

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“Coffee for Two” from *Women on Love: A Theatrical Song Cycle*

Music and lyrics by Katya Stanislavskaya

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP PRETENDING
THAT YOU PLAN TO DRINK THIS SLUDGE
I JUST DID THIS WITHOUT THINKING—
FORCE OF HABIT WOULDN'T BUDGE.
I FORGOT TO COUNT THE SPOONFULS,
ADD THE WATER, CHANGE THE FILTER--
(GOD, I HOPE IT'S NOT OFF-PUTTING
THAT I'M HOPELESSLY OFF-KILTER...)

COFFEE FOR TWO—
I CAN'T RECALL THE LAST TIME I MADE
COFFEE FOR TWO.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE SOMEBODY STAYED
LONG ENOUGH TO HEAR THE ALARM
FROM INSIDE THE CROOK OF MY ARM...

HIDE THE CUPS WITH BROKEN HANDLES
SCRUB THE TARNISH OFF THE SPOON!
I DON'T HAVE A GRAM OF SUGAR
AND THE MILK EXPIRED LAST JUNE.
GOT NO EGGS TO MAKE AN OMELET
GOT NO BREAD FOR BUTTERED TOAST.
I CAN PLAY THE MIDNIGHT VIXEN,
NOT THE GRACIOUS MORNING HOST...

COFFEE FOR TWO—
IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT I'VE LOST MY TOUCH.
COFFEE FOR TWO—
WHEN YOU'RE ALONE, YOU DON'T CARE THAT MUCH
IF YOUR FRIDGE IS PROPERLY STOCKED,
OR WHAT BITTER BREW YOU CONCOCT—

BUT I COULD GET USED TO THIS.
I COULD INVEST IN HALF-AND-HALF,
A FANCY GRINDER AND A COUPLE OF MATCHING MUGS.
I COULD GET USED TO YOU,
YOU COULD BE GOOD AT MAKING ME LAUGH,
OPENING JARS,

JUMP-STARTING CARS,
STEPPING ON BUGS.
OH, HOW MANY POTS OF CHOCK-FULL-OF NUTS WILL I BURN
BEFORE I LEARN

IF YOU HAVE A MORNING RITUAL,
AN AVERSION TO ROUTINE,
A DISGUST FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS,
AN ADDICTION TO CAFFEINE?
WILL YOU BE A NEW TRADITION,
SHARING COFFEE DAY BY DAY,
OR ARE YOU ANOTHER TRAVELER
PASSING THROUGH A STRANGE CAFÉ?

COFFEE FOR TWO:
LAST NIGHT'S END OR A NEW DAY'S START?
COFFEE FOR TWO:
WHY DO I LET IT SPEED UP MY HEART?
MAYBE BECAUSE,
WATERED DOWN OR OVERDONE,
NOTHING'S WORSE THAN COFFEE FOR ONE...