

# TITO-2

36

A COMEDY OF TENORS  
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**TITO.** *AH! You! So it was you! For corrupting an innocent woman you will die!*

*(TITO grabs the cheese knife and goes after CARLO. The Allegro from the overture to Verdi's opera La Forza del Destino plays as TITO chases CARLO around the room and out the door.)*

**MAX.** *Tito! No!*

**CARLO.** *He's crazy!*

**SAUNDERS.** *Stop it! What are you doing!*

**TITO.** *I kill you!*

**MAX.** *Tito, please! You're not in Italy anymore!*

*(They're gone.)*

**SAUNDERS.** *(into the phone) Jacques! See if you can get Jussi back! ... Well then page him at the airport! Tell him he can have MY mother if he really wants one! That'll teach him a lesson!*

*(As he hangs up, MAX runs back in, through the front door, panting.)*

**MAX.** *Mr. Saunders! Help! I'm losing them!*

**SAUNDERS.** *Goddamit!*

*(They run out through the front door -.)*

Start

*(At which moment, CARLO, panting, runs onto the patio, stage right. He looks around wildly. He starts to step into the room when he hears TITO and MARIA coming down the hall -.)*

**MARIA.** *Tito! Stop. Tito!*

*(And CARLO runs away, back where he came from, as TITO and MARIA burst into the room.)*

**TITO.** *I'm gonna kill him!*

**MARIA.** *Tito, what is happening?! Why are you angry?!*

**TITO.** *Because I saw you with that boy!*

**MARIA.** *Carlo?*

**TITO.** *Yeah, Carlo. And don't play goody-two-shoe with me. I lose a-my cookie.*

**MARIA.** How did you find out about—

**TITO.** I saw you together, right here! You think you can hide these things from me?!

**MARIA.** Oh, Tito. Loosen up a little. He is nice a-young boy. And he's a hot a-pepper, eh? I'm a-crazy about him.

**TITO.** Oh, I can see *that*.

**MARIA.** And did you see that body of his? He is like a Greek God!

**TITO.** And that make you happy.

**MARIA.** It would make any woman happy. That boy is gonna give me some beautiful babies.

**TITO.** Agh!

**MARIA.** And this boyfriend is not exactly the first one, you know.

**TITO.** No?

**MARIA.** There have been three other at least. Maybe four, I have lost count.

**TITO.** *Ah.*

**MARIA.** But I think this one is worth keeping.

**TITO.** Keeping?

**MARIA.** You have to change with the time, Tito! Just think, we could live together as one a-big family!

**TITO.** "Family?" That's it. *That's it.* You want this boy in you life? Fine. Then I want a-divorce.

**MARIA.** What?

**TITO.** *Divorzio! Now! This a-minute!*

**MARIA.** Tito. You are overreacting.

**TITO.** *(in agony)* I love a-you so much, Maria.

**MARIA.** But we are still in love, Tito. There is just one more of us.

**TITO.** No! *I want a-divorce, divorce!*

**MARIA.** *You are a-crazy!*

**TITO.** *I WANT A-DIVORCE!*

**MARIA.** *(steaming mad)* Okay, that's a-fine! That's a-peachy! All these years, I take a-care of you! I cook! I clean! I wait at

*rehearsal, I wait at performance! You snore at night, you smell  
 in the morning! You drive a-me crazy and I put up with you!*

**TITO.** *So we get a-divorce!*

**MARIA.** *NO! WE GET A-TWO DIVORCE! I WANT A-ONE,  
 TOO!*

*(SAUNDERS and MAX run in.)*

**SAUNDERS.** Mrs. Merelli! Have you seen – *Tito*. Oh,  
 thank God! Now listen to me. I realize there was a  
 misunderstanding –

**TITO.** Is not a problem, because I *quit!*

**SAUNDERS.** Excuse me?

**TITO.** I said I *quit*, I am *finished*, I *stay here no more!*

**SAUNDERS.** But you can't quit! The performance starts in  
 less than two hours!

**MAX.** Maria, stop him!

**MARIA.** *No! Let him go! Let him have his stage a-door, with his  
 girls and his picture!*

**TITO.** *I quit, I quit!*

**CARLO.** *(appearing at the door)* No, I quit!

**TITO.** You!

**CARLO.** Yeah me. And you're crazy because what I did was  
 perfectly normal!

**TITO.** Normal?! You ruin the family *and that's a-normal?*

**SAUNDERS.** Gentlemen, I'm sure we can solve this little –

**TITO, CARLO, MARIA.** *SHUT UP!*

**TITO.** Maria, good-bye!

*(He goes out the front door, slamming it behind  
 him.)*

**MARIA.** That's it. I have had enough. *I am finished with him!*  
 I will go to Assisi and become a nun. But first I will go  
 to Chanel and spend his money.

*(She exits out the front door and slams it behind  
 her.)*

**SAUNDERS.** Carlo, please listen to me –

Stop