

Because A Man Is There

One Little Wish

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Señor Rodrigo Gruñón is a most unpopular man among the governing elite of 18th century Paraguay due to his refusal to pay taxes and his curmudgeonly nature. One official even suggests that the world would be a much better place if the old man had never lived. La Señora Maravilla – a mysterious, respected widow – protests this sentiment.

LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA

(Singing.)

ONE LESS MAN IN THE WORLD...
COULD THAT EVER BE A CHARM?
ONE LESS MAN IN THE WORLD...
JUST ONE LESS COULD DO NO HARM?
SO YOU SAY, SO YOU THINK,
BUT DON'T WRITE IT YET IN INK,
BECAUSE YOU'RE WRONG,
BECAUSE YOU'RE WRONG.
LOSE A MAN, ANY MAN...
YOU'LL LOSE MORE THAN JUST A LOT.
LOSE A MAN, ANY MAN...
TELL ME - WHAT THEN HAVE YOU GOT?

ONE LESS HAND
THAT YOU CAN HOLD
SO YOU'RE NEVER LEFT OR LOST.
ONE LESS BREATH
THAT WARMS THE COLD
WHEN YOU'RE SHIV'RING IN ITS FROST.
EVERY VIEW
THAT WE VIEW
IS ONLY WORTH THE STARE
BECAUSE A MAN IS THERE,
BECAUSE A MAN IS THERE.

LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA (CONT)

ONE LESS PATH
YOU CAN EXPLORE
THAT WON'T END WITH YOU ALONE.
ONE LESS KNOCK
UPON YOUR DOOR
TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU'RE KNOWN.
EVERY DREAM
THAT WE DREAM
WE'LL ONLY COME TO SHARE
BECAUSE A MAN IS THERE,
BECAUSE A MAN IS THERE.

ONE LESS FIELD THAT WILL BE SOWN.
ONE LESS PERSON YOU MIGHT LOVE.
ONE LESS MEM'RY THAT YOU'LL OWN.
ONE LESS SOUL YOU'LL MEET ABOVE.
EVERY PERSON IN YOUR LIFE
IS A REASON YOU SHOULD LIVE.
ONE LESS PERSON IN YOUR LIFE
IS ONE LESS DAMN YOU HAVE TO GIVE.

During the above, a SPOTLIGHT appears on the lone figure of SEÑOR GRUÑÓN sitting on a bench in his house. LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA sees the old man in her mind and turns to HIM with renewed passion, as:

LA SEÑORA MARAVILLA

(Singing.)
ONE LESS SPOT
WITHOUT A WEED
WHERE A MAN IS MEANT TO STAND.
ONE LESS EAR
TO HEAR AND HEED
WHEN YOU'RE KNEE-DEEP IN QUICKSAND.
YOU MAY CRY
WHY, WHY, WHY...
WHYEVER DOES SHE CARE?
I ANSWER CLEAR AS AIR:
BECAUSE A MAN IS THERE.