

BENT

Act 1. Scene 4

The forest. In front of a tent. Rudy sits in front of a fire. He has some apples, cheese, and a knife. He calls back to the tent.

RUDY: Cheese! Max!

(Max comes out of the tent, sits down.)

MAX: Where'd you get cheese. Steal it?

RUDY: I don't steal. I dug a ditch.

MAX: You what?

RUDY: Dug a ditch. Right outside of Cologne. It's good exercise too, for your shoulders. I'm getting nice shoulders. But my feet...no more dancing feet. Oh, God. Here. Have some.

MAX: I don't want to eat. You shouldn't have to dig ditches. I want some real food, for Christ's sake. (Takes the cheese) Look at this. It's lousy cheese. You don't know anything about cheese. (Eats a piece of cheese.) It has no flavor.

RUDY: Then don't eat it. I'll eat it. I have apples, too.

MAX: I hate apples.

RUDY: Then starve. What did you do today, while I was ditch digging?

MAX: Nothing.

RUDY: You weren't here when I got back.

MAX: Went to town.

RUDY: Have fun?

MAX: I'm working on something.

RUDY: Really?

MAX: Yeah. A deal. (Takes an apple.)

RUDY: Oh. A deal. Wonderful.

MAX: I might get us new papers and tickets to Amsterdam.

RUDY: You said that in Hamburg.

MAX: It didn't work out in Hamburg.

RUDY: You said that in Stuttgart.

MAX: Are you gonna recite the list?

RUDY: Why not? I'm tired of your deals. You're right. This cheese stinks. I don't want to eat it. (Pushes the food aside.)

MAX: You have to eat.

RUDY: Throw it out.

MAX: You get sick if you don't eat.

RUDY: So what?

MAX: O.K. Get sick.

RUDY: No. I don't want to get sick. (Eats a piece of cheese.) If I get sick, you'll leave me behind. You're just waiting for me to get sick.

MAX: Oh- here we go.

RUDY: You'd love it if I died.

MAX: Rudy! I just want to get us out of here. These awful tents. There's no air. We're in the air, but there's still no air. I can't breathe. I've got to get us across the border.

RUDY: Why don't we just cross it?

MAX: What do you mean?

RUDY: This guy on the job today was telling me it's easy to cross the border.

MAX: Oh sure it's simple. You just walk across. Of course, they shoot you.

RUDY: He said he knew spots.

MAX: Spots?

RUDY: Spots to get through. I told him to come talk to you.

MAX: Here?

RUDY: Yes.

MAX: I told you we don't want anyone to know that we're here, or that we're trying to cross the border.

Are you that dumb?

RUDY: I'm not dumb!

MAX: He could tell the police.

RUDY: Okay, so I am dumb. Why don't we try it anyway?

MAX: Because

RUDY: Why?

MAX: I am working on a deal.

RUDY: This is crazy. We're in the middle of the jungle.

MAX: Forest.

RUDY: Jungle. I'm a dancer, not Robin Hood. You're working on deals. You worked on deals in Berlin, you work on deals in the jungle.

MAX: Forest.

RUDY: Jungle. I want to get out of here. I could have. I met a man in Frankfurt. You were in town "working on a deal." I could have got him to get me out of this country. But no, I had to think about you. You would have grabbed the chance. You're just hanging around, waiting for me to die. I think you've poisoned the cheese.

MAX: It's your cheese. Choke on it. (Beat.) Remember cocaine?

RUDY: Yes.

MAX: I'd like cocaine.

RUDY: Yes.

MAX: What would you like?

RUDY: New glasses.

MAX: What?

RUDY: My eyes have changed. I need a new prescription. I'd like new glasses.

MAX: In Amsterdam.

RUDY: Sure.

MAX: In Amsterdam. Cocaine and new glasses. And Dutch dance classes. Your feet will come back. And you won't dig ditches. You'll have to give up your new shoulders, though.

(Rudy touches Max's forehead; Leaves his hand on the forehead)

RUDY: I really love you.

MAX: Don't. If they see us...from the other tents...they're always looking...they could throw us out...for touching...we have to be careful...we have to be very careful...

RUDY: O.K. (Pause – starts to sing.) Streets of Berlin, I must leave you soon, Ah!

MAX: What are you doing?

RUDY: Singing. We're sitting around a campfire, that's when people sing.

(Sings.) Streets of Berlin, I must leave you soon, Ah!

(Max takes Rudy's hand, holds it, on the ground, where it can't be seen, and smiles.)

MAX: Shh!

(They laugh. They both sing.)

MAX AND RUDY: Will you forget me? Was I ever really here?

VOICE: There! That's Them! (A bright light shines on Max and Rudy)

ANOTHER VOICE: Maximilian Berber. Rudolf Hennings. Hands high in the air. You are under arrest.