

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!

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.