

*ROSALIN leads the two girls out of the room. VALENTINE sits in silence before taking the pencil and paper. He hesitates, trying to write something to his son. ROSALIN reenters and watches him.*

ROSALIN

He needs to hear from you.

VAL

I don't know what to say.

ROSALIN

'Hello' would be a start.

VAL

And then?

ROSALIN

An apology.

VAL

No matter what I told him, he wanted to turn his back on who he is.

*Beat.*

ROSALIN

You could have at least hugged him before he left.

*Beat.*

ROSALIN (CONT'D)

Why was it so hard to say goodbye?

VAL

He betrayed me.

ROSALIN

But he was right! He got drafted anyway, you should have just signed!

VAL

I wasn't going to let him sign up. It's just the way it went.

ROSALIN

He could be safe-

VAL

I gave him the prayerbook.

ROSALIN

We should have sent him to Canada.

VAL

No. If we were caught, they never would have forgiven me.

ROSALIN

Deep down, I don't think it's because you're angry at him. You can't write because you know it's your fault he's in danger.

*Beat.*

ROSALIN

Donna is terrified.

VAL

She'll be fine.

ROSALIN

I don't know what you were thinking.

VAL

I wanted to do what's best for our family. We're Italians, we are not victims!

ROSALIN

Valentine.

VAL

I'm not happy he's gone, but I've dodged my fate one too many times. At least he took it like a man, with honor and dignity. That's Lucia's problem. She wants to go, to chase these fantasies of making it big in the city. Breaking off from what is meant for her.

ROSALIN

You can't stop her from doing what she loves!

VAL

Who's ever going to pay to see that nonsense?

ROSALIN

There's more to life-

VAL

How many times do I have to hear this? At least Tommy understands how to embrace a good practical job. What does she think she's going to get out of it? She can work and work and put in hours upon hours of sweat and tears and then what? She moves to the city and hopes they never find out what country she's from? Please. They'd kick her to the street like a dog.

ROSALIN

Val...

VAL

She needs to help more around the house. Why should she waste time dancing around when our relatives are being slaughtered overseas?

ROSALIN

She's just a kid!

VAL

When I was her age, I was spending every waking minute ensuring that I would have a future.

ROSALIN

Maybe you should have given one of those minutes to learning how to love.