

(JO)

I WILL NOT DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE.
I'LL SHOUT AND START A RIOT,
BE ANYTHING BUT QUIET.
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS,
I'LL BE ASTONISHING,
ASTONISHING,
ASTONISHING
AT LAST.

(End of Act One)

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

(THE PARLOR OF MRS. KIRK'S BOARDING HOUSE: June 1865.

MRS. KIRK, a middle-aged Irish woman, rushes in)

#17 – Entr'acte

MRS. KIRK

(excited, calling)

Miss March! Has anyone seen Miss March?

(PROFESSOR BHAER enters with a stack of books he has just purchased)

Professor? Have you seen the whereabouts of Miss March?

PROFESSOR BHAER

No, Mrs. Kirk, I have not seen the whereabouts of Miss March.

MRS. KIRK

(shouts)

Helga! - do we have enough sheets for the new boarders? Since the war ended,
Professor, people are coming from everywhere. Miss March!

PROFESSOR BHAER

What is it, Mrs. Kirk?

MRS. KIRK

Miss March received a telegram. A telegram, Professor! She may have inherited a great deal of money. She could be an heiress. Then again it could be a terrible tragedy. There is no telling, is there? As her good friend, I'd think you'd be concerned for her.

PROFESSOR BHAER

We are not good friends. We are simply acquaintances.

MRS. KIRK

I see. Helga!

PROFESSOR BHAER

You and others in this house are under the impression that Miss March and I have some sort of kinship. We have simply gone places together.

MRS. KIRK

The theater.

PROFESSOR BHAER

Yes. I took her to see *Hamlet*.

MRS. KIRK

A pathetic tale it is.

PROFESSOR BHAER

Very pathetic. And I have given her three German lessons.

MRS. KIRK

Three - that many?

PROFESSOR BHAER

And I've taken her to lectures, to the park to hear speakers, but Miss March hardly seems to know I exist. She is preoccupied. She rushes past me like the wind.

(JO rushes past him, excited, having just come in from outside)

JO

Christopher Columbus! Mrs. Kirk, have you seen the Professor?

MRS. KIRK

Behind you, darlin'.

JO

(turns and stops)

Aah! Guten teg.

PROFESSOR BHAER

Guten tag, Miss March. The word is Tag. Guten tag means 'good day.'

JO

I know what it means. But when you taught it to me, you said, Guten teg.

PROFESSOR BHAER

I would never say teg.

JO

Well, I'm sure you did.

PROFESSOR BHAER

Well, I'm sure I didn't.

JO

All right then: Guten tag. And it is a very guten tag. A wonderful guten tag, Professor. And I have some amazing news!

#18 – The Weekly Volcano Press

I CAME TO NEW YORK ON A DREAM.
I KNEW IT MIGHT TAKE ME AWHILE.
BUT ALL I'VE BEEN HEARING SINCE I ARRIVED
IS 'LEAVE IT RIGHT THERE ON THE PILE.'
SO TODAY I WOKE UP AND DECIDED IT'S TIME.
TIME TO ACHIEVE, TIME TO THRIVE, TIME TO CLIMB!

PROFESSOR BHAER

Miss March, tell us what happened!

JO

SOMETIMES WHEN YOU DREAM,
YOUR DREAM IS JUST A GUESS.
SOMETIMES WHEN YOU WORK REALLY HARD,
YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL EVER FIND SUCCESS.
SO I GRABBED A STORY TO SELL
AND GOT READY TO RAISE HELL!
THEN I MARCHED OUT THE DOOR,
AND HEADED RIGHT FOR
THE WEEKLY VOLCANO PRESS.

PROFESSOR BHAER

Henry Dashwood - now he is a man of taste!

JO

DASHWOOD WAS A FIEND,
HE SNEERED AT MY DISTRESS.
TOSSED MY STORY HIGH ON A STACK.
BUT I WAS DETERMINED I WOULD PROGRESS!
I SAID: 'SIR, I'LL WAIT WHILE YOU READ.'