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Flo, Butch, Audrey

Leo + Meg as Maxine + Stephanie

LEADING LADIES

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*(And with that, AUNT FLORENCE grabs her chest and starts to gasp.)*

FLORENCE. Argh!

MEG. Aunt Florence!

FLORENCE. Argh!

BUTCH. I've got her! I've got her!

AUDREY. Florence!

DOC. Oh, damn. Get her inside.

MEG. Maxine, we'll be right back. She should be fine, don't worry.

LEO. Can I help?

MEG. No, it's okay, really. We put a bedroom on the ground floor. I'll be right back!

*(Everyone helps FLORENCE off, leaving LEO and JACK alone.)*

JACK. All right, now let's get the hell out of here!

LEO. Wait. Wait. Wait! Not yet! I think we should stay.

JACK. Stay? Are you crazy?!

LEO. Jack, this whole thing could still work. I mean, why not?

JACK. Because she's still alive. And she's really mean!

LEO. But she can't last much longer. She must be a thousand years old.

JACK. She could linger. Old people do that, they linger out of spite.

LEO. I say we give it a couple of weeks.

JACK. A couple of weeks?!

LEO. Shh!

JACK. Are you crazy?! Look at me! I have wings on! I feel like I'm in "Charley's Aunt Meets the Fairy Queen!" And where the hell

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did this "Maxine" creature come from?!

LEO. (*Worried.*) I have no idea.

JACK. She's from another planet. She's possessing you. It's like "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers!"

LEO. Look, how about this. We take it a day at a time. We spend the night, and if they get suspicious, we reconsider.

JACK. No.

LEO. It's worth it, Jack.

JACK. No!

LEO. Two million dollars!

JACK. No!

LEO. Jack! (*MEG REENTERS.*) be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jump over Hello, you're back, you're back!

MEG. Am I interrupting?

LEO. No, no, no, no, no, no! You're just in time. (*Hand to lips:*) Yes, Stephanie, of course you can take a stroll. Why don't you get one of those train schedules from the station. Then we'll know what time the little trainies leave from here to go to other places. It might come in handy if we're ever in a hurry. Who knows?

(*LEO laughs gaily. JACK signs "All right, but I don't like it!" and EXITS.*)

LEO. Now how is dear Auntie Florence doing?

MEG. I'm afraid it doesn't look very good. It's been like this for months. But at least you made it before anything happened. She got to see you after all these years. That means a great deal to all of us.

LEO. Thank you.

MEG. But ... oh I don't know how to put this... could you tell me just one thing? About yourself.

LEO. (*Worried.*) Yes, I-I suppose so ...

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MEG. It doesn't really matter at all, and I don't mean to pry.

LEO. No, please. Go ahead.

MEG. Well... is it true that you're really... in the theatre?

LEO. The thea... Oh, oh, oh yes! Yes, I am. Absolutely.

MEG. Oh, I think that's so wonderful! My happiest memory in the world is when my father took me to Philadelphia to see my first Shakespeare. It was Twelfth Night, my favorite.

LEO. (*Stunned.*)... My senior project at the Royal Academy was Twelfth Night.

MEG. The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art? In London? Oh God, you're my hero!

LEO. I am?

MEG. Can I tell you a secret? If I could do anything in the whole world, I mean if somehow things changed like magic, overnight, all I'd ever want to do is be an actress. I'd want to recite Shakespeare every night and let those words just tumble out of me like a waterfall. I'd want to play Rosalind and Juliet and Cleopatra. Do you specialize in anything?

LEO. Specialize?

MEG. You know, comedy, tragedy ...?

LEO. Oh, I do a bit of everything. Comedy. Tragedy. Comical-tragedy. "Tragical-comical-historical-pastoral, scene individual or poem unlimited." I did a Command Performance of Twelfth Night not long ago for the Queen of England.

MEG. What did you play?

LEO. The Duke Orsino! ...'sssss lady love, the fair Olivia.

MEG. Oh my God, I'd give anything to have seen you in it. Do some for me. Would you? Just a little?

LEO. Now?

MEG. Yes!

LEO. Oh I couldn't.

MEG. Please!