Listening Focus: Act 1

**Eddie’s attitudes/relationship with Rodolpho**

* When the brother’s first arrive Eddie barely even acknowledges Rodolpho, only talking directly to Marco
* Eddie is short and snappy with the brothers – *“She don’t mean in this house, she means in the country.”*
* Eddie seems to ignore Rodolpho, there is a sense of unexplained hostility – *“Eddie – he is coming more and more to address Marco only.”*
* Eddie is sceptical of Rodolpho’s dreams – *“What you do with a motorcycle?”/”Why can’t you just walk or take a trolley or sump’m?” –* He can’t understand why Rodolpho would want a motorcycle, sees it as a waste of money, not very masculine
* Eddie is shocked by Rodolpho’s revelation that he can sing
* Eddie is short-tempered with Rodolpho, treats him like a child, guilt trips him into staying quiet – *“Look kid; you don’t want to be picked up, do ya?” ­*– At this time Eddie shows concern for the brother’s welfare, ironic considering the ending
* Eddie is suspicious of Rodolpho’s motives surrounding Catherine and his knowledge of “all the girls” back in Italy – *“Eddie – he is sizing up Rodolpho, and there is a concealed suspicion”*
* Eddie watches Catherine with Rodolpho – *“his face puffed with trouble”*
* Eddie fakes concern over Rodolpho to his concern for Catherine – *“He’s supposed to stay in the house when he ain’t working. He ain’t supposed to go advertising himself.”*
* Eddie admits to Beatrice that he dislikes Rodolpho – *“That’s a nice kid? He gives me the heeby-jeebies.”*
* Eddie continually suggests that Rodolpho is gay – *“He sings on the ships, didja know that?”/“He’s like a weird.”*
* Eddie has no patience with Rodolpho – *“Eddie, his little patience waning: I want to talk to her a minute, Rodolpho. Go inside will you?”*
* Eddie suspects that Rodolpho is using Catherine as a green card – *“He marries you he’s got the right to be an American citizen.”*

**Alfieri’s comments and discussion with Eddie**

* Alfieri recognises Eddie’s feelings for Catherine although Eddie continues to deny them – *“But soon I saw it was only a passion that had moved into his body, like a stranger.”*
* Alfieri realises that Eddie’s attempts to get Rodolpho in trouble with the law are futile, there is nothing he can do since Rdolpho is not breaking the law in any way and at this point Eddie refuses to report him and his brother to immigration
* Eddie is ashamed to be around Rodolpho – *“They’re laughing at him on the piers. I’m ashamed. They call him Paper Doll. Blondie now.”*
* Alfieri directly accuses Eddie of loving Catherine too much – *“Eddie, I want you to listen to me… There is too much love for the niece.”*
* Eddie feels insulted by Rodolpho’s interest in Catherine, he thinks Rodolpho is trying to take what belongs to him – *“I take the blankets off my bed for him, and he takes and puts his dirty filthy hands on her like a goddamn thief.”*
* Alfieri provokes Eddie – *“Alfieri: She wants to get married Eddie. She can’t marry you, can she? Eddie furiously: What’re you talking about, marry me!”*
* Alfieri can see how Eddie’s story will end, it’s inevitable – *“I could have finished the whole story that afternoon”/”I could see every step coming, step after step…”*