

# Another Life

## One Little Wish

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*~context~*

Señor Gruñón – an old, lonely recluse in 18<sup>th</sup> century Paraguay – has been imprisoned in a jail cell after putting a magic curse on his pear tree and causing general havoc around town. The only positive aspect of the old man's imprisonment is the time it gives him to reflect upon his life and the choices he has made.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

ONCE UPON A TIME  
SAINT PETER CAME TO ME  
WITH PROMISES AND PLEDGES BY THE SCORE.  
ONCE UPON A TIME  
SAINT PETER CAME AND HE...  
WELL, DARE I SAY, THE REST IS LEFT FOR LORE.

HE ASKED ME FOR  
ONE WISH, NO MORE  
AND THUS A WISH I GAVE.  
I CURSED MY TREE  
BUT SINCE THEN SEE  
ONE GREATER THING I'D CRAVE...

ANOTHER LIFE...  
ANOTHER LIFE...  
A SMALL DETOUR TO TAKE  
BEFORE THE JOURNEY'S END.

ANOTHER LIFE...  
A LITTLE TRIP TO MAKE  
BEFORE THE FINAL BEND.

ANOTHER LIFE...  
ANOTHER VIEW...  
ANOTHER PATH  
I COULD PURSUE

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN (CONT)

AND WOULD HAVE DONE  
AND SHOULD HAVE DONE  
IF ONLY ALL THE SIGNS  
HAD NEVER POINTED OFF TO-  
WARDS WHERE SUNLIGHT NEVER SHINES.

ANOTHER LIFE...  
ANOTHER LIFE...  
A BETTER FATE  
I COULD CREATE  
IF GOD HAD TIME TO LEND.

NO STEPS CAN I REDO  
BUT SOME MAY I RENEW  
WITH ANY HOUR OR TWO  
I'VE LEFT TO SPEND.

In the shadows, we notice that LA  
SEÑORA MARAVILLA has quietly entered.  
SHE watches SEÑOR GRUÑÓN with genuine  
sympathy and tenderness, as:

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

(Singing.)  
ANOTHER LIFE...  
ANOTHER LIFE...  
A BETTER SPEECH TO GIVE  
BEFORE THE CURTAIN FALLS.  
ANOTHER LIFE...  
AN EXTRA DAY TO LIVE  
BEFORE THE CLOCKWORK STALLS.

ANOTHER LIFE...  
ANOTHER CHANCE...  
I SHALL NOT GIVE  
A BACKWARD GLANCE  
ON COULD-HAVE-BEENS  
OR WOULD-HAVE-BEENS  
OR CHANCES THAT I LOST  
FOR THERE'S STILL TIME TO LIVE IN  
TILL ALL RUBICONS ARE CROSSED.

ANOTHER LIFE...  
ANOTHER LIFE...  
A SUDDEN DOOR  
I COULD EXPLORE  
UPON THESE BARREN WALLS.

NO STEPS CAN I RETRY  
NOR OLDER STEPS DENY  
BUT, IN THIS HOUSE, I SPY  
A FEW MORE HALLS.

Suddenly, SEÑOR GRUÑÓN feels HE is being watched. HE turns and finds LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA standing off to the side of the stage. A long pause ensues as THEY consider each other uncertainly in a verbal stalemate.

Eventually, LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA smiles at SEÑOR GRUÑÓN and manages to break the silence:

LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA

Good day, Señor Gruñón.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN just stares coldly at his latest intruder.

LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA

I hope you are well.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN huffs and turns away. LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA tentatively approaches HIM.

LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA

You loved her very much.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN grunts some sort of response. LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA sits beside HIM.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

They must be desperate to send a woman to cry Death down from my tree.

LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA

Oh, now, Señor; I am not here to cry. I have cried too much already. My husband died five months ago. My mother died when I was young. My father followed her soon after and I was raised by the Church. Yes, Señor, I have spent my life wearing black and crying tears.

(Showing HER dress.)

You see? I still wear black, but I no longer cry. The world does not need anymore tears...

(Taking HIS hand.)

...from either of us.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN freezes at this touch.

LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA

(Singing.)

ANOTHER LIFE...

ANOTHER LIFE...

A FINAL DISH TO TRY

LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA (CONT)

BEFORE THE BANQUET'S COLD.

ANOTHER LIFE...  
AN EXTRA HOPE TO BUY  
WHEN OTHER HOPES ARE SOLD.

ANOTHER LIFE...  
ANOTHER TALE...  
AN EXTRA DREAM  
WHICH DOESN'T PALE  
THAT YOU COULD HAVE  
AND YOU SHOULD HAVE  
BEFORE YOUR TIME HAS GONE  
FOR THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE NOW  
WITH A QUESTION OR A YAWN.

ANOTHER LIFE...  
ANOTHER LIFE...  
YOU CAN'T REPLACE  
A WRINKLED FACE,  
BUT HEARTS DO NOT GROW OLD.

NO STEPS CAN YOU REPEAT  
BUT NOR CAN YOU RETREAT  
BUT, STILL, PICK UP YOUR FEET  
AND DARE BE BOLD.

WHY NOT TRY FOR  
JUST ONE LIFE MORE  
FOR WHO WILL DARE TO SCOLD?  
RE-MAKE YOUR DREAMS,  
RE-WAKE YOUR DREAMS,  
FOR DREAMS ARE HEAVEN'S GOLD.