo

Monsieur, you have my assurance that...

Victor

Thank you.

(STRASSER rises, clicks, bows, departs.
LOIS returns, RINALDO hesitates)

Rinaldo

Monsieur, believe me, I....

Lois

The party breaking up?

Victor

Captain Strasser had to leave, and now Captain Rinaldo is following him.

Rinaldo

Your...er...M. Laszlo is angry with me, Madame.

Lois

If I were you, I should be frightened. Victor's anger is not to be taken lightly.

Victor

He prefers it to Captain Strasser's.

Lois

Oh. I see.

Rinaldo

Not quite, Madame.

Lois

(Catching the RABBIT'S eye, and beckoning)
Play "AS TIME GOES BY", Sam.

Rabbit

(Coming over with the piano)
I can't remember it, Miss Lois.

Lois

I'll hum it for you.
(She starts to hum)

Rinaldo

But surely you know it, Rabbit.
(He starts to hum, too)

Rabbit

I can't seem to get it.

Lois

Somehow I didn't think you would.
(She rises and comes close to piano)
Let me play it for you.

Rabbit

No, Miss Lois, I think I got it now.
(He begins to play it very softly)

Lois

Sing it, Sam.

Rabbit

Ah dunno the words.

Lois

(Softly)
I'll give them to you.
(She starts)
"You must remember this,
A kiss is just a kiss
A sigh is still a sigh..."

Rinaldo

(To the Rabbit)
Start from the beginning, and I will sing, too.

(The RABBIT starts again)

Rabbit

I remember now.
(He starts to sing in the curiously husky
voice of the Negro. As he gets to the third
line, RICK appears at the head of the stairs)

Rick

Sam! What the....
(He checks as he sees Lois. He descends
and crosses to the table. SAM stops)

Lois

Hello, Rick.

Rick

Hello, Lois.

Lois

This is Victor Laszlo. Victor, an old friend of mine,
Richard Blaine.

Victor

Won't you join us?

Rick

Thank you.
(He seats himself opposite Lois)

Rinaldo

Madame, you have just made history.

Lois

It isn't the first time. You must read my memoirs.

Victor

I didn't think that a cafe such as this existed in Morocco.
It is a delightful surprise.

Rick

Life is full of surprises in Casablanca.
(He looks at the RABBIT, who wheels piano
away, and exits)

Lois
Let's see, the last time we met....

Rick
Was at La Belle Aurore.

Lois
How nice. You remembered!

Rick
Any man would have remembered. Do you still wear that shade of blue?

Lois
You see, Victor? I told you blue was my color.

Rinaldo
Ricky, you are coming alive tonight. I am sure that we have you to thank for that, Madame.

(RICK withdraws the key which he had been toying with earlier in the scene. His hand is towards the audience and unseen by the others at the table. His hand steals beneath the table to meet Lois'. She takes the key without comment)

Victor
(To a Waiter)
A drink for M. Rick.

Rick
No, thanks. I never drink until...oh...about three.

Rinaldo
(Glancing at wrist watch)
That reminds me. We have a curfew here in Casablanca. It would never do for the Chief of Police to be found drinking after hours.

Victor
(Beckoning to Waiter)
I'm afraid we have overstayed our welcome.

Rick
Not at all.
(He takes the check from the Waiter)

Victor
Oh, please, I couldn't...

Rick
Not tonight.

Rinaldo
Another precedent broken. This has been a most interesting evening.

Victor
Thank you. We shall be back...often.

Rick
I hope so.
(By this time they have all risen and are on their way to the door. The place has emptied. Almost at the door, LOIS turns wearily)

Lois
I've had a wonderful evening...really wonderful....and I'm so tired. Victor.

Rinaldo
After you have been in Morocco a while you will not be tired...the climate is so wonderful.
(the doors close on Lois' reply)

(RICK stands for a while in deep thought. Then he goes back to the table, sits down where Lois was seated, and buries his head in his arms)

(THE RABBIT enters softly)

Rabbit
(Standing hesitantly for some time)

Boss.
(No answer)

Boss!

Rick
(Head still buried)
Yes?

Rabbit
Boss, let's get out of here.

Rick
(Lifting his head, facing Sam)
I'm waiting for a lady.

Rabbit
(Terrified)
Boss, no. Listen to me, boss. I've been with you for a long time now. Boss, c'mon home.

Rick
No.

Rabbit
Please, Boss. There's nothin' but trouble for you there.

Rick
Go on home. Don't worry about me.

Rabbit
Boss, we'll take the car and drive all night. We'll get drunk. We'll go fishin' and stay away until she's gone.

Rick
Shut up and go home.

Rabbit
(Stubbornly)
No, suh. I'm stayin' right here.

Rick
(Getting up and roaming restlessly around)
What the Hell's the matter with Tony? These lights should have been out ten minutes ago.

Rabbit
Ah'll go see about it. But you should a been gone a long time ago. You shouldn't a been here tonight atall.

Rick
Maybe.

Rabbit
(Joyfully)
Now you're talkin'! Ah'll go tend to de lights, and den we'll go.
(He exits rapidly)

(RICK walks behind the bar, pours himself a drink, swallows it quickly, shivers. The lights go out suddenly, the stage is almost dark save for a few subdued lights along the side walls. RICK lights a cigarette and the tip glows red as he pulls on it)

(The RABBIT returns. He has a jacket on now over his shirt)

(Coaxingly)
C'mon, Boss.

Rick
(Stepping out from behind the bar)
All right. All right. Don't rush me.
(He stands hesitant for a moment. The RABBIT takes his arm, gently urging RICK towards the door. Suddenly RICK shakes himself free)
Sam! Get over to that piano!

Rabbit
Whut!

Rick
You heard me.

Rabbit
(Moving slowly to the piano)
Yassuh.

Rabbit (Cont)

(RICK goes to the bar, takes down the bottle which he had left there, takes a glass, goes to a table, sits there waiting)

Play it, you dumb bastard.

(Starting to improvise)

O.K., Boss.

Rick

Did you hear me?

Rabbit

Yassuh.

Rick

(Very softly)

Then play it.

(He pours a drink as the RABBIT starts to play "AS TIME GOES BY" and

THE CURTAIN FALLS

EVERYBODY COMES TO RICK'S

ACT

TWO

ACT TWO

Scene 1

Place: Rick's Cafe.

Time: About ten o'clock the next morning.

The room that was so exciting the previous night is drab and meretricious in the day. The chairs are on top of tables. No sun can get in, and there is just the suggestion of sunlight across the dusty floor. In fact, it is necessary to have a few of the sidelights on in order to see.

WHEN THE CURTAIN RISES: TWO MEN are finishing sweeping and cleaning the floor. When one of them comes to the piano, he pushes it brusquely out of his way. It slides a little way across the floor and the notes tinkle.

First Cleaner

Take care, Albert.

Albert

(Following the piano and standing looking down at it, broom in hand)
If I had listened to my parents, I would not now be sweeping up the filthy floor of a cafe. No. I would be an artiste. I would bow to the applause...

(He does so)
of beautiful men and women in beautiful evening clothes.

(He sits down at the piano, makes a gesture of shooting his cuffs, rubs his hands, and in general goes through the motions of a concert pianist preparing to play)

First Cleaner

Did you really take lessons?

Albert

Did I? Listen.

(He runs the scales rather clumsily)

First Cleaner

Well, play something.

Albert
Remember I have not touched one of these for many years.

First Cleaner
Go ahead.

(ALBERT starts to play a simple exercise
very badly...but with feeling)

Rick
(Descending the stairs behind the bar. He
is dressed in slacks, sport shirt, espadrilles
on his feet, and a jacket and scarf complete
his costume)
Pardon me, Paderewski, but I'd like my breakfast...vite!

First Cleaner
(Starts busily to finish and leave. ALBERT
leaps up from the stool, dusts it hurriedly,
and exits)
Oui, M'sieur, I get Arthur for you right away.
(They exit. RICK goes over to one of the
tables, takes the chairs off it, as ARTHUR,
one of the waiters of the night before,
enters)

Arthur
Pardon, M'sieur Rick, but you are here earlier than usual.

Rick
This is an occasion. Breakfast for two this morning,
Arthur.
(RICK lights a cigarette)
You'd better bring two large glasses of orange juice, plen-
ty of buttered toast, very thin, and not too much butter.
If we want anything else, you can get it later.

Arthur
Very good, M'sieur.
(He walks away)

Rick
And Arthur....

Arthur
Yes, M'sieur?

Rick
This morning we will have the good coffee.

(ARTHUR nods and exits. RICK walks around
nervously, stops at the piano, toys with
the keys, suddenly realizes that he is pick-
ing out with one finger "AS TIME GOES BY".
He stops and goes back to the swinging doors,
looking out, and breathing deeply in the
fresh air)

(LOIS appears at the top of the steps, and descends. She is dressed as we saw her last. She wears the white gown, and carries the cape on her arm. RICK springs over to open the bar for her to pass through)

Lois
How romantic, Ricky. Thank you.

Rick
Don't mention it. Breakfast?

Lois
Splendid. Where shall we have it? At the bar?

Rick
No. I cut that out when I left Paris.

(Meanwhile the WAITER enters, sets the table deftly, leaving two huge glasses of orange juice)

Lois
(Seating herself at the table)
So you remember La Belle Aurore?

Rick
A man can hardly forget the place where his guts were kicked out.

Lois
You know, had you bothered to ask me, I could have explained.

Rick
(Sardonically)
I was pressed for time.

Lois
So Richard Blaine, of Paris, criminal lawyer, champion of lost causes, becomes M. Rick, dispenser of entertainment for Casablanca.

Rick
There isn't much difference. You meet quite a lot of nasty people in both professions. But tell me, what happened to Henri?

