**AUNT JULIANA AUDITION TEXT:**

*Tesman comes in with an empty suitcase.*

JULIANA: Good morning, Doctor Tesman.

TESMAN: Hello! What a surprise!

*They embrace, warmly.*

JULIANA: I had to make sure you’d settled in.

BERTE: Should I go and ask if Mrs Tesman needs anything?

TESMAN: Better not. She’ll make her needs known. But perhaps you could put this elsewhere?

*Berte takes the suitcase and exists.*

I filled that case. It was bulging. Documents, papers, artefacts. Extraordinary finds from far-flung archives. Treasures unseen for decades.

JULIANA: I’m glad your honeymoon was so productive.

TESMAN: Shall I take it?

JULIANA: *(removes hat)* I bought it for Hedda’s sake.

TESMAN: It’s quite the hat.

JULIANA: I want her to think of me as sophisticated.

TESMAN: How could she not?

*He puts the hat down somewhere.*

JULIANA: It’s so lovely to see you alive and well. Your father would be so proud of you.

TESMAN: How’s Aunt Rina?

JULIANA: No improvement. She can’t leave her bed. It won’t be long. What will I do once she’s gone? And I no longer have you? No one to care for.

*He comforts her.*

TESMAN: I’m still here.

*She recovers, gazes at him.*

JULIANA: Hedda Gabler!

TESMAN: Yes!

JULIANA: She had so many admirers.

TESMAN: A swarm of suitors.

JULIANA: And she chose you.

TESMAN: It seems I’m the envy of my friends.

*Pause.*

JULIANA: You were away too long – almost six months!

TESMAN: It was a research trip and honeymoon combined.

JULIANA: And… do you have something to tell me?

TESMAN: About?

JULIANA: Do you have some news?

*Tesman looks confused.*

News of imminence?

TESMAN: Oh, yes, I’m going to be made professor. But you knew that?

*Slight pause.*