

THE BALLAD OF THE EASY-BAKE OVEN

(A vamp begins. JENNY, dressed all in black, with a Louise Brooks pageboy and dark makeup, appears, perhaps dragging a bent-cane chair behind. A hot spotlight is on her. Shadows are cast. She straddles the chair and peers at the audience. Vamp continues.)

JENNY
DEAR SANTA,
IT'S ME, JENNY.
I MAILED YOU A LETTER.
BUT DA STAMP VAS JUST THREEPENNY.
IS ZAT SUCH A DEADLY ZIN?
ANYVAY,
THE LETTER VASS RETURNED TO ME HERE
IN OLD BERLIN.

(The vamp goes on. She continues to peer judgmentally at the crowd. She takes out a bubble gum cigarette, puts it in her mouth and blows into it. A slight powdered-sugar cloud appears in the light. She peels the paper off the gum, bites the gum one bite at a time until it disappears. She chews. The wad is tough and noisy. When she is ready, she spits it violently into the wings. The vamp stops.)

MEINE SISTER HAS AN EASY-BAKE OVEN.
BUT I DO NOT VANT DA EASY BAKE OVEN.
I LIKE THINGS EASIER THAN THAT,
WHY SCRAMBLE LIKE DA RAT?
WHY SLAVE UND SVEAT
VENN ALL YOU GET
IS A LITTLE BITTY CAKE
THAT'S DRY...
UND ROUND...
UND FLAT?
UND FLAT!

I VANT A HO-HO CHRISTMAS. *(Beat.)*
A HOSTESS HO-HO CHRISTMAS.
I VANT A DING DONG, TOO.
I VANT DA SUZY Q!
I VANT IT EASIER THAN EASY BAKE CAN DO!

I VANT A RING DING CHRISTMAS.
I VANT A ZINGER CHRISTMAS.
I VANT DA TASTYKAKE.
I VANT DA CAKE OF DRAKE!
I WANT IT EASIER THAN EASY BAKE CAN MAKE!

**THE VIMMIN OF DA EARTH HAVE A BOOT ON THEIR THROATS!
WHAT GOOD IS A LIFE WITH A BOOT ON YOUR THROAT?
I LAUGH AT DAS BOOT — HA HA!
HA HA!
FOR I KNOW THERE ARE VIMMIN OF POWER!
VISS DA POWER OF PANDORA'S BOX!
PANDORA'S BOX!
VIMMIN WHO CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!
VIMMIN WHO CAN MAKE THE VORLD GO 'ROUND,
DA VORLD GO 'ROUND!**

(Spoken.) Who are these vimmin, you ask? These vimmin und dair boxes?

(After she names names, the names are salaciously whispered in an echo from backstage voices. Boxes of brand-name American pastries might slide out as she sings. The lids are open, they are ripe for the plucking.)

**DOLLY MADISON! (OTHERS: DOLLY MADISON)
LITTLE DEBBIE! (OTHERS: LITTLE DEBBIE)
SARA LEE! (OTHERS: SARA LEE)**

**I WANT A TWINKIE CHRISTMAS!
I WANT A SNO-BALL CHRISTMAS!
I WANT DA MALLOW-MAR!
I WANT DA NUTTY BAR!
I VANT IT EASIER THAN EASY BAKE BY FAR!**

(Vamp continues over the following. She bends and takes a wrapped Suzy Q out of a box. She fondles it. She temptingly crinkles the cellophane. She peels it back. This might take a very long time.)

You're thinking of my TastyKake right now, aren't you? No, you are thinking of my Ho Ho!

(She licks the white cream from the Suzy Q.)

Santa Claus, venn you hear my vishes, venn you hear of my appetite, you must sink: Dat little girl...she is so "vile."
(Beat.) You might think it's "vile," but I consider dis to be pure honesty. Sincerity. It's not "vile," it's "candor."
(Beat.) Da boys in da schoolyard call me a little vamp because I flatter zem und I seek da sveets in zair pockets. But, I am not offended. I always felt dat everybody likes a little vamp — especially venn candor is involved. *(Beat.)*
You may sink me disgusting for seeking American cakes viss

da beef fat, und da palm kernel oil, und da trans fatty acids. Childhood obesity? Vell, who cares! So vhat! (Beat.) American corn syrup is muzzer's milk to me, ja. But za Fazzuhland also has its delights. Zair is a local sweet I like. From Dessau, vair I was born und reared. Dis local sweet is called a "leenya." Made of hazelnut. Und chocolate. Und marzipan. (Beat.) Und let me tell you, I like a lotta leenya!

(SHE bangs her foot on the floor with a violent rhythm.)

EIN!

ZWEI!

DREI!

VIER!

**I VANT DA YODEL,
UND DA MOON PIE,
UND DA HONEY BUN, AT LEAST!
DA KREAMIE,
UND DA KRIMPET,
UND FIG NEWTON, VWHAT A FEAST!
UND DA DEVIL DOG
UND OREO — DA KIND VIT DOUBLE SCHTUFF!
UND DA POP TART!
UND DA FRUIT PIE:
NO, A LITTLE'S NOT ENOUGH!**

(Spoken.) You sink I am unhealthy, perhaps, viss meine carbohydrate dreams? You cannot speak of things dat are unhealthy. (Beat.) Look at you! Look at you!!! Nimm doch die rohr aus dem Maul, Weinachtsmann! Take dat damn pipe out of you mouth, Santa! You rat!

**JENNY MADE HER MIND UP:
I DO NOT WANT THE EASY BAKE OVEN!**

(Blackout.)