Lois
(Shrugs)
What does happen to men? What happened to you?

Rick
(Slowly)
You wouldn't want me to tell you, would you?

Lois
Be nice, Ricky, please.

Rick
I should have remembered. You don't like hearing unpleasant things in the morning.

Lois
So many things to remember and you remember that.

(ARTHUR enters with plates of toast under a serviette)

Rick
(Smiling grimly)
You're good, Lois. But a man does a lot of thinking in four years.

Lois
I think I liked you better as a lawyer.

Rick
No doubt.
(He takes his orange juice)
Shall we?

Lois
It's rather daring but....
(They drink)

Rick
You always looked beautiful.... even with those circles under your eyes.

Lois
Thank you.

Rick
(Fiercely)
Tell me, what the hell made you come to Casablanca?

Lois
Victor.

Rick
Accommodating of you.

Lois
Isn't it?

Rick
Did you have much trouble getting through?

Lois
Some. But Victor has friends. Once we got out of Marseilles, the trip was almost pleasant.

Rick
How is Paris?

Lois
Are you safe to talk to? One never knows these days.

Rick
How is Paris?

Lois
Stinking.

Rick
That's what I thought. Toast?

Lois
Thank you.
(She takes some. ARTHUR enters with coffee, and serves them)

Rick
How come this fellow, Laszlo?

Lois
Darling, this coffee is delicious. It's a miracle.

Rick
How come Laszlo?

Lois
Ricky, Victor is the most wonderful man I've ever met. Really, believe me, there is no one like him.

Rick
(With a significant glance upstairs)
Yes, you made that quite clear.

Lois
(Opening her handbag and giving Rick the key that she took the previous night)
You're a fool, Ricky. You may need this again.

(RICK pockets the key)

Rick
I hope.

Lois
I don't think you'd understand a man like Victor. He's... well... Oh, I know this sounds like Warwick Deeping... but he's a man with a real purpose in life.

Rick
And seven million bucks.

Lois
Yes. I suppose I wouldn't have been... oh, let's talk about something else.

Rick
Good. What do you like? Cricket, baseball, the war?

Lois
 (Wearily and disgustedly)
 Oh, the war.

Rick
 Disgusting, isn't it?

Lois
 I've told you once that you were much nicer in Paris, and I meant it. You've chan....

Rick
 I was more naive, you mean.

Lois
 Yes. And gentler, and rougher, and smarter. There was something fine in you, Rick.

Rick
 You fixed that, darling. Remember? You took everything that I ever believed in, swept it up into a neat little pile, and put a match to it. Now it's gone. Burnt out, that's me. No cause to believe in. Nothing to fight for.

Lois
 I did all that?

Rick
 That and a lot more. As someone I know would say, I am in a mood to make confidences. I'm going to tell you why you got that key.

Lois
 May I have some more coffee?

Rick
 Certainly.
 (Pouring from the pot - He sits back)
 Let's go back a little.

Lois
 If we must.

Rick
 I first met you in Paris....

Lois
 In the Gare St. Lazare....

Rick
 In the Spring. And I went overboard, Lois. I don't think you know what it is to be so much in love.

Lois
 You're forgetting, Rick.

Rick

That's right. You were, for a year, to be exact. And then, on the evening of April twelfth, 1936, you walked into La Belle Aurore. With that perfumed thing that called itself a man.

Lois

Where you were dining with your wife....

Rick

You knew about it. That's more than I did.

Lois

Henri, at least, was handsome.

Rick

Sure, Henri was handsome. Henri was charming, but oh, God, Henri was dumb.

Lois

I'm afraid so.

Rick

Never mind. You know I told you... you knew...

Lois

Oh, Ricky, let's not go back over all...

Rick

You're right. At any rate, you and that dummy did a beautiful wrecking job that night. And afterwards, when I picked up the pieces and left Paris...

Lois

Without leaving a forwarding address.

Rick

The smartest thing I ever did. If I had, I'd still be forgiving you, and taking you back, watching it happen again, and forgiving you again.

Lois

We're not in court, darling...

Rick

Oh yes, we are. This has been a long time coming to trial, but here we go. I spent a year pulling down the stars and the moon for you. All right, I loved it. And then you walked out of my life and there were no stars and no moon... and damn little sun. I spent four years dreaming and hoping that some day I'd have you again -- just once -- no matter how... and I have... and I'm finished.

Lois

Oh, I see. Male ego.

Rick

Call it that if you like. And what was it with you?

Rick (Cont.)

(He leaves the bar and walks over to the table, standing directly above her)

I wonder. Was it perhaps that there is another little star that you wanted me to pull down for you? If it is, Lois, let me tell you that you've had everything you're going to get from me.

Lois

Poor Ricky.

(He stands bewildered at this answer)

It never entered your head that that was all I wanted.

Rick

(Spinning around and walking away)

Don't give me that!

Lois

What else could I want of you?

Rick

An exit visa.

Lois

(Amusedly)

Would it make your male ego feel any better if I asked for one? If so, I will.

Rick

You were going to, anyway.

Lois

May I remind you that I'm travelling with Victor Laszlo?

Rick

So what! Seven million dollars and still not enough for an exit visa.

Lois

You've told me your little dream. Now listen to mine. A fairy tale with a nasty ending. Once upon a time I met a man in Paris - and there were fireworks. When I looked up at the sky I didn't feel small and all alone -- instead I thought I could reach up and touch the stars with my hands. He left.

(RICK starts to say something)

Lois

No. This is my fairy tale. He left and sometimes I used to dream of what would happen if I ever met him again. And then I did... in a cafe in Morocco... and for a little while I was back in Paris. But I was fooling myself, Rick. When the dawn came I was in Morocco, in a tawdry cafe with a man who was empty of everything except bitterness.

Rick
If we had Sam here, he could accompany you with Hearts and Flowers.

Lois
(Vibrantly)
Rick! You can't be like that!
(She rises, and goes to him)
It's our last chance. Things like this don't happen twice.
Let me remember you as.... as....

Rick
As?

Lois
As you were in my dream.

Rick
(Pulling HER towards him and kissing her gently, yet with a furious hunger)
Like that, Lois.

Lois
Like that, Rick.
(Suddenly he crushes her to him and kisses her hungrily)

Rick
Oh, Lois, Lois, Lois. I've dreamed of this moment, too.

Lois
You were nasty, Rick.

Rick
I had to try hard.

Lois
It reminded me of that afternoon at the Cafe du Dome.

Rick
(Taking her hand and pulling her over to a table, on the right, forcing her on to a seat and sinking down beside her)
Let's not talk about the things that hurt, darling.

Lois
Oh, it's all right now.

(The door opens, letting in a flood of sunlight, lighting up the stage. SAM stands there peering in uncertainly)

Rick
(Leaping to his feet)
Sam! Just the right time! Come in!

5-11-10

Sam

Are you all right, boss?

Lois

He's still alive, Sam.

(SAM enters and RICK pushes him towards
the piano)

Rick

Sit down there, Sam, and play as you never played before.
Play for us, Sam. The way you used to play in Paris.

Lois

You'll remember it now.

(SAM, grinning and starting to play "As
Time Goes By")

Sam

Is this it, Miss Lois?

Lois

(As RICK sweeps her into his arms and starts
to dance)

Remind me to cut your throat later.

Rick

(As they dance)

It's been a long time, sweet.

Lois

Too long.
(They dance silently)

Ricky, do you think they dance in heaven?

Rick

They'll let you.

Lois

Rick.

Rick

Yes?

Lois

About Hen --

(RICK bends over while they're dancing and
stops her with a kiss)

Rick, I'm scared.
(She suddenly stops dancing and the music
goes on, but SAM swings into another tune)

Rick
There's no fear in the world any more, no tears, no war,
no heartache, no night... just you and I.

Lois
Oh, Rick, let there be night.

Rick
Sam!

Sam
(Turning on the stool)
Boss.

Rick
No more music. And when you go out, leave the door open.
The sun's shining.

Sam
(Exiting)
Yassuh!

Lois
Remember those breakfasts at Pam-Pam's?

Rick
They really weren't very good.

Lois
I know, but we were in love, and they reminded us of the States.

Rick
There are places in Casablanca. Not many. But with you...

Lois
Yes, there are. That reminds me. Hotels, too. I've got to
be getting back.

Rick
(Catching her arm)
Not yet, darling. Sit down. Now that I'm so happy I want to
tell you how miserable I was.

Lois
(Softly)
Were you?

Rick
Have you ever been kicked in the stomach by a mule?

Lois
That's a silly question.

Rick
That's the way I felt that night in La Belle Aurore when
you...

(LOIS puts her hand over his mouth)

Lois

Would it help if I say I'm truly sorry?

Rick

Your being here is what helps. You know I didn't call you although I stayed in Paris for a month after.

Lois

I know.

Rick

I had a crazy idea that I might run into you... by accident, you know, sort of casual like and I'd say "Hello, there, light of my life," sort of gay....

Lois

And nonchalant, darling. Inconsiderate of me not to have met you somewhere. I should have realized a man has his pride.

Rick

When I was driving, and I'd see a woman in the car ahead, I had to pass it... because you see... it might have been you.

Lois

Poor Ricky.

Rick

Yes, and even when I came here... I was still looking. I didn't know it... but I was... and then last night. God!

Lois

My heart did flip flops, Rick, when you came down those stairs.

Rick

I almost didn't wait. Sam didn't want me to.

Lois

I'd have killed you.

Rick

Darling, I have an idea.

Lois

And I've got to get back to the hotel.

Rick

To hell with it. Stay here. I'll send Sam for your stuff.

Lois

Rick... you've forgotten...

