



***The Last Romance***  
**By Joe DiPietro**  
**Audition Side**  
**Ralph 1**

*She [CAROL] glances over and sees RALPH staring at her.  
RALPH gives her a big, cheesy smile.  
She looks away and sits on the bench.*

**RALPH**  
Do you like opera?

**CAROL**  
What?

**RALPH**  
Do you like opera?

**CAROL**  
Are you speaking to me?

**RALPH**  
Yeah. Do you like opera?

**CAROL**  
Opera?

**RALPH**  
Yeah. Do you like it?

**CAROL**

No.

**RALPH**

Okay. What about rap music?

**CAROL**

What?

**RALPH**

Do you like rap music?

**CAROL**

Why on earth would I like rap music?

**RALPH**

Because the lyrics are so beautiful.

(raps)

"What you gonna do with all that junk  
All that junk inside your trunk."

*He smiles. She looks at him - is he from Mars?*

**CAROL**

Have we met?

**RALPH**

Sadly, no. *Mi chiamo Rafael Bellini.*

**CAROL**

What?

**RALPH**

My name - Rafael Bellini. Call me Ralph. I'm a railroad man, retired 25 years now. You got any questions 'bout the railroad, you ask me. I'm also singer. even auditioned for the Metropolitan Opera Company one time.

*CAROL ignores him.*

*She holds up the tiny sweater and carefully folds it.*

Is that for a midget?

**CAROL**

It's for Peaches.

**RALPH**

Who?

**CAROL**

My dog.

RALPH

Ah. So what's your name?

(a beat)

So what's your name?

(a beat)

SHOULD I TALK LOUDER?

**CAROL**

No! I'm Carol.

**RALPH**

*Perfetto!* Like the song!

**CAROL**

What song?

**RALPH**

You know, like a Christmas carol.

(Singing)

"Oh come, all ye faithful ... "

**CAROL**

You sing a lot.

**RALPH**

"Joyful and triumphant,  
Oh come ye, oh come ye ... "

*He smiles at her again.*

*She looks away.*

So when you say you don't like opera, do you mean you really don't like it or you just don't listen to it?

**CAROL**

I know nothing about opera, okay?

**RALPH**

Fair enough. I'll teach you.

**CAROL**

What?

**RALPH**

I know a lot about it. I auditioned for the Metropolitan Opera Company once -

**CAROL**

You've said that already.

**RALPH**

I know, but you didn't seem to be listenin' --