

The Botticelli Cruise

A drama in two acts

By
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SCENE 1 MID DAY THE POOL DECK OF THE BOTICELLI CRUISE SHIP

Light music plays in the background. Boo, early forties, wearing a tight bathing suit, reads a book. Bernard "Bernie" Phillips, late forties, wearing tennis clothing, walks by and gazes at her legs. She appears not to notice. After he passes by, she looks up and gazes at him. Arthur, a Somali waiter, walks by with a martini.

BOO

That's for me, I'm sure.

ARTHUR

Not really. But...

BOO

I'll take it.

ARTHUR

Why of course Ms. Boo. I'll get another one for the Brits.

BOO

Why do you keep "Missing" me. Just call me Boo.

ARTHUR

Yes, Boo.

BOO

Who was that peculiar man gawking at my legs?

ARTHUR

Mr. Bernard Phillips.

BOO

The scoop?

ARTHUR

He spent the entire stay in Madagascar watching birds.

BOO

Can you bring me some nuts.

ARTHUR'S

You do need some nourishment(exits)

She begins reading her book. Bernard re-enters. He stares at her legs as she continues reading facing the floor, presuming she is not aware. She continues reading without looking up

BOO

They're called the most beautiful legs in New York City.

BERNARD

I'd say the entire world.

BOO

But the face? That might be a different story.

BERNARD

Couldn't be too bad.

BOO

I don't know what you look like, but you sound ...appealing.

BERNARD

Voices can be concealing.

BOO

And sometimes revealing. Can you drop by later? I'm engrossed in this book.

BERNARD

The man behind this voice is much more appealing than the man who wrote that book..

BOO

I may not WANT to chat later.

BERNARD

A. B. Roehard. Truly stupid man. Where's my drink, Arthur.

Arthur enters.

ARTHUR

We ran out. I had to...

BERNARD

That's all right.

ARTHUR

One should be up shortly. (exits)

BOO

Have some of mine. I know you're thirsty.

BERNARD

You're even drinking Tanqueray.

BOO

A man true to my heart.

BERNARD

Your drink?

BOO

You took the words right out of my mouth.

BERNARD

It is not.

BOO

A mystery man?

BERNARD

I just want my drink.

BOO

You Brits are all alike.

BERNARD

I'm not a Brit. I'm an American.

BOO

The accent.

BERNARD

We'll save that for a surprise on a rainy day. You have no accent.

BOO

(She looks up)

Of course not. I'm a Norwegian.

BERNARD

MMMM. The face fits well with than the legs. Norwegian.
No way!

BOO

Why not.

BERNARD

There are no Norwegians.

BOO

I'm one of them!

BERNARD

I thought you were an American.

BOO

I am now.

BERNARD

Good. Norway is not a country but a group of businessmen who control the world and barrels and barrels of oil. And make dumb really dumb Nobel Prize decisions.

BOO

You're charming!

BERNARD

How did you know my drink was Tanqueray?

BOO

I could smell it.

BERNARD

Strange, Woman.

BOO

Yes. What a strange way to address me.

BERNARD

Well you are one, aren't you?

BOO

Yes, but...

BERNARD

No offense. Good afternoon.

He turns and begins to exit.

BOO

How rude!

BERNARD

We have no more to say, Woman!

BOO

Man!

BERNARD

Alors, au revoir! Arriderci! Dasvi Dania (turns again)

BOO

You can have a sip of my drink if you want..

BERNARD

I don't drink.

BOO

But you asked for your drink.

BERNARD

That's right. Soda water

BOO

And you can sniff.

BERNARD

And now you can have the drink Arthur is about to bring me.

BOO

And my name is Boo, for your information.

BERNARD

Strange Norwegian name.

BOO

Better than my real name. Bergthora. Now what is your name?

BERNARD

That is really none of your business. Now excuse me, I am already late for my tennis match.. .

BOO

I play tennis too.

BERNARD

Au revoir.

SCENE 2 LATER THE TENNIS COURT

Boo examines her tennis racquet as Bernard enters.

BERNARD

What are you doing here?

BOO

I came to play tennis.

BERNARD

Well have a good game.

BOO

I will

BERNARD

Good luck.

BOO

You didn't ask who I'm going to play with?

BERNARD

"With whom is she playing?"

BOO
An American who won't give her his name.

BERNARD
Who could that be?.

BOO
Tell me.

BERNARD
Perhaps tomorrow. I'm tired.

BOO
Chicken?

BERNARD
Whatever.

BOO
Chicken!

BERNARD
Yes. I just played three sets with Argo Chilling. A
fantastic player.

BOO
Who is he?

BERNARD
If you knew anything about tennis you would know who he was.

BOO
Well, pardon me!

BERNARD
Maybe tomorrow.

BOO
Maybe?

BERNARD
So persistent. ALL RIGHT YES!!

BOO
I knew you would.

Arthur enters.

ARTHUR
Captain Boticelli would like to see you, Miss Boo

BERNARD
How interesting!

BOO

Tell the Captain he can wait.

BERNARD

You must keep your appointment.

BOO

I'd rather play tennis

ARTHUR

He insists that you come at once. It will only take a minute

BOO

Will you wait Mr. Phillips?

BERNARD

There you knew my name already.

BOO

One of your birds told me.

Boo and Arthur exit. Bernard sits and begins reading her book, becoming deeply engrossed. He picks up her drink. He smells it. Then smells it again. And then pours it on the deck. He then picks up her book and reads it for about a minute. Boo returns.

BERNARD

Short meeting?

BOO

The Captain invited me to sit at his table.

BERNARD

Wouldn't a note have done?

BOO

He's checking on me. He thinks he's my Italian father.

BERNARD

That's all?

BOO

He thinks I'm an alcoholic.

BERNARD

(pointing to her book)

Strange reading.

BOO

He's the world's greatest author.

Not really.

BERNARD

Why not?

BOO

I dumped your last one on the deck.

BERNARD

Why?

BOO

Do you always need a reason?

BERNARD

I have a good shrink I'd like to recommend to you.

BOO

I am a shrink.

BERNARD

I...

BOO

Whose the shrink you'd recommend?

BERNARD

John ...

BOO

Gerson?

BERNARD

How did you know?

BOO

President of the American Psychiatric Association. He knows Roehard.

BERNARD

Right! And how do you know that he knows Roehard

BOO

Because I know Roehard. A nut case.

BERNARD

I beg your pardon!

BOO

Classmate of mine at St. John's College.

BOO

Annapolis or Santa Fe?

BERNARD

You know about them?

BOO

Great Books. Looking down on me again?

BERNARD

Yes I am.

BOO

Husband number two went there. You don't fit the mold of a Johnnie.

BERNARD

I did once.

BOO

Have you ever read Roehard.

BERNARD

You might say so.

BOO

What don't you like about him?

BERNARD

He's excrementally dishonest.

BOO

I have no space for anyone who does not appreciate L.B. Roehard

BERNARD

Suit yourself

BOO

He's been my guiding light.

BERNARD

The blind leading the blind?

BOO

Please go do something to yourself.

BERNARD

I will not. 'Tis a physically impossible thing to do. Or perhaps you can give me a demonstration on how to do it.

Arthur returns with a drink.