Rick

Forgotten?... Me? Oh, Victor.

Lois

Yes. Victor.

Rick
 (Goes over and takes her by the shoulders.
 She looks up straight into his eyes)
 Now listen. You're not going back there. I went through
 hell once for you... and it's not going to happen again.
 This is too important to us.

Lois
 (Almost maternally)
 Ricky.

Rick
 You're going to stay here. Right within arms' reach. Not
 only where I can see you, but where I can touch you.

Lois
 Rick, be sensible. I'll be back in less than an hour.

Rick
 Too long.

Lois
 It's been four years. What difference can another hour make?

Rick
 All the difference in the world. I'll never see you walk
 out of a door again without my heart going with you. And
 when we walk out, we'll go together and for good.

Lois
 (Gesturing widely to include the cafe and
 its surroundings)
 What about all this?

Rick
 This becomes the Blue Parrot. Senor Martinez moves in and
 Rick moves out.

Lois
 But where?

Rick
 (Taking her by the arm, and walking over to
 where the sun streams in through the open door)
 See that sun. We'll follow it, darling. It leads to Lisbon,
 and from there to America.

Lois
 (Laughingly)
 But darling, I have no exit visa.

Rick
 Shut up, you dope!
 (Turning away from her with that last line,
 walking over to the bar, and standing with his
 back toward her)
 Lois.

Lois

I'm still here.

Rick

If the exit visa was what you wanted.... tell me now.

(For a moment there is a silence. RICK
breaks it with a harsh)

Well?

Lois

Poor Ricky. You really haven't changed, have you?

Rick

(spinning around and walking to her)

Not one bit. I'm still just as nuts about you as I was
in Paris..

Lois

Stay that way.

(she kisses him)

Rick

I'll send Sam for your stuff.

Lois

Wait. You were speaking about a trial before. Now I'm
going to leave this strictly up to you. Just let me finish
without any interruptions.

Rick

Shoot.

Lois

(walks over to the bar and lights a cigarette)

Victor could have been in America by now... if it weren't
for me.

(RICK starts to speak)

Remember?

(She holds up a warning finger. He subsides)

I got sick at the wrong time. Victor had every opportunity
to get away safely in those last hectic days before the
armistice. But he stayed. By the time I was well enough
to go, things were so bad that I would never have gotten
this far without him. Don't you think that the decent thing
to do would be to go back there and tell him?

Rick

What are you going to tell him?

Lois

There isn't much to say, is there?

Rick

No.

Lois

I don't know now, but whatever it is.... it's got to be
said.

Rick
If that's the way you feel, Lois.

Lois
Thanks, darling.
(She gets her cape and starts for the door)

Rick
Sam will drive you.

Lois
Grand.
(She stops at the door and turns around as
the idea comes to her)
Well, anyway, he'll have an easier time getting an exit visa
without me.

Rick
(Slowly shaking his head)
Not a chance.

Lois
(Coming swiftly back)
Why, Rick, what do you mean?

Rick
Casablanca is the end of the trail for him.

Lois
Are you sure?

Rick
Dead certain.

Lois
Ricky, I can't say goodbye to him, knowing that.

Rick
So that's how it is.

Lois
(Coming to him)
How happy do you think we'd be leaving him here to rot
without lifting a finger to help him? Rick, you've got to
get him out. We can afford to be generous.

Rick
You don't know what you're asking.

Lois
I think I do.

Rick .
You don't know Casablanca as I do. Ho's the biggest thing
ever to hit this town. Nobody would dare.....

Lois

Having me back hasn't made much difference, then?

Rick

What do you mean?

Lois

Still burnt out. Still not a champion of lost causes.

Rick

Oh, Lois. I don't want trouble. I've just found you again. Laszlo is just another refugee... richer and better known than most.... he...

Lois

You're wrong, Ricky. He's one of the few men willing to lift up his voice and tell the world to fight for what he believes in. And he can fight, Rick. With what he knows, and the way he can say it... it's much more important for him to get an exit visa than for you or me.

Rick

(Turns and walks away. He drums on a table. LCIS watches him anxiously. He paces round the room, stops at the piano, and toys with it, finally picking out "As Time Goes By")
Another star for you, Lois.

Lois

(Running to him, and embracing him)
Oh, Ricky!

(RINALDO, resplendent in a different uniform than the one he wore in the last act, comes silently to the open door, and stands silhouetted by the sunlight. RICK sees him and steps a way from Lois)

Rinaldo

(Entering)
But why did you stop, Rick? I feel like an ogre. It is...

Rick

Good morning, Rinaldo.

Rinaldo

Good morning. Good morning, Madame.

Lois

Good morning, Captain.
(To Rick)
I'll run along. Back in a jiffy.
(She starts for the door)

Rinaldo

A moment, Madame, please.

Lois
I'm in a dreadful hurry, Captain. If you'll excuse me...
(He is standing directly in front of the door and makes no move)

Rick
(Sensing a situation)
Better let the Captain have his way, Lois. He's talkative in the morning.

(LOIS steps back)

Rinaldo
Could I have some Amontillado, Rick. I'm also dry in the morning.

Rick
It's before hours.

Rinaldo
But I'm the Prefect of Police. Surely you.....

Rick
No dice. After one you may have all you want.

Rinaldo
You see, Madam, Rick never breaks the rules... except last night.

Rick
Luis, what is it you want to say?

Rinaldo
I have an apology to make to Madam.

Lois
I'm sure that...

Rinaldo
Oh, I insist. You see Rick, I told Madam that you were the most influential man in Casablanca, but I neglected to add that not even you can obtain an exit visa for Victor Jaszlo.

(LOIS stands as if turned to stone, immobile, white. RICK turns and walks rather unsteadily to the bar and gropes blindly for a bottle. He pours himself a stiff drink)

Lois
(through stiff lips)
I suppose it's useless.... but I love you, Rick.

Rick
(Looking at her in the mirror behind the bar)
You bitch!

C U R T A I N

ACT TWOScene 2Place:

The bar of Rick's Cafe.

Time:

That evening. Once again we see Rick's as it was in Act.1, Scene 1.

The room is brilliantly lit. There is laughter and chatter, but it is earlier in the evening than in the first act, and the place is not so crowded.

The RABBIT is sitting at the piano attired as he was in the first act, playing and singing softly. Rick's table is unoccupied, but there is a reserved sign on the other left front table as usual. The RABBIT is obviously nervous and distrait. He continually glances at the door, and then mops his head with a handkerchief. Shortly after the CURTAIN RISES, the door opens and RICK, haggard and worn, enters. He is dressed as we last saw him, and his costume is incongruous in this gathering. The RABBIT immediately leaves the piano and goes to Rick. RICK pats him on the shoulder, and takes a drink at the bar. The RABBIT evidently wants to talk but RICK shoves him toward the piano, and climbs the stairs behind the bar. The RABBIT shakes his head worriedly, and returns to the piano. Shortly after RINALDO, also attired as he was in Act One, Scene One, enters. He glances around, openly searching for Rick, but upon failing to find him, goes to the piano and the RABBIT stops playing.

Rinaldo

Good evening, Rabbit.

Rabbit

Evenin', Captain Rinaldo.

Rinaldo
Where is Rick?

Rabbit
(Shakes his head)
Jes' went upstairs - Captain.

Rinaldo
Anything wrong?

Rabbit
Ah don't know, Captain. Ah'm jes' worried.

Rinaldo
About Rick?

Rabbit
About somepin' dat ain't none of mah business.

Rinaldo
(Laughing)
I'm sorry. I did not mean to pry, but I thought that perhaps I could help.

Rabbit
(Emphatically)
Nossuh!

Rinaldo
(Lightly)
You mean that it is something that the Prefect of Police should not know about.

Rabbit
Mister Rick never did nothin' wrong.

Rinaldo
So it is Rick?
(The RABBIT does not answer. He concentrates on the keys of the piano)

You know, Rabbit, you are a good friend of M'sieur Rick's.. and so am I. If he were in trouble, we would both want to help him. That is why I am going to confide in you.

(The RABBIT stops playing)
We know what a gambler Rick is. He has made a very foolish bet with me, and he is just enough of a sportsman to take a big risk to win it... and as you know, he will not permit me to call it off.

Rabbit
Ah can't make him stop gamblin', Captain.

Rinaldo
Of course not. But we can prevent the same thing happening to him that happened to Ugarto.

Rabbit

Whut do yuh mean?

Rinaldo

Ugarte is dead, Rabbit. And he died because he had the papers which M'sieur Rick has now. And that is your job... to get them away from him and give them to me. When you do, I shall forget all about it, and M'sieur Rick will be safe.

Rabbit

(Slowly)

Ah dunno....

Rinaldo

(Smoothly)

Of course, once I have the papors, I shall call the bet off.

Rabbit

Ah'm all mixed up. Ah dunno whut you're talkin' about. Whut ah was worried about was wimmen trouble.

Rinaldo

You mean Mme. Meridith.

Rabbit

And how!

Rinaldo

If it were not for her, I do not think that Rick would be in any trouble about these papers.

Rabbit

Dat woman jos' breathes trouble.

Rinaldo

Yos. That affair in Paris was exceedingly unfortunate.

Rabbit

Unfortunate! Dat's puttin' it mildly. Ah nursed Mister Rick tru de D.T's, do heebio-jeebios, and a lot of other things ah never saw before. Pink elephants! Dey was jos' as common as flies in July!

Rinaldo

I think we should take care to see that he stays out of trouble this time.

Rabbit

Yassuh!

(RICK, dressed as he was in the First Act, appears at the head of the stairs)

Rinaldo

(Quickly but smoothly)

Fine. Then we are allies, eh?

