

DANCE IN VENICE (excerpt)  
John Shanahan

SET: At center is an ornate metal patio table. On it are a plate of pastries, a bowl of fruit, a carafe of juice, a carafe of coffee, two small glasses and two coffee cups. Two chairs. DL are a pair of very nice chaise lounges. The quality of everything is that of a fine resort.

RACHEL DAVIDSON *sits in one of the chaises, dressed in a plush full-length robe. Her eyes are closed, face turned up toward the Mediterranean morning sun. She sings quietly to herself for a few moments.*

RACHEL Gary? Gary, come out here! You're wasting the morning!  
Gary!

GARY DAVIDSON *enters. He's dressed casually but well, and ready to travel.*

GARY One of us has to pack, dear.

RACHEL I did some packing earlier!

GARY Rachel, my love, moving your clothes from a pile on the chair to a pile on the bed doesn't count as packing.

RACHEL But I put them next to where I'm going to put the suitcase. That must count for something.

GARY I love you because you're industrious. *(He kisses her on the forehead.)*

*Rachel grabs his hand as he tries to move away.*

RACHEL Come on, grab some coffee and sit with me! I've been watching this little fishing boat tracking back and forth across the harbor. Can you see it? It's so graceful!

GARY Checkout is at eleven!

RACHEL *(mocking)* Checkout is at eleven. Checkout is at eleven. What are they going to do? Throw us out?

GARY Charge us for an extra day.

RACHEL We can afford it.

GARY That's not the point.

*Rachel points sharply toward Gary, then the chaise next to her.*

GARY All right. For a few minutes. *(He sits, but is leaning forward.)*

RACHEL It's such a gorgeous morning. I didn't want you to miss it, that's all.

GARY They've all been gorgeous mornings. The weather's been so good.

RACHEL Mm-hmm.

GARY Everything's been great.

RACHEL It really has.

GARY Wonderful vacation. I'm glad we did this.

RACHEL I hate to go home. Don't you?

GARY There's the sad truth of it: every vacation has to end eventually.

RACHEL They should do something about that.

GARY When we get home, I'll write our congressman.

*A short, quiet pause.*

RACHEL *(with a growing smile)* Let's stay.

GARY What?

RACHEL Let's not go home! Let's just stay in Italy.

GARY You mean extend our vacation?

RACHEL *(getting up, excited at her idea)* No, let's stay in Italy. For good. Let's move here!

GARY Move to Italy.

RACHEL Yes!

GARY Permanently.

RACHEL *(more excited)* Yes! Live in Italy! What do you think?

GARY. I think you have a severe case of vacation-itis, doctor. A momentary lapse of reason brought on by an extended stay in a fine Italian villa. Can I get you an aspirin?

RACHEL Honey, I'm serious!

GARY There's a scary thought.

RACHEL Wouldn't you love it?

GARY No, actually.

RACHEL Why not?

GARY Because we can't live *here*, which I think is what you want, and not every place in Italy is like this hotel, with this view.

RACHEL So we'll find a place that does!

GARY Did you have somewhere in mind?

RACHEL It's a big country.

GARY Uh-huh.

RACHEL We can find a beautiful place to live! Near the ocean, maybe in a little fishing village... Can't you see it? A white stone house with flowers in the windows, up a little crooked road that comes up from a harbor?

GARY Does it come with its own swelling background music?

RACHEL Oh, ha ha.

GARY How about this, then: you've got a practice back home and I have clients and pending cases, and I don't think the firm will let me be a partner from here.

RACHEL You should ask. Telecommuting's very "in" these days.

GARY So I could appear in court on a video monitor?

RACHEL (*gleefully*) Wouldn't that be cool?

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