



Casablanca

Sequence 8

The Second Night

- * The action has moved back to Rick's cafe.
- * The reappearance of the pickpocket provides some light comic relief, while also showing that Casablanca is no place for the naive or the unwary.
- * The German soldiers enter in almost military formation.
- * Their appearance in full uniform and their gait - marching rather than strolling into the bar - shows the menace they pose. We can never forget they are officers of the Third Reich.

Drowning Sorrows

- * Carl brings Rick a drink, but is concerned that he is drinking too much.
- * Capt. Renault is pleased to see Rick drinking, and observes that he is behaving like a Frenchman at last.
- * Rick has probably turned to drink to help him cope with the emotionally draining conversations he has had with Ilsa.
- * The audience is privy to knowledge Carl and Capt. Renault are not. We know Rick has been badly shaken by his meetings with Ilsa.

Renault and Rick

- * Rick is unhappy with the way the police have searched his bar. They made more of a mess than he wanted.
- * Capt. Renault did it to impress the Germans, because he likes to be on the stronger side. He may not respect Strasser, but he respects his power and influence.
- * Capt. Renault asks Rick if he has the letters.
- * Rick replies with an equally blunt question, asking Renault where his loyalties lie.
- * Yvonne enters with a German officer, and Renault remarks that she might be 'an entire second front'.
- * Renault takes his leave of Rick, saying cynically that it is time to 'flatter Major Strasser a little'.

No Politics

- * Yvonne's appearance with a German officer causes trouble.
- * A French officer asks her why she is with him, and her angry reply leads the German to challenge the Frenchman.
- * A fight breaks out, but Rick quickly and authoritatively puts an end to it.
- * Rick is in control, and will not brook talk of politics.

Strasser

- * Strasser leaps on this opportunity to tax Renault with the lawlessness of Casablanca.
- * Strasser moves on to express his concern about Laszlo and tells Renault that there are traitors in all the French provinces.
- * It is clear now that Strasser will never let Laszlo escape.
- * He even hints that he might need to get rid of him completely.

The Leuchstigs

- * Once again, the mood is lightened by some comic relief. The Leuchstigs speak very poor English, but they do not know it.
- * The tension of the previous scene is broken, and the audience can relax a little.
- * The elderly couple are celebrating the fact that they will be going to America the following day.
- * America is once again held up as the ideal. It is the place to which all the oppressed and frightened people of Europe long to escape.
- * This scene shows the audience just how important the exit visas are to those who wait in Casablanca. The Leuchstigs' joy is in stark contrast to Annina's desperation and longing in the next scene.

Annina and Jan

- * Annina and Jan have failed to get a visa by the normal route, and cannot afford to bribe Capt. Renault.
- * Renault bides his time, confident that the couple will not win money in Rick's fixed casino and that he will therefore be in a position to exploit Annina when she is driven to desperate measures.
- * Annina approaches Rick, who is taken aback by her obvious youth.
- * She tells him that Renault brought her to the cafe. Rick instantly realises Renault's true aim and knows he intends for Jan and Annina to lose what little money they have.

- * Again, America is held up as the ideal.
- * 'The devil has the people by the throat' in Bulgaria, and Jan and Annina do not want to raise a family there.
- * Bulgaria was allied with the Nazis at that time.
- * Annina asks Rick if Renault will keep his word.
- * Rick answers grimly that he always has before. He is clearly unhappy with the situation in this instance and is touched by Annina's youth and innocence.

'Rank Sentimentalist'

- * As Annina explains how much she loves her husband and how much she is willing to sacrifice for his happiness, the camera stays on Rick's face.
- * When she speaks of keeping the 'bad thing locked in her heart', Rick cannot bear it any longer. He advises her to go back to Bulgaria. His tone is cold, even angry, but we know he has been moved by her tale.
- * Rick leaves, appearing to dismiss Annina's problems as just another example of how difficult life is for those stuck in Casablanca.

- * The idea of great love has been introduced in this scene, and on cue, Ilsa enters with Laszlo.
- * Rick seems to have recovered somewhat and rather bitterly tells Ilsa that he will have Sam play 'As Time Goes By'.
- * Rick goes to the gambling room and fixes the roulette game so Jan wins. He is cool and authoritative again.
- * Carl is delighted for the young couple and full of admiration for Rick.
- * Capt. Renault is less than impressed as he sees his chance with Annina slipping away.

'A Gesture To Love'

- * Innocently, Jan and Annina make their delight obvious although Rick would prefer they were discreet.
- * They attempt to bribe Capt. Renault in front of everyone. He has regained his composure and is humorous and charming as he congratulates them but dismisses the idea of meeting them at six the following morning. He is far too much of a man-about-town to be in work before ten.
- * Renault taxes Rick with having ruined his 'romance' and Rick tells him it was 'a gesture to love'. Despite his cynical tone, there is truth behind the words and we get another glimpse into Rick's true nature.

Renault Recovers

- * Although his intentions have been thwarted in this instance, Capt. Renault bounces back with his usual speed.
- * He intends to bring a 'breath-taking blonde' to the gambling room the following night, and he makes it clear that he expects the game to be fixed in such a way that she loses.
- * Jan and Annina's story touched Rick, but Renault is far more self-serving and unscrupulous than he.