(RINALDO turns away without waiting for an answer, to greet RICK, who has reached the bar and is coming slowly towards them)

(RICK throughout the following is in a tense, bitter mood. He is impatient, jerking out his answers, controlling himself with an obvious effort)

Hello, Ricky.

Rick

Hello, Luis.

(He walks to the table, and he and RINALDO seat themselves. ARTHUR hurries to the table)

Brandy.

Arthur

A pony?

Rick

A bottle.

(To Rinaldo)

Brandy for you, Luis?

Rinaldo

Thank you, no. I prefer....

Rick

(Half to Arthur, half to Rinaldo)

Champagne.

(ARTHUR hastens to the bar)

Rinaldo

I tried to reach you before, but you were out.

Rick

Yes?

Rinaldo

Ugarte is dead.

Rick

(Disinterested)

A pity.

Rinaldo

But before he died....

(He pauses for a long time, RICK is silent, RINALDO permits himself a little laugh, half in admiration of Rick's coolness)

he left a very peculiar message for you.

Rick

Yes?

Rinaldo

I will try to recall his exact words... let me see... he said, "Tell Rick that even a pimp can die like a man."

Rick

And did he?

Rinaldo

(Half regretfully)

We had no chance to find out. You see, he managed to kill himself before we could ask him some questions that we had in mind.

Rick

Too bad.

Rinaldo

Yes. By the way, does that message mean anything to you?

Rick

Not a thing. He must have been delirious.

Rinaldo

Perhaps.

(A silence)

I will be frank, Ricky.

Ricky

No reason why you shouldn't be.

Rinaldo

When Ugarte came here last night he had something that we want very badly. That is why he was arrested. When we searched him, he did not have it.

Rick

Are you sure he had it when he was here?

Rinaldo

Certain. And the only conclusion to be drawn is that he left it here.

Rick

It might help if you told me what 'it' is.

Rinaldo

Ugarte had two letters of transit that would permit anyone to leave Casablanca. Naturally, we want them.

Rick

With a fellow like Laszlo around, I can understand that.

Rinaldo

He may have left them here.

Rick

I don't think so, but if it will make you any happier, you can search.

Rinaldo

(Urbanely)

There is no talk of searching. It is simply that I could understand how anyone might be tempted to hold on to something as valuable as these, if they fell into his hands. And it is dangerous. In fact, Ricky, if those letters of transit should ever be used, you would find yourself in an uncomfortable position.

Rick

Thanks.

Rinaldo

Not at all. You say you know nothing about them... that is all there is to it. It is finished. Let us talk of something else.

(Apologetically)

About my tactlessness of this morning....

Rick

Forget this morning. Where the Hell is Arthur?

Rinaldo

Ricky! I have never seen you like this.

(ARTHUR approaches with two bottles, RICK savagely snatches the brandy from him, pours a generous drink. He downs this swiftly)

(The RABBIT plays a thunderous chord or two, almost ominous in quality. RICK smiles grimly)

Rick

Hear that?

Rinaldo

(Looking towards piano)

One could not help but hear it.

Rick

(Nodding towards the Rabbit)

He's seen me like this... and he's trying to warn me.

Rinaldo

So, in a senso, was I.... this morning.

Rick

(Savagely)

Who the hell asked you to? I would have been happy if I'd never known. What difference did it make? You! You had to come along and....

(He gasps)

Rinaldo
(Gently - laying a hand on his arm)
Rick, forgive me.

Rick
Oh, I'm sorry. I'll be all right.

Rinaldo
What I wanted to tell you before was that it was not
entirely her doing. That might help, yes?

Rick
What?

Rinaldo
Oh, yes. Did you not know? Laszlo sent her.

Rick
(Half rising)
Why, that.....

Rinaldo
(Forcing him back)
Laszlo is a very clever man. He has found out, either
from her or elsewhere, about the Paris affair. He
thought it was a sure method of obtaining the letter.

Rick
(Starting to laugh)
Oh, Christ.

Rinaldo
(Slightly alarmed, but watching him very
closely)
You are amused?

Rick
It's so damn funny.
(Still laughing)

Rinaldo
Yes, it is. Laszlo will probably be here tonight.

Rick
For what?

Rinaldo
For the letters, of course. He does not know that you
do not have them or that she has failed.

Rick
Lois has told him.

Rinaldo
(Enigmatically)
Perhaps... Perhaps not.

Rick
Luis, are you... Can you... I mean how do you know?

Rinaldo
(Spreading his hands in a typically Latin gesture)
But I spoke with them yesterday afternoon. You remember? I told you I had met them.

Rick
Yes. But how can you be sure?

Rinaldo
You know me. I am not very discreet. We talked of Casablanca, and of course, one cannot talk of Casablanca without talking of you. I am afraid, Ricky, that I boasted of my friendship with you. And I am sure now that I gave them the impression that you could do something for them.
(He sighs)
Unfortunate.

Rick
(Grimly)
Yes.

Rinaldo
And now I understand Laszlo's confidence of last night when he spoke of leaving. He had this in mind.

Rick
(With a twisted smile)
I had something in mind, too.

Rinaldo
(Preparing to leave)
That is better. More like the old Rick. Well, my friend. It is life...the fortunes of war.
(He exits through the front doors)

(After RINALDO has left RICK sits deep in thought for a moment, then takes another big drink, gets up and walks through the door left into the gambling room. LASZLO enters through the front door. He speaks to the waiter, ARTHUR, who leads him to Rick's table and seats him)

(The RABBIT sees Laszlo, and immediately leaves the piano and approaches him)

Rabbit
What you want here?

Victor
I am waiting for M'sieur Rick.

Rabbit
Whut you wanna see him for?

Victor
(Smiling)
It is personal.

Rabbit
Den you better come round and talk to him in de mornin' he ain't feeling so good.

Victor
Oh, I am so sorry, but this is important.

Rabbit
Why don't you come back tomorrow?

Victor
Does M'sieur Rick always permit you to conduct his business for him?

Rabbit
Mister Rick don' want no truck wid you.

Victor
Surely you won't mind if I wait and let him tell me the

Rabbit
Ah can't stop you, but it ain't gonna help.
(Someone at the bar yells)

Woman at Bar
Rabbit! Play "My Man".

Rabbit
Jest a minnit, Miss. It's comin' right up.
(Then to Victor)
If you'd tell me what you wanted to see him about, may I could.....

Victor
(Laughingly)
I'll wait and see him myself.

Rabbit
(Turning to piano)
O.K., suh, but you only gonna make trouble for everybod

Victor
(Puzzled)
A moment, please.....

Rabbit
(Afraid that he has said too much, and also catching sight of Rick reentering)
Sorry, suh. I gotta play that number.
(He hastens to the piano and begins to play "MY MAN" as RICK comes through the door)

2-2-21

(When RICK comes through the door and sees LASZLO sitting at his table, he halts momentarily. Then he continues and walks firmly over to him)

Rick

Come to get paid?

Victor

(Courteously)

Pardon?

Rick

You heard me, Monsieur Laszlo...fearless journalist, gallant knight, high class pimp!

Victor

I have no idea why you wish to insult me, but it is of no consequence. I understand you have something for me. I should like it, M'sieur, and then I shall leave.

Rick

Your error, Laszlo. You're not leaving.

(As LASZLO starts to speak)

Oh, I don't mean this place. I'm talking of Casablanca. There's no out for you.

Victor

So you do have some knowledge of what was left here.

Rick

(Sitting down)

Get this straight. I have nothing of yours. You made a slight miscalculation when you sent that accommodating harlot to procure your out.

Victor

M'sieur, you persist in making allusions to something of which I have no knowledge.

Rick

So that's the way you're going to play it. O.K. I'll refresh your memory. Last night Lois slept here. This morning she wanted her pay, naturally, and there is nothing she wanted more than an exit visa from Casablanca for you.

Victor

(In a whisper that almost seems to be torn from his throat)

I see.

Rick

(Rising)

Good. Now that we understand each other...my table is reserved for my friends.

(LASZLO rises slowly)

But please feel perfectly free to come in any time and

Rick (Cont)
spend your money. In fact, I shall enjoy watching you
ret in Casablanca.

Laszlo
It is you who are retting, M'sieur. As for me, if I
find it impossible to leave, there will be something to
do here.

Rick
Even if there were a printing press in a cellar in Cas-
ablanca, I'd like to see you publish an anti-Nazi paper
with Rinaldo and Strasser around.

Laszlo
There are other ways of fighting.

Rick
(Contemptuously)
You should know.

Laszlo
(Suddenly stiffening, as LOIS, in a street
suit comes hurriedly through the door)
Parlon.
(He pushes RICK aside, and goes to Lois)
(ARTHUR seats them at a table on the right
wall)

Lois
Oh, Victor, you shouldn't have come.

Victor
Too late, my dear.

(LOIS places her hand on his arm)

Lois
Was he....

Victor
Why didn't you tell me?

(RICK is back at his table, intent on
watching Lois and Victor)

Lois
(With a shiver)
It was impossible. I don't know yet what came over me.
The thing can't be explained, I....

Victor
He was the man in Paris.
(LOIS nods)
And now?

Lois
(Distraught)
Victor, I don't know, I don't know.

Victor

It doesn't matter.

Lois

But it does. I've ruined everything...your chance to get away...and my life.

Victor

Then he is terribly important to you?

Lois

He was...and he wasn't. He isn't...and he is.

Victor

I think we might have a drink.

(He calls to the waiter and orders. RICK, who had seated himself at his table, rises and comes over)

Rick

I hope you find everything satisfactory.

(He sits down, and slips an arm around Lois)

You know, I shouldn't be too discouraged, if I were you. After all, you may have overestimated my importance. There is still Captain Rinaldo, who is much more susceptible than I, and I assure you, much more sensible.