ARTHUR

We have spotted pirates I hear. And the Captain would like to see you again, Miss Boo.

BERNARD

The ship sees pirates and Botticelli wants to see you. What is this!

Bernard picks up newspaper. The loudspeaker comes on.

BOTTICELLI

Hello, Ladies and Gentlemen. This is Captain Botticelli. Remember tonight is formal evening, so please all wear your best. Need I remind you that what you have been hearing is only rumor. We have no pirates. We have excellent intelligence. We are also protected by several Russian and Danish carriers.

BOO

I hear they're lying. The Brits saw a few things

BERNARD

Never trust a Brit.

BOO

Why are you reading my newspaper

BERNARD

Obituaries.

BOO

Obituaries!

BERNARD

Best things in the newspaper.

BOO

Do you want to die?

BERNARD

Do we have a choice?

BOO

Yes. But eventually it happens to everyone.

BERNARD

What a brilliant thought! Where did you get this newspaper.

BOO

Captain Botticelli threw it out.

BOO

Stop please!

BERNARD

Later. I'm meeting some bloke for a drink.

BOO

You promised to have a drink with me!

BERNARD

I'll sit.

BOO

You're a beautiful man.

BERNARD

First I thought you needed your head examined, now I know you need to have your head examined.

BOO

You remind me of my fourth husband.

BERNARD

Fourth husband? (grins) Out of five?

BOO

Five!

BERNARD

Five!

BOO

How did you know?!

BERNARD

None of your business. (smiling)

BOO

How!

BERNARD

A biblical hunch.

BOO

I'm not biblical.

BERNARD

You should be.

BOO

My guess is you have been married seven times.

BERNARD

Three times. Or 2 and one half. Whichever way you look at it.

BOO

I won't ask any more questions

BERNARD

Good.

BOO

What is your full name?

BERNARD

Bernard Angus Churchill Montmartre Chesterton Phillips

BOO

Do you really need all those names?

BERNARD

Sounds better than Boo. What's your real name?

BOO

Do you really want to know?

BERNARD

Yes.

BOO

Bergthora Brodersen

BERNARD

Ha! Bergthora.

BOO

It's Norwegian you know.

BERNARD

Doesn't sound Chinese.

BOO

Please never call me that name. Reminds me of my father.

BERNARD

Was he so bad?

BERNARD

Did you like Daddy?

BOO

He didn't like me.

BERNARD

Why

BOO

Thought I was a clone of my mother.

BERNARD

Oh, he didn't like your mother.

BOO

I heard him call her a whore once.

BERNARD

A marriage made in hell, I see.

BOO

Worse than that.

BERNARD

Oh?

BOO

She fled with an Italian when I was six. Left my two brothers and three sisters.

BERNARD

Sounds like my mother.

BOO

Don't need to tell me anymore.

BERNARD

I want to.

BOO

Instead, you can explain that big long name that makes you sound like the Royal family of England

BERNARD

We always looked down on the Windsors.

BOO

Oh?

BERNARD

The Phillips are old line English Catholics who never converted. They can trace their heritage further than those Windsors, but that was my fathers name. Also my maternal great grandfather

BOO

Have a drink with me

BERNARD
Do you ever stop! How many do you drink a day.

BOO
Four.

BERNARD
Per day or hour

BOO
Are you my father?

BERNARD
What does Roehard say about fathers.

BOO
Thinks they're kind of useless

BERNARD
Why are you here?

BOO
To get away from a double Bat Mitzvah.

BERNARD
Double?

BOO
Twins.

BERNARD
Parental stresses?

BOO
Yeah, sort of.

BERNARD
Pray tell.

BOO
A thousand guests, four senators, 3 governors and so on.

BERNARD
What's so bad about that.

BOO
Not my thing.

BERNARD
But they're your daughters.

BOO
By blood only.

What! BERNARD

I gave them away. BOO

What! BERNARD

To their grandmother. BOO

Why? BERNARD

She pleaded for the to BOO

Do you miss them BERNARD

No. BOO

M-M-M. BERNARD

BOO
And now she---my third husband's mother--the one who gave such good sex. Well she gave this celebration that will cost at least a million, held right in Her 23 room condominium off the park. You got kids?

Yes. BERNARD

Where are they? BOO

I don't know. Both fell prey to their mother's schemes. BERNARD

BOO
My ex-mother in law spent a lifetime screwing up one son. Now she has two granddaughters to screw up too.

You left them BERNARD

I m not a great mother. It's a long story. BOO

BERNARD

Care for some gin.

BOO

Yes. Any offspring?

BERNARD

Haven't seem them in years

BOO

A blood brother you are.

BERNARD

I told you , their mothers poisoned their minds against me.

BOO

Miss'em!

BERNARD

No.

BOO

Well I have the worlds best mother- in- law You know What she did. When Allan and I decided to go our own ways, guess what she did? She insisted that he give me more alimony.

BERNARD

And where is Allan now.

BOO

With his boyfriend I suppose. But God was he good in bed. I had the best sex I ever had. May I stay the night with you

BERNARD

Of course. On second thought, perhaps not.

BOO

You don't like sex.

BERNARD

Of course I do.

BOO

Are you gay?

BERNARD

Do I look like a pervert.

BOO

Bernard!

BERNARD

Let us lie together.

I like that.

BOO

But no sex.

BERNARD

Because you're good/... or gay/.... or holy?

BOO

I'm not good ...not gayand holy in a strange way.

BERNARD

Be specific.

BOO

I'm good and I'm a little bit holy, but not too holy

BERNARD

Ha ha ha You don't have to stay with me if you don't like sex.

BOO

But, I do.

BERNARD

Well then?

BOO

But my prostate won't allow me.

BERNARD

What!

BOO

I don't have one

BERNARD

How's that?

BOO

Some cancer cells

BERNARD

At your age?

BOO

At my age.

BERNARD

Arthur enters.

ARTHUR

You have a phone call, Sir.

BERNARD

Who could be calling at this time

ARTHUR

You can only find out by picking it up.

BERNARD

Hello. Yes, Captain Boticelli. Yes sir. Will be right up.

BOO

What!

BERNARD

He wants to see me.

BOO

I hope not for the same reason he likes to see me.

BERNARD

I don't think so

BOO

That's not what I meant.

BERNARD

I'll be back.

BOO

I'll read my book.

BERNARD

I have a revelation about him that will shock you

BOO

Tell.

BERNARD

I gotta go.

BOO

Please tell.

BERNARD

Later.

SCENE 4 DECK SAME NIGHT

Bernard and Boo walk onto the dance floor.

BERNARD

Shall we dance.

I can't dance. BOO

You said you wanted to dance. BERNARD

I've changed my mind. BOO

Dance! BERNARD

But.. BOO

Dance! BERNARD

Oh the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable. BOO
Whatever we get of our own will never be attainable.

Stop quoting Roehard. BERNARD

You hate that man! BOO

He's a boob. BERNARD

Why. BOO

Do you like the fox trot? BERNARD

My favorite dance. BOO

I thought you didn't dance. BERNARD

They begin dancing

Some. BOO

You dance very well, in fact. BERNARD

Can I have another drink, Arthur BOO

Arthur enters.

ARTHUR

Yes, Boo.

BERNARD

Good night , Arthur.

ARTHUR

Good night.

