

© Crowley-Bartsch 2011

~context~

Señor Gruñón is a lonely old man cursed by the haunting memory of a lost love – a girl named Adrianna, who has since died. Various magical events have nonetheless given the old man an opportunity to visit Adrianna briefly in Heaven. Señor Gruñón quickly jumps at the opportunity and is astonished to find Adrianna looking just as she did when he first met her many, many years ago.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

(Singing.) I SEE YOU HERE BEFORE ME NOW AND THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW I SEE YOU HERE BEFORE ME HOW YOU LOOKED SO LONG AGO.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL... YOU'RE THE SAME HERE, NOW, TODAY. YOU'VE NOT CHANGED A SINGLE MINUTE. SINCE WE OPTED TO BEGIN IT, YOU STILL LOOK THE SAME OLD WAY.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL... NOT A SECOND LEFT A SMUDGE. ALL YOUR DECADES WERE A SEASON. SINCE THE DAY WE LET THE BREEZE IN, YOUR FACE GLOWED AND WOULDN'T BUDGE. SEÑOR GRUÑÓN (CONT) BUT MORE SO THAN THAT MORE I KNOW THAN THAT FOR THE OUTSIDE PART IS JUST A CRUST. AS I SEE YOU NOW FIN'LLY ME, YOU NOW IN YOUR SOUL, TOO, THERE'S NO SIGN OF RUST.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL... NOT A FORTNIGHT MARKS YOUR FACE. TIME HAS PASSED AND YOU'VE STAYED FROZEN. SINCE THE DAY WE STUCK OUR TOES IN, YOU'VE STAYED SOFT AND SMOOTH AS LACE.

THOUGH THE YEARS CASCADE AND FALL JUST FOR YOU THEY SEEM TO STALL FOR YOU... YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN and ADRIANNA are now comfortably holding hands.

ADRIANNA

Oh, Rigo... I loved you then as you were and I love you still as you are today. You are a beautiful man and you are in my heart forever.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN sadly moves away from ADRIANNA in self-conscious shame.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

You should not love me now.

ADRIANNA

Why, Rigo? Why should I not?

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

I am an old and bitter man. I have caused pain and hurt for many. I am ashamed of what I have become without you.

ADRIANNA smiles tenderly, goes to HIM, and sings:

ADRIANNA

(Singing.) YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL... YOUR SWEET SOUL'S THE VERY SAME. YOUR TWO EYES RETAIN THEIR SPARKLE. IN A MILLION YEARS, THE DARK 'LL STILL BE LIGHTENED BY THEIR FLAME.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL... YOUR FACE DAZZLES AND DISARMS. YOU STILL SHARE THOSE SAME EMBRACES ADRIANNA (CONT) SO I KNOW STILL THAT MY PLACE IS IN-BETWEEN THOSE LOVING ARMS.

TRUE, THE YEARS GONE BY AND THE TEARS GONE BY MAY HAVE LEFT A BLEMISH HERE OR THERE. YET THE LIFE WITHIN STILL IS RIFE WITHIN AND IT'S READY FOR YOU STILL TO SHARE.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL... YOU RECITE THAT SAME OLD PART. I CALL OUT AND YOU STILL ANSWER WITHOUT ANY DONTS OR CAN'TS 'ER' NEVERS LURKING IN YOUR HEART. THOUGH THE YEARS CASCADE AND FALL FOR YOUR SOUL THEY SEEM TO CRAWL FOR YOU... YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

Oh, Adrianna, Adrianna, this is the happiest day of my life. I have lived long enough to discover you all over again. This time we will stay together forever and...

ADRIANNA

No, Rigo. No, not now. It is not your time yet. You have things to attend to on Earth.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

Things? I have no "things."

ADRIANNA

You have more than you know.

DEATH is standing impatiently off to the side.

DEATH

It is time, Señor.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

No. No. I won't go.

DEATH

Your ten minutes have almost passed.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

Then let them be up and leave me here with my Adrianna.

DEATH

(Horrified.) <u>Never</u>, Señor. La Señora Maravilla will think I tricked you. She will never give me back my mask. You will come with me and you will come back now.

DEATH moves to approach SEÑOR GRUÑÓN.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

(Backing away in fear.) No. No. Don't. Stay away from me, Señorita!

DEATH

I'm sorry, Señor, but you are coming with me.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN No. Never. I will kill myself to come back.

DEATH But to Hell, not Heaven, as God dictates.

ADRIANNA I'm sorry, Rigo. It is time now. You must go.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN No. Please. Please. Don't let Death take me.

ADRIANNA

I love you and I will miss you.

Hearing the tone of her voice, SEÑOR GRUÑÓN understands the inevitability of his departure. ADRIANNA sees the sadness in HIS face and gives HIM a kiss on the cheek.

In the background, DEATH gestures grandly to some unseen power. The LIGHTS flicker like lightning.

Meanwhile, ADRIANNA reaches out to SEÑOR GRUÑÓN and sings:

ADRIANNA

(Singing.) YES, YOU ARE TODAY NOT SO FAR TODAY AS WITHIN MY DREAMS YOU TEND TO BE. STILL, YOU ALWAYS WILL HERE, NOW ALWAYS FILL EVERY CORNER OF MY MEMORY. The LIGHTS now flicker with greater and greater power. The moment of departure is near.

SEÑOR GRUÑÓN

(Singing.)

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL... AS FOR ME, I CANNOT SAY. I FEEL ANCIENT AND OUTDATED. LOOK AT ME AND SEE WHAT FATE DID TO A PASSION BRIGHT AS DAY.

The LIGHTS are now dimming slowly black. ADRIANNA takes this last moment to sing out:

ADRIANNA

(Singing.) TRUE, THE YEARS HAVE BEEN UNKIND, BUT I'D KNOW, EVEN IF BLIND, THAT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, NO, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, NO, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.