

COME BLOW YOUR HORN.

ACT I

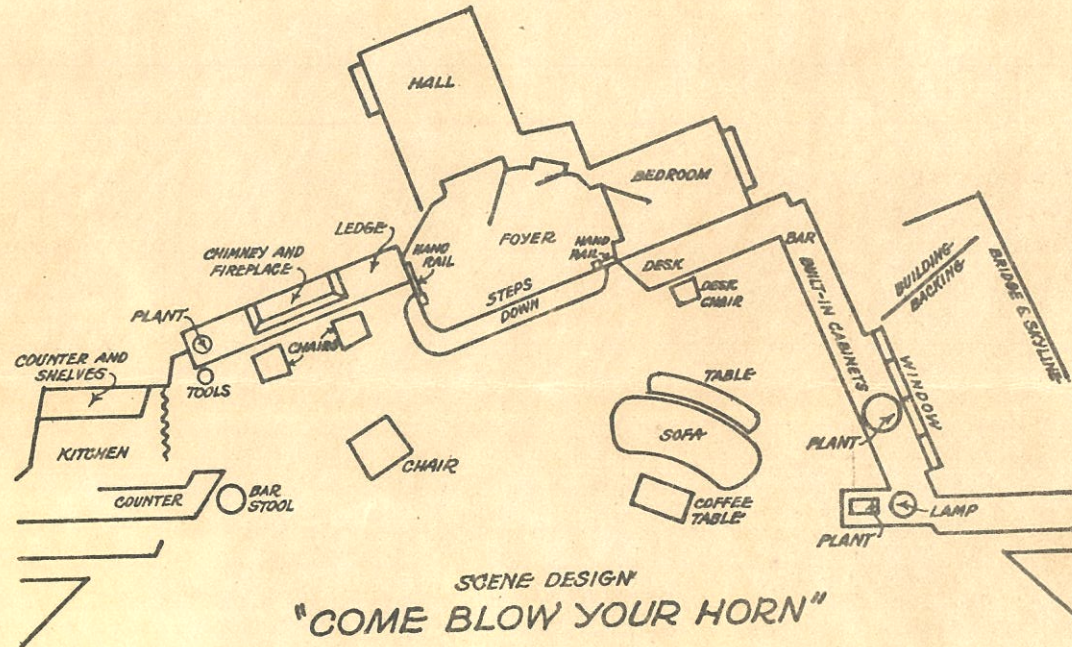
M'INTIX MIZZEWIWEQ

MELA BUFFUN.

Salesian Theatre

- Sliema -

Script nos: 342



SCENE DESIGN
 "COME BLOW YOUR HORN"

ACT I

Scene

THE SETTING IS THE BACHELOR APARTMENT OF ALAN BAKER. IT IS A VERY MODERN APARTMENT CONSISTING OF A LIVING ROOM, RAISED FOYER, BEDROOM, BATH (NOT SEEN) AND KITCHEN. U.C. IS THE MODERN FLUSH DOOR LEADING FROM THE HALLWAY INTO THE FOYER. JUST L. OF THE DOOR IS A NARROW GUEST CLOSET DOOR, PRACTICAL. AT THE L. SIDE OF THE FOYER IS THE DOOR LEADING INTO THE BEDROOM, MOST OF WHICH IS NOT SEEN. L. OF THE FOYER, TWO STEPS DOWN INTO THE LIVING ROOM, IS A WALL WITH A BUILT-IN COUNTER, DESK AND CABINET AREA TO THE U. L. CORNER. THIS JOINS THE L. WALL RUNNING D. L., WHICH ALSO HAS A BAR AREA U. L. AND COUNTER CABINET EXTENDING D. L. IN THE U.L. CORNER WALL ARE THREE BOOK OR KNICKKNACK SHELVES L. AND R. OF THE CORNER. C. OF L. WALL IS A LARGE PICTURE CASEMENT WINDOW OVERLOOKING THE QUEENSBOROUGH BRIDGE (BACKING). R. OF THE FOYER (TWO STEPS DOWN) IS A SLATE SHELF RUNNING THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE R. REAR WALL, C. OF WHICH IS A MODERN BRONZE FIREPLACE CHIMNEY. R. AND L. ON FOYER ARE SHORT HANDRAILS. D.R. OF THE FIREPLACE IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE KITCHEN, WHICH INCLUDES A HANGING ACCORDION-PLEATED DOOR TO SEPARATE THIS AREA FROM THE LIVING ROOM. EXTREME D.R. IS A COUNTER SUCH AS A BREAKFAST COUNTER. MODERN BLADES RUN FROM COUNTER TO CEILING. THE FOYER CEILING IS LOWER THAN THE LIVING ROOM CEILING WITH A HEADER RUNNING DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE SET. D.R.C. IS A MODERN UPHOLSTERED CHAIR WITH ARMS. FLANKING THE FIREPLACE ARE TWO MATCHING UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS WITHOUT ARMS. D.L.C. IS A CURVED UPHOLSTERED MODERN SOFA, WITH A CURVED WOODEN TABLE BEHIND IT. BELOW THE SOFA IS AN OBLONG SQUARE COFFEE TABLE. U.L. IS A DESK KNEE-HOLE CHAIR. A MODERN HANGING FIXTURE LIGHTS THE FOYER. ON THE EXTENDED D.L. COUNTER IS A MODERN LAMP. NEXT TO THE D.R. COUNTER IS A MODERN BAR STOOL. VARIOUS BRIC-A-BRAC AND DRESSING IS DESCRIBED IN THE PROP LIST. THERE ARE FIVE COVER CEILING LIGHTS IN THE HEADER IN THE U.L. CORNER SHINING DOWN ON THE COUNTERS. THE FLOOR IS CARPETED WALL TO WALL, INCLUDING THE FOYER, WITH A DULL GOLD RUG.

At Rise

ALAN BAKER, IN A SHORT ITALIAN SUEDE SLI JACKET, IS STANDING IN THE DOORWAY BEING HIS CHARMING, PERSUASIVE BEST IN ATTEMPTING TO LURE PEGGY EVANS, PULLING HER INTO HIS BACHELOR APARTMENT. PEGGY IS IN A S.L.I OUTFIT THAT FITS HER SO SNUGLY IT LEAVES LITTLE ROOM FOR SKIING. ALAN FURS DOWN HIS VALISE (L. IN FOYER), THEN SLIDES PEGGY'S OVERNIGHT BAG OUT OF HER HAND WITHOUT HER EVEN NOTICING IT AND PLACES IT ON THE FLOOR. ALAN IS VERY ADEPT AT THIS GAME. BEING GOOD-LOOKING, BRIGHT, THIRTY-THREE AND SINGLE, AGAINST PEGGY'S TWENTY-TWO YEARS OF BLISSFUL IGNORANCE AND EAGERNESS TO PLEASE, IT APPEARS THAT ALAN HAS ALL THE MARBLES STACKED ON HIS SIDE.

PEGGY - Le, Alan.

ALAN - U isa, Peggy!

PEGGY - Le, Alan.

ALAN - (TAKING OFF HER SKI JACKET). Hames minuti biss.

PEGGY - Le, Alan, hallini mmur!

ALAN - Ma ghadtlx li qed thoss il-bard?

PEGGY - U veru!

ALAN - (EMBRACING HER). Halli nqabba ic-cumnija. Issa tara kif tishon malajr.

PEGGY - Alan, irrid immur il-flat tiegħi niehu banju - ghandi pulzier trab tal-ferrovija fuqi.

ALAN - Imma ma tistghax tmur għal issa ruhi - ejja niehdu grok iehor biex nispicaw il-weekend bl'allegrija.

PEGGY - Kienu erbgha tijiem.

ALAN - Għalfajn tghodd il-granet? Inti taf kemm inti sabiha?

PEGGY - Tassew, tarani sabiha?

ALAN - Ma rajtx x'gara fuq il-kamp ta' li ski? Kulhadd beda jhares lejku u jidhol gos-sigar. Ejja l'hawn - (BITES HER ON THE NECK).

PEGGY - Għaliex tghamilli hekk?

ALAN - X'ngħamillek?

PEGGY - Tigdimli għonqi.

ALAN - Għaliex le? Ma tahsibx li jien xi għasfur li nixrob id-demm, hux?

