

SIDE 2

#5B: AFTER STRANGER

SANDRA

(to offstage WILL)

I wanted to tell you right away, but your father didn't want anyone to know he was sick. How dare anyone think Edward Bloom is mortal.

(WILL enters with the lawn chairs...he and SANDRA set them up, wiping off the dust)

SANDRA

The treatment was a longshot. But your father was convinced it would work.

WILL

What does Dr. Bennett say?

SANDRA

He says comforting things. But we all know where this is headed.

WILL

I'm so sorry, Mom. I want to do something. How can I help?

SANDRA

I'm just glad you know. Family shouldn't have secrets.

WILL

Mom, have you and Dad talked about money?

SANDRA

We have plenty of money.

WILL

Is the house paid off?

SANDRA

Years ago. The day we sent in the last check, we had champagne. Your father opened it with a sword.

(demonstrates)

There was glass in the carpet for weeks.

WILL

Mom, you won't mind if I look for the mortgage? The insurance...
(off her reaction)
I'm worried about you, about what's going to happen. We have to keep a roof over your head.

SANDRA

I am not worried about the house. I'm not worried about me--I'm worried about you.

WILL

I'm fine, Mom. I'll be fine; you don't...

SANDRA

Oh, "I'm fine." You sound like your father.

#6: MAGIC IN THE MAN

SANDRA

IS HE DIFFICULT
ONE COULD ARGUE
THERE'S A CHALLENGE IN EVERY DAY
IF YOU THINK I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM
GIVE A LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY
SOMETIMES HE'S LIKE A TANK FULL OF LAUGHING GAS
SOMETIMES HE'S LIKE A PAIN IN THE ASS

BUT THERE IS MAGIC IN THE MAN
FOOLISH MAGIC IN THE MAN
AND YOU, NO DOUBT
ARE NOT ABOUT TO BREAK THE SPELL
WHEN THERE IS MAGIC IN A MAN
PAY ATTENTION IF YOU CAN
AND MAYBE YOU WILL DO JUST HALF AS WELL

WILL

He never met Gandhi. He didn't invent the microwave.

SANDRA

SOMETIMES HE BENDS THE TRUTH WITH A WRECKING BALL
SOMETIMES HE'S BORED WITH FOLKS WHO THINK SMALL
I CALL IT MAGIC IN THE MAN
ALL THE WAYS HE'S BETTER THAN
BUT ALL YOU SEE IS HIM AND ME WITH MILES TO GO
IF YOU SAW MAGIC IN THE MAN
RATHER THAN A BATTLE PLAN
YOU MIGHT BE GLAD THAT HE'S THE DAD YOU KNOW