BERNARD

I suggest you not read Roehard

BOO

What. Why!

BERNARD

Because I know him too well.

BOO

What.

BERNARD

Go to page 77 of the book you're reading and read to me

BOO

I don't have the book with me.

BERNARD

I will tell what the jackass says. The greatest discoveries often come when brave souls venture into uncharted territory. As the saying goes, "The greatest explorers had no maps."

BOO

Wow!

BERNARD

Let me continue

BOO

What?

BERNARD

To find eternity, we have to discard the maps of our world, the maps that say that self-interest, domination, and winning rule the day. It's not a destination familiar to most of us, but it is the only journey that matters. It is not just a great exploration; it is the great exploration. And the greatest explorations have no maps.

BOO

You know all that by heart?

BERNARD

Yes. And it's bunk!

BOO

What!

BERNARD

I understand he's a scoundrel.

BOO

Well that's nonsense. How do you know!

BERNARD

I AM L.B. Roehard!

BOO

Oh brother. I thought you were Bernard Blah Blah Blah Blah Phillips.

BERNARD

I am he also.

BOO

So I meet the man I idolize.

BERNARD

Aren't you fortunate.

BOO

I'm confused.

SCENE 5 THE MASS

Arthur and Boo walk by the Neapolitan Room. We hear the hymn Nearer My God to Thee sung by a congregation

FIRST WOMAN (O.S.)

(Whispering)

He spends all his time with that drunken woman.

SECOND WOMAN (O.S.)

(Whispering)

He's trying to help her.

FIRST WOMAN (O.S.)

I'll bet.

BERNARD (O.S.)

Today we read about the Prodigal Son. He's my favorite character in the entire Bible. I am a sinner. You are sinners. Can anyone who is not a sinner raise his or her right hand....As I thought. Are there any saints in the room? Raise your right hand.

FIRST WOMAN

(Whispering)

I can see why

ARTHUR (O.S.)

I recognize the voice.. Shall we go in.

BOO (O.S.)

I suppose so.

ARTHUR

Look who the priest is!

BOO

I know!

ARTHUR

I had heard!

BERNARD

I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." Jesus died not for our strengths, but for our weaknesses. And it is the sacrificial death of Jesus that is our letter of introduction to the throne of God. Our weaknesses are our treasure. Hunt for them. Boast of them. Love them. Offer them humbly to Jesus. For it is only in our weakness that we are covered by Jesus' sacrifice. It is only in our weakness that God can use us, and it is only in our weakness that we can hear God speaking in our hearts.

ARTHUR

I'm going in.

BERNARD

We admire that we are sinners. As God's adopted children, it is important that we be about our Father's business. But how do we apply that grand idea specifically? How do we know God's will for this moment of our life? Standard answers to these questions include Bible study, prayer, and listening to that still, small voice within. But sometimes, no matter how much we read, pray, and listen, God is silent. Therefore Go in peace and listen to your heart. Now let us rise to cite the Creed.

Bernard enters and sees Arthur and Boo.

Well! ARTHUR

Well! BOO

Well! BERNARD

So all is well? ARTHUR

With me it is. BERNARD

Who are you! BOO

Bernard Phillips BERNARD

And L.B Roehard BOO

Right BERNARD

And BOO

Father Phillips. BERNARD

Three persons in one. BOO

Do I lie. Excuse us Arthur. BERNARD

Yes, Sir. (exits) ARTHUR

It's a long story. BERNARD

Oh. BOO

SCENE 5 BOO'S BEDROOM LATER THAT NIGHT

Boo drinks her gin.

Do you ever stop? BERNARD

Stop what? BOO

Drinking. BERNARD

I can handle it. Trust me. BOO

Have you ever tried AA? BERNARD

Sure BOO

How about again! BERNARD

Don't be silly. BOO

Come on. BERNARD

Those cry babies. BOO

I belong! BERNARD

Good for you. BOO

What does Roehard say? BERNARD

Why do you have such an interest in that man. BOO

I'll tell you what he said. Join! BERNARD

Let me imitate those cry babies for you. " My name is Flora. And I'm an alcoholic. Clap clap clap. I tried to stop drinking for 5 years and gave up all hope. During that period I had two husbands and two lesbian love affairs and three dogs and two cats. Audience..Ha.Ha.Ha. That's when I started to drink. When my cats first ran off. Then my dog was bitten by my pet rattlesnake and died. Wail! Wail! Wail!

BERNARD

Stop!

BOO

And now let me continues you my story. I was just a po' little nice girl from North Carolina when I realized I had feelings for my ugly Aunt Millie. She was a rotten bitch. Wail Wail Wail...

BERNARD

Go ahead and continue drinking.

BOO

Do you belong.

BERNARD

Twelve year pin.

BOO

Good for you.

Phone rings. Bernard picks it up

BERNARD

Ah, yes. Captain Boticelli. Well, yes. If I can be of any assistance. ..no I have not seen our Boo. I will be up in fifteen minutes.

BOO

What does he want? Hope he doesn't want to see you for the same reason he sees me.

BERNARD

Tsk-tskk-tsk.

BOO

Well what does he want?

BERNARD

It's not important.

A knock a the door.

BERNARD

Who could that be.

ARTHUR

I have your double, Miss Boo.

BERNARD

Do you ever stop! Don't let him know I'm in here.

BOO

Oh. One day I learn you're Bernard Phillips, the next day L.B. Roehard, and then some kind of a priest.

BERNARD

Father Phillips.

BOO

Three persons in one.

BERNARD

Sort of . Bernard Phillips, L.B. Roehard, and Father Phillips. Three person

BOO

You get more complicated by the minute.

BERNARD

I suppose.

BOO

I think you're lying.

BERNARD

Believe what you want. I must go.

BOO

Stay.

BERNARD

Are you on Prozac?

BOO

Should I be?

BERNARD

Not with the alcohol.

BOO

Do you take it?

BERNARD

No. But I discovered it.

BOO

You did not? What Bull.

BERNARD

I was on the team that discovered it.

BOO

What Bull!

BERNARD

No Bull!

BOO

And then the priest Stuff?

BERNARD

A long and complicated story

BOO

A long and complicated story

BERNARD

Don't worry about the priesthood bit

BOO

Why?

BERNARD

I'm on my way out.

BOO

What!

BERNARD

It's a story about the pope's ass.

BOO

What

BERNARD

Well 'twas along and complicated story. All about the Pope's ass.

BOO

It's funny.

BERNARD

No, it isn't

BOO

Why not?

BERNARD

That's why I'm being thrown out.

BOO

Well what do you have to do with the Pope's ass.

BERNARD

Mrs. Brown and the pope's arse. British for ass.

BOO

And that got you thrown out?

BERNARD

Well things were coming to a boil.

BOO

Ah, this gin is so good. God created gin.

BERNARD

I'll take a sip too.

BOO

Here.

He sips.

BERNARD

There goes 12 years of sobriety. And now with the story. You know they assigned me to do confessions. Something I hate.

BOO

Isn't it fun to listen to people telling about their sins.

BERNARD

Painfully dull. They just about all say the same thing. Then you give them a prayer for penance and tell them to get lost or GO IN PEACE

BOO

You poor man you, Bernard.

