

2-8-46

ANSON,

Desiree
Fredrik

With Song

DESIREE

Fredrik? Fredrik!

FREDRIK

(Stirs, opens his eyes, looks
dazedly around)

I don't suppose this is my heavenly reward, is it?

DESIREE

Hardly, dear, with me here.

FREDRIK

(Trying to sit up, failing,
remembering)

Extraordinary, isn't it? To hold a muzzle to one's temple
-- and yet to miss! A shaky hand, perhaps, is an asset
after all.

DESIREE

Does it hurt?

FREDRIK

It hurts -- spiritually. You've heard, I imagine, about
the evening's other event?

DESIREE

No, what?

FREDRIK

Henrik and Anne -- ran off together.

his
l.

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Fredrik!	DESIREE	ex: of
	FREDRIK	
Well, I think I should get up and confront the world, don't you?		
	DESIREE	
ISN'T IT RICH?		
	FREDRIK	
ARE WE A PAIR? YOU HERE AT LAST ON THE GROUND		
	DESIREE	
YOU IN MID-AIR. (Speaks) Knees wobbly?		How
	FREDRIK	Why
No, no, it seems not. In fact, it's hardly possible, but ...		
	DESIREE	Why
WAS THAT A FARCE?		
	FREDRIK	Oh
MY FAULT, I FEAR.		
	DESIREE	Wha
ME AS A MERRY-GO-ROUND		
	FREDRIK	I'v
ME AS KING LEAR. (Speaks) How unlikely life is! To lose one's son, one's wife, and practically one's life within an hour and yet to feel -- relieved. Relieved, and, what's more, considerably less ancient.		Wel sit
(HE jumps up on the bench) Aha! Desiree!		
	DESIREE	
Poor Fredrik!		Don
	FREDRIK	
No, no, no. We will banish "poor" from our vocabulary and replace it with "coherent".		No, fir dep
	DESIREE	
(Blank) Coherent?		Gra
	FREDRIK	
Don't you remember your manifesto in the bedroom? A coherent		

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FREDRIK (Continued)
existence after so many years of muddle? You and me, and
of course, Fredrika?

i, don't

(THEY kiss. The music swells)

FREDRIK
MAKE WAY FOR THE CLOWNS

DESIREE
APPLAUSE FOR THE CLOWNS

BOTH
THEY'RE FINALLY HERE.

FREDRIK
(Speaks)
How does Malmo appeal to you? It'll be high sunburn season.

e, but ...

DESIREE
Why not?

FREDRIK
Why not?

DESIREE
Oh God!

FREDRIK
What is it?

DESIREE
I've got to do Hedda for a week in Helsingborg.

FREDRIK
Well, what's wrong with purgatory before Paradise? I shall
sit through all eight performances.

e, and
el --
less

— End —

ary and

coherent.