Lois

(Disgustedly)

Oh, Rick.

Rick

Of course, he is afraid of Strasser.

(He steps as if taken with an idea)

Strasser. There's an idea. I don't know very much about him, but you will be here for some time, and I shall be able to find out. I'll gladly give you the information.

(LOIS starts to speak)

Gratis, of course.

Victor

The only thing that restrains me is that I feel so sorry for you.

Rick

(Viciously)

Don't let that stop you. You can always find me here.

(LOIS makes a little helpless gesture with her hand and RICK gets up)

Excuse me.

(He leaves and goes through the door leading into the gaming room)

Lois

Traveling with me isn't much help, is it, Victor?

Victor

I wouldn't like to think of traveling without you.

Lois

Thanks.

(As the above dialogue takes place, two GERMAN OFFICERS, who were standing at the bar, walk over to the Rabbit, beer glasses in their hands, and obviously make a request. The RABBIT looks doubtful, but they are insistent, and their voices rise, catching everyone's attention)

1st Officer

You will accompany us.

2nd Officer

And no mistakes.

(The RABBIT is very uncomfortable. He starts to play swing, but the 1st OFFICER places his hand over the keys, forcing him to stop. The OFFICERS start to sing the "Horst Wessel" song loudly and enthusiastically. The RABBIT, receiving several threatening looks, gives them a lame and halting accompaniment. At the bar a FRENCH OFFICER starts forward. The BARTENDER leans forward quietly and lays a restraining hand on his arm. The room grows deadly quiet. The OFFICERS sing the song through and finish their beer, and walk back to the bar in a complete silence, their boots tapping loudly on the floor. RICK, attracted by the noise, enters through door left, and walks towards the piano)

Victor

(When he reaches the piano, he bends down and asks the Rabbit something. The RABBIT jumps as if he had been shot. He shakes his head violently in the negative. VICTOR straightens. Everyone is watching him intently)

Do you remember the Marseillaise, RABBIT?

Rabbit

Dey like swing here, suh!

Victor

(To the Rabbit)

Play the Marseillaise-----

(The RABBIT turns agonized eyes toward him. The room is still as death)

Play it!

(RICK nods to the Rabbit almost imperceptibly and the RABBIT begins to play. VICTOR starts the words)

Victor. (Cont)

"Allens enfants de la patrie...."

(Someone in the back of the room adds his voice; A WOMAN joins in. VICTOR sings louder)
Le jour de gloire est arrive."

(More people join in. A FRENCH OFFICER steps defiantly forward and stands beside Victor. Others crowd forward, until the TWO GERMAN OFFICERS are the only ones remaining at the bar. The music swells as the voices rise, and the song is finished on a high triumphant note. Afterwards, there is an awkward silence)

Drinks for everybody!

(There is a shout of approval, and the PEOPLE crowd back to the bar and towards their tables)

(VICTOR turns and walks back to his table with RICK accompanying him)

Rick

A nice gesture.

Victor

I did not think you could appreciate it.

(LASZLO seats himself without asking RICK to sit down)

Rick

So a handful of people sang the Marseillaise. It doesn't mean a thing. Strasser's still here.

Lois

Sit down, Rick, please.

Rick

I never drink with guests.

(He turns on his heel and goes back to his table. As he reaches it, the door opens and RINALDO re-enters with a young couple. They are strangely out of place here. The BOY is young, fresh faced and comely with a true naivete about him that cannot be missed. The GIRL is blonde, hardly made up, very youthful and attractive in her simple dress. She is beautiful, but particularly in contrast to the vivid sophisticated women who frequent the place)

Rinaldo

(Hastening across the floor)

Rick! Rick!

Rinaldo (Cont)

(RICK turns)

Rick, I want you to meet M'sieur and Madame Viereck. They have just arrived and I am most anxious for you to know them. I have spoken to you about them before; you may recall our conversation of last night. M'sieur, Madame, this is Rick.

(RICK acknowledges the introduction courteously)

But what are we standing for?

(RINALDO pulls out chairs from Rick's table and they seat themselves)

Champagne!

(The BOY and GIRL are excited and wondering at the feverish activity of Rick's cafe. They look around them with interest, and when the GIRL sees the Rabbit, she leans over and whispers something to the Boy)

(To the Boy)

Come, M'sieur. I must show you Rick's. We will leave Madame for a moment. I know she has something to ask of him.

(RINALDO and the BOY leave, the former gesticulating and talking as they go through the door into the gaming room)

Annina

M'sieur.

(She steps)

Rick

(Kindly)

Would you like a drink?

Annina

Oh, no. Thank you.

Rick

You don't mind?

(He raises his glass)

Annina

Not at all.

(He drinks)

M'sieur. What kind of a man is Captain Rinaldo?

Rick

(Cautiously)

He is like any other man.

Annina

No. I mean is he...does he, can he..has he some influence?

Rick

He is the Prefect of Police.

Annina
Does he sell exit visas?

Rick
(Shocked)
Come on, Madame Vierock. Do I look simple?

Annina
No, I am serious. Does he?

Rick
I wouldn't know.

Annina
(After a silence)
Oh.

Rick
Now it's my turn to ask a question.

Annina
Yes?

Rick
Who told you to ask me that?

Annina
He did.

Rick
Oh, he did! Evidently he doesn't have a high regard for my intelligence.

Annina
Oh, no. When we were talking about exit visas and...
(She hesitates in embarrassment)
he said, "Ask M'sieur Rick. He will vouch for me."

Rick
That was nice of him. Now suppose you tell me what this is all about.

Annina
I forgot. I am so upset.

Rick
Me, too.

Annina
You see, Jan and I, that's my husband.....

Rick
How long are you married?

Annina
(Simply)
Six weeks.

Annina (Cont)

(RICK nods)

We come from Bulgaria. Things are very bad there, M'sieur. A devil has the people by the throat. So Jan I, we ... we did not want our children to grow up in such a country.

Rick

(Wearily)

So you decided to go to America.

Annina

Yes. But we do not have much money, and travel is so difficult and expensive, M'sieur. It took much more than we thought to get here. On the way, we met a very kind friend who told us that exit visas could be obtained here through a man named Ugarte.

(RICK gulps)

When we arrived, we looked for him.

Rick

Where did you look?

Annina

Everywhere. We inquire at the hotels, at the bars. Then Captain Rinaldo sees us and he is so kind. He wants to help.

Rick

I'll bet.

Annina

He tells me that he can get an exit visa for us. But --
(Again she hesitates)

Rick

For a price?

Annina

(Gratefully)

Yes. But we have no money.

Rick

Does Rinaldo know?

Annina

Oh, yes.

Rick

And he is still willing to give you an exit visa?

Annina

Yes, M'sieur.

(RICK looks down at his drink for a moment)

Rick

What is it you want to know?

Annina
Will he keep his word, M'sieur?

Rick
(Still looking at his drink)
He always has.

(There is a silence)

Annina
M'sieur, you are a man. If someone loved you... very much, so that your happiness was the only thing in the world that she wanted and she did a bad thing to make certain of it, could you forgive her?

Rick
No one has ever loved me that much.

Annina
But, M'sieur, if he never know ... if the girl kept this bad thing locked in her heart ... that would be all right, wouldn't it?

Rick
(Harshly)
You want my advice?

Annina
Oh, yes, M'sieur, please.

Rick
Go back to Bulgaria.

Annina
The bad things there would be for a lifetime. This is for just a few hours.

Rick
You seem to have made up your mind.

Annina
M'sieur, I would not hesitate for a moment if it were not for what Jan might think. I know what it means to Jan to be able to leave Europe. I am only afraid that he would not like to be helped that way.

Rick
You'd do anything for him, wouldn't you?

(RINALDO and JAN come through the door to the gambling room, and rejoin them)

Rinaldo
(To Annina)
I am sure you have had a nice chat with Rick. He is very interesting, no?

Jan

(Wonderingly)
I never knew there were places like this.

Rick

(To Jan)
There's an old saying, "What people don't know doesn't hurt them."

Rinaldo

(Sitting down and gesturing to JAN
to do likewise)
Precisely. One of my favorite maxims.
(He looks at Annina's glass and sees that
it has never been filled)
But this is bad. You do not drink?

Jan

I do not like her to.

Rinaldo

Nonsense. In champagne are the bubbles of life and love.
(He fills her glass)
Here, my dear.

Jan

Annina!

Rinaldo

Come, drink it.

Annina

I think I'll have just a little sip.
(She raises the glass to her lips, RINALDO
tilts it gently, so that a good deal more
than she intended to drink goes down her
throat. She chokes a little and JAN is
visibly upset)

Rinaldo

(Laughs)
You must learn to drink champagne, little one ... and other things.

Rick

She could get along without it.

Jan

(Shooting him a grateful glance)
I think so, too.

Rinaldo

You are too young to know much about a number of things, my friend.

Jan

I am old enough to know what I want my wife to do.

Rinaldo

Very good. Very good. But you also must consider what other men would like your wife to do.

I don't see....

Annina

Oh, Jan. Do not be alarmed. I will not get drunk. Later I will show you that I can walk a straight line.

(RINALDO fills her glass again. RICK suddenly rises)

Rick

I'll be back in a little while. I'll see how the tables are doing.

(He exits into the gaming rooms)

Jan

Annina, I think we should go.

Rinaldo

Why, it is early. You cannot leave now.

Annina

Please, Jan, I am having such a good time.

Jan

If we stay, you must promise not to drink any more. ?

Rinaldo

(Slipping an arm around her)
You may stay with me and drink all you want.

Jan

(Rising)
Annina, we are leaving.