BERNARD

Well once it wasn't so bad. There was anonymity. A black screen. Anonymity, like in Alcoholics Anonymous. This was confessors anonymous. Well would you know that the Catholics had to screw all this up and remove the screen. And this to listen to all this blah blah blah about their sins. Few were really repentant.

BOO

What does this have to do with Mrs. Brown.

BERNARD

Camilla Brown is a God-awful person. Each time she came to see me she discussed her virtues for a half an hour, making me ready to vomit then for 2 minutes she discussed her sins, which if deciphered were so minor that she officially described herself to me as a saint each time she came.

BOO

Must have been dreadful.

BERNARD

Of course! The whole town hates the bitch.

BOO

Oh my!

BERNARD

Let me continue. She even forged her brother's signature to get control of her mother's will and worse. Dreadful woman. Well, after listening to all her virtuous, self-righteous tripe for a good thirty minutes, she proceeds to tell me that she had been rewarded by the lord with a Papal visit for all her virtue. That really got up my dander. I looked at her and said: Madame you can not buy your way into heaven by kissing the Pope's Ass. She was shocked. She said, what did you say? And I said "Right Lady, you can not buy your way into heaven by kissing the Pope's ass. Then she started crying. I told her to go home and reflect on all her sins I had heard about from other people, and that I would then consider granting her some conditional absolution. She ran home and told her rich husband.

BOO

What did he do?

BERNARD

Well he's the richest man in the state. Mostly through graft and corruption. Gives the church ten million dollars last year. Even had all the Presbyterians, Baptists, Jews, even Episcopalians kissing his ass. And he got upset and saw the Cardinal,..not even the bishop. So, I got called in..

BOO

And what happened?

BERNARD

The Cardinal called me in and asked "Is it correct that you told you Camilla Brown that she could not buy her way into heaven by kissing the pope's ass? And I said yes. Why did you say that. Because it's true. Then he said "any remorse?" I said hell no. She is trying to buy her way into heaven by being a Papal but kisser. He says "You are mentally unbalanced, and I said " You ay I am e mentally unbalanced because I call her a but kisser abut kisser. He said stop and that he would pray for me. I said keep your prayers to yourself. He said I needed psychiatric help. And I said of course you feel that way. Mrs. Brown is a papal ass kisser. And you, your Eminence, are one too. In fact that is how you came to become a Cardinal.

BOO

YOU poor thing!

BERNARD

The next day they called me in to offer me this ship job as an understudy for the big fat Italian priest who's dying from over boozing. So, here I am

BOO

And what are you going to do now.

BERNARD

Probably what they want.

BOO

Which is?

BERNARD

To get out.

BOO

Oh wonderful. Shall we put out the lights?

BERNARD

Yeah.

BOO

Good night, love.

BERNARD

Good night, Love.

BOO

Are you staying with me?

BERNARD

Yes. Love.

BOO

How nice.

BERNARD

Good night, Love.

BOO

Good night.

SCENE 6 POOL SIDE THE NEXT MORNING

Boo and Bernard are eating breakfast.

BERNARD

You haven't eaten a thing

BOO

I ate some eggs. I eat little. Oh, there's Arthur

BERNARD

Our lives have already developed so unevenly that it seems impossible to find the center..

BOO

Sounds like Roehard.

BERNARD

It should.

BOO

If you say so.

BERNARD

In our flawed human development, the circle with God at the center seems a distant, even impossible memory, but God asks only what we can give at the moment.

BOO

God is not on my radar scope

BERNARD

With mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and-- thanks to the incarnation-- understanding of what it is to be human, God continues to invite us. Every day, God invites us to the center and offers an opportunity to "seek the Lord and live.

BOO

I want a drink.

Arthur runs into the room

ARTHUR

Get dressed immediately.

BERNARD

Why?

ARTHUR

Don't ask!

BERNARD

The Captain has asked for everyone to come on board.

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI

Would everyone please come to the deck.

BERNARD

What is it?

ARTHUR

The Pirates have arrived.

BERNARD

What!

ARTHUR

They have arrived. That's why the Captain has called us

BOO

How exciting.

Act 2

SCENE 1 SOMALIA PIRATE JAIL

Dark. Total scene is offstage.

BERNARD

Bastards.

BOO

I think they're cute.

BERNARD

Scum!

BOO

Who?

BERNARD

The Somali's

BOO

The food is better than it was on the ship

BERNARD

We've only had one meal. Look there's our friend Arthur.
He's bringing us some food.

BOO

He's dressed like a Somali Tribal Chief.

ARTHUR

(Speaking with a British
Accent)

Good Afternoon.

BERNARD

Hello, Arthur

ARTHUR

That is not my name

BERNARD

You're kidding.

ARTHUR

Sir, my name is Michael.

BERNARD

What's this British Accent.

ARTHUR

Educated in England. But, Sir, I am here to serve you food,
not carry on a personal discussion with you.

BOO

It's us.

ARTHUR

We are always us. I am Michael. Who are you?

BERNARD

Popeye and Olive.

ARTHUR

I am so pleased to meet you Popeye and Olive. What lovely British Names.

BERNARD

You're joking.

ARTHUR

Absolutely not. Popeye and Olive have always been my favorite names. Now I offer you an exquisite meal: Chateau Briand or Chateau Salmon, Somalian Salad, and then our piece de resistance.

BERNARD

Which is?

ARTHUR

Macdonald's french fries.

BERNARD

Any wine?

ARTHUR

Of course, Your hosts are a first class people

BERNARD

People or pirates! You scum bag!

BOO

Bernard, don't be rude.

ARTHUR

Be reminded, Sir, that you are our guest.

BERNARD

A guest. We are prisoners.

ARTHUR

I beg to differ, Sir, but I do not like to have confrontations.

BOO

Do you have something to drink?

ARTHUR

This is a Muslim country. And I am a Moslem.

BOO

Please, Arthur.

ARTHUR

My name is not Arthur. I am Mohammed.

BOO

All right Mohammed. Can you bring us some Gin.

ARTHUR

Sorry, Ma'am.

Bernard pulls a 50 dollar bill from his pocket, and puts it on the table

BOO

Please?

Mohammed takes the bill.

ARTHUR

I shall see what I can do. In the meantime is there anything you want for dinner.

BERNARD

When do we leave. What is happening.

ARTHUR

I do not know. I just work here.(exits)

BERNARD

Dirty liar!

BOO

Don't get angry.

BERNARD

You see how he took the money.

Arthur enters and puts down a bottle of Beefeaters Gin. Two glasses with some ice.

ARTHUR

That will be another \$100.

BERNARD

What!

ARTHUR

Shall I take it back?

BOO

No!

ARTHUR

Another \$100. That is the price which your host must pay for Beefeaters.

BERNARD

And the \$50 I gave you.

ARTHUR

That goes to my favorite charity. I am a religious man.

BERNARD

Get lost.

ARTHUR

You Westerners are so rude.

BERNARD

Be gone.

The stage becomes dark. We hear the voice of Botticelli and passengers offstage

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI (O.S.)

We are back and safe.

PASSENGERS (O.S.)

Yes! Yes! Yes.

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI

Danish special police rescued us.

PASSENGERS

Hurrah!

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI

Six or seven armed men fired at us which is why we had to give up the ship but now we are all safe and sound.

