

SCENE 5

START

(THE GREAT HALL)

WEDNESDAY

They're here!

(ALL scuttle off. LURCH, approaches the front door...very slowly.)

(to Lurch)

Hurry up!

(LURCH opens the front door, ushering in the BEINEKES. They affect an out-of-towner's nonchalance.)

MAL

Hello. Had a little trouble finding the place. Looks like somebody shot out all your street lamps!

(MAL and ALICE laugh. LURCH does not. The BEINEKES move down stage and take the place in.)

(observing the emptiness of the space)

Wow, look at this place. They just move in or what?

ALICE

No. This is how they live in New York. They spend all their money on rent and have nothing left for furniture.

(LURCH slams the front door with an awesome thud. The BEINEKES jump. A RAT scurries across the floor. ALICE screams. RAT exits.)

(MAL approaches LURCH)

LURCH

Grnh.

MAL

Mal Beineke.

LURCH

(polite)

Grnh.

MAL

This is my wife, Alice-

LURCH

(lecherous)

Grnh.

MAL

That's my son, Lucas -

LURCH

(warning)

Grnh.

MAL

And you are?

LURCH

Grrngh.

(Grunts his backstory)

MAL

Nice talkin' to you. Earth to Alice, we've landed in Weird City. I say drinks and bye-bye.

ALICE

Oh, Mal.

(convincing herself as much any him)

*"Be open to experience,
And welcome in the new.
Reach deep in your surprise bag;
There might be a gift for you."*

MAL

Honey, my surprise bag is so full I can hardly lift it. That guy who patted me down at the airport? He slipped me his telephone number. I don't think I can stand any more surprises.

LUCAS

C'mon, dad. Lighten up! These're your kind of people, real salt of the earth.

MAL

Yeah? Where are they from?

(GOMEZ enters, with a rapier, to answer the query.)

GOMEZ

"Where are we from?"

(they react)

Funny you should ask.

(then)

July 31st, 1715. The Spanish warship, *Pico de Gallo*, commanded by my great nautical ancestor, Captain General Redondo Ventana Laguna Don Jose Cuervo, leaves Madrid, bound for the new world. Three weeks later, he is still in Madrid, as Madrid is four hundred miles from the nearest ocean. A stubborn man, he sets sail anyway, only to sink, six months later, off the southern coast of Florida - a hostile land, infested with mosquitoes, rattle snakes, and many retired Jewish peoples. But enough about us.

(steps forward)

Mr. Malcolm Beineke, I presume, and the lovely Mrs. Malcolm Beineke.

(pointing his blade at Lucas)

And you must be young Lucas -

(looks back to Mal, then again to Lucas)

Unless of course you -

(Lucas)

- are the father, and you -

(Mal)

- are the son, with a massive thyroid problem.

(laughs, then)

I go too far. No matter, the night, she is young. Welcome to our extremely normal home. Gomez Florencia Addams, at your service. Allow me to present my wife, *la duena*, mother of my children, *el amor de mi vida*... the love of my life - *Morticia!*

#7A MORTICIA'S ENTRANCE

(MORTICIA enters, in an apron. GOMEZ kisses her hand.)

MORTICIA

Sorry I'm late. I was putting the apple pie on the window sill to cool.

GOMEZ

That's my little woman. A duchess in the parlor and a genius in the kitchen.

MORTICIA

Oh, Gomez!

GOMEZ

And a gymnast in the bedroom.

(MORTICIA elbows GOMEZ and extends her hand to MAL.)

MORTICIA

So very pleased. Mr. Beineke...

MAL

Mrs. Addams -
(She turns to ALICE)

MORTICIA

Mrs. Beineke...

ALICE

(curtsies)
Alice.

MORTICIA

Alice. And you must be Lucas. What a lovely name.

LUCAS

Thanks. I'm named after my Uncle Lucas who got lost in the woods and ate his own leg.

MAL

They don't need to know that!

MORTICIA

No, no. It's a *beautiful* story.
(then)

Wednesday has a cousin who swallowed his tongue. *Hes tolk lak dis... "Hello, how are you?"*

WEDNESDAY

(interrupting, mortified)
Thank you, mother.

(All heads turn to see WEDNESDAY, wearing a bright yellow dress.)

(to Mal and Alice)

END