Rinaldo

Perhaps you are leaving, but when I am host, I do not like my guests to leave so early.

Annina

(Trying to disengage his arm)
Please, Captain, we

Rinaldo

(Pulling her down again)
Come sit down. We have made a bargain.

Jan

Captain, will you let my wife go!

Rinaldo

(Turning to him)
You fool! If you want an exit visa, do not interfere.

(JAN leans down and attempts to take Rinaldo's arm from around Annina. There is a slight struggle and ANNINA screams)

Annina

Jan!

(RICK re-enters from the gaming room, sees what is going on, and as JAN draws back his arm to hit Rinaldo, RICK puts out his hand as if to stop him, even from the great distance, but the swing goes through, the blow lands, and RINALDO crashes over backwards in his chair to the floor. At the same moment, RICK reaches up and switches off the light from a wall switch behind him. There are screams and curses. After a short interval, the lights go on. RINALDO is standing in the middle of the floor, holding a hand to his face. He is livid with rage. Other people are standing. RICK is in the identical place that we have last seen him. There is a cigarette in his hand, which he lights calmly)

RINALDO

(Screaming)

Lock the doors! No one is to leave.

(He peers around angrily, but the Vierecks have vanished. To a GENDARME who has entered)

Search the gambling room. Then the rest rooms. Look for a young couple. The girl is blonde. They are in street clothes. They cannot have left.

(He walks over to Rick)

And now, my imperturbable Ricky, you will explain about the light.

Rick

It went out.

Rinaldo

(Reaching for the switch over Rick's head)

Like this.

Rick

(Turning his head slowly)

No.

Gendarme

(Returning and saluting)

They are not there, Captain.

Rinaldo

Where are they?

(To Rick)

Rick

I don't see any better in the dark than you.

Rinaldo

(Turning to the room)

There will be no more entertainment tonight. Rick's is closed!

Rinaldo (Cont)

(The CUSTOMERS start to chatter and whisper among themselves as they move slowly towards the doors)

(To the Gendarme)

Stand outside. Watch everyone who leaves. There is only one exit.

Rick

Now look, Luis

Rinaldo

You look, my friend. This was very suspicious. Lights go out and people disappear. Perhaps they managed to reach the door, but I do not think so. Now if they are here, it will be a lot better for you if you tell me now ... before I find them.

Rick

I'll talk to you when you cool down.

Rinaldo

Very well.

(He looks around)

There is a room upstairs.

Rick

Yes.

Rinaldo

I am going up there, and if I find them ...

Rick

(Tossing him the key)

This will make it easier for you.

(RINALDO catches the key and ascends the stairs behind the bar)

(RICK: to Lois and Victor, who have settled their bill, and are preparing to leave)

I would like you to stay if you can.

Victor

Of course.

(They resume their seats)

(RINALDO comes downstairs, obviously disappointed. He looks at Lois and Victor. RICK takes his key)

Rinaldo

I said Rick's was closed.

Rick

I asked my friends to stay and keep me company. I shall be lonesome.

Rinaldo

(To them)
You will leave, please.

Rick

(Also to them)
I'll call you at the hotel.

Lois

Please do.
(They leave)

(RINALDO, RICK and the RABBIT are alone in
the room)

Rinaldo

For the first time in three years, you have made a mistake.

Rick

Don't be silly, Luis.

Rinaldo

It is you who are foolish. Those children won't know where to go if they did get out ... and if they didn't, you will have their company and no other until I find them.

Rick

You'll be all right in the morning.

Rinaldo

Au voir, Rick.
(RICK nods goodbye, and RINALDO leaves.
RICK sits immovable. The RABBIT is at the piano, his back to Rick. He, also doesn't move. They remain this way in a complete silence until the audience begins to get restless. Then the RABBIT says, without turning)

Rabbit

Now, boss?

Rick

No.
(They sit there silently for a little while. Suddenly the door bursts open and RINALDO slams in. He looks rapidly around and is disappointed)
Hello, Luis.

Rinaldo

(Smiling)
I may change my mind about that search very soon.

Rick

(Impassively)
Any time.
(RINALDO exits)

Rick (Cont)

(After a short time)
Now, Sam.

(THE RABBIT springs to his feet, goes over to the table at which LOIS and VICTOR were sitting, tugs at it. It slides away from the wall and ANNINA and JAN come out as the

CURTAIN FALLS

=====

EVERYBODY COMES TO RICK'S

ACT THREE

ACT THREE

Place: The bar of Rick's Cafe.

Time: The next evening.

Although the tables are all set, there are no customers present. Rick's is still closed. The lights are not as bright as when the place was open for business, but the stage is well-lit.

WHEN THE CURTAIN RISES: RICK is alone on the stage, seated at his usual table working leisurely over some books and papers. From time to time he glances at the door, as if expecting someone.

After a short time, the door opens and the RABBIT enters.

Rick

(Looking up)
Did you get them, Sam?

Rabbit

(Advancing to the table)
Yassuh.

Rick

(Putting down his pen, and holding out his hand)
Let's have them.

(The RABBIT takes two tickets out of his pocket and as he is in the act of transferring them to Rick, the door opens and RINALDO, dressed in a working uniform, enters, sees the tickets)

Rinaldo

So you have been buying plane tickets, Rabbit?

Rick

(Calmly taking the tickets from the RABBIT, and putting them in his pocket)
Oh, yes, we're tired of Casablanca.

Rinaldo

But Casablanca is not tired of you, M'sieu Blaine.

Rick
Come, come, Luis. Why so formal?

(The RABBIT exits into the gambling room)

Rinaldo
Because for the first time in three years I am here as Prefect of Police, and not as a friend.

Rick
Not for the first time, Luis. Remember? You closed us up last night.

Rinaldo
Until we have settled this, I am Captain Rinaldo.

Rick
Fine. Then it won't be necessary for me to offer you a drink. With the place closed, free drinks are quite an expense.

Rinaldo
You can open immediately ... that is up to you.

Rick
I'm listening.

Rinaldo
I want the Vierecks.

Rick
The Vierecks?

Rinaldo
(Impatiently)
The young boy and girl who were here last night. The ones who were responsible for the closing. The people that you have hidden successfully.

Rick
It seems that this isn't a cafe ... it's a safe deposit box. Last night you were looking for papers, tonight for people. I only furnish drinks and entertainment.

Rinaldo
And plane tickets.

Rick
Those are for Sam and me.

Rinaldo
You are under suspicion. You will not be allowed to leave.

Rick
You forget I'm an American citizen.

Rinaldo
It is the one thing that keeps you out of jail. And even that will not save you when we have proof.

Rick
Of what?

Rinaldo
Let us review the events of the past few days. First, a notorious seller of exit visas is arrested in here. When we search him, he does not have the letters of transit that we know were in his possession when he entered your cafe. You disclaim all knowledge of them. The next evening, the Prefect of Police, a very good friend of yours, is assaulted before half the people of Casablanca by a young fool. The lights go out, and the people responsible for this outrage disappear. Once again, you know nothing about it.

Rick
I'm awfully sorry, but I can't protect you from jealous husbands.

Rinaldo
(Sharply)
But you can protect the husbands.

Rick
That's ridiculous.

Rinaldo
It is the truth. Those children have never been in Casablanca. It would have been impossible for them to evade us for this length of time without help. You are the only person they know here.

Rick
Not much proof, there.

Rinaldo
Not enough to arrest you, but sufficient for us to see that you do not leave.

Rick
Is that what you came to tell me?

Rinaldo
Not entirely.
(A pause)
I can never completely forget what has happened, but if you turn the Vicrecks over to me, you will be permitted to open.

Rick
That makes it tough ... because, you see, I can't give you what I haven't got.

Rinaldo

(Shaking his head)

You are stubborn.

(He rises, and prepares to leave)

However, when you change your mind, you may call me at the station.

Rick

If I locate them, I'll let you know.

Rinaldo

(Exiting)

It will be much better for you if you try hard.

(The RABBIT re-enters)

Rabbit

He sure is mad, boss.

Rick

Sam, do you think you were followed when you bought those tickets?

Rabbit

Ah dunno, boss, but he sure got here awful fast. ?

Rick

That can't be helped now, but we'd better lock the door.

(The RABBIT walks over and locks it)

(JAN and ANNINA come in from the gambling room and approach Rick)

Rabbit

If yuh ain't got nothin' fer me to do, boss, ah'd like to catch up on my sleep.

Rick

Go ahead, but I'll need you later.

(The RABBIT exits behind the bar and up the stairs)

Jan

M'sieu, we overheard. We cannot allow you to take this trouble for us.

Rick

(Rising, going behind the bar and starting to mix a cocktail)

Quiet. Speak to the brains of the family. She understands.

Jan

I understand, too. Your cafe is closed. You are in difficulties with the police...and all because of my stupidity.

Annina
You were not stupid, Jan.

(RICK pours out drinks for them without a word, hands them to them)

Rick
You kids hungry?

Annina
No, M'sieu. We could not eat a thing.

Jan
M'sieu Rick, this has become too dangerous for you. We shall have to leave some time, and I think it is best that we go now.

Rick
That's a good idea. Where were you planning to go?

Jan
I...er...I...have no plan. It is dark, and...er...

Rick
And if you get from here to the corner without being arrested, I'll give you the place.

Jan
Even so, M'sieu, we should go.

Rick
It's going to be wonderful for Annina when you're in jail.

Jan
But you will take care of her?

Rick
I won't be in a position to take care of anyone. Figure it out. If you walk out of that door, you're finished.... and it won't do me any good, either. The only thing that could help me is if I turned you in to Rinaldo myself.

Jan
Then we will arrange it that way.

Rick
What kind of a heel do you think I am?

