



The Last Romance
By Joe DiPietro
Audition Side
Rose Callback Side

RALPH

I saw Tony-

ROSE

What?

RALPH

Your husband. I saw him.

ROSE

Where? When?

RALPH

A couple weeks back. He came to see you.

ROSE

Here? He came here?

RALPH

You were out shoppin'. He said he's been sending you letters.

ROSE

Why didn't you tell me?

RALPH

'Cause I was protecting you, Rose. You don't want to talk to him no more. You ain't even answerin' his letters.

ROSE

Did he say what he wanted?

RALPH

He wants a divorce, Rose. His girlfriend's very sick.

ROSE

You sure? You sure that's what he wanted?

RALPH

What else, Rose? What else could he possibly - ... ?

(He realizes)

What? You don't think he came to see you again? To take you back?

A beat.

Oh Madonn, Rose.

ROSE

You don't know he didn't.

RALPH

He's not coming back to you, Rose,

ROSE

You don't know nothin' about it. How could you? You barely pay any attention to me!

RALPH

What're you talkin' about? I spend all day with you!

ROSE

When was the last time you took me to the opera? Huh? Or even a movie? When? When? I cook for you and clean your house and wash your dirty clothes and I - I can't touch you like she touches you. But when was the last time you took me anywhere?

RALPH

I'm havin' a conversation with a crazy woman!

ROSE

Don't talk to me like that.

RALPH

A crazy woman who thinks a man is gonna come back to her after twenty years!

ROSE

All right, fine! You wanna ask her to marry you, go ahead, but ask her now, before you get on the plane.

RALPH

What?

ROSE

Before you get on the plane. Ask her.

RALPH

No, I'm gonna ask her in Italy, so it feels like we're in an opera.

ROSE

You can't go to Italy, Ralph. You know you 're not well enough to go.

RALPH

Stop.

ROSE

The 25th of October.

RALPH

I said stop!

ROSE

I'm just protecting you, Ralph.

RALPH

I am well enough to go! I am well enough to go!

ROSE

You think I'm crazy, than ask her. Before you get on the plane. See what she says!

RALPH

She's gonna say yes, Rose!

ROSE

See what she says! See who the crazy one is!

RALPH grabs his suitcase and exits.

And he says his girlfriend's sick, but she's not sick. Tony lies! He always lies --