

Brooklyn (Cain's Adventure) Callback Side 1

Mario Fratti

(looking heavenwards)

Thank you, Lord. You are smiling on me, today, at the possibility that ...

(he keeps admiring her; he approaches her)

Are you alone?

(no response)

What's your name?

(no response)

(to the audience again)

She keeps ignoring me.

I love that.

It never happened to me before.

Maybe she's pretending...

They all pretend...

(keeps staring at her, eager to get an answer)

Are you Jewish?

(she looks at him and studies him in silence)

Are you Jewish?

ELENA: *(after a few seconds of silence)* Is that important?

CAIN: No... yes... it could be... Are you?

ELENA: I am.

CAIN: Jewish, I mean.

ELENA: I am.

CAIN: *(talking to the audience again)* What does she mean? That she exists or that she's Jewish? Like all women, she's vague, uncommitted... I really feel she might be Jewish...

The only women I can control and dominate...

With a shiksa, you always have a litany of complaints. They talk, ask, bitch.

They harass you with questions and requests ... *(to Elena again)* My name is Cain.

(Elena finally looks into his eyes, surprised)

They're all surprised when I say my name.

(to Elena) My mother's second mistake.

ELENA: What was her first?

CAIN: Trusting the man who spawned me. He disappeared when he heard she was pregnant. He had found her in bed with someone else.

(Elena looks at him with some interest; he's unusually blunt)

I'm not that kind of man...

I wouldn't disappear if I found the right woman, the ideal one...

It's my longstanding dream...

Someone like you. *(after a brief silence)*

Are you married?

ELENA: I was.

CAIN: And he left you, the bastard, the traitor, the fool. I would never—

ELENA: (*interrupting*) Two husbands. I left them.

(*Cain shows some surprise*)

CAIN: You're open and sincere... So rare, in women... What happened?

ELENA: It didn't work out.

CAIN: Disappointment, I'm sure. Sexual disappointment. I would —

ELENA: (*interrupting him*) Wrong personalities, wrong behavior>

CAIN: Any children?

ELENA: A daughter. Seventeen.

CAIN: Only one?

ELENA: I'm proud of her. She's wonderful. I raised her all by myself.

CAIN: All by yourself? Why?

ELENA: I refused to marry her father. He had a weak personality.

CAIN: Weak... You punished him for being weak. I understand. I share your point of view. A woman needs a real man. A man in love, a loyal companion...

A general. Someone who knows how to guide and protect....

ELENA: (*after studying him*) Are you "a general"?

CAIN: In a way. I was in two ugly wars. I was a leader...

I had to protect women and children. I had to kill.

ELENA: Kill?

CAIN: A real man must be ready to sacrifice himself for his family, his children.

(*A silence; they are studying each other*)

I have two children... thirteen and fifteen. They live with me.

ELENA: Where is their mother?

CAIN: Far away... (*with a smile, a sense of humor*) It didn't work out.

ELENA: (*with some irony*) Wrong behavior?

CAIN: Wrong everything. And I was happy when she decided to leave them with me.... I love them...

They need a real family, a meshprokah, they need a sister...

(*to the audience*)

She is perfect... sincere, strong, courageous, single...

(*to Elena*)

How do you live?

ELENA: What do you mean?

CAIN: How do you make a living?

ELENA: Wall Street.

CAIN: With a rich father who sponsored you, I suppose...

ELENA: A great father who would have loved to help me. He couldn't. I did it all by myself.

What about you?

Mario Fratti

CAIN: I was in the military... I left.

I'm in business now, a good printing business, in Brooklyn.

ELENA: (*with some irony*) Brooklyn?

CAIN: Why do I always get that reaction? Brooklyn is great for families. Good, safe neighborhoods, close-knit world with shuls everywhere. All you need to keep faith. We believe in harmony... Well-knit communities, with brothers that bond to one another...

Where do you live? Can I take you home?