PEGGY - Tassew, qatt ma għaddili minn rasi dan.

ALAN - Minflok, allura, nigdimlek widintek.

PEGGY - Allura għax ma tghatinix bewsa?

ALAN - Stenna, għadni nibda.

PEGGY - Issa rgaġt shant. (SITS ON SOFA). Grazzi tal-weekend Alan - Hadt gost ferm.

ALAN - Iva, hadna gost - (CROSSES TO BAR).

PEGGY - Allavolja ma giex.

ALAN - (STOPS AND TURNS). Min?

PEGGY - Il-habib tiegħek tal-Metro Goldwyn Mayer.

- ALAN - (CONTINUING TO BAR QUICKLY). Ah iva, Mr Mannheim - iva, ma tafx dawn in-nies ta-cinematografija.
- PEGGY - It-telegram qallek meta ser jerggha jkun New York?
- ALAN - X'telegram?
- PEGGY - It-telegram li bghatlek minn Hollywood.
- ALAN - (CROSSES D.L. BY WINDOW). Mela ma ghidtlekx. Fil-bidu tal-gimgha id-dihla.
- PEGGY - Pero', meta toqghod tahseb, ftit kurjuza.
- ALAN - X'inhi -
- PEGGY - L'idea li rid jiltaqa mieghi f'lukanda.
- ALAN - Dik m'hix lukanda. Dak kamp ta' li ski.
- PEGGY - Tassew? Insonna, jiena hadt gost - qadt ma kont mort f'dak il-post, hemm x'jismu?
- ALAN - Vermont.
- PEGGY - Qadt ma nistgha niftakar isem, ma nistghax nifhem ghaliex, ragel ta' dik l-importanza ried jigi minn dak il-bogħod kollu biex jiltaqgha mieghi.
- ALAN - (SIPS ON SOFA). Diga spjegajtlek kollox - peress li dan il-film li ser jghamel għandu x'jaqsam ma Karnival fuq is-silg, ried jarek proprju fil-post fejn ser isir il-film, halli jara x'effett tagħmel int fuq is-silg - jidhirli jiena li għandu ragun (NOT TOO SURE). M'hux veru?
- PEGGY - Mela le!
- ALAN - Mela le! (DRAWS HER TO HIM).
- PEGGY - Imisna nergghu mmorru darb'ohra għal-gost, mhux biex niltaqghu man-nies.
- ALAN - Veru - hekk imisna nghanlu.
- PEGGY - Forsi darb'ohra nitghallew nis-skija.
- ALAN - Ghala le!
- PEGGY - Dnub li kellna noqghodu gewwa il-hin kollu.
- ALAN - Dags kemm kien temp ikrah - imma inti id-divertejt xorta (BUZZER).
- PEGGY - Qed icemplu minn isfel.
- ALAN - Jiena ma smajt xojn.
- PEGGY - Forsi jridu lili.
- ALAN - Jekk iridu lilek, icemplulek hawn?
- PEGGY - Ma jafux li jiena dejjem hawn?

ALAN - (INTO PHONE). Iva, min? Buddy, x'homm - issa? (LOOKS AT PEGGY). Iva, iva, mola le, hekk li daqshokk importanti - fejn liema hu il-flet tiegħi - (HANGS UP). Hija iz-zghir.

PEGGY - Ahjar immur mola.

ALAN - Tibzax, irid jitle sebgha zulari - fadlilna minuta ohra.

PEGGY - (ELUDING HIM). Jiena rrid immur inbidel - tahseb li jdum hemm?

ALAN - Nehles minnu mil-oktar fiss li nistgha.

PEGGY - Ghax ma titlax int?

ALAN - M'hux ahjar tinzol int?

PEGGY - Tajjeb - sahha Alan.

ALAN - Sahha Connie (EMBRACING HER).

PEGGY - PEGGY!

ALAN - X'inhu?

PEGGY - Peggy! Din it-tiolet darba li ghajjatli Connie.

ALAN - Jiena ma ghidt Connie, ghidt Honey!

PEGGY - Tassew?

(ALAN OPENS DOOR, SHE SMILES AND EXITS - DOORBELL RINGS)

ALAN - (OFF STAGE). Ghaddi, il-bieb miftuh.

(BUDDY BANSER, HIS YOUNGER BROTHER ENTERS)

BUDDY - X'homm Alan? Ghandek x'tegħmel?

ALAN - (OFF STAGE). Le, le, idhol. (RE-ENTERS). X'garalek? (SEES SUITCASE). Homm x'ghandek?

BUDDY - Il-pyjama, xkupilja tas-snin, u il-kumplement. (PUTS SUITCASE DOWN).

ALAN - Qed ticcajtja!

BUDDY - Le m'inhix.

ALAN - Jigifieri tlaqt? (BUDDY NODS). Għal dejjem?

BUDDY - Gibt tmien pari peduni - għaliya dak ifisser għal dejjem.

ALAN - Imma għadni ma nistghax nifhem. Jigifieri hrabt mid-dar?

BUDDY - Ihux b'saqajja - b'taxi.

ALAN - Bis-serjeta? Trid tghidli li hija ic-ckejkien fl-ahhar harab mill-habs?

BUDDY - Inti ilek tghidli, hux tassew?

ALAN - Iva, imma kull darba li kont interreflek xi haga, kont tghidli li għad ma wesalx il-mument. Għaliex ma ghidtlx, lili?

- BUDDY - Meta ridtni nghidlek? Min-nhar il-hamis li ghadda ma rajnikx l-ufficcju.
- ALAN - Isma, il-papa qal xi haga ghax ilu ma jarani min-nhar il-hamis?
- BUDDY - L-ufficcju le - imma id-dar ma jghanilx hlief isabbat - sahsitra waqqa il-fanal ta' l-intrata - u int fejn kont?
- ALAN - Vermont.
- BUDDY - Mort tis-skija?
- ALAN - Ma tul il-gurnata biss.
- BUDDY - Jiena ma nafx kif jirnexxilek. Jekk jien nidhol minuta wara id-disgha, izomni il-papa....u id-dar jaghtini niekol inqas.
- ALAN - Imma dak ghax lilok iridek tahdem. Hu dejjem jghid li jiena ma nahdimx, allura, biex ma mmerichx, jiena ma nahdimx.
- BUDDY - Int ahjar minni - ghall-anqas ma jittrattakx bhal-tarbija - inti tistgha tkollmu.
- ALAN - Ahna mhux nitkollmu - ahna nghoddu lill xulxin.
- BUDDY - Imma dejjem ahjar minn kif jittratta lili. Dal-lejl dhalt id-dar fit-tlieta ta' filghodu - M'hommx bzonn nghidlek li na hax gost. X'hin ghaddejt minn quddiem il-bieb tal-kanra tieghu, beda jiddi bhas-serduq - Cock-a-doodle-do.
- ALAN - Tassew? U int x'ghidtlu?
- BUDDY - X'ridtni nghidlu? X'taqd nirrispondih bhal fellus, imma naqasni il-kurragg.
- ALAN - M'ghandnix xi nghidu, ir-ragel spirituz.
- BUDDY - Inbaghad, il-bierah ghelaqt smieni - wicched u ghoxrin sena.
- ALAN - Hi, daz-zgur - jiddispjacini li na kontx id-dar Buddy - Happy Birthday (SHAKES HAND).
- BUDDY - Grazzi.
- ALAN - U l-anqas tajtek rigal.
- BUDDY - Ibazax, xorta id-dubbajtu r-rigal. Minn ghand il-mama u l-papa.
- ALAN - U x'kion dan ir-rigal?
- BUDDY - Party - il-mama, il-papa u l-hbieb taghhom il-Klingers.
- ALAN - Dawn min huma?
- BUDDY - Familja li ltaqghu maghhom is-sena l-ohra meta siefriu.
- ALAN - Imma inti tafhon?
- BUDDY - Le - ma tistghax tifhem ghalfojn stidnuhom?
- ALAN - Ghandhom tifla!
- BUDDY - Ghandhom tifla - Mhix sabiha, imma genju! U libbsuha mill-isbah!

