

*(He exits. There is a moment's silence.)*

us,

COHEN

Well.

LOUISE

This location must be convenient! Do you work at the barbershop across the street?

COHEN

I work on Linden Street.

LOUISE

Linden Street? That's a half-hour walk.

COHEN

Yes, I know.

LOUISE

That's a hike every morning.

COHEN

It is a bit far.

LOUISE

This is a less expensive neighborhood.

COHEN

Not really.

LOUISE

Are you all right? You seem nervous.

COHEN

Nervous? Hahahahaha. I am a bit.

LOUISE

But why would you be nervous?

COHEN

Well. Interesting.

LOUISE

Is it?

COHEN

It's just that . . .

LOUISE

Yes . . .

COHEN

It's just that . . .

LOUISE

What?

COHEN

Underpants.

LOUISE

Pardon me?

COHEN

Today, this morning, when your underpants fell down. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. So naughty! I got so excited . . .

*(Theo enters. Cohen instantly changes tone.)*

And how often is the chimney swept?

THEO

Cigars to close the deal.

COHEN

I don't smoke.

THEO

No wonder you're so puny [unhealthy]. Cigars strengthen the body.

*(He stands him up.)*

See my rib cage? Room in there for everything. Air, perfume from the ladies, smoke.

*(Instructs.)*

Deep breath . . . arms out. Bend backwards.

*(Cohen does. There's a knock at the door.)*

Hold that pose. I'll get the door.

*(Cohen holds the pose. Theo leaves to answer the door.)*

LOUISE

*(Quickly, to Cohen.)*

How dare you come here!

COHEN

I had to.

LOUISE

Go away.

COHEN

I won't!

*(Versati enters with Theo.)*

THEO

*(To Cohen, who still holds the pose.)*

And relax.

VERSATI

... But I presented my application to your wife.

THEO

Yes, my wife told me that you were interested in the room. However, in the meantime, without knowing of your offer, I received an application from Herr Cohen, with a K, who comes from a good German family, and I rejected it out.