PASSENGERS

Rah Rah Rah

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI

Despite the vessel's increased speed and the choppy waters, the pirates balanced a ladder in their tiny boat and crawled up the side our ship.

The first pirate crept through barbed wire our crew had stretched across the ship's freeboard and fired a burst of automatic gunfire into the air.

PASSENGERS

We remember.

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI

All crew and staff are safe.

PASSENGERS

Yeah!!!

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI

Above all. All passengers are safe.

PASSENGERS

Yeah! Yeah!

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI

And all pirates are gone. And a group of Danish Soldiers are trying to recover the Jewels.

PASSENGERS

Yea!

SCENE 2 THE BEACH

Boo and Bernard are seated.

BERNARD

Wait till I get my hands on that bastard.

BOO

Now you be nice to him. He's so nice.

BERNARD

Nice!!! You're crazy!

BOO

He got us that gin, remember!

BERNARD

After we paid him!

BOO

Oh that was nothing. You take life too seriously. We're back and safe.

BERNARD

You're not making any sense.

BOO

Neither are you.

Arthur enters

ARTHUR
May I get anything for you.

BOO
ARTHUR!

ARTHUR
Another martini?

BOO
As I like them.

ARTHUR
And you, Father Phillips?

BERNARD
YOU ASK!

ARTHUR
Are you alright?

BERNARD
HE ASKS IF I'M ALRIGHT. YOU'RE A PIRATE!

ARTHUR
I beg your pardon.

BERNARD
You were with the pirates.

ARTHUR
I was waiting on you.

BERNARD
Only as a pirate. How much have you pocketed. You slimy
Somalian.

BOO
It's almost poetic "slimy Somalian"

BERNARD
Be quiet.

ARTHUR
Don't be rude to the lady>

BERNARD
I'm dealing with two ladies. One is a pirate.

ARTHUR
Kiss my ass!

BERNARD

I do not kiss black asses.

ARTHUR

Do you kiss white ones!

BOO

Please, no ass kissing.

ARTHUR

Why do you put up with this creepy dingbat about- to- be-defrocked priest!

BOO

Don't be mean, Arthur.

ARTHUR

I did the right thing.

BERNARD

You are obviously a Somali and a pirate. When we were your captives you only spoke with a British Accent

ARTHUR

That is my natural accent.

BERNARD

You took the bribe.

ARTHUR

I had to.

BERNARD

(Imitating)

I had to. Somali's don't like your type.

ARTHUR

You're right.

BERNARD

Are you a Somali or an African American! You look like a Somali!

ARTHUR

I'm both.

BERNARD

Both!

ARTHUR

Yes.

BERNARD

Then why did you do what you did?

ARTHUR

To save your assess and mine. And the crew and passengers.

BERNARD

You're in cahoots with all of them.

ARTHUR

Believe what you want. May I have a drink. From your milk of Magnesia Bottle, Boo.

BOO

Why yes, Arthur. Ha ha ha. See, he's nice.

BERNARD

Scum!

BOO

No!

ARTHUR

Did any harm come to you.

BERNARD

No, but

ARTHUR

The proof is in the pudding.

BOO

That's right.

BERNARD

You are a Somali!

ARTHUR

Maybe.

BERNARD

Maybe!

ARTHUR

May I share a drink with you.

BERNARD

Be our guest!

ARTHUR

I could be fired.

BERNARD

I will throw that Kansan into the Indian ocean.

ARTHUR

No need.

BERNARD

You could also go back to your Somalian friends

ARTHUR

No way.

BERNARD

Oh?

ARTHUR

I was born here, but left when I was seven.

BERNARD

You sound like a black Baptist.

ARTHUR

I am one.

BERNARD

And a Somali!

ARTHUR

Both.

BOO

How cute!

BERNARD

Be quiet!

ARTHUR

Stop that rudeness. We are drinking buddies

BERNARD

OK. Tell.

BOO

Yes, Let's hear your story

BERNARD

It better be good.

ARTHUR

You see those hills there? Right beyond the mountains?

BERNARD

Yes.

ARTHUR
I'm from about two miles beyond there.

BERNARD
Did you visit your pirate relatives?

ARTHUR
They do not want to see me.

BERNARD
Because you're gay?

ARTHUR
No.

BERNARD
Why are you telling me this.

ARTHUR
Because your are L.B. Roehard

BERNARD
How did you know that! Boo! You told !

BOO
No, I...

ARTHUR
She did not. I knew it already.

BERNARD
How did you know?

ARTHUR
My lips are sealed!

BERNARD
(To Boo)
I thought I could trust you.

ARTHUR
It was not she.

BERNARD
I'll bet!

BOO
It wasn't me.

BERNARD
How did you know!

ARTHUR
Captain Botticelli

BERNARD
Why is he so interested in me.

ARTHUR
That's none of my business.

BOO
I'll have more gin. I don't feel alone now

ARTHUR
I'll leave shortly.

BERNARD
Stay!

BOO
Please stay.

BERNARD
Why are you sharing? Why are you telling me this.

ARTHUR
Because you distrust me!

BERNARD
Well, you said you were from Atlanta.

ARTHUR
I'm from both.

BERNARD
Tell your story.

ARTHUR
I was born the son of the village whore!

BERNARD
Yeah?

ARTHUR
You're not taking me seriously. I must go.

BERNARD
Thief!

ARTHUR
What did you have missing.

BERNARD
Nothing.

ARTHUR

Then what is your complaint!

BERNARD

We were kidnapped.

BOO

No, we weren't. We're here now. It was fun. It made me want to live.

BERNARD

We were kidnapped for three days.

BOO

I have nothing missing.

BERNARD

You haven't even checked.

ARTHUR

You think I had something to do with it.

BOO

Let's go back to the mother story. I don't need my jewelry.

ARTHUR

I have to go.

BOO

Stay, please.

BERNARD

With this pirate, who passed himself off as an African American and then we find out he's a Somali pirate

BOO

Who cares?

BERNARD

Shut up!

ARTHUR

Don't you tell her to shut up

BERNARD

You're a servant!

ARTHUR

Don't you call me a servant. Let me tell my story.

BERNARD

Go ahead.

BOO

I wanna hear, too.

BERNARD

Tell the story.

ARTHUR

You hear the drums. They are my cousins playing.

BERNARD

Just arrived from Atlanta?

ARTHUR

No!

BERNARD

Somalis' are now your cousins?

ARTHUR

They always have been.

BOO

How nice. A bunch of cousins. I love Arthur more than any man.

BERNARD

This man is dangerous!

BOO

They just took jewels. Who cares about those dumb jewels.

Speakers come on

BOTTICELLI O.S

Good news. The last of the jewels have been returned Lady Connors reports that her blue diamond had been recovered.

PASSENGERS

Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!

BERNARD

Bizarre. Alright, continue with your damned story.

BOO

Yes, I want to hear your story.

ARTHUR

As I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted, I was born the son of a whore.

BOO

Oh my!

BERNARD

Oh, Please!

ARTHUR

Yes, the son of a whore.

BOO

How awful.

BERNARD

What makes you call her a whore!

ARTHUR

She was one. But I loved her. She was the only mother I had.

BERNARD

Go ahead.

ARTHUR

Well, you see those hills in the background.