Jan
But, M'sieu, we cannot stay here indefinitely, and if you will not let us leave, what is to be done?

Rick
Finish your drinks and give me time to think of a way out.
(He comes out from behind the bar and begins to pace up and down nervously,

Rick (Cont)
biting his thumb. They watch hope-
fully. Suddenly, he stops, as an idea
comes to him. He snaps his fingers.
Then he shakes his head negatively)
No. He won't fall for that.
(He resumes his pacing. After a short
time, he says slowly)
Yes, that should do it.
(He turns to Annina)
You trust me, don't you?

Annina
Yes, M'sieur.

Rick
O.K., then. Sit tight.
(He walks to the bar, reaches behind
it, and brings up a telephone)
Hello. The police station, please.
(Pause)
Thank you.
(Pause)
Hello. Captain Rinaldo, please.
(Pause)
Hello, Luis?
(Pause)
This is Rick. Yes, yes, you win. I'm beginning to see it
the right way now.
(Pause)
Even I can make a mistake.
(Pause and laughter)
Well, come on over here, and I'll have something that will
interest you.

Jan
So you have changed your mind.

Rick
Not at....

(There is a knock on the door)

Jan
Rinaldo!

Annina
He's here.

Rick
It couldn't be. But you kids had better get inside. Move
now!

(THEY exit quickly into the gambling room)

(RICK goes to the door and peers through a
peephole)
Oh, it's you.
(He opens the door, and LOIS, in a
stunning blue suit, enters)

Lois
You never called.

Rick
You shouldn't have come.

Lois
Don't you know I always do the wrong thing?

Rick
Never mind that. Listen to me. We're in..

Lois
I see you're still closed. Did the youngsters get away?

Rick
They're all right. In fact, they're going to Lisbon.
With you and Victor.

Lois
That's what I came to tell you. I'm staying here.

Rick
And Victor?

Lois
Will leave if and when he can.

Rick
So you can't take it? The going getting too tough for you?

Lois
Not at all. I want to stay because you're here.

Rick
We haven't any time to play games, Lois. I'm waiting for
Rinaldo, now.

Lois
Rinaldo!

Rick
Don't worry. I invited him.

Lois
You entertain the nicest people.

Rick
Playtime is over, Lois...at least for me. I'm going to
work, and if I miss...

(He takes a deep breath)
Well, let's not think of that.

Lois
Can I help?

Rick
Now that you're here, you'll have to. Now, listen! We must make Rinaldo believe that we're terribly in love...

Lois
That's easy.

Rick
And that we don't give a damn about Laszlo.

Lois
Oh, Ricky. That doesn't sound good to me. I.....

(A knock at the door interrupts her)

Rick
(Xing to open door)
Everything will be fine if you just follow my leads and... and...oh, hell, you don't need what I was going to say.

Lois
Tell me.

Rick
I was going to say, "Look beautiful."
(He opens the door and RINALDO enters)

Rinaldo
Ricky, I knew...
(He catches sight of Lois and bows)
Madame, this is a pleasant surprise.
(To Rick)
You did not tell me there was a reason for changing your mind.

Rick
You don't have to know everything.

Lois
I hope not.
(She crosses to Rick and puts an arm through his)
Shall we have a drink, darling?

Rinaldo
(Slyly)
Now that you are soon to re-open, you can afford it, eh?

Rick
Of course. And champagne, too.
(To Rinaldo)
Luis, you do the honors. We want to hold hands.

(RINALDO goes behind the bar and brings up a bottle of champagne, while RICK and LOIS do hold hands)

Lois
Don't ever let me go, Ricky.

Rick
You're sure you'll never regret what you're doing?

Lois
(Tilting her head back and looking
straight into his eyes)
I'm sure.

(RINALDO has filled glasses, and THEY
pick them up)

Rick
To....

Rinaldo
(Picking up his glass)
But Ricky, to love!

(THEY drink)

Rinaldo
And now, Rick, the Vierecks.

Rick
Let's sit down a moment, Luis.

Rinaldo
I like it here. Where are the Vierecks?

Rick
How much of a man are you, Luis?

Rinaldo
The Vierecks?

Rick
They're here. Right in the other room.

Rinaldo
(Starting out from behind the bar)
Good.

Rick
(Walking to the end of the bar, and
holding him)
Now, Luis. Wait.

Rinaldo
When I arrest them, you may open immediately.

Rick
You're forgetting something else you wanted.

Rinaldo
One thing at a time is enough for me.
(He pushes RICK gently aside and starts
for the door)

Rick
The letters of transit, Luis.

(RINALDO checks)

You may have those, too.
(RINALDO swings around)

Rinaldo
Ah, you make me believe that you are really the old Rick,
again.

Rick
(Drawing LOIS close to him)
I've straightened out what was bothering me.

Lois
You mean I caused all this?

Rick
Darling, for me, you're a sort of personal earthquake.

Rinaldo
Have you the letters?
(RICK nods)
Where?

Rick
You must make some concessions, Luis.

Rinaldo
I have already given you permission to open.

Rick
I want more than that.

Rinaldo
Money?

Rick
No. The Vierecks.

Rinaldo
(Looking at Lois)
I do not understand. What can they mean to you?

Rick
Never mind. But if you could hand Laszlo to Strasser on
a silver platter, what would that mean to you?

(LOIS draws a sharp breath, and RICK
presses her close to him)

Rinaldo
(Walks over to a table, sits, and takes out
a cigarette from his case with the same de-
liberation that he used in the First Act)
Sometimes you frighten me, Rick. I am afraid that you are

Rinaldo (Cont)

too subtle for my Gallic mind.

Rick

There's nothing subtle about this. I have no reason to like Laszlo, except perhaps that he brought Lois back to me.

(He turns and looks at her. She presses closely against him)

Rinaldo

No, Rick. I do not trust you. There is something wrong.

Rick

Suppose I were to telephone Laszlo, from here, with you listening to every word I say, and ask him to come and pick up that letter of transit.

Rinaldo

That sounds very interesting.

Rick

And you could wait here with Lois and me until he came and then catch him receiving a letter of transit to which he has no right--

Rinaldo

Marvelous!

Rick

Good enough to let the Vierecks use the other letter of transit to leave Casablanca?

Rinaldo

(Sitting back)

So.

Rick

There it is, Luis. Take it or leave it.

Rinaldo

What is there to prevent me from walking into that room, and arresting them now?

Rick

You're too smart to do that. They don't mean a thing to you...and Victor Laszlo means a great deal.

Rinaldo

It is not a bad bargain, but why all this interest in the Vierecks?

Rick

(Turning to include Lois)

It's our last gesture towards sentimentality...a kind of peace offering to love.

Rinaldo

And how do you feel about this Madam? You were traveling with Laszlo.

Lois
That is my offering to love.

Rick
Well?

Rinaldo
I would like to hear you use the telephone.

Rick
(Walking over to Lois and holding her
by the shoulders)
Lois, when you came here the other night, you came for an
exit visa, didn't you?

Lois
Yes, Ricky.

Rick
And even if I'd been a drunken, dissolute bum, you still
would have slept with me.

Lois
Yes, Ricky.
(He tilts her chin up and gives her a fleet-
ing kiss on the lips, and turns to the phone)

Rick
(Walks to telephone on bar, picks it up,
RINALDO watching him closely)
Hotel Splendide, please.

Rinaldo
(To Lois, while RICK waits for the
connection)
If I should ever travel, and, in a moment of weakness, ask
you to accompany me, please refuse.

Lois
You won't ask me. I'm a little too old for you.

Rick
(Getting the hotel)
Mr. Laszlo.

(After LOIS' last remark, RINALDO has
taken a cigarette from his case, and is
tapping it slowly on his case. Then,
with mock sorrow)

Rinaldo
As you say in America, another nail in my coffin.

Lois
You should smoke more, and drink less, Captain.

Rinaldo
(Looking at her questioningly)
Just how do you mean that, Madame?

Lois
Just exactly the opposite of the way you think I mean it,
Captain.

Rick
Hello, M'sieu Laszlo. This is Rick.
(Pause)
Fine, thank you. And you?
(Pause)
That's too bad. But I think I have some good news for you.
(Pause)
No, I'm still closed, but I have hopes. Listen, I've
thought that matter over, and I'm willing to give you those
papers that were left here for you.
(Pause)
Don't worry about that. She's here now, waiting for you.

(RINALDO glances quizzically at Lois,
who bites her lip)

Lois
May I have a cigarette, Captain.

Rinaldo
Certainly.
(He offers her one, and lights it for her)

Rick
Yes, bring a bag, the Lisbon plane leaves in half an hour.
(Pause)
Right. And don't forget to take plenty of money.
(RINALDO grins sardonically)
No, not for that. I've something else in mind.
(Pause)
Save it.
(Pause)
Forget it. I'll see you shortly.
(He hangs up and takes a drink from the bar)

Rinaldo
Bravo, Ricky! Well done.

Rick
(With a sigh)
I hope so.

Lois
(Walking over to him)
Rick, I want to get drunk. I want to get drunk and stay
drunk for a week.

Rick
(Pouring out some champagne)
A votre sante.

Lois
Not champagne, darling. Brandy.

Rinaldo
(Also raising a glass)
Shall we drink to love again?

Lois
(Quietly)
No. Let's drink to France.

Rinaldo
With all my heart.

Lois
(Turning to Rick)
To France, and to Paris... as we knew it.

(They drink)

Rick
(Calling)
Annina, Jan. Come in here.

(ANNINA and JAN enter slowly from
the gaming room)

Rinaldo
(Urbanely)
Good evening.

(ANNINA and JAN acknowledge this in
small voices)

Come, come, this is no way for old friends to act.

