

Vocal Auditions - Yente Side

GOLDE

Yente, you said you had news for me.

YENTE

Oh, I'm losing my head. One day it will fall off altogether, and a horse will kick it into the mud and goodbye, Yente. Of course, the news. It's about Lazar Wolf, the butcher. A good man, a fine man. And I don't have to tell you that he's well off. But he's lonely, the poor man. You understand? Of course you do. To make it short, out of the whole town, he's cast his eye on Tzeitel.

GOLDE

My Tzeitel?

YENTE

No, the Tzar's Tzeitel! Of course your Tzeitel.

GOLDE

Such a match, for my Tzeitel. But Tevye wants a learned man, he doesn't like Lazar.

YENTE

Listen to me, Golde, send Tevye to him, don't tell him what it's about, let Lazar discuss it himself, he'll win him over, he's a good man, a wealthy man... True? True. So you'll tell me how it went, and you don't have to thank me, Golde, because aside from my fee which anyway Lazar will pay, it gives me satisfaction to make people happy, what better satisfaction is there, so goodbye, Golde, and you're welcome.

Vocal Auditions - Golde and Tevye Side

GOLDE

Tevye, I have something to say to you.

TEVYE

Why should today be different? *(He starts to pray.)*

GOLDE

Tevye, I have to tell you ...

TEVYE

Shhh. I'm praying. *(Prays.)*

GOLDE

Lazar Wolf wants to see you.

(TEVYE begins praying again, stopping only to respond to GOLDE, then returning to prayer.)

TEVYE

The butcher? About what? *(Prays.)*

GOLDE

I don't know. Only that he says it is important.

TEVYE

What can be important? I have nothing for him to slaughter. *(Prays.)*

GOLDE

After the Sabbath, see him and talk to him.

TEVYE

Talk to him about what? If, he is thinking about buying my new milk cow ...*(Prays.)* He can forget it. *(Prays.)*

GOLDE

Tevye, don't be an ox. A man sends an important message, at least you can talk to him.

TEVYE

Talk about what? He wants my new milk cow! *(Prays.)*

GOLDE

Talk to him!

TEVYE

All right. After the Sabbath, I'll talk to him.

Vocal Auditions - Motel Side

TZEITEL

Motel, Yente was here.

MOTEL

I saw her.

TZEITEL

If they agree on someone there will be a match and then it will be too late for us.

MOTEL

Don't worry, Tzeitel. I have found someone who will sell me his used sewing machine, so in a few weeks I'll have saved up enough to buy it and then your Father will be impressed with me.

TZEITEL

But Motel, a few weeks may be too late.

MOTEL

But what else can we do?

TZEITEL

You could ask my father for my hand tonight. Now!

MOTEL

Why should he consider me now? I'm only a poor tailor?

TZEITEL

And I'm only the daughter of a poor milkman. Just talk to him.

MOTEL

Tzeitel, if your father says no, that's it, it's final...He'll yell at me.

TZEITEL

Motel!

MOTEL

I'm just a poor tailor.

TZEITEL

Motel, even a poor tailor is entitled to some happiness.

MOTEL

That's true.

TZEITEL

Will you talk to him? Will you talk to him?

MOTEL

All right. I'll talk to him.

Vocal Auditions - Constable Side

CONSTABLE

Oh, Tevye, I have a piece of news that I think I should tell you, as a friend.

TEVYE

Yes, your honor?

CONSTABLE

And I'm giving you this news because I like you. You are a decent, honest person, even though you are a Jewish dog.

TEVYE

Thank you, your honor. How often does a man get a compliment like that? And your news?

CONSTABLE

We have received orders that sometime soon this district is to have a little unofficial demonstration.

TEVYE

A pogrom? Here?

CONSTABLE

No — just a little unofficial demonstration.

TEVYE

How little?

CONSTABLE

Not too serious — just some mischief, so that if an inspector comes through, he will see that we have done our duty. Personally, I don't know why there has to be this trouble between people, but I thought I should tell you and you can tell the others.

TEVYE

Thank you, your honor. You're a good man. If I may say so, it's too bad you're not a Jew.

CONSTABLE

That's what I like about you, Tevye. Always joking.

Vocal Auditions - Tzeitel Side

TEVYE

Well, Tzeitel, my child, why are you so silent? Aren't you happy with this blessing?

TZEITEL

(Bursts into tears.) Oh, Papa, Papa ...

TEVYE

What is it? Tell me?

TZEITEL

Papa, I don't want to marry him. I can't marry him. I can't ...

TEVYE

What do you mean, you can't? If I say you will, you will.

TZEITEL

Papa, if it's a matter of money, I'll do anything. I'll hire myself out as a servant. I'll dig ditches, I'll haul rocks, only don't make me marry him, Papa, please.

TEVYE

What's wrong with Lazar? He likes you.

TZEITEL

Papa, I will be unhappy with him. All my life will be unhappy. I'll dig ditches, I'll haul rocks.

TEVYE

But we made an agreement. With us an agreement is an agreement.

TZEITEL

Is that more important than I am, Papa? Papa, don't force me. I'll be unhappy all my days.

TEVYE

All right, I won't force you.

TZEITEL

Oh, thank you, Papa.

TEVYE

It seems it was not ordained that you should have all the comforts of life, or that we should have a little joy in our old age after all our hard work.

Vocal Auditions - Chava and Fyedka Side

CHAVA

Is there something you want?

FYEDKA

Yes. I'd like to talk to you.

CHAVA

I'd rather not. *(She hesitates.)*

FYEDKA

I've often noticed you at the bookseller's. Not many girls in this village like to read ... *(Sudden thought ... extends book he is holding)* Would you like to borrow this book? It's very good.

CHAVA

No, thank you.

FYEDKA

Why. Because I'm not Jewish? Do you feel about us the way they feel about you? I didn't think you would.

CHAVA

What do you know about me?

FYEDKA

Let me tell you about myself. I'm a pleasant fellow, charming, honest, ambitious, quite bright, and very modest.

CHAVA

I don't think we should be talking this way.

FYEDKA

I often do things I shouldn't ... Go ahead, take the book ... It's by Heinrich Heine. Happens to be Jewish, I believe.

CHAVA

That doesn't matter.

FYEDKA

You're quite right. Good. After you return it, I'll ask you how you like it, and we'll talk about it for awhile, then we'll talk about life, how we feel about things, and it can all turn out quite pleasant. *(Chava goes to exit.)* Good day, Chava.

CHAVA

Good day.

FYEDKA

(Pleasantly.) Fyedka.

Vocal Auditions - Hodel and Perchik Side

HODEL

I understand, of course. You want to leave. Then goodbye.

PERCHIK

Before I go, (*He hesitates, summons up courage.*) there is a certain question I wish to discuss with you.

HODEL

Yes?

PERCHIK

A political question. The question of marriage?

HODEL

This is a political question?

PERCHIK

In a theoretical sense, yes. The relationship between a man and woman known as marriage is based on mutual beliefs, a common attitude and philosophy towards society ...

HODEL

And affection ...

PERCHIK

And affection ... This relationship has positive social values. It reflects a unity and solidarity...

HODEL

And affection . .

PERCHIK

Yes, and I personally am in favor of it. Do you understand?

HODEL

Yes. I think you are asking me to marry you.

PERCHIK

In a theoretical sense, yes, I am.

HODEL

I was hoping you were.

PERCHIK

Then I take it you approve. And we can consider ourselves engaged, even though I am going away? (*She nods.*) I am very happy, Hodel. Very happy.

HODEL

So am I, Perchik.