

MADAME - Scene

II - 5 - 66

Yes! Yes!
(Kisses her.)
Am I your boyfriend?

JEAN-MICHEL

Yes!

GABRIELLE

Yes!!!

JEAN-MICHEL

(JEAN-MICHEL and GABRIELLE kiss passionately. MADAME walks in.)

START
So that's how it is?

MADAME

(JEAN-MICHEL and GABRIELLE quickly pull apart and gasp at the sight of MADAME.)

GABRIELLE

Mama!

MADAME

My own daughter—my flesh and blood deceiving me with someone so decidedly unsuitable. I had plans for you, Gabrielle, I had created a life for you and this is how you show your gratitude—

(MADAME has found her glove. ELLA enters in GABRIELLE's dress, holding her invitation.)

ELLA

All dressed up and ready for court. How do I look?

MADAME

And you! Do you think you could go to court? I never loved your father. I just wanted his money. You've been nothing but a nuisance to me since the day he died. You think you can wear a beautiful gown? You think that is acceptable? You should be in rags.

MUSIC 21A: MADAME RIPS THE DRESS

(MADAME rips ELLA's dress.)

MADAME

Worn-out rags, that's all you deserve.

(MADAME shreds the dress.)

ELLA

No!

GABRIELLE

Mother, please stop!

MADAME

I am no longer your mother. You! Gabrielle, get out of my house, you are no longer welcome here—to the devil with you!

(MADAME throws the bits of torn dress at GABRIELLE and JEAN-MICHEL as they turn and run off. MADAME picks up the invitation and tears it up, turning to the now sobbing ELLA.)

MADAME (CONT'D)

I'll decide what to do with you later.

(Begins to storm off, then stops)

Why did you have to make me doubt myself, I was doing so well?

(Exits.)

END

MUSIC 22: THERE'S MUSIC IN YOU

(ELLA cries. The sack of rugs is there. Then some smoke begins to trail out from the china cabinet. And light comes from within. The smoke then grows and grows and opens, revealing MARIE, in her beautiful gown. She enters.)

ELLA

At last, a friendly face.

MARIE

Ella, sweet child, hurry, you shall be late for the banquet.

ELLA

No, look, everything is ruined.

MARIE

Hurry. The Prince needs you. He wants you.

ELLA

No, I can't—

MARIE

Why do you think he's having this second event tonight? To try to find you.

ELLA

Every time I take a step forward Madame pushes me back. The Prince would never love me if he saw me as I truly am. I can't keep fighting.

MARIE

If you have a dream, then very soon thereafter you're going to have to fight for it. Why, otherwise, how would you know the dream is yours?

ELLA

But my life—

MARIE

Exactly. It is your life.