- ALAN - Ahsbu li Dior jista jghina biex tinghogob!
- BUDDY - Izda ghal xejn - u ghaddjet il-lejla tal-birthday tieghi nhares lejn tfajla tibla c-cikkulatini.
- ALAN - Pacenzja!
- BUDDY - Is-sitwazzjoni sejra għall-għar. Ifittixli fil-kxaxen u fl-armorji - jissemmgħali - jiena ma nafx x'għamilt, imma nahlef li ser jgħamilli xi wahda.
- ALAN - Semplici hafna - jibza li inti ser tgħamel dak li għamilt jien.
- BUDDY - U jien hekk għamilt. Ili il-gurnata shieha nahseb fuqha - u fl-aħhar tlaqt.
- ALAN - Bravu, ma stajtx tagħmel aħjar - li ma kontx għalaqt il-wiehed u ghoxrin sena kont natik bewsa.
- BUDDY - (WORRIED). Imma inti tahseb li jien għamilt sewwa?
- ALAN - B'daqshekk, x'għamilt? Ma sraqt lil hadd, hux tassew? Mort toqghod ftit il-bogħod minnhom. Int għadek taħden hux?
- BUDDY - Nahseb li anke hemm ser ikolna xi ngħidu.
- ALAN - X'jigifieri?
- BUDDY - Ser intik qagħta meta ngħidlek, qed nahseb biex nitlaq mill-business.
- ALAN - Tassew?!
- BUDDY - M'inhix kuntent Alan - jiena m'inhix bħalek - inti tingħala hafna, jiena ma naf xejn.
- ALAN - Imma dak għax għad ma għandekx esperjenza bizzozjed.
- BUDDY - Le, mhux għalhekk. Ma tinteressaniex. Hemm miljuni ta' affarijiet ohra qed jigru fid-dinja f'dawn iz-znionijiet - pajjizi godda qed jitwiieldu - qed inlestu biex nibgħatu n-nies fil-qamar - jiena ma nistgħax ninterressa ruhi fil-fjuri tax-xena.
- ALAN - Għala le? B'kollox tistgħa taqla l-flus.
- BUDDY - Inti iwa, jiena le - imma inti qatt ma tkun hemm - inti tigri l'hawn u l'hinn, tiltaqgħa man-nies - bniedmin bħalek u bhali - imma jiena qiegħed taħt is-saqaf, inhares lejn tuffieħ, langas u pruna tal-gebel - qatt ma jutilfu il-kulur, qatt ma jithassru, jibgħqu dejjen xorta.
- ALAN - (FOLLOWS). Imma taf għaliex tahseb hekk? Għax qatt ma kollek ic-chance taqta il-ktajjen - ma tul il-gurnata kollox sew - imma bil-lejl, ohrog u duq il-frott vera tal-hajja, Buddy, mhux frott tax-xena.
- BUDDY - Iwa għandek ragun.
- ALAN - Imma issa dan spicca kollu, le?
- BUDDY - Min jaf (LOOKS AT HIS WATCH). Ftit minuti ohra

- ALAN - X'jigifieri?
- BUDDY - Il-papa jasal id-dar bhal issa.
- ALAN - Mela inti na ghedtflux li ser titlaq?
- BUDDY - Le.
- ALAN - Ghaliex? Bzajt?
- BUDDY - U kif? Dawn l-ahhar ftit granet li na kontx hean int, kien qed jahtaf lil kulhadd. Imbghad, na ridtx intih dispjacir. Veru li huwa rasu iebes u jahseb l-antika - imma qalbu tajba.
- ALAN - Iva, iva, vera.
- BUDDY - Hallejtu l-ufficcju u mort id-dar kmieni - umbghad ktiebtlu ittra twila, spjegajtlu kif nahsiba, u poggejtilu fuq is-sodda. Ghada fil-ghodu, nispera li nkun nistgha nfehemu sewwa - x'jidhirlek?
- ALAN - Jidhirli li ser tghamel zball - Hekk jew hekk, inti issa tlaqt - tridx niehdu grok biex niccelebraw?
- BUDDY - (SITS ON SOFA). Mela le!
- ALAN - Whisky?
- BUDDY - Iva - bil-ginger ale!
- ALAN - Kif? Ara li na jghanillekx id-deni - (MIXES DRINKS). Bil-haqq, il-mana x'qalet?
- BUDDY - Inkwetat ruhha hafna. Inti taf li ghalija l-aktar haga importanti fil-hajja hija, kwiet u paci fil-familja.
- ALAN - U l-indafa fl-appartement.
- BUDDY - (SMILES). U l-indafa fl-appartement.
- ALAN - U kif inhu il-luzew tal-Mobbli Antiki?
- BUDDY - Is-salott? Is-salott ghadu nghaluq ghal-publiku.
- ALAN - Jiena qatt na dhalt go fih dak il-salott.
- BUDDY - Iva dhalt. Ix-shades tal-lampi ilhom nghottijin bic-cellophaol dawn l-ahhar ghoxrin sena.
- ALAN - (PLACING DRINKS ON COFFEE TABLE). Iva, ara naf - imma lili na hallitnix nidhol fieh aktar ghax tfejt sigarett fl-ashtray. (SITS L. OF BUDDY).
- BUDDY - Inti taf il-vera raguni ghaliex tlaqt mid-dar? Ghaliex narridx niehu aktar halib u cake bil-wiefqa hdejn is-sink tal-keina - ghax irrid noqghod bil-qieghda fuq siggu u nickol bhan-nies!
- ALAN - Imma trid tibda bil-mod il-mod. Ibda biex thalli il-glekk indendel mal-pun tal-bieb, imbghad ibda zid ftit, ftit.... per eżempju titlaq il-peduni fl-art.
- BUDDY - Kenn ser niehu gost hawn, ahna it-tnejn wahidna. (HE LOOKS AROUND). Taf li ghandek flat sabih hux?

- ALAN - Iva, daqsxejn ghali, imma trid thallas ghall-ambjent ukoll.
- BUDDY - Bil-haqq, kont ser ninsa - konna ghandi nati?
- ALAN - Ta' hiex?
- BUDDY - Tal-kera - na noqghodx hawn jekk na inhallasx seri.
- ALAN - Tajjeb, tajjeb. Tini tletin dollaru.
- BUDDY - Mela qed ticcajtja? Dal-post iqua fern aktar minn sittin dollaru.
- ALAN - Jiena daqshekk irrid minn ghandek - meta ix-xih izidlek il-paga, ghatini aktar.
- BUDDY - Tajjeb ghal-issa. Imma rrid li naqsmu kollox - l-ickel, il-gas, l-eletrriku, kollox - f'tehenna?
- ALAN - (CROSSES RTO BUDDY, BRINGING A DRINK). F'tehenna - hawn ha - ghandek it-tini seventy five cents - (RAISING HIS GLASS). Evviva, bis-sahha ta' l-ahwa Baker. Il-holna qed issir realta. Kif inhu, tajjeb?
- BUDDY - (NOT VERY HAPPY). Mhux bhal tas-soltu.
- ALAN - (PHONE RINGS). Di zgur xi tfajla sabiha - (PHONE RINGS AGAIN - PICKS UP PHONE). Hello - x'henn na? (TO BUDDY). Il-mama - (INTO PHONE). Kif inti, gioia tieghi? Konna qieghdin nitkellnu fughek - iva, xi ghaxar minuti ilu. Tajjeb hafna - da zgur li ser nichu hsiebu - mela le, qalbi. (HOLDS PHONE ON TO BUDDY). Id-direttur tal-Muzew.
- BUDDY - (CROSSES L. TAKES PHONE ANXIOUSLY AND SITS ON SOFA - ALAN GOES TO BAR TO REFILL). X'henn, na? Kif inti? Tajjeb, tajjeb, le ghadni na kioltx - na nafx, insib xi restaurant hawn fil-vicin - na - il-papa qraha l-it ra? Ghadu l-ufficcju. (ALAN CROSSES TO SOFA - BUDDY BREATHES A LITTLE EASIER). X'inhu - le, na, marridekx tahbiha l-ittra - jiena rridu jaqraha - x'ghidli?
- ALAN - X'gara?
- BUDDY - Naf, na, hokk ser ikun ghar imma jiena na nistghaxisa isngha mama le, le mama
- ALAN - Qed tibki?
- BUDDY - (NODS). Qed tibki! (BACK INTO PHONE). Iva ik-kalma, na ... le, na, na tistghax iggelni nghanel dan.
- ALAN - Xi tridek tghanel? Tnur id-dar?
- BUDDY - (JUMPING UP). Le, na, tqattahhix l-ittra - le, na, na nigix id-dar.
- ALAN - (CROSSING D. R. IN FRONT OF TABLE). Halli inkollimha jien.
- BUDDY - Na, taqtahhix l-ittra!
- ALAN - (REACHING FOR THE PHONE). Tini t-telefon.
- BUDDY - (TURNS AWAY). Stenna ftit Alan. (BACK INTO PHONE). Tajjeb nama, hallini nahsibha - iva, nerge ncompillek - aktar tard - iva, nipromettilek - imma tqattahhix l-ittra - sahha (HANGS UP).

