

START

SCENE 7

(THE GROTTA.)

(GOMEZ and MAL are puffing on cigars.
MAL is seated on an old oaken chair.)

MAL

Interesting chair. Antique?

GOMEZ

Fifteenth century. "The Heretic's chair." Once owned by
Tomas de Torquemada, Grand Inquisitor of Madrid.

MAL

You collect this stuff?

GOMEZ

A man must have his hobbies. Some play cards, some play
golf. Me, I collect "instruments of persuasion." "Why,"
you ask.

(then)

Go on, ask. Ask!

MAL

Why?

GOMEZ

It's fun! The history of the world told in agony and
dismemberment. Get up, I show you.

(Mal gets out of the chair)

You sit, they ask you a question. They don't like the
answer...

(GOMEZ pulls a lever. A giant spike
shoots up.)

Ooooooooooooooooooh! That'll make you believe, eh?

(a laugh, then retracts the lever)

Sit down. Let me ask you a question.

MAL

Some other time.

GOMEZ

Okey-dokey.

(then)

So how about these crazy kids, eh?

MAL

What about 'em?

GOMEZ

They seem very fond of each other, no?

MAL

I guess. But it's not like they're getting married.

GOMEZ

Married? Of course not. They're so young. Of course, they marry young these days, do they not?

MAL

I dunno what they do.

GOMEZ

Then speak about you. The Beineke Saga. Your lives, your hopes, your dreams.

(pointedly)

Your son.

MAL

Lucas? He's a little soft like his mother. But when he gets out of college, I'll toughen him up. Teach him the business. Make him a man.

GOMEZ

May I say something? You and I - I feel we understand each other. Do you feel this?

MAL

No.

(then)

END.