

Letters from Lisette
 By Claudia Haas
 Claudiahaas12@gmail.com

(We are at the Pier in Copenhagen with LISETTE She is sobbing. Somewhere in the harbor is Caruso.)

CARUSO
 “By the Beautiful Sea”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq3kxtDJxR0>

(CARUSO is clearly trying to make LISETTE stop crying.
 He is as silly as a porpoise can be.)

CARUSO

“By the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea,
 You and I you and I, oh! How happy we'll be,

When each wave comes a rolling in,
 We will duck or swim, and we'll float and fool around the water...

Did I cheer you up? I'm a cheery porpoise!

(To the tune of “I Want to be Happy”)

“I want to be happy, but I won't be happy
 Till I make you happy, too!”

Signorina, are you – happy?

LISETTE
 (Through sobs and tears)

Yes, very happy. Thank-you.

CARUSO

Signorina – you are doing a bad imitation of being happy! Look at the moon – it's a-shining!
 Look at the stars – they're a-sparkling! Nobody can cry on a night like this!

LISETTE
 (Sobbing.)

I'm – not – crying!

CARUSO

I think you told a little fib there, eh? What can I do? What can I say?

LISETTE

It's hard to be happy when you decide to run away from home and realize you did not even know how to do that right! And now I am all alone on a pier –

CARUSO

What am I, chopped spaghetti? You are here with me!

LISETTE

Grazie. I appreciate the company.

CARUSO

But of course! What the world needs are porpoises! Many porpoises! Why? Because we give you a purpose in life? Get it? Porpoise? Purpose?

LISETTE

That's terrible.

CARUSO

I know. I never get a laugh from that one. Signorina, what do you want? What has brought you to this pier in the middle of the night?

LISETTE

I – this is going to sound silly. I was in a park in Berlin and I saw a couple dancing and I want – to dance in a park like they did – and look at someone with love – just like they did and – so I ran away from the park.

CARUSO

You want to dance in a park so you left a park to sit on a pier far away from the park so that you could dance in a park. Do I have this right?

LISETTE

Yes. Do you understand?

CARUSO

No. Signorina, are you up for a real adventure? I could take you across the sea to Hamburg. They have beautiful parks and it's a perfect night for a ride across the sea.

LISETTE

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

CARUSO

Adventures don't make you shabby. Adventures make you strong.

I don't swim.

LISETTE

I have the perfetto solution.

CARUSO

(CARUSO dives under and comes back with possibly a saddle on its back and definitely with a pretty umbrella. It could be wet. Feel free to use sillier props.)

The umbrella will protect you from the sea spray.

CARUSO

If you say so.

LISETTE

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

CARUSO

You've done this before?

LISETTE

Never.

CARUSO

(LISETTE manages to get on CARUSO.)

And now – I shall sing you across the sea. Hold on!

CARUSO

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

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

“By the light” – now you –

What? No! I – can't sing.

LISETTE

Just sing what I sing. Again.

CARUSO

“By the light”

“By the light” LISETTE

“Of the silvery moon...” CARUSO

“Of the silvery moon” LISETTE

“I want to spoon...” CARUSO

“I want to spoon” LISETTE

“For my honey I’ll croon loves tune.
Honey moon....” CARUSO

“Honey moon, honey moon” LISETTE

“Keep a shinin’ in June...” CARUSO

“Or July” LISETTE

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

“By the silvery moon.” LISETTE and CARUSO

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