

SCENE 3

Later that day
Interior Studio

Aragona goes to Salai at Leonardo's studio in panic. However Lisa is already there with Salai.

Totto has followed Aragona and uses the secret passage to eavesdrop.

(SALAI and LISA are alone in the studio, laughing and flirting)

(SFX CUE: <DOORBELL>)

SALAI

Who can that be? We're not expecting anyone. You'd better hide Lisa. Go up to my room and lock yourself in. Go, go...

(LISA goes to hide. SALAI goes to answer the door)

(TOTTO has entered by the secret passage. HE appears behind the wall and listens.)

(ARAGONA enters, distressed, with Salai)

SALAI

Aragona! Whatever's the matter?

(ARAGONA embraces Salai)

ARAGONA

Oh Salai, we're in trouble. Deep trouble. There is a man - an evil man - called Bastiano, the Inquisitor. Many years ago I rejected his advances and he tried to have my dear mother drowned as a witch. I helped to put him in prison. He was banished from Florence but now he's returned, vowing revenge.

SALAI

(Frivolously)

Whoa, whoa, slow down. Your mother? Drowned as a witch?

ARAGONA

Yes. It's a complicated story my love.

SALAI

Revenge? What can he do? Tell your husband about him. He'll have him arrested and thrown back in jail!.

ARAGONA

That's the problem Salai. Bastiano knows about *us*. He says he's going to tell Ludovico.

SALAI

Knows about us? So what? He can't prove anything! You're my patron, we spend time together. It is a common thing in Florence.

ARAGONA

Salai, the accusation is bad enough, but he says he has a witness - one of the Machiavelli. Ludovico will *have* to listen to *him*. Oh Salai, I fear he will kill both of us.

SALAI

(SALAI paces, now concerned)

So... what are we going to do. I... I need to time to think.

ARAGONA

We haven't got time. Ludovico is coming home at the weekend. We'll just have to go away!

SALAI

Go away? We can't just 'go away' Aragona. Where would we go?

ARAGONA

We can stay with my sister, Guilia. She'll understand. And Captain Donati will help us, he's an old friend, we can rely on him. Salai you will have to arrange it -

SALAI

But... this is madness!

ARAGONA

I've got the money.

(hands Salai a purse)

We can be together Salai. No more hiding away.

SALAI

(reluctantly)

All right, I'll speak to the Captain in the morning, but look I'm sure there must be some other way...

ARAGONA

I must go, I have so much to do.

(ARAGONA leaves)

#19 BLUE

Salai

PLAY MUSIC

SALAI

Oh GOD! What a mess! I need time to think....

(remembers)

Lisa...! Lisa!

SALAI brings LISA out of hiding

SALAI

I'm sorry... It was my patron Aragona, I couldn't get rid of her.

LISA

What did she want?

SALAI

Oh nothing. Just checking on her investment. She does pay me well. I'm very grateful.

LISA

Not too grateful I hope. Or I might just be jealous.

SALAI

Cara Mia... how could you think such a thing. You know you're the only one I love...

LISA

I hope so Salai. I do love you so much. I couldn't bear the thought of you with someone else.

(They embrace and kiss. TOTTO hears their talk of love)

(SFX CUE: < Front door slams - interior >)

(TOTTO leaves)

LEONARDO

(Distant)

Salai!

SALAI

It's Leonardo! Don't let him find you here. Use the secret passage. Quickly now.

(SALAI ushers LISA towards the concealed door. One last brief kiss and LISA leaves)

(LEONARDO enters)

LEONARDO

Is everything all right my boy?

SALAI

Y-Yes, Leonardo, everythings fine. Why?

LEONARDO

I thought I heard voices... Anyway, it's been a good day. The council finally agreed my design for the great mural in the Salone dei Cinquecento. Did I mention that fool Michelangelo is to do one on the opposite wall?

SALAI

You did Master.

LEONARDO

Piff! I'll show him what a mural should look like. We'll see who is the *real* artist.

SALAI

(Preoccupied)

Yes Master. I'm sure we will...

LEONARDO

How about some supper?

(Salai is silent)

LEONARDO

Salai?

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3A

Street 1 - Outside Studio
Continuous

Totto is waiting and confronts Lisa.

(TOTTO waits in the street. LISA comes out)

TOTTO

Ah. So. The lovebird flies the nest.

LISA

(Startled)

Totto! What are you doing here!

TOTTO

I might ask you the same question my little Lisa - except I already know the answer!

LISA

What do you mean Totto? Leonardo is painting my portrait, I, I...

TOTTO

Stop the charade Lisa. Do you think your boyfriend is the only one who knows about secret passages. I'm a Machiavelli. It's our job to know secrets. I heard everything, just now, up there. I'm sure your merchant husband would love to hear what value you're getting for his money!

LISA

He would never believe it!

TOTTO

(turning as if to leave)

Well we'll have to see won't we..

LISA

(tearful)

Totto! No! You can't. You mustn't..

TOTTO

My sweet little Lisa. Your tears could always melt my heart. But not anymore I'm afraid. You're going to have to try harder these days if you want to persuade me to... keep quiet.

LISA

No! Never! (breaks down) What sort of woman do you think I am!

TOTTO

The sort who would go with another man behind her husband's back, Lisa! And I wouldn't worry about staying faithful to Leonardo's boy - what do you think he's up to with that 'patron' of his? Eh??

LISA

Liar! He wouldn't...

TOTTO

Perhaps you should think it over Lisa. After all there's no rush is there. I've waited a long time, a few more days won't hurt. Think about it.

I'll, er,

(Caressing LISA'S face)

be in touch.

(TOTTO exits)

(LISA falls to her knees, tearful)

#20 THE HEART OF IT

Lisa

[PLAY MUSIC](#)

(BLACKOUT)