- ALAN → Xi trid taħsibha?
- BUDDY - Il-papa cempilla ftit ilu mill-ufficcju - beda iwerzaq u jghajjat ghax xi klient inkwetat għalik - kollekk tilitaqa miegħu illum u na mortx.
- ALAN - (TURNS FRONT). Issa qed niftakar! Mr Meltzer - insejt.
- BUDDY - Insomma, il-mama tibza li meta jkun jaf li jiena tlaqt jiggemen.
- ALAN - Tibzax - haga wahda na għandix x'taqsan na l-ohra - issa infemmu kollox.
- BUDDY - Miskina il-mama, hi ser tbatu - int taf x'jigifieri meta jgħamel xenata.
- ALAN - Allura, issa x'nistgħu nghanlu?
- BUDDY - Na nafx. Forsi ahjar nergħa immur id-dar (PICKS UP COAT AND SUITCASE).
- ALAN - Tergħa tmur? Il għala?
- BUDDY - Ghax għanda tehel il-mama għal dak li nghanlu ahna.
- ALAN - (FOLLOWS TO L. OF BUDDY). Na nafx - n'inhix jien li thalt fit-tlieta ta' fil-ghodu.
- BUDDY - Ghidli, x'ser nagħmel?
- ALAN - U isa, kun raġel - qum fuq tiegħek. Issa għalaqt il-wiehed u ghoxrin sena (TAKES HIS SUITCASE AND COAT AND PUTS THEM BY U.R. END OF SOFA).
- BUDDY - Jigifieri ninsa kollox?
- ALAN - (CROSSES TO HIM). BUDDY, meta ser tibda tgawdi ftit il-hajja? Meta ikollekk hamsa w sittin sena tistrieħ mix-xogħol, imma it-tfajliet issa tridhom.
- BUDDY - Jiena naf dak li trid tgħid, u naqbel miegħek, jiena rrid nitlaq - il-papa li na jaqbilx nagħna.
- ALAN - Buddy, jiena nifhem. Imma hu na jistgħax jifhem li il-hajja tbiddlet - in-negozju tiegħu na tbiddel qatt - int tbiddilt - int il-lum għandek wiehed u ghoxrin sena - int raġel - qum fuq tiegħek u uri li inti raġel.
- BUDDY - (LOOKS AT ALAN A MOMENT THEN SHRUGS). Nahseb nahseb li għandek raġun.
- ALAN - Allura tibqa?
- BUDDY - (NODS). Iva għala le?
- ALAN - (PUTS ARM AROUND HIM). Bravu, issa naf li inti hija - ara mur poggji hwejgħek fil-kantra tas-sodda.
- BUDDY - Zgur li n'ibhix ser infixklek jow xi haga? (PICKING UP HIS COAT AND SUITCASE STARTS UPSTAGE).
- ALAN - L-anqas xejn. Ikollna niftemmu xi ftit - qed nistenna tfajla xi ftit minuti ohra.

- BUDDY - Tfejla? Ghax na ghidtlx mill-ewwel? Meta trid tibqa wahdek ghidli - dejjem nistgha mnur it-talkies.
- ALAN - Tikkonfondix - hekk nibqghu sejrin homm, tnur it-talkies kuljum. (DOORBELL). Qed tisma'? Waslet ghaxar minuti qabel il-waqt - (DOORBELL). Gej! Gej! (LIVINGS UP ON FOYER TO DOOR).
- BUDDY - Ser inpoggi hwejgi hawn gew u nohrog. (GOES INTO BEDROOM U. L.).
- ALAN - Stenna, irridek tarha l-ewwel. (CROSSES TO DOOR). Lest biex tiehu degheza? (HE OPENS THE DOOR A CRACK AS HE SAYS), u it-tielet xewqa tieghi hija li meta niftah il-bieb insib l-isbah tfajla tad-dinja! (HE MOTIONS BUDDY TO COME OUT OF BEDROOM, OPENS THE DOOR, THERE STANDS HIS FATHER). Papa! X'henn pa ... x'sorpriza sabieha kif int?
- FATHER - Kif jien? Xi darba nghidlek - (CONTINUES HIS INSPECTION).
- ALAN - Ghandi xi ftit nobbli godda - jghogbuk?
- FATHER - U hekk ... u hekk ... tidher li qed id-dahhal xi sold gnielhu - (SNIFES WHISKY GLASS).
- ALAN - Ghadni kif dhalt - kont ser incempillek.
- FATHER - Kenn itihom x'jaghmlu lil operators.
- ALAN - Ridt nispjegalek xi grali - ghaliex na gejtx l-ufficcju dawn l-ahhar jumejn.
- FATHER - Ma hemmx ghalfejn tispjega.
- ALAN - Iva, pa, hemm ghalfejn.
- FATHER - L-ghala? Jiena naf ghaliex - inti tahdem hafna ghal-jumejn, allura ghandek bzonn tistrieħ il-hames tijem l-ohra - mhux hekk?
- ALAN - Ara, n'inhix ser nigdeb - mort Vermont ghal li skiing, u ridt nerggħa lura il-hadd fil-ghaxija, imma lwojt sieqi u ma stajtx insuq il-car - hsibt li ksirte ukoll - jiddispjacini tassew.
- FATHER - Jiddispjacik - aktar minn hekk ma nistennix.
- ALAN - L-ewwel haga ghada fil-ghodu, tarani l-ufficcju.
- FATHER - B'xara tajba - tiftakar l-indirizz hux?
- ALAN - Iva niftakru.
- FATHER - Jiena dejjem għadt li int intelligenti - allura, narak ghada fil-ghodu.
- ALAN - (STARTS UPSTAGE). Tajjeb!
- FATHER - (DOESN'T MOVE). Bil-haqq - kif bqajt na Mr Meltzer?
- ALAN - Mr Meltzer?
- FATHER - Iva, Mr Meltzer, dak li kellu jghanillek dik l-ordni kbira, tiftakar?
- ALAN - Eh, iva niftakar, dak?kollox sew

