

Letters from Lisette
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CAST: 2
Lisette; (female) a doll 11-17 yrs old
Caruso: (male) an operatic porpoise, ageless

(We are at the Pier with LISETTE She is pathetically weeping. Somewhere in the harbor is Caruso, a wanna-be-opera-singer-porpoise. We hear him singing.)

CARUSO
(To the tune of *Funiculi, Funicula*, Find tune here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HH0TMmgPtjg>

No Pizza Pie

Some eat their weight in plates of bread and pasta.
But not say, I; but not say I. (aye?)
Some eat their fill of meatballs and lasagna.
Eat or die! Eat or die!

But me, I like to feast on calamari.
No pizza pie! No pizza pie!
While gazing at my lady-love, Caramari
Under sea and sky; under sea and sky.

(Refrain)
Herring! Whitefish! Cod and octopi!
Sardines! Mackerel! Squid and fishhead pie!
No pizza pie, no pizza pie,
No pizza pie, no pizza pie!
Unless it has sardines don't feed us cheesy pizza pie!

LISETTE
That was wonderful!

CARUSO
I know. So, Signorina, did I cheer you up?

LISETTE

For a moment. But now I am remembering that I am all alone and I'll never make it home. First, I am tortured by a Ferris Wheel and then I missed the last ferry to Germany and well, nothing is going right!

CARUSO

Little Pupa, are those real tears?

LISETTE

I don't know.

CARUSO

You know what they say, if you don't cry – your eyes can't be beautiful.

LISETTE

Who says that?

CARUSO

My wife.

LISETTE

Does she cry a lot?

CARUSO

Si, Signorina. The sun comes up – she cries (CARUSO cries in imitation – boo hoo or something similar). The sun goes down – she cries. (CARUSO fake cries.) The moonlight shines above us – she cries. She cries and she cries and her eyes – oh those eyes!

(CARUSO cries now in earnest.)

I miss those rainy eyes! *Caramari!*

LISETTE

Is she in Italy?

CARUSO

Italy? It's too hot in July! She's waiting for me in Hamburg. I must be off! (He starts to go and then looks back.) Signorina, would you like me to take you to Hamburg? Otherwise you shall spend the night alone on the pier.

LISETTE

I don't know. I've never ridden on a porpoise.

CARUSO

Never fear! Caruso-the-magnifico-singing-porpoise-with-a-purpose is here! I can get you all the way to Hamburg. Are you up for an adventure?

LISETTE

I am! But... I am not sure I want to get all wet. That would make me shabby before I reach my home.

CARUSO

I have the perfect solution.

(CARUSO dives under and comes back with possibly a saddle on its back and definitely with a pretty umbrella.)

CARUSO

The umbrella will protect you from the sea spray.

LISETTE

If you say so.

CARUSO

What are you waiting for? I have a date in Hamburg. I must be going. Avanti!

LISETTE

It's hard with these shoes and the cloak.

CARUSO

Don't worry. I haven't lost a doll yet.

LISETTE

You've done this before?

CARUSO

Never.

(LISETTE manages to get on CARUSO.)

CARUSO

And now – I shall sing you across the sea. But first little pupa, have you seen the harbor? It is magnifico! And the mermaid statue – such a delight! Hold on!

(CARUSO swims with LISETTE holding on to everything: to Caruso, her umbrella, her cloak.)

LISETTE

Signore, not so fast, please.

(CARUSO slows down and sings.)

CARUSO
(He starts “Beautiful Dreamer”)

Beautiful dreamer, out on the sea
Mermaids are chanting the wild lorelie,

Sing, Signorina, sing!

CARUSO (cont’d)

I don’t know how.

LISETTE

But you must sing! Life is a song!

CARUSO

I never learned.

LISETTE

CARUSO

(Stops swimming.)

Now *that* is a tragedy. Here we are – “The Little Mermaid.” Bene, no?

So beautiful.

LISETTE

I know. Like me. Now let’s get ready for the crossing. Arrivederci, Copenhagen!

CARUSO

(They swim. The lights turn to dusk.)

Soon there will be nothing but moon and stars. Look up. Bella, no?

Very.

LISETTE

CARUSO
(Sings By the Light of the Silvery Moon.)

“By the light” – now you –

What? No!

LISETTE

Just sing what I sing. Again.

CARUSO

“By the light”

LISETTE

“By the light”

CARUSO

“Of the silvery moon...”

LISETTE

“Of the silvery moon”

CARUSO

“I want to spoon...”

LISETTE

“I want to spoon”

CARUSO

“For my honey I’ll croon love’s tune.
Honey moon....”

LISETTE

“Honey moon, honey moon”

CARUSO

“Keep a shinin’ in June...”

LISETTE

“Or July”

CARUSO

“Your silver beans will bring love’s dream
We’ll be cuddlin’ soon.

LISETTE and CARUSO

“By the silvery moon.”

(They swim off as the lights change to Berlin.)