

DOC

ACT II

WEST SIDE STORY

73

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Scene 5

CELLAR.

*Cramped: a box or crate; part of stairs leading to the drugstore above; a door to the outside.*

TONY is sitting on a crate, whistling "Maria" as Doc comes down the stairs, some bills in his hand.

TONY: Make a big sale?

Doc: No.

TONY: (*Taking the money Doc holds out automatically*) Thanks. I'll pay you back as soon as I can.

Doc: Forget that.

TONY: I won't; I couldn't. Doc, you know what we're going to do in the country, Maria and me? We're going to have kids and we'll name them all after you, even the girls. Then when you come to visit—

Doc: (*Slapping him*) Wake up! (*Raging.*) Is that the only way to get through to you? Do just what you all do? Bust like a hot water pipe?

TONY: Doc, what's gotten—

Doc: (*Over-riding angrily*) Why do you live like there's a war on? (*Low.*) Why do you kill?

TONY: I told you how it happened, Doc. Maria understands. Why can't you?

Doc: I never had a Maria.

TONY: (*Gently*) I have, and I'll tell you one thing, Doc. Even if it only lasts from one night to the next, it's worth the world.

Doc: That's all it did last.

TONY: What?

Doc: That was no customer upstairs, just now. That was Anita. (*Pause.*) Maria is dead. Chino found out about you and her—and shot her.