- FATHER - Kollox sew? Il-lun gie l-ufficcju.
- ALAN - Ghalfejn gie?
- FATHER - Ma tistghax taqta?
- ALAN - Ma ghamilhix l-ordni?
- FATHER - Bravu! Qtajt! Ma ghamel xejn! Buffun! (POINTS TO HIM SHARPLY).
- ALAN - Iva, stenna ftit
- FATHER - Kif mort il-weekend? (CROSSING TO HIM EACH "BUM" IS A SHARP POINT). Taf kema tqum meta tnur tis-skija ghal-erbgha tijien? Tliet telef dollaru kull jum! Buffun!
- ALAN - Ipprovajt incenpilluu- ma stajtx naqbad. Halli nipprova issa - nispegalek kollox. (SITS ON SOFA AND KICKS UP PHONE).
- FATHER - Fejn ser iccenpillu?
- ALAN - Fejn joqghod, Atlantic City.
- FATHER - Ma ghidtlekx li qieghod hawn? Qieghed l-Hotel Croyden - ilu hawn jumejn jistenna lilek waqt li inti kont qed tiddeverti fuq is-silg.
- ALAN - Wipromettilek, papa - ma nitlifix l-ordni.
- FATHER - Ghalfejn qed twieghed. Din na kienetx l-ewwel ordni li tlifna - tridix nurik il-lista?
- ALAN - Ma stajtx nigi lura qabel, ghidtlek ghaliex - u na kontx qed niddeverti fuq is-silg.
- FATHER - Le? Mela forsi kont qed tilghab it-tennis, jew mort tibbordja, jew bqajt rieqed jew tixrob mat-tfajliet.
- ALAN - Mhux veru - taf li jiena inqatta hafna znien l-ufficcju.
- FATHER - Qattajt sentejn - fi znien sitt snien li ilok fil-business, hdint sentejn biss - (LOOKS AT HIM - TURNS). Ibni! Aktar insib ghaajnuna mill-barranin.
- ALAN - Ghala le? Jekk inti tittrattani bhal barrani?
- FATHER - Jien nittrattak bhal-barrani? Min jidhol ghax-xoghol fil-hdax ta' fil-ghodu? Min jiehu tliet sghat biex inur jiekol? Mela inti qatt tkun l-ufficcju. Int ghalik il-granet kolla festi.
- ALAN - Gieli na nkunx niflah.
- FATHER - Meta gejt ghax-xoghol na kontx tiflah, imma meta na kontx tiflah, mort tisfen. (TURNS L. IMITATING DANCING).
- ALAN - L-ewwel haga mhux veru, it-tieni x'nigi nagmel? Int na ghandekx bzonna-- qatt na titlobni il-pariri tieghi fuq ix-xoghol.
- FATHER - Int na tifhem f'xejn - int fis-sfin tifhem.
- ALAN - Qed tara? L-anqas biss tisnghani na trid.

- FATHER - (SITS SOFA, R. END). Ibda biex tidhol kmieni ghax-xoghol - Imbaghad nisma.
- ALAN - (CROSSES L. TO HIM). L-ewwel tliet snin dejjem dhalt fil-hin - dak iz-zmien kont zgħir wisq biex tiehu il-parir tiegħi - u issa ghax għandi il-flaṭ tiegħi, jiena "buffun" allura ma tismagħnix xorta - l-ghassa ta' bil-lejl tittrattah ahjar minni.
- FATHER - Għal-anqas dak naf bil-lejl fejn ikun.
- ALAN - U anki jien taf fejn inkun. Qed niddeverti - b'daqshekk? Dak li nagħmel bil-lejl ma hi affari ta' hadt.
- FATHER - Il-lejl tiegħek idum erbgha tjiem shah - (RISES AND CROSSES R. OF ALAN TO D.R.C. CHAIR). Għamel li trid - jekk trid tghix ta' buffun min hu siedek?
- ALAN - Għaliex qed tghidli buffun?
- FATHER - Inti mizzewweg?
- ALAN - Le.
- FATHER - Mela inti buffun!
- ALAN - Iva aghatini chance - mandumx ma nizzewweg.
- FATHER - (CROSSING L. TO HIM). Is-snien ilni nisimgħek tghid hekk - meta kollek 26, 27, 28 anke 29, u għadek ghazeb - imma issa għalaqt it-tletin u għadek ma z-zewwigtx - mela inti buffun, dak kollox.
- ALAN - Mela wara it-tletin ma tistgħax tizzewweg? Jiena kull ma rrid huwa li niddeverti ftit, bħal kull għvni li huwa b'sahhtu u normali.
- FATHER - B'sahhtek int, normali le!
- ALAN - X'jigifieri?
- FATHER - Hares lejn huk! Dak normali! Dak it-tifel għad jilhaq. Dak ma jkunx bħalek, l-anqas jekk jghaddu mitt sena.
- ALAN - (CROSSES TO R. END OF SOFA AND LEANS AGAINST BACK). Hekk tahseb? Ogħhod attent, ghax jistgħa jghamillek xi surprisa!
- FATHER - Le, jiena cert minnu. Jidhol ghax-xoghol fil-hin, jahdem il-gurnata kolla - le, ma għandix ghax ninkweta ruhhi fuqu (FRONT).
- ALAN - Qrajthom l-ittri tiegħek dan l-ahhar?
- FATHER - (TURNS). Għaliex?
- ALAN - Għal xejn!
- FATHER - (CROSSES U. TO R. END OF FOYER STEPS, NOT ON). Ara, nispic-cawa - għada fil-ghodu fit-tmienja nistennik l-ufficju.
- ALAN - (CROSSES UP TO L. OF HIM). Fit-tmienja? Lit-tmienja ma jkun hemm hadt.
- FATHER - Ikun hemm int - u tkun hemm il-granet kolla, inclus is-sibt, il-vaganzi, u il-birthdays - gbajt inkun il-papa - mill-lum il-quddiem jien il-principal.

ALAN - Tajjeb, imma li nigi fit-tmienja stupida - sad-disgha ma jkolli x'naghmel xejn.

FATHER - Inti mhux tilghab il-pacenzja il-gurnata kolla? Ibda siegha qabel. (CROSSING UP TO FOYER).

ALAN - Tajjeb - naghmel li trid int.

FATHER - (TURNS AND POINTS). Bl-ordni ta' Mr Meltzer - jekk ma ggibix lesta u iffirmata tistgha tmur tfittex ix-xoghol fuq il-kamp ta' li ski - (GESTURING).

ALAN - Nipprova. Naghmel mill-ahjar.

FATHER - L-ahjar tieghek mhux bizzejjed. Minn ghandek irrid miraklu!

ALAN - Tajjeb.

FATHER - Il-gurnata li huk isir bhalek, immur naqbes minn fuq is-sur - (AND WITH THAT HE EXITS).
(AS FRONT DOOR SLAMS - BUDDY COMES RUSHING OUT OF THE BEDROOM IN A STATE OF SHOCK)

BUDDY - (CROSSES R. TO L. OF ALAN). Smajtu? Jien ghidtlek, ghidtulek kollu dan.

ALAN - (CROSSES L. TO PHONE - SITS). X'hotel semma? Il-Croyden?

BUDDY - (FOLLOWS TO L.) Issa tara x'jaghmel meta jaqra l-ittra, jispara ghal-rasu zgur. Imbaghad joqtol lilna. Bhal li stejjer li naqraw fil-gazzetti - Alan tghini it-telefon.

ALAN - (HE DIALS 411). Stenna ftit, bil-mod. L-ewwel irrid inkellom lil Meltzer.

BUDDY - (SWINGS AWAY R.). U hallini minn Meltzer - irrid inkellen lil nana qabel ma jasal id-dar. Irridha tqatta l-ittra. (TURNS CROSSES L. TO ALAN).

ALAN - Bil-mod, bil-mod. M'hu ser joqtol lil hadt qabel ma jiekol, sadattant jien nirranga kollox.

BUDDY - X'ser taghmel?

ALAN - Ingieghol lil Meltzer jaghtina l-ordni.

BUDDY - U jekk ma jirnexxilekx?

ALAN - Jirnixxili tibzax. Hu gie New York ghax jien wioghedtu li naghti party ghalih. (DIALS NUMBER).

BUDDY - Kamm ghazilt zmien hazin biex nitlaq mid-dar - dak ser joqtol lil kulhadd - (STARTS TO GO IL L.). Jien ser nerggħa lura.

ALAN - (RISES AND STOPS HIM). Jekk tohrog minn dak il-bieb, ma terghax tidhol hawn gow.

BUDDY - (COMING BACK L.). Iva Alan ghax ma tghinix ftit?

ALAN - (INTO PHONE). Mr Martin Meltzer, hekk jogħbok - grazzi. (TO BUDDY). Jien mhux nghinek qieghed insalvak. Ilek sentejn tahsiba - jekk terghax lura, din id-darba tiehu hamsa. (INTO PHONE AND RISES CROSSES L. OF COFFEE TABLE). Hello?

ALAN - Mr Meltzer? X'hemm, jiena Alan Baker. Fejn Kont? Kont pajjizek - hadt zball, hzibt li ridtni niggi jien - da zgur li it-tfajliet kienu nieghi

BUDDY - (D. R.). Int nignun!

ALAN - (COVERS PHONE QUICKLY). Bizzejjed! (BACK INTO PHONE). X'inhu? Allura ma tistghax taur lura ghada fil-ghodu? Fejn insib it-tfajliet? Qieghdin hawn, hdejja.

BUDDY - (YELLS). Fejn?

