

THEO, VERSATI

THEO

