

LIGHTS change and we are back at the docks in Hamburg. We hear some “meows.” Two cats, Antonius and Kleopatra sneak up on LISETTE. They circle her. They hiss. A paw goes in and out.

LISETTE

... here kitty kitty? Can I do something for you?

ANTONIUS

Meow!

KLEOPATRA

Mew. Mew.

THEY circle LISETTE again. It’s a bit more menacing. Hisses. Claws. LISETTE is first frightened trying to shoo them. And then she gets mad! Using her cloak or satchel or something, she twirls in a circle with he arms outstretched trying to smack the cats away. But. She gets dizzy and faints.

KLEOPATRA

Look what you did! You killed her!

ANTONIUS

Me? I wouldn’t hurt a fly. It was you and your manicured claws. You need to stop sharpening them.

(ANTONIUS bends over LISETTE.)

ANTONIUS

Dollface? *Dollface*? Cat got your tongue?

(He paws at her.)

LISETTE

Don’t do that! And my name’s Lisette! Not Dollface!

KLEOPATRA

She lives!

ANTONIUS

No thanks to you. I brought her back from the dead.

LISETTE

I wasn’t dead! What do you want from me?

ANTONIUS

You got a rat on you?

LISETTE

No. Sorry.

KLEOPATRA

A mouse?

LISETTE

No.

ANTONIUS

Not even a grouse?

LISETTE

Not even a louse.

KLEOPATRA

What good are you?

LISETTE

I'm ... pretty?

ANTONIUS

Pretty is as pretty does.

KLEOPATRA

I used to be pretty. I miss it. Look at me! I used to be the cat's meow! *Meow!*

ANTONIUS

My sweet Kleopatra, you are still beautiful!

KLEOPATRA

Do you think so, Antonius? Am I still beautiful even though I am matted-meow? My tail doesn't fluff-meow the way it used to. My whiskers are twisted!

ANTONIUS

Kleo, you are still the salt in my mouse stew, the purr in my heart, I am lost without you.

LISETTE

That's so sweet!

ANTONIUS

Sweet? Me-ow! I don't wanna be sweet! I want to be the ruler of the universe! The king of my multi-box castle, the sergeant of my mouse army! I want to go back to the way things used to be. When we were spoiled.

KLEOPATRA

Those were the days, my friend. I thought they'd never end. We lived in the castle and were in charge of catching mice. We were the "bee's knees" at catching mice. So good, eventually there were no more mice and we were thrown out.

LISETTE

That's terrible!

ANTONIUS

That's life. When I get myself down, I pick myself up. I don't cry, I don't frown. It's just a small slump. In short, I am one cool cat.

LISETTE

That's so wise.

KLEOPATRA

Antonius has a lot of smarts. I'm Kleopatra by the way. The Former "Beauty Feline" of Hamburg. Who are you?

LISETTE

Lisette.

ANTONIUS

So what's your story, Morning Glory?

LISETTE

You sure are nosy. Curiosity killed the cat, you know.

ANTONIUS

But satisfaction brought it back. Come on, let the cat out of the bag?

LISETTE

If you must know – I am on a grand adventure.

KLEOPATRA

How's it going?

LISETTE

I don't know. I'll tell you when it ends. Right now, I need to find the train station. Can you show me the way?

ANTONIUS

What'll you give us if we do?

LISETTE

I don't have anything. Sorry.

ANTONIUS

Time for cat-nap. (Beat.) Sorry.

LISETTE

Wait! I can ... comb your fur?

ANTONIUS

I like my matted fur. It makes me look like the cat's pajamas!. Meow!

KLEOPATRA

But Anton. I don't wanna be tough. I wanna be pretty. And charming. And stunning. And enchanting. And/

ANTONIUS

/Got it, Kleo. You wanna look nice.

KLEOPATRA

*Meow!*

LISETTE

If I make you fluffy, would you show me to the train station?

KLEOPATRA

**Meow!**

LISETTE

It's a deal.

(KLEOPATRA sits by LISETTE who painstakingly runs her fingers through KLEO'S mattes.)

KLEOPATRA

Ouch! Mew! *Ouch ouch! Meow!*

LISETTE

Sit still!

(And soon KLEOPATRA is fluffed out. SHE starts to purr.)

KLEOPATRA

Purrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr.....

LISETTE

All done!

(KLEOPATRA jumps away and does a very happy, dance showing off her new fur.)

ANTONIUS

But soft! What light through yonder harbor breaks? It is the east and Kleo is the sun! She is my lady! She is my love!

KLEOPATRA

I feel fluffy! Oh so fluffy! It's funny how fluffy I feel!

(KLEOPATRA runs back to LISETTE and affectionately head-butts her.)

I hardly can believe I'm real!

ANTONIUS

You done good, Dollface.

LISETTE

Lisette.

ANTONIUS

Of course. Lisette.

LISETTE

Now will you show me the way to the train station?

KLEOPATRA

Oh that. See it? It's right up the block.

LISETTE

You mean, I've been right by it all along and you two couldn't tell me that?

KLEOPATRA

Whoops. What can I say? Meow! Sometimes cats just wanna have fun.

ANTONIUS

You're a good sort of cat. When I mean to say is – you're another breed of cat, you know? We'll walk you there. We'll keep you safe. You never know who you will meet on the streets! Where you going?

LISETTE

Paris.

KLEOPATRA

Paris is always a good idea.