

ACT TWO**Scene 7**

A Downtown New York City Courtroom

Evening, a few later. MAX sits at a defendant's table. A spectator's section filled with a dozen or so LITTLE OLD LADIES, a FOREMAN OF THE JURY stands next to the Judge's podium, a desk for a COURT STENOGRAPHER, etc. A BAILIFF stands to one side. Presiding is JUDGE MAXWELL, elderly and grumpy.

#21a Max in Court

JUDGE

Has the jury reached its verdict?

FOREMAN OF THE JURY

Yes, we find the defendant incredibly guilty.

MAX

Oy.

JUDGE

Before I pass sentence, does the defendant have anything to say on his own behalf?

#21b Max's Speech

Yes, your honor, I do. I admit, for the last twenty years, I've been a lying, double-crossing, two-faced, back-stabbing despicable crook. But I had no choice ... I was a Broadway producer. A man without a conscience and with no one who gave a damn about him. And that, your honor, is what hurts the most. I thought I'd at last found a loyal partner, a man I cared about, and who I thought cared about me. And what breaks my heart is, that now, when I need him most, he's deserted me, and I will probably never see or hear from him ever again.

LEO suddenly enters, in a white suit, with ULLA, in bright Rio resort wear, right behind him; he carries a black bag. MUSIC: "That Face," played as a samba.

LEO

That's not true!

LITTLE OLD LADIES, ETC.

(in shocked disbelief, upon seeing LEO)

Aaahhh!

JUDGE

Order in the court! Order in the court! And stop that samba!

MUSIC: Out

JUDGE

Who are you?

LEO

I am Leopold Bloom, Max Bialystock's partner. A rat who deserted a sinking ship.

JUDGE

I see.

(to ULLA)

And who are you, my dear?

ULLA

My name is Ulla Inga Hansen Bensen Yonsen Tallen-Hallen Svaden - Svanson ... Bloom.

JUDGE

Bloom? You're his wife?

ULLA

Ya, your honor. He wouldn't do it unless we got married.

LEO

(stepping forward and placing the black bag on the judge's bench)

Your Honor, this was all my scheme. I wish to turn myself in, and here is the two million dollars we stole. Minus hotel, airfare, and a large jar of cocoa butter.

JUDGE

Bailiff, mark this Exhibit "A".

(the BAILIFF takes the bag & exits)

Now, Mr. Bloom, tell me this why in God's name did you come back and give yourself up?

LEO

Why? To speak on his behalf. To tell you what this man is really like. We all know that Max Bialystock is a lying, double-crossing, two-faced, slimey, manipulative, underhanded

MAX

(out of the side of his mouth to LEO)

Please, don't help me.