

Inn

Next day

The Inn is crowded and the atmosphere jolly. Captain Donati and his crew are there.

Sailors and girls are relaxing, and singing and dancing.

They sing a Marinaresca, in part a sailors' "chanty," in part a regular melody.

#10 NEVER TAKE A DRINK

Chorus

[PLAY MUSIC](#)

(TOTTO and BASTIANO are revealed sat in the shadows)

TOTTO

It's nearly three Bastiano. Keep your face hidden, we don't want them to know they're being watched.

BASTIANO

Do you think I'm a fool - remember I was the best in the business at this.

TOTTO

How could I ever forget. Quiet now. He's here

(SALAI enters and is greeted by Iseppo)

ISEPPO

Salai! Amico mio! Where've you been hiding lately?

SALAI

Not hiding Iseppo. Leonardo keeps me working. Working hard.

ISEPPO

You, working... hard??

(Laughs in disbelief)

Come on now, what have you really been up to. Involves some woman no doubt.

SALAI

Shhh. I'm trying not to attract attention. I'm meeting someone.

ISEPPO

(Interested)
A Signora?

SALAI

Yes, a lady.

ISEPPO

A lady... Who?

SALAI

Never mind who, you'll see soon enough. Now bring me a jug and two glasses, I'll be over there in the alcove. And remember - silenzio!

ISEPPO

Ahh, don't worry. Nobody here cares much. They're all at it anyway. Do you want the good stuff?

SALAI

Not at your prices.

(ISEPPO smiles cheekily and goes for the wine.

SALAI sits down.

ARAGONA enters, hooded. She sees Salai and joins him.

ISEPPO brings the wine over.

He leans over and tries to get a better look at Aragona's face. ARAGONA turns away)

ISEPPO

Hmmm... Buenasera Signora.

SALAI

(Pointedly)
Thank you, Iseppo.

ISEPPO

Best wine in the house Signor. Enjoy.
(ISEPPO leaves the table, with a knowing smile)

ARAGONA

(Looks round)
O-Oh. There's Captain Donati!

SALAI

Bernardo...? Does he know you?

ARAGONA

Yes he does - but he's an old friend of my family. He wouldn't cause trouble for me. Anyway why shouldn't I meet with my protégé. My husband will want to know what I'm getting for his money one day.

SALAI

Let's hope he doesn't find out what you're really getting..

ARAGONA

Salai!

SALAI

Can we not go straight back to your house.

ARAGONA

No! My maid might still be there. Be patient and finish your drink.

#11 **DANCETTE**

Orchestra

[PLAY MUSIC](#)

(GIRLS start dancing. SALAI and ARAGONA hold hands across the table and laugh and flirt)

(An argument breaks out between GIUSEPPE and SAILOR#1, over a girl. They start to fight)

#11 **MUSIC STOPS**

(The GIRL tries to separate them. A knife is drawn and there is a standoff)

CAPTAIN

Lazzaro! Sort these fools out before they kill one another. Bring them over here.

(LAZZARO and SAILOR#2 disarm Giuseppe and bring him and the girl to the Captain)

CAPTAIN

What's this all about Giuseppe. It's not like you to get upset.

GIUSEPPE

No Cap'n. But I had no choice. He said my girlfriend was the ugliest woman he'd ever seen.

CAPTAIN

He did? No wonder you're angry.

(gesturing)

You have my permission to go and finish him off. You can leave your monkey with me!

GIUSEPPE

Aye, Cap'n...

(GIUSEPPE looks bemused, then everyone falls about laughing)

(SALAI and ARAGONA drink up and leave, giggling as they go)

BASTIANO

Ah! They have no shame. So it's true, the virtuous Aragona is not as pure as she seems. I've seen all I need to see, and heard what I need to hear.

TOTTO

Not so fast Bastiano! If you truly want your revenge you'll need proof, or there'll be big trouble. Her husband is a rich and powerful man. He won't take kindly to you accusing his wife of adultery, whether it's true or not. She'll deny it of course, and if you can't prove it you'll be lucky to get away with your life. Tread easy my man.

BASTIANO

Ye-es. I suppose you're right. At least I know now my suspicions are true. I'll bide my time. A chance will come.

#11A *DANCETTE (Reprise)* *Orchestra*

(DANCERS do 'Hornpipe' routine at front of stage)

BLACKOUT