ALAN - (COVERS PHONE AGAIN QUICKLY). Ser insakkrek fil-kabinett! (BACK INTO PHONE. BUDDY CROSSES U.R. OF FOYER STEPS). X'inhu? Iva, dik kienet wahda mit-tfajliet li snajt - Helwa? (HE LAUGHS TURNS HEAD SLIGHTLY FROM PHONE). Honey, irid jaf intix helwa ... Mr Meltzer, inti qatt rajt tfajla kerha fin-night clubs - iva, mela ma jigux - kamra No 326 - nofs siegħa? Inti lesti ix-xorb jew ingiblek lil min jixrob. (HE LAUGHS A PHONY LAUGH INTO THE PHONE AND HANGS UP). Kenn nobghod nghanilhon dawn l-affarijiet. (HE PICKS UP BOOK AND THUMBS THROUGH IT QUICKLY SITS SOM).

BUDDY - Ma hawn hadt bhalek - kuljum sejjer hekk? (SITS R. END FOYER STEPS).

ALAN - Kwazi. (READING FROM BOOK). Mizzewga....mizzewga.....imsiefra (FINDS SOMETHING). Ah, hawn ahna! Chickie Parker!

BUDDY - Chickie Parker?

ALAN - Nassigurak li il-vera Chickie! (INTO PHONE). X'hemm, sbejha tieghi! Iva, jien, Alan. (RISES STEPS L.). Ma stajtx ruhi, issa ghadni nasal, bl-ajruplan xi siegħa ilu - li Zvizzera - li speċjalista ta' hemm qalli li jekk ma narakx sa nofs siegħa ohra immut....iva, il-lejla, habib tieghi għandu party, iva min tghana hafna....isna, il-franciza għanda x'tagħmel il-lejla? Tajjeb, iva, gibha ukoll - le, jiena na nistghax niggi għalikom, niltaqghu hemm - Hotel Croyden, Kamra No 326. Jismu Marty Meltzer - tajjeb - narak aktar tard - (HE HANGS UP - LOOKS QUIZZICALLY AT PHONE). Violet!

BUDDY - (HE IS FLABBERGASTED). U jien domt tliet xhur biex insib tfajla għal-ballu ta' l-iskola.

ALAN - Issa ahjar immur. (BUZZER RINGS). Issa min inqala? (HE CROSSES QUICKLY TO PHONE AND SPEAKS). Hello? Min? (BIG SURPRISE). Connie! X'inti tagħmel hawn? Mela le, ejja iva, issa stess. (HE HANGS UP). Proprju il-lejla kella tigi? (STEPS DOWNSTAGE).

BUDDY - (RISES, CROSSES). Min kien?

ALAN - Tfajla.

BUDDY - Ohra? Tielha hawn?

ALAN - (HALF TO HIMSELF, CROSSES D.R. OF SOFA). Ma kienx imissha giet lura qabel ghada. Issa dan hin li tigi.

BUDDY - (FOLLOWS R. OF HIM). Ghax għadtila titala?

ALAN - Ghax din nhix tfajla bhal l-ohrajn - nihix bhal..... insomma, din differenti.

- BUDDY - Jigifieri li dina bis-serjeta?
- ALAN - (CROSSES D. L.). Min semma serjeta? Ghidtlek biss li hija differenti.
- BUDDY - X'ferha jiehdu id-dar jekk inti tizzewweg.
- ALAN - (CROSSES R. OF L.). Nizzewweg? Jien? Mela qed tiggennen?
- BUDDY - Ghax jiena hsibt peress li inti ghidt "differenti".
- ALAN - Hafna differenti imma ghadni nahsiba - issa inti mur - irrid narha wahdi.
(DOORBELL RINGS)
- BUDDY - Oh. (STARTS UPSTAGE FOR THE DOOR).
- ALAN - (STOPS HIM, SHOWS HIM R. TO KITCHEN). Hey, ohrog mill-kojna, hemm il-bieb tas-sefturi. Issa na ghandix zmien nintroducik - halli ftit minuti u erggha ejja.
- ALAN - (CROSSES QUICKLY TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT ABOUT AN INCH AND SAYS ALOUD). U l-akbar xewqa tiegħi hija li meta niftah ghajnejja nara l-isbah tfajla li hawn fuq wicc ta' dina l-art. (HE OPENS THE DOOR, TURNS AND LOOKS, CONNIE IS STANDING THERE, HOLDING A HAT BOX). U qtajt l-akbar xewqa tiegħi - ghaddi, sbejha tfajla! Kif inti?
- CONNIE - (CROSSES D. TO C.). Tajba hafna, issa li irgajt lura.
- ALAN - Ili ginghatejn shah nistenna dan il-mument - (HE TRIES TO GET CLOSER). Nehhi dik il-kaxxa minn idejk.
- CONNIE - (SHE PRESENTS IT TO HIM). Iftahha.
- ALAN - X'fiha?
- CONNIE - Rigal.
- ALAN - Ghalija? Ghaliex?
- CONNIE - (SHE SHRUGS). Kont dejjem nixtieqek niegħi.
- ALAN - Jiena ukoll, imma na xtrajtlekx rigal.
- CONNIE - Tinkwetax ruhhek - jigifieri li jiena xteqtek b'sebgha dollari aktar - issa iftahha (UNBUTTONS COAT).
- ALAN - (HE OPENS IT AND LOOKS IN BOX - HE IS OVERWHELMED). Connie! Il-kappell għal fuq is-silg! (HE TAKES IT OUT OF BOX).
- CONNIE - Mhux bhal dak li tlift?
- ALAN - Precis - (HE LOOKS INSIDE AT THE LABEL). Precis bhal dak li xtrajt mill-Isvizzera. Fittixt il-hwienet kolla u na sibtux - (PUTS BOX ON L. FIREPLACE CHAIR). Connie, int vera brava! Int biss stajt tahseb f'haga bhal din.
- CONNIE - (TURNS TO HAT). Xtaqt nixtrilek arlogg, imma na kellix flus bizzejjed.
- ALAN - Ejja l'hawn. (TAKES HER INTO HIS ARMS).

CONNIE - (COYLY). Issa ser thallasni.

ALAN - Grazzi fern, fern, fern. (KISSES HER).

CONNIE - M'hemmix innix. (ALAN MOVES TO EMBRACE HER - SHE BACKS AWAY L). Alan bizzejjed.

ALAN - Ghadni ma rringrazzjajtekx bizzejjed.

CONNIE - (CROSSES D. L. OF SOFA). Ghadni kif wasalt minn vjagg ta' mitt mil, go tren qadin - issa ghajjiena u bil-guh, u rrid nistrieħ.

ALAN - (STALKING HER). Iva aghtini bewsa wahda.

CONNIE - Le, Alan, mhux issa.

ALAN - Iva inzomma idejja wara dagħri.

CONNIE - Le Alan mhux issa. Ga ghidtlek ghajjiena hafna - jiena biss ridt narak qabel ma nintefa gos-sodda - nixtieq norqod għal xi hmistax il-gurnata.

ALAN - Thabat hafna?

CONNIE - Hafna!

ALAN - Meta jergħha jibda it-tono?

CONNIE - Huna jitolqu gingħatejn ohra.

ALAN - Huna? Inti le?

CONNIE - (SMILES). Jien le!

ALAN - Għaliex?

CONNIE - Ghax iddecidejt li nitlaq.

ALAN - Allura, għandek xi tono ieħor in vista?

CONNIE - M'inhix ser nibqa inkanta izjed.

ALAN - (LOOKS AT HER). Bis-serjeta?

CONNIE - (NODS). Għada ngħidlek kollox - le, campilli wara nofs inħar?

ALAN - (CROSSES L. TO C.). Stenna ftit - fehmi daqsxejn x'gara.

CONNIE - (AT R. END OF SOFA). Ma gara xejn.

ALAN - Ma gara xejn? Ser tittlef karriera u ma gara xejn?

CONNIE - (LAUGHS). Alan ruħi, x'karriera?

ALAN - X'jigifieri x'karriera? Inti tkanta hux hekk?

CONNIE - Insomma.

ALAN - Kif insomma? Kont sejra tajjeb tant, kellek hafna skritturi.

