

Shit. She is leaving tonight after the show, eloping, or something, and then a honeymoon - probably won't be back for a month-maybe six weeks. By then, the show could be closed or someone else has her part - my god, how am I going to replace my income? This leaves me in a huge financial mess. This ungrateful asshole. I thought she had some character - some loyalty.

Andre:

Maybe, she could take a short honeymoon and get back quickly - like a week or two. Maybe you should talk to her about her career and priorities. I mean, just yelling at her is not likely to get anywhere.

Goby "The Hook" Richards:

Oh, shut the hell up! This woman - I could just take her out and smack her around. I've invested so much time and effort in getting her this far - and she's throwing it all away. Oh, shit, shit, shit!

Andre:

You want me to see her tonight? Shouldn't you go?

Goby "The Hook" Richards:

Me? I need a drink. I'm going down to the bar and get soused. You go over and talk to her. Oh shit - I'm devastated. I never saw this coming. She's putting me back working with mushrooms.

(As Goby leaves the office, Andre raises his hand to stop Goby, who just brushes past, and Andre can't get his thoughts out, so when Goby leaves, Andre says to himself:)

Andre:

And he thinks Joanna is a bitch. I don't understand "Goby", when he gets this way. It's all about him.

(Andre speaks lovingly of Joanna - clearly his thoughts are for and of her)

Joanna is such a warm, loving and lovely person. She has always put herself out to make a show work, co-operating, joining in, making suggestions - she has such a way about her. And her voice - the voice of angels. If getting married is the right thing for her, right now, we ought to be supporting her. And he is sending me to talk to her? - to talk her out of leaving the show?

(And he thinks of Joanna getting married - not his preference, at all, but turns his thoughts to Goby)

God, "Goby" doesn't have feelings for her at all. He's just pissed about the loss of income. Would I think that way? Maybe I've stayed with him too long - 3 years with one guy - maybe too long. I'll have to think that through.

(Looks at his watch)

She is done in an hour, so I better get going, if I am going to catch her when she gets off stage. And I better stop for some flowers too. She should have a nice send off.

(Stage darkens. Set changes to Joanna singing in a separate place on the stage (or in front of the curtain) the last verse of the musical finale of her show, "FAST CATS")

Act I, scene 2:

Joanna:

(Joanna sings the last verse of the finale of "FAST CATS")

FAST CATS HAVE THE RUN OF THE HOUSE
THEY'RE INTO THEMSELVES, THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT US
FAST CATS, FAST CATS, FAST CATS

(Roaring applause, Joanna bows, gives thanks to the musical conductor, bows again, and Andre comes on the stage, hands to Joanna a bouquet of flowers. She blows kisses to the audience, and Andre takes her arm and they go behind the curtain (or if in a separate place on the stage, they walk to her dressing room and she says:)

Joanna:

I love that song. I hum the tune all the time. I'll really miss being here.

Andre:

"Goby" sent me over to talk to you - you know - about leaving. He's really upset. Are you sure you know what you're doing?

Joanna:

Marco asked me to marry him - now - and not to wait. I know it has been a whirlwind romance type of thing. But, when you know, you know. And otherwise, he has to return to Italy - you know - visa problems. So, if I don't marry him now, he'll leave, and I may never see him again. So, we're going to get married now.

Andre:

But, if you're in love - won't that love last through a separation like that?