Rick
Captain Rinaldo has kindly consented to overlook what
happened last night and permit you to leave.

Rinaldo
Yes, yes. Thanks to the good words M'sieu said for you.

Jan
(To Rinaldo, stiffly)
Thank you, M'sieu, but we have no exit visas.

(LOIS goes to Annina and draws aside
with her, murmuring)

Rick
Oh, yes you have.

(He walks to the piano, lifts the top and extracts the envelope that Ugarte had given him in the First Act. He takes one letter from the envelope and hands it to JAN. With a glad cry, ANNINA breaks away from Lois and runs to read over Jan's shoulder)

Rinaldo

Ah! I should have guessed!

Annina

(Disappointed)

But these are not exit visas, M'sieu.

Rinaldo

No. They are better, Madame. You will have no difficulty leaving with those.

Annina

You are so kind. I do not know how to thank...

Rinaldo

M'sieu Rick deserves all your thanks.

Annina

(To Rick)

M'sieu, there is very little we can do, but I shall say a prayer for you.

Rick

(Slowly)

Say it for a man named Ugarte... I think he's got it coming to him.

Lois

Annina.

Annina

Yes?

Lois

I think I'd like you to say a prayer for me, too.

Annina

Oh, Madame, I will!

Rick

(Reaching into his pocket, and crossing to Jan)

Here are the tickets for the plane.

Jan

(Taking them)

We shall remember you all our lives, M'sieu.

(To Annina)

Come, Annina.

(JAN starts for the door, and ANNINA goes to Rick and kisses him sweetly)

Annina
I wish you every happiness, M'sieur.
(Then, very shyly, she goes to Rinaldo)
And you, too, M'sieu.

Rinaldo
What? No kiss for me?

Lois
Ah, nice. A friend of the family.

Rinaldo
(Looking at her)
Yes, Madame.
(He takes ANNINA by the shoulders and kisses her on the forehead)
(JAN and ANNINA start for the door)

Rick
(To them)
Wait.
(To Rinaldo)
Haven't you forgotten something, Luis?

Rinaldo
I do not think so. Why?

Rick
How about calling off your little watchdogs outside?

Rinaldo
Oh, they will not give them any trouble.

Rick
Now, Luis, behave!

Rinaldo
If you wish, I shall...

Rick
I wish.

(RINALDO crosses to the front door, opens it, takes the little silver whistle from his pocket, blows it. A GENDARME comes almost immediately)

Rinaldo
Withdraw the men. The place is no longer closed, nor under surveillance.

Gendarme
But, Captain...

Those are my orders. Rinaldo

(Saluting)
Yes, Captain. Gendarme

(RICK saunters over to the door, and,
as RINALDO starts to close it, he
holds it open)

You don't mind, Luis? Rick

(Grinning)
Not at all, my friend. Rinaldo

(RICK peers out for a short time, then
he seems satisfied and closes the door)

(To Annina and Jan)
The plane leaves soon. Go directly to the airport. You
know how to get there? Rick

Oh yes, M'sieu. Jan

(They start for the door. At the door,
ANNINA turns, wants to say something, then
exits quickly, closing the door behind her)

(With a sigh)
I wonder if it was wise. Rinaldo

Don't worry, Captain. I am sure that there are still
women left in Casablanca. Lois

(Looking at her speculatively)
Yes. Oh, yes. Rinaldo

(Going to the bar)
How about a drink? Rick

Another, dear? Lois

I thought you wanted to get drunk. Rick

Not quite yet. In a little while. Lois

Rick

Come here, darling.

(She moves slowly over to him, and he suddenly crushes her in his arms, and attempts to kiss her. She struggles)

Lois

Rick! Rick, we have company.

Rinaldo

It is of no consequence...as you said, a friend of the family.
(They kiss)

(There is a knock on the door, as they stand locked in each other's arms. They separate)

(RINALDO, moving swiftly)

I shall be in the other room.
(He exits into the gaming room)

(RICK starts for the door)

Lois

(Grasping his arm and pulling him around)

Oh, Rick.
(He looks down into her eyes, for a long moment)

Rick

So many things to remember.
(He breaks away from her and opens the door. VICTOR enters)
Where are your bags?

Victor

In the car.
(Then, to Lois)
I brought yours too, dear.

Rick

Here is your letter of transit. You haven't much time. The plane leaves soon.
(As VICTOR takes the letter)
You won't have any trouble at Lisbon, will you?

Victor

No. That is all arranged.

Rick

Good.
(RINALDO comes slowly out of the gaming room and walks quietly across the floor)

Rinaldo

M'sieu Lazzlo, you are under arrest. The letter, please.

(VICTOR spins around in consternation.
LOIS' hand goes to her mouth)

Rick
(Who has taken a gun from his pocket
and levelled it at Rinaldo)
Not so fast, Luis, not so fast.

Rinaldo
(Staring open-mouthed for a moment)
Have you lost your mind, Rick?

Rick
No. You've lost the game. Sit down, over there.

Rinaldo
(Walking towards him)
Put that gun down.

Rick
(Not retreating a step)
Luis, it would make very little difference to me if I had to
shoot you. And I will, if you take one more step!

(RINALDO halts for a moment, and studies
Rick. Then he shrugs)

Rinaldo
Very well.

Rick
Sit down!

(RINALDO walks to a table, at right, and
sits, and takes out the cigarette case)

Rinaldo
I suppose you know what you are doing, but I wonder if you
realize what this means?

Rick
Perfectly. We will have plenty of time to discuss that
later.

(Then, to Victor and Lois)
You'd better get going if you want to make that plane.

Lois
(Starts to run towards him)
Ricky! No.
(LASZLO catches her by the arm.
She struggles)
Let me go! Let me go!

Rick
Thanks, Victor.

Lois
(Raging)
Oh, you...you...

Rick

No, darling, he was right. If you had run in front of me, my good friend the Captain might have turned the tables.
(She ceases to struggle)

Lois

All right. I'm sorry. I shan't be so stupid again. But, Victor, you must let me stay here. I'm not going with you.

Victor

That, my dear, is entirely up to you.

Rick

(Sharply)
You're going, Lois.

Lois

No, no, no! You fool, I'm in love with you again. It's true that I came here for an exit visa, when I saw you, my knees went weak. I'm....

Rick

You're going, Lois. There's nothing here for you. You told me....I'm finished...all burned out..Victor's still fighting, and he needs you, Lois.

Lois

(Frantically)
I don't care. I'm...

Rick

Get her out of here, Victor, for God's sake...

Victor

(Pulling her towards door)
Rick, are you sure it's worth it?

Rick

(Forcefully)
I'm sure...You've got a job to do.

Victor

(Sweeping LOIS with him towards door)
Thank you, Rick, and no matter what you think...you're still fighting.

Rick

Oh, Victor.

(VICTOR pauses and looks questioningly at him)

Those kids that were in here, the other night. They're going to be on the plane with you. Take care of them, will you?

Victor

Of course. And isn't there anything

Rick

Forget it. You've got to make that plane.

(VICTOR and LOIS reach door. VICTOR goes through first: LOIS stands in doorway for a moment, silhouetted in the light.)

Lois

Goodbye, Rick.

(She exits. RICK goes over to his table, left, still watching RINALDO closely, and keeping the gun trained on him. RICK sits. There is a silence)

Rinaldo

How long do you intend to keep me here?

Rick

That depends.

(He raises his voice and shouts)

Sam! Sam!

Rabbit

(From upstairs)

Comin', boss.

(The RABBIT comes down stairs. As he is coming towards them)

Rick

(Continuing to Rinaldo)

Remember, Luis, he wasn't in this.

Rinaldo

He does not interest me.

Sam

(Who sees the gun, and stops)

Whut's de trouble, boss?

Rick

No trouble, Sam. The Captain and I want to hear a little music. Get over to the piano, but take care when you step across the line of fire.

Sam

(Perplexed, but obeying)

Yassuh.

Rinaldo

May I go now? I do not wish to listen to music.

Rick

No.

Rinaldo

But this is absurd. They have left. There is no reason for holding me here.

Rick

Just for a little while, Luis. There's still the telephone!

Rick (Cont)

(The RABBIT has seated himself at piano and starts to improvise rather softly)

Louder, and faster, Sam. Make it hot.

(The RABBIT increases the tempo, swinging very loud and fast. Music swells, gets wilder)

Rinaldo

(Hysterically)

Must you play!

Rick

Keep playing, Sam.

(The RABBIT obeys, and suddenly the sound of a plane motor cuts across the noise of piano. Both RICK and RINALDO look up. The music stops)

Rinaldo

The Lisbon plane.

Rick

And that lets you out.

(Before either of them can move, the door bursts open and STRASSER rushes in. He is in a towering rage)

Strasser

You imbecile! You stupid swine! They're gone! They were on that plane!

Rinaldo

I know it.

Strasser

And your fine neutral here. He's responsible.

(Then he sees the gun and checks. RICK takes the gun and points it very deliberately at Strasser)

Rick

At the present moment, I am debating very seriously with myself the question of killing you. I don't see any reason why I shouldn't, except -- that I have never killed a man.

(He throws the gun contemptuously on table. STRASSER leaps for it and covers Rick)

Strasser

You are under arrest.

Rick

(Coolly)

Not really.

(He rises slowly. The RABBIT watches him with agonized eyes)

I am waiting.

Strasser

Rick

(Starts walking slowly towards door)
So long, Sam. I'd go over to the Blue Parrot, if I were you
(As he passes Rinaldo, who has not moved)

Rinaldo

Why did you do it, Rick?

Rick

(Pausing)
For the folding money, Luis, for the folding money. You owe
me five thousand francs.

(RICK walks out with STRASSER as the

CURTAIN FALLS

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