

ROLE OF "MARIANNA"

MARIANNA AUDITION SCENE

(Marianna runs into the empty coffee shop LAUGHING, protectively carrying a sand dollar from the beach, Ric following)

RIC

At least let me see it...

MARIANNA

No. You're not allowed to make fun of me, anymore.

RIC

I'm not. I wasn't. I've just never seen anyone so excited to find a sea shell.

MARIANNA

That's all you see, isn't it? Something alive once inhabited this. How funny that we find more interest in it now that it's dead. It's so fragile and so beautiful. Each one has the etching of a flower across it. See?

(Ric looks and their hands brush. She moves away and shakes the shell lightly)

Hear it rattle?

RIC

I thought you were only supposed to hear the ocean.

MARIANNA

It's hard to find a sand dollar that hasn't been broken by storms or stepped on by careless people. But inside there are fragments. They look like doves. My mother used to say they should be released, that there was no sensible reason God created beauty for beauty's sake. It was what was inside that counted. And if it stayed there, all shut up and guarded, it was a waste - even if it had to be broken once, to fly free.

RIC

I think your mother was a wise woman. People are like that, too, you know. People like you - a woman as beautiful as you.

(TAKE look between them that could turn into a kiss but Marianna backs away and flickers anger)

ABC. "GENERAL HOSPITAL"

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MARIANNA

I liked you better when you were making fun of me.

RIC

I said I wasn't.

MARIANNA

(angers) You say a lot of things. Why should I believe you?

RIC

Why are you getting so angry?

MARIANNA

(fiery) Do you think you're the first outsider that's come here and told me I was special or beautiful? They didn't know a thing about me. YOU don't know a thing about me. I was naive once. I would bring them coffee a few times and they'd pass their comments, then pass their phone numbers. And when they got what they wanted - or knew they wouldn't get anything at all - they'd pass me on the street and pretend they didn't know 'the girl in the apron' from The Siren. After all, what would decent people think? A rich, powerful man - say, like you - with a common waitress?

RIC

So you've decided to keep it all shut up inside and guarded from everybody. A waste.

MARIANNA

(throws something at him)

How dare you throw my mother's words back at me?

RIC

How dare you ignore them?

MARIANNA

You need to go. I have salt shakers to fill.

(runs a finger around the sand dollar)

And you have decisions to make about making real dollars.

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