BERNARD

Yes, I do.

ARTHUR

I know those hills.

BERNARD

Continue.

ARTHUR

I am both a Baptist and a Muslim.

BERNARD

You gotta be kidding!

ARTHUR

Yes just as I say.

BERNARD

Liar.

ARTHUR

No, not a liar.

BOO

What a nice story.

ARTHUR

I was born in those hills. The illegitimate son of the village whore, and the nephew of the tribal chief.

I could cry!

BOO

It wasn't easy.

ARTHUR

Continue with the sob story.

BERNARD

You have no idea what brutality is like.

ARTHUR

They're your Somalis, not mine.

BERNARD

And then what happened?

BOO

Let him finish.

BERNARD

Would Bernard Phillips please report to the Captain's office.

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI

I'll just ignore him.

BERNARD

Would Father Phillips please come to the Bursars office.

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI

Don't go!

BOO

I shall ignore him.

BERNARD

Good. I don't like that man.

BOO

And then she was stoned.

ARTHUR

Stoned?

BOO

Stoned!

ARTHUR

Savages.

BOO

It's what I come from.

ARTHUR

BOO

Go on with your story.

BERNARD

What's your point!

ARTHUR

My mother raised me herself.

BERNARD

And then what happened

ARTHUR

I was raised as the village waif. My mother was the first woman who had ever had a child out of wedlock in over 100 years. She was the shame of the whole town.

BOO

You must have suffered.

ARTHUR

When I was seven I had the worst experiences my life.

BOO

What was that?

ARTHUR

My mother was caught in delicto fragante again.

BOO

What does that mean

BERNARD

Don't ask. You already know.

BOO

Oh.

ARTHUR

And she was brought before the tribal elders.

BOO

And what did they do?

ARTHUR

They stoned her to death. I cried. I cried.

BOO

You have had a difficult life.

ARTHUR

And then the Baptists arrived.

The Baptists!

BOO

What a cockeyed story.

BERNARD

They found me.

ARTHUR

So are you a Moslem or a Baptist?

BERNARD

I'm both,

ARTHUR

Tell.

BERNARD

Well these Baptists came from Georgia. They didn't get too many converts. But then they saw me and said I had to be adopted You know these well meaning Christians. And they are white too.

ARTHUR

Oh, my.

BERNARD

And then they took me in.

ARTHUR

What bull.

BERNARD

Kiss my ass.

ARTHUR

I do not kiss Somali asses

BERNARD

You have had such a rough life, Arthur.

BOO

Don't cry. Tony

ARTHUR

What did they do?

BOO

That's when they stoned her to death.

ARTHUR

How sad!

BOO

What bull.

BERNARD

ARTHUR
Is that the only word you know?

BERNARD
Arthur, kiss my ass.

ARTHUR
I do not kiss white asses.

BERNARD
Touche!

BOO
How nasty.

BERNARD
Pour me some more gin.

ARTHUR
Drunk!

BERNARD
Pour and shut up!

ARTHUR
As you say sir.

NAME
Artie!

ARTHUR
Don't call me that name!

BERNARD
Pour me another drink.

ARTHUR
Yes, sir.

BERNARD
Arthur.

ARTHUR
Yes Sir?

BERNARD
Now tell me the end of your story. How the hell did you get to Atlanta?

ARTHUR

I said I'm both a Baptist and a Muslim.

BERNARD

And gay?

ARTHUR

How do you know I'm gay.

BERNARD

Oh brother!

ARTHUR

I was seven at the time. I was running home from playing. I didn't have many friends. But one little boy who was also illegitimate loved me and I loved him.

BERNARD

So it started then?

ARTHUR

When I got home my mother was being dragged into the streets.

BERNARD

And where were your uncles and grandfather?

ARTHUR

They were leading the stoning.

BOO

Why?

ARTHUR

They wee stoning her, and I shouted out stop that stoning she's my mother. Then one of the uncles shouted out, remove her bastard at once.

BERNARD

Tough life you lead.

ARTHUR

Then the Baptists came and they saved me.

BERNARD

How

ARTHUR

This church, white church mind, you came, to our village to acquire converts. They were immediately led out of the village They would have been slaughtered otherwise. They wanted to be martyrs anyhow. So, they took me to America and adopted me.

BERNARD

Do they know that about your other life.

ARTHUR

Of course not.

BERNARD

Ha! A gay Muslim Baptist!

ARTHUR

I went to the best schools. And then I got a job as a bartender. Now you know you know my story.

BOO

I believe all that you say

ARTHUR

And you, Master Bernard!

BERNARD

We are all miserable sinners and creatures of God.

ARTHUR

We know that in any language.

BERNARD

Amen.

SCENE 3 BOTTICELLI OFFICE

Dark. The William Tell overture plays in the background. Captain Botticelli is in his office. Arthur enters

BERNARD

You called me.

BOTTICELLI O.S

Buon Giorno

BERNARD

Buon Giorno.

BOTTICELLI O.S

Che cosa vuoi?

BERNARD

Stop the crap?

BOTTICELLI O.S

Mi, scusa. Signore.

BERNARD

You are no more a Botticelli than a Smith or something else.

BOTTICELLI O.S

Non capisco.

BERNARD

Oh, butt off.

BOTTICELLI O.S

What's your God Damn problem!

BERNARD

Just as I thought.

BOTTICELLI O.S

Now get out.

BERNARD

Not so fast.

BOTTICELLI O.S

Do you want me to throw you overboard!

BERNARD

I wouldn't think of...

BOTTICELLI O.S

I have an excellent crew that can do it.

BERNARD

Bloody. And then you know about me...

BOTTICELLI O.S

You leave me alone and I'll leave you alone.

BERNARD

You're in cahoots with the pirates.

BOTTICELLI O.S

Please, Sir.

BERNARD

How much have they paid you off!

BOTTICELLI O.S

What a nasty thing to say.

BERNARD

You and that Somali waiter.

BOTTICELLI O.S

I have no Somali waiters

BERNARD

Arthur!

BOTTICELLI O.S

He's a Baptist from Atlanta. You've been spending too much time with that drunken woman.

BERNARD

Likely story!

BOTTICELLI O.S

Sir, get out! Or we'll leave you off.

BERNARD (O.S.)

You might get into trouble.

BOTTICELLI O.S

Get out

BERNARD (O.S.)

You'll see. A damn Kansan who calls himself an Italian.

BOTTICELLI (O.S.)

Not a Kansan. An Iowa crook!

BOTTICELLI O.S

Butt off. Or sleep with your drunken woman.

BERNARD

You're reprehensible!

BOTTICELLI

You should talk.

BERNARD

What do you mean!

BOTTICELLI

Three persons in one.

BERNARD

She told you.

BOTTICELLI

She did not.

BERNARD

Who else?

BOTTICELLI

He told me.

Who is he!

BERNARD

Your Cardinal.

!BOTTICELLI

O' Mara?

BERNARD

Good friend of mine!

BOTTICELLI

What!

BERNARD

I too was a man of the cloth. A Presbyterian, but I left willingly.

BOTTICELLI

You--- a man of the cloth?

BERNARD

A good man of the cloth.

BOTTICELLI

And a thief.

BERNARD

Careful how you use that. I'm also a lawyer.

