

(INGA pulls the candle out of the sconce again and the bookcase swings around with FREDERICK holding onto it and getting caught and squeezed between the side of the bookcase and the wall. HE speaks with much difficulty)

(FREDERICK)

Now I want you to listen to me very carefully. Don't put the candle back. With all your might, shove the other side of the bookcase. Is that perfectly clear?

INGA

(As candle is put down)

I sink so.

(INGA charges with all her force into the bookcase, spinning it around, leaving FREDERICK back in the room. INGA now disappears behind it.)

FREDERICK

(now back in the room)

Good girl!

INGA

(to FREDERICK, from behind the bookcase)

Put za candle... beck!

(FREDERICK picks up the candle and replaces it in the sconce, lifting it gingerly up and down as the bookcase swings around and stops halfway in its rotation, revealing a secret passageway behind it. INGA steps into sight.)

Look, Doktor, a hidden passageway.

#7b - The Hidden Passageway

FREDERICK

Whatever that music is... it's coming from in there. I better take a look.

INGA

Oh, let me go with you, Doktor. I'm afraid to stay here alone.

FREDERICK

All right then, close your robe and follow me.

As they both disappear from sight. Scene 7 ends as the MUSIC of the violin continues under and we segue into...

ACT ONE**Scene 8**

The MUSIC from the violin continues in near total darkness, except for the candle light from FREDERICK and INGA, illuminating them as they descend a staircase

INGA

Where are we?

FREDERICK

Who knows? But wherever that music is, it's somewhere nearby.

As INGA is clinging close to FREDERICK, a rat scuttles across their path. INGA loudly screams.

INGA

Vat vas zat!?

FREDERICK

Don't be frightened, it was just a rat. Just a slimy, filthy, disgusting rat.

INGA

Oh, sank goodness.

FREDERICK comes across another candle in a sconce on the wall. He pauses to light it and sees a row of skulls on a shelf.

FREDERICK

Good Lord, where the devil are we?

IGOR's head appears alongside the skulls.

IGOR

(singing)

I AIN'T GOT NOBODY...

FREDERICK

Igor!

IGOR

Froderick!

INGA

You frightened me. How did you get here?

IGOR

I heard the strangest music upstairs and just followed it down.

INGA

Zen it vasn't you playing zat violin?

IGOR

No, I play only the French horn.

INGA

So zere must haf been somebody else down here.

FREDERICK

Aren't there any lights in this place?

IGOR

There's a nasty looking switch over here. But there might be the danger, master, of instant electrocution. You try it.

FREDERICK

All right, here goes nothing.

HE throws the switch. There is a flash of sparks and a crackling sound as the lights come on brightly illuminating the dusty old laboratory. We hear the SOUND of wolves howling in the distance.

So this is where it all happened. My grandfather's laboratory, historic setting of his legendary experiments. What a filthy mess!

IGOR

Oh, I don't know. A little paint, some drapes, a few flowers, a couple of throw pillows...

FREDERICK

(noticing a table on which a lighted cigar is still burning in the ashtray next to a violin)

Hello, what have we here?

(seeing the violin)

So this explains the music.

INGA

(touching the violin)

It's still varm.

FREDERICK

And look! A cigar, still smoldering in the ashtray. Someone, or something, was just here!

HE senses a presence behind the drawn curtain in the alcove; HE yanks the curtain aside to reveal FRAU BLUCHER standing on a couch

Frau Blucher!

SOUND: Horses whinny