CONNIE - Nagħmel ir-reklami - sagħtejn shah ma tismax hliet reklami. Ma l-aħħar xagħar kont qed nagħmel reklam għax-zalzett tal-bottijiet - x'jidħirlek eh? Tkanta kanzunetta u liebsa ta' zalzetta.

- ALAN - M'ghandnix xi nghidu mihiex "My Fair Lady" - l-affarijiet m'humieq facili.
- CONNIE - Precisament - ghalhekk id-decidejt li nitlaq (BREAKS L.). Kieku kont naf li ser nirnexxi kont nibqa nistudja il-kant imma dan l-ahhar qtajt qalbi - speċjalment wara li intqajt mieghek. (SITS L. ARM OF SOFA).
- ALAN - Kulhadd jaqta qalbu xi mument jew iehor. Imma inti kellek karriera sabiha quddiemek.
- CONNIE - Karriera sabiha? Inki int darba ghidtli li ma kellix vuci biex inkanta.
- ALAN - Jiena ghidtlek li int ma kontx taf tkanta - imma ghandek personalita, u il-lum dik tghodd aktar minn hag'ohra.
- CONNIE - Insomma, issa dak li sar, sar.
- ALAN - Imma jiena ma nghistax nifmek. Ghaliex iddecidejt issa?
- CONNIE - (SITS L. OF HIM). Facili hafna - ghaliex ma ridtx inkun il-bogħod minnek aktar milli nistgha.
- ALAN - (WITHDRAWING SLIGHTLY, TURNS FRONT). Allura jekk dan hu li trid.
- CONNIE - Iva, dak li rrid - irrid li inkun nistgha narak u inkelmek x'hin irrid jien.
- ALAN - (GETTING A LITTLE JITTERY). Allura decisa?
- CONNIE - Għal kollox! Sa fl-ahhar!
- ALAN - (LOOKS AT HER). Imma issa x'ser tagħmel?
- CONNIE - (PAUSES, LOOKS AT HIM). Niddobba. Forsi naghmila ta' mudella jew segretarja - jew mara tad-dar.
- ALAN - X'inhu?
- CONNIE - Mara tad-dar - seftura li ma tmurx torqod id-dar.
- ALAN - (DEAD PAN). Eh, iva, iva - (LOOKS AT HIS WATCH). X'wahdadin, ara x'hin sar - (STARTS U.L.). Jiddispjacini imma ghandi appuntament fuq il-business. Incempillek aktar tard. (PICKS UP HER JACKET).
- CONNIE - Le, għadni ma spiccajtx - qatt ma smajt lin-nisa tad-dar?
- ALAN - Mela le, il-mama tiegħi.
- CONNIE - Iva, u Elizabeth Taylor ukoll - Alan, id-dawwarx id-diskors.
- ALAN - Connie ruhi, ara, dina haga serja - ejja nitkelmu fuqha darb'ohra. Issa ghandi bzonn nchrog - (HOLDS HER JACKET OUT FOR HER).
- CONNIE - F'daqqa wahda ftakart li ghandek appuntament - qed tipprova tiskarta.
- ALAN - Mhux veru - ahna mhux diga ddiskutejniha il-problema taz-zwieg.

- CONNIE - Ma kienux hliief promessi.
- ALAN - B'daqshekk? Ara Connie ruhi - int ghajjiena u jiena ghandi appuntament. (HOLDS JACKET OUT AGAIN).
- CONNIE - Fis-sebgha ta' fil-ghaxija?
- ALAN - M'ndumx. Sa l-ghaxra nkun lest.
- CONNIE - Alan jiena m'inhix xi tifla - fhimt kollox - ghandek appuntament ma tfajla!
- ALAN - Ghidtlek ghandi appuntament ma klient - wara kollox, inti ghada fil-ghodu kellek tasal.
- CONNIE - Issa qed nifhem ghalfejn dik il-premura tieghek biex nerga mmur fuq il-palk - issa kollox car.
- ALAN - X'inhu car?
- CONNIE - Mhux ghal-karriera tieghi kont qed tibza int, imma ghal tieghek.
- ALAN - Il-karriera tieghi?
- CONNIE - Iva, il-karriera ta' amorous - (GRABS JACKET AND CROSSES R.C.).
- ALAN - (CROSSES TO L. OF HER). Ghandek zball, taf li jiena mignun warajk.
- CONNIE - Iva, meta nkun mieghek - il-mument li nitlaq - issib lil haddiehor - kemm hu sew - timxi bil-hin - wahda tasal u ohra titlaq - (PUTTING JACKET ON).
- ALAN - M'intix qed tirraguna - jiena ma ghidtlekx li ma rridx nizzewweg - imma inti qieghda taggilni wisq.
- CONNIE - Ghax jien hsibt li inti kont thoss bhali - dawn l-ahhar sitt xhur
- ALAN - (CROSSES TO HER). Kienu sbieh ferm. Ghalhekk marridtx narhom jispicaw.
- CONNIE - Jispicaw? Mela inti tahseb li iz-zwieg joqtol l-imhabba.
- ALAN - Mhux hekk ridt nghid - Connie ifhimni - guvni ta' tlieta w tletin seana jistgha jkun li ghadu mhux lest ghaz-zwieg - jiena hekk nahsiba.
- CONNIE - Kieku kont verament thobbni ma kontx tahsiba hekk - ara, dana kollu kliem zejjed - jiena irrid decizjoni issa - irrid inkun naf fejn jien - inkella nitlaq u ma taranix izjed.
- ALAN - Ghax ma tridx thalli l-affarijiet sejrin kif inhuma? Fejn inti sejra. (SHE STARTS UPSTAGE TO GO).
- CONNIE - Ser intik chance tahsiba ftit.
- ALAN - Ma ghandix x'nahseb.
- CONNIE - Jigifieri id-decidejt?
- ALAN - (STAMMERING). Ma.....ma nistghax nizzewweg ghal issa.
- CONNIE - Kemm inti kattiv (STARTS TO GO).

- ALAN - Fejn inti sejra?
- CONNIE - Lura lejn il-lukanda.
- ALAN - Stenna ftit - it-tort huwa kollu tieghek, ma jmissekx ghaggilti daqshekk.
- CONNIE - Taghtix kas, ninsa jien ukoll - sahha. (SHE GOES BLOWING HIM A KISS).
- (DOORBELL RINGS - ALAN RUSHES TO IT - HE OPENS EXPECTANTLY, IT IS BUDDY)
- BUDDY - Dik it-tfajla li kienet hawn?
- ALAN - (REACHES IN CLOSET FOR TRENCH COAT). Int fejn mort?
- BUDDY - Mort isfel niekol sandwich - kemm hi helwa dik it-tfajla.
- ALAN - (GETS COAT FROM CLOSET). Ara tersaq lejn tfajliet bhal dik - inkwiet biss igibu. (STARTS PUTTING ON COAT).
- BUDDY - Kif mort mahha?
- ALAN - Tajjeb, tajjeb.
- BUDDY - Hsibt li giet l-ohra.
- ALAN - Liema l-ohra?
- BUDDY - Dik li toqghod fil-flat ta' fuqhek, li kont qed tistenna. Cempiltilha?
- ALAN - X'bicca grali! Peggy! Insejta! (CROSSES QUICKLY TO TELEPHONE, SITS, THROWING COAT OVER SOFA BACK). Il-lejla proprju ma nafx x'jien naghmel.
- BUDDY - Helwa daqs dik li harget?
- ALAN - Aktar - minghajr li svantaggi ta' l-ohra.
- BUDDY - Kemm qed niehu gost hawn mieghek - u dan kollu bi tletin dollaru biss - (SITS R.C. CHAIR).
- ALAN - (HANGS UP). Tassew, ahna ser naqsmu kollox. Trid tiltqa mahha? (CROSSES R. TO HIM).
- BUDDY - Ma min?
- ALAN - Mat-tfajla ta' l-appartament ta' fuq.
- BUDDY - (JUMPS UP). Jien? Qed ticcajta!
- ALAN - Le m'inhix niccajta - hekk jew hekk hija gejja hawn.
- BUDDY - Imma hi qed tistenna lilek - ma tarax li mhix ser tiehu gost ma tifel bhali.
- ALAN - Hi ghad ghandha tnejn u ghoxrin sena.
- BUDDY - Imma milli tidher ghandha hafna esperjenza - u jiena qiesni ghexx dejjem f'kunvent.
- ALAN - Isma minni, Buddy - issa tara kif tiggennen fuqhek.

- BUDDY - U hallini minnek. (CROSSING L. TO COFFEE TABLE R. END).
Le Alan, ara, marridtx niltaqa mahha.
- ALAN - (CROSSING L. TO HIM). Imma jien ma nistghax nifmek - din
avventura! Qiesek xi bniedem xih!
- BUDDY - Xih?
- ALAN - Da zgur - ara x'int liebes - ghaliex tifel ta' l-eta tieghek
ghandu jilbes libsa sewda?
- BUDDY - Dik mhux sewda - Griza skura.
- ALAN - Insomma qiesek xi bokkamort.
- BUDDY - Tajjeb, ghada nixtri libsa bajda.
- ALAN - Dan il pjacir qed naghmlu ghax inti hija z-zghir.
- BUDDY - Jiena mhux ghax marridtx, imma il-lejla kont ser noqghod nara
it-television - inti ma tinteressax ruhek x'qed isir fid-dinja?
- ALAN - Jien qed ninteressa ruhi fik - jaqaw tibza?
- BUDDY - Iva, u le, - jiena w int ma ghandnix l-istess idea kif
wiehed jiddeverti - jien jekk tfajla tohodli b'idi, nghid li jien
iffortunat.
- ALAN - Iva qed nitolbok biex taghmel pjacir lili.
- BUDDY - (LOOKS AT HIM). Naghmillek pjacir?
- ALAN - Iva, ghax naf li fl-ahhar qed naghmel xi haga ghalik, xi haga li
anqas missierek ma jaghmillek.
- BUDDY - (FRONT). Nisthajjel!
- ALAN - Imma ahna hbieb, hux tassew Buddy? Allura ser taghmilli dan il-
pjacir? Xi tghid Buddy?
- BUDDY - (TO HIM). Insomma.....hux hekk trid....tajjeb.
- ALAN - Grazi hafna (BUDDY SHRUGS - ALAN CROSSES L. TO PHONE, SITS AND
DIALS - BUDDY CROSSES R.). Issa tara, tikkondondix biex
tkellimha, halliha titkellem hi (HUMS "IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN"
INTO PHONE). Hello.....Peggy?.....Le, le, stenna ftit. (HE
RISES). Ghandi ahbar tajba w hazina - jien ghandi bzonn nohrog
.....iva ndum....appuntament tal-business....issa l-ahbar it-
tajba - wasal.....qieghed hawn.....Manheim!
- BUDDY - (AT COUNTER R. - TURNS). Min?
- ALAN - (INTO PHONE). Oscar Manheim, id-direttur tal-M.G.M.
- BUDDY - (RUNS L. OF C.). X'inhu?
- ALAN - Kif tlaqt int - ser jorqod hawn....Irid jiltaqa mieghek.
- BUDDY - Jiena sejjer. (POINTS TO DOOR).
- ALAN - (INTO PHONE). Iva, issa....iva kellimtu fuqhek. X'inhu?
Ghaxar minuti? Tajjeb.....le, m'ghandekx ghalfejn tiringrazzjani
ruhi - il-pjacir qed nghamlu lili - (HE HANGS UP). Issa ma
ghandekx taghmel hag'ohra hlief tistenna.

- BUDDY - Mela inti qed tiggennen? Direttur? Jien direttur?
X'fettillek tghidilha dan?
- ALAN - Biex ikun aktar facili ghalik - ghax hi trid tidhol fil-films
u issa ghandha ic-chance li turi kemm taf tirrecta.
- BUDDY - Imma hi ma tafux lil dan id-direttur?
- ALAN - Le, qatt ma raghtu b'ghajnejha - ilha tipprova s-snin biex
tidhol fil-films - mhux ghal flus, ghax ghandha kemm trid hi -
kull ma trid hija parti zghira f'xi film. Ma tistghax tahseb
f'xi isem ta' xi film?
- BUDDY - (BREAKING AWAY R. SITS D. R. C. CHAIR). Bhal issa l-anqas
f'ismi ma nistgha nahseb - immagina ftit, direttur ta' wiehed
u ghoxrin sena, x'wahda din!
- ALAN - (STARTS UPSTAGE). Jiena sejjer.
- BUDDY - Stenna mument - x'hin ghandha tigi?
- ALAN - Ghaxar minuti ohra. Hija toqghod fl-appartament ta' fuq.
- BUDDY - Ghaxar minuti ohra? Hekk malajr?
- ALAN - (CROSSES D. RO R. OF SOFA). Ara jekk tassew ma tridtx,
incemplilha u nhassar kollox.
- BUDDY - Le, le, halliha tigi.
- ALAN - Mela hekk - ghandek bzorn ta' xi haga?
- BUDDY - Iva, grok - (ALAN POURS HIM A DRINK)
(ALAN POURS HIM A DRINK)
- ALAN - Bis-sahha ta' Oscar Manheim!
- BUDDY - Grazzi. (DRINKS QUICKLY).
- ALAN - Isma, bil-mod bil-grokkijiet taf. (PUTS ON TRENCH COAT).
- BUDDY - Tistgha timmagine kiekku naqgha u mmut x'funeral jghamluli?
Jidfnuni Hollywood.
- ALAN - Dan ser ikun l-isbah lejl ta' hajtek - ghad tiringrazzjani
tghalli qed naghmel mieghek.
- BUDDY - Alan!
- ALAN - X'naqshek issa?
- BUDDY - Ghajjatli meta tigi lura.
- ALAN - Tichux hsieb - incempel darbtejn u nibda nisghol qabel ma
nibda tiela it-terag. (HE OPENS DOOR). Sahha, u d-deverti.
- BUDDY - (HE STARES AFTER HIM A MINUTE). Iddeverti!! Imma kif dhalt
fiha din l-affari? (HE RUBS HIS STOMACH AS HE APPARENTLY
JUST GOT A TWINGE OF NERVOUSNESS. HE PICKS UP BOTH GLASSES
AND PUTS THEM ON BAR. STARTS R., ABOVE COFFEE TABLE, GETS
A THOUGHT, LOOKS AT HIS OWN JACKET. RUNS UP TO HALL CLOSET,
TAKES OUT JACKET, LOOKS AT IT, PUTS IT BACK. THEN HE TAKES

BUDDY - OUT A BRIGHT BLUE SMOKING JACKET, RUNS DOWN TO SOFA, THROWS HANGAR ON SOFA TABLE AND PUTS ON SMOKING JACKET. PICKS UP CIGARETTE AND STARTS TO LIGHT IT. AS HE DOES SO DOORBELL RINGS. HE STANDS PARALYSED WITH FEAR. SCREAMS). Iva, iva, stenna ftit. (HE LOOKS AROUND IN A PANIC. HE STARTS UPSTAGE, SEES HIS JACKET ON SOFA AND THROWS IT UNDER BACK OF SOFA. THEN HE RUNS TO THE DOOR AND STOPS QUICKLY TO COMPOSE HIMSELF. HE STRAIGHTENS HIMSELF UP. HELL, HE'S GOING TO GO THROUGH WITH IT. HE OPENS THE DOOR. A SMALL, RATHER HARASSED WOMAN IN HER LATE FIFTIES STANDS THERE. HE YELLS).
Il-mama!

MAMA - Fl-ahhar sibtek?

END OF ACT I

HO PENSATO A QUALCOSA
DI BELLA E GRAZIOSA.

~~MA CHE COSA POSSO DARTI
PER CONTENTO
E VICINO A TE,~~
PER^{CHE} CONTENTO VOGLIO FARTI.

UNA ROSA NON E' ABBASTANZA
ALLOCA HO PRENOTATO UNA STANZA.

MA QUESTO E' UN INDOVINELO
~~PERHOE DOVE ANDIAMO DI BELLO~~
SAI

MA QUESTA STANZA^(C) DOVE E'
E QUESTO E UN INDOVINELO PER TE.

LE LETTERE NEL CERCHIO E DOVE ANDIAMO.
DAI SBIGIATI ~~PER~~^{CHE} PLESTO ~~PER~~ DECOLIAMO.