BOTTICELLI

And a thief

BERNARD

The good bishop. And he spared me all the rumors of your many dalliances with questionable women.

BOTTICELLI

Are you my biographer?

BERNARD

Interesting life. Different identities, three wives that we know of, an author, a member of British nobility, sort of , and a cheap multimillionaire on the side. You invented Prozac. Perhaps you should use some of your product.

BOTTICELLI

I don't need it.

BERNARD

Well, now that you're "exiting" the priesthood.

BERNARD

Who said!

BOTTICELLI

You have no choice. In fact, when O'Meara suggested I contact you to take this tour

BERNARD

So, you've known.

BOTTICELLI

Yes. Hoping maybe we might dump you into the ocean.

BERNARD

Interesting.

BOTTICELLI

Perhaps you would take an extended swim.

BERNARD

No such luck.

BOTTICELLI

You love life?

BERNARD

Yes. Do you?

BOTTICELLI

Yes. Now get out. Hope you enjoy your next career even more. Or perhaps you'll become

BERNARD

Ha.

BOTTICELLI

You laugh!

BERNARD

Yes.

BOTTICELLI

I know who you are!

BERNARD

Interesting.

BOTTICELLI

Interesting indeed!

SCENE 4 THE SUEZ CANAL RESTAURANT THE NEXT NIGHT

Bernard is seated, glancing at his watch. Arthur enters and lays down a martini.

BERNARD

Where in the Hell is she!

ARTHUR

Be patient

BERNARD

She's fifteen minutes late!

ARTHUR

She said she was busy writing something.

BERNARD

Damn it.

Boo arrives, dressed in white and wearing white pearls.

BOO

Hello, Love.

BERNARD

Where have you been?

BOO

I had to write a letter.

BERNARD

Couldn't you write it the morning!

BOO

I'm busy in the morning.

BERNARD

What are you doing?

BOO

It's a secret.

BERNARD

Look, I arranged this whole dinner for us.

BOO

I know, and I love you for it. And I had to look beautiful for you.

He smiles.

BERNARD

I know.

BOO

Now cheer up. I want this to be the most perfect night of my life.

BERNARD

Why.

BOO

Because I love you.

BERNARD

What wine do you prefer? I recall that you like Pinot Noire.

BOO

No, Thank you.

BERNARD

What!

BOO

I'll have some lemon with my water.

BERNARD

Arthur! Can you bring some lemons for us?

Arthur walks in.

ARTHUR

And what will you have to drink, Miss Boo?

BOO

Water with lemon.

ARTHUR

Am I hearing right!!

BOO

Yes. And I'll have a double serving of dessert.

ARTHUR

Is this a new day?

BOO

You might say that! Isn't the sea beautiful.

BERNARD

It has never looked so good.

ARTHUR

There seems to be a special gleam in the ocean.

BERNARD

And who knows this ocean better than you.

ARTHUR

But I hope to be as far from here as possible.

BOO

Arthur, can you come here and hold my hand.

ARTHUR

I must bring some food from the kitchen. You know this si ..

BOO

Just for a minute. And I want you to hold my other hand, Bernard, L.B. Roehard, and Father Phillips.

ARTHUR

Are you ready for your appetizer?

BOO

You bet.

ARTHUR

My God! She's eating!

BOO

I'm hungry!

ARTHUR

Appetizer's coming.

BOO

I wish you could sit with us and we would serve you, Arthur

ARTHUR

Never. And Bernard, the dinner is on Captain Boticelli.

BOO

Such a nice man!

Arthur and Bernard look amusingly skeptical at one another.

BERNARD

Which band is playing tonight?

ARTHUR

The English Band.

BERNARD

They're so good.

ARTHUR

And they are coming over to play a waltz for ...at least over the sound system.

BOO

The Captain thinks of everything

BERNARD

The thief!

BOO

But he's a nice thief. Like Arthur.

ARTHUR

Miss Boo, please do not call me a thief!

BOO

Oh I'm sorry. I meant you're a nice thief

ARTHUR

A nice thief!

BERNARD

Mmmmmmm.

ARTHUR

Miss Boo!

BERNARD

I mean a nice man.

ARTHUR

That's totally different.

BERNARD

Arthur was a pirate once. Does that qualify him as a thief?

BOO

I love Arthur, whatever he is. I'm hungry for the appetizers.

ARTHUR

At your service. Miss Boo. (exits)

BERNARD

Boo?

BOO

Yes.

BERNARD

Do you love me?

BOO
Well, why wouldn't I?

BERNARD
Please answer my question.

BOO
You are so handsome.

BERNARD
That I know. I repeat my question.

BOO
Why sure.

BERNARD
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER!

BOO
I find you more fascinating than any man I have ever met.

Grabs her hand and pulls it violently

BERNARD
DO YOU LOVE ME!

BOO
You're hurting me.

BERNARD
A friend commented that he had to get all he could out of life, for there was nothing once it was over. For him and others who share his belief, there is no "waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God."

BOO
All right.

BERNARD
I love you

BOO
And I love you.

BERNARD
Shall we go to bed.

BOO
Tonight, I want to sleep alone.

BERNARD

Fine. We'll see you in the morning

BOO

Give me a great big good night kiss.

They kiss passionately.

SCENE 5 POOL SIDE TABLE THE NEXT MORNING THE BAY OF NAPLES

Bernard is seated at a table on the pool deck. He watches the sea as he drinks a cup of coffee. His Bible and prayer book are on the table. Arthur rushes in.

BERNARD

Why are you in such a rush.!

ARTHUR

Bernard!

BERNARD

Yes!

ARTHUR

You haven't heard.

BERNARD

Heard what!

Arthur jumps and takes Bernard's hand.

ARTHUR

She's dead.

BERNARD

Who's dead!

ARTHUR

Boo!

BERNARD

Boo!

ARTHUR

The Captain wants to see you.

BERNARD

How did she die!

ARTHUR

She swam into the sunrise.

BERNARD

Oh, my God!

ARTHUR

Oh, my God, Right! The Captain wants to see you.

BERNARD

My Boo! My Boo! When

ARTHUR

5 minutes ago. The Brits saw her jump.

BERNARD

Why! Why! Why!

ARTHUR

Here is the note she left you. And one for me. Let me read.

LETTER FROM BOO

Bernard:

I love you.

That was a delightful dinner we had last night. The ship's food has not been very good all along, but last night was an exception. The Beef Wellington was the best I have ever eaten, and the salad was the greatest of all time. Who can ever forget the baked Alaska. A wonderful parting dinner. You must have been pleased that I did not drink at all during dinner. Somehow the craving was gone now that the end (or beginning) was imminent.

I'm sorry I was late in arriving last night, but was preparing the first draft of the letter I am now finalizing. You deserve all the attention I am giving you.

You may be puzzled why I am taking my final swim this morning. Plans for this event have been in the offing for some time. I had actually planned to jump off the ship on my third day here, but because I ran into you and Arthur. I chose to postpone my action.

Consequently, you have actually prolonged my life about a week. I mention this only in that since you and I spent so much time together, you may be a suspect of foul play. You are not. My decision was my own, and is an actualization of what I had planned to do two years ago.

You may ask why this path. I have been on this path for at least two decades. I tried before, but changed my mind. You probably felt there were no signs. That's right, I showed none. Remember, my Norwegian roots (Smile). Life has no meaning. I had suffered much too long.

But, you gave me some hope. After all, I met both Bernard and Roehard at one time. Both guys helped me. I love you both. The priest isn't all together bad either(smile). The irony, however, is that your three persons in one will be exposed. I hope you do not get in trouble with your church. You're the best thing those folks have got.

I timed my final dive(I hope it's a good one) to coincide with the morning walk of the snoopy Brits so that we would have a witness as to what happened. Otherwise, you may have been a suspect in foul play. Of course, my mother took the same type of final swim.

I must ask you to please try to totally forget who I am. I felt I loved you from the beginning. Last night, I concluded that you too had fallen in love with me. I wish you hadn't. Please forget you ever knew me. I wish no pain on anyone. Please go on with your life.

Look forward to the future. As for me, I want to quote that Norwegian saying: " You don't have to put out the fire when all is burnt out"

Love,
Boo

Bernard puts his head down on the table. Arthur opens his letter.

ARTHUR

Let's see what she says to me. My God!

LETTER FROM BOO

Arthur:

Goodbye. I truly like you. I enclose your gratuity. You earned it.

Thank you for everything you have done. You are a special person. My love for you is different from my love for Bernard, but it is still real. We both had miserable childhoods.

You made the last two weeks of my life so good. I loved being captured, and you so gallant. We all enjoyed it. I was hoping they would all take more drastic steps toward us.

The butt kissing dialogue with Bernard was funny. A standoff. Ha!

Stand by Bernard. He will be able to help you.

I must go now. I want my final dive to be a good one.

Love,
Boo

ARTHUR

A gratuity of a A

BOTTICELLI

Would Bernard Phillips and Arthur please report to the
Captain's office.

BERNARD

It makes no sense.

ARTHUR

No sense, at all.

BERNARD

Did she ever give you a clue?

ARTHUR

None whatsoever.

BERNARD

Get me a gin ala Boo.

ARTHUR

Mr. Phillips!

BERNARD

Get my order.

ARTHUR

But...

BERNARD

Do as I say. And repeat after me.

ARTHUR

Yes, sir.

BERNARD

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.
You restore my strength. You guide me along the right path
for the sake of your name. Even when I walk through a dark
valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side; your rod and
staff give me courage. You set a table before me as my
enemies watch; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
23:6 * Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of
my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for years to
come.

ARTHUR
Amen.

BERNARD
Amen.

ARTHUR
Is this enough?

BERNARD
We shall see.

ARTHUR
How about a Hail Mary.

BOTH
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, Blessed art thou

BERNARD
That's enough.

Bernard looks out at sea, tears streaming from eyes, and sobbing.

ARTHUR
We weep together.

BERNARD
I will always take care of you, Arthur.

ARTHUR
She said you would. The captain will be calling again.

BERNARD
I want to be alone for a moment.

ARTHUR
Yes, Bernie. (exits)

Bernard looks dazed into the sunrise

BERNARD
Here I stand. Here I Stand.

A brief pause.

BERNARD (cont'd)
I AM MY OWN CHURCH. SO HELP ME GOD!

In the background we hear Gregorian Chant. And then bells begin ringing.

SO HELP ME GOD!
 BERNARD (cont'd)

BOO (O.S.)
 Forget you ever knew me.

BERNARD
 Go away!

BOO (O.S.)
 I will, but forget you ever knew me.

BERNARD
 Go away!

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI
 Will Mr. Phillips please come to the Captain's office.

BERNARD
 I AM MY OWN CHURCH! SO HELP ME GOD.

VOICE OF BOTTICELLI
 Again, will Mr. Phillips please come to the Captain's office

Bernard looks into the distance

SCENE 6 THE DECK SHORTLY AFTERWARD

Captain Botticelli walks hurriedly on
 the deck followed by Arthur

ARTHUR
 Captain!

BOTTICELLI
 I'm in a hurry. Arthur!

ARTHUR
 You let the police take him away!!!

BOTTICELLI
 The choice was not mine.

ARTHUR
 He did not kill her!!!!

BOTTICELLI
 Of course not.

ARTHUR
 HE DID NOT KILL HER!

BOTTICELLI

We are about to disembark.

ARTHUR

That's all the answer you have!

BOTTICELLI

You'll find out.

ARTHUR

I have the letters. He did not kill her!

BOTTICELLI

Just be glad you're alive.

ARTHUR

Why! Please save Bernard Phillips

BOTTICELLI

I can't. He died two weeks ago. The man with whom you spent weeks is Mr. Kevin White

ARTHUR

Kevin white.... A common name

BOTTICELLI

Kevin A. White

ARTHUR

Doesn't ring a bell.

BOTTICELLI

Kevin Anthony White

ARTHUR

The mass murderer

BOTTICELLI

The man you came to love is a serial killer. Father Phillips who was to have come on this trip was murdered and the body disposed of. You'll never make a good lawyer. By Kevin White. Who in one of his perverted dilly dallies assumed the identity of Bernard Phillips. L.B. Roehard has also been reported missing. Evidence suggests that he too was murdered by Kevin Anthony.

ARTHUR

Kevin Anthony White died years ago.

BOTTICELLI

He never died. And don't be sure he will this time. If he does not die you may be his next victim. He has had 11 victims Always claimed he wanted 12.

Now be prepared for much questioning. You spent two weeks with Kevin Anthony White. The Tabloids will love you.

The microphone comes on.

BOO

Would Captain Botticelli and Arthur please report immediately. The Italian Police are here.

BOTTICELLI

Her voice sounds like the deceased Boo.

ARTHUR

Not to me it doesn't. I hear a male voice

BOTTICELLI

I hear Boo. The police are waiting for us upstairs. I can't wait to go back to Iowa. I will teach Sunday School each Sunday for a month before my next cruise.

ARTHUR

You, a Sunday school teach?

BOTTICELLI

Yes, I?

ARTHUR

After all that happened in Somalia? You and I know the truth.

BOTTICELLI

Nonsense.

ARTHUR

You teach Sunday School.

BOTTICELLI

Presbyterian Sunday School. None of us are perfect. And you? Did you finally see your mother in Somalia.

ARTHUR

I saw all 19 brothers and sisters.

BOTTICELLI

Quite a story you told Kevin White.

ARTHUR

(Smiling)I have different stories about myself.

BOTTICELLI

You were once the promising lawyer. Remember those days?

ARTHUR

Lawless

BOTTICELLI

Go back to Atlanta, Arthur You can become a good bartender

ARTHUR

Bartender. I am going back into law.

BOTTICELLI

When does your parole end?

ARTHUR

In a month. And the Governor may give me a pardon.

BOTTICELLI

But that won't get your law license. Depriving all those sweet little old ladies of their entire estates was not a nice thing to do You owe them close to ten million dollars

ARTHUR

I will find a way. Goodbye, Captain.

BOTTICELLI

Goodbye, Arthur.

ARTHUR

Goodbye, Captain.

BOTTICELLI

THE sea is never still. It pounds on the shore Restless as a young heart, Hunting. The sea speaks And only the stormy hearts Know what it says. Life is the same. Twists and turns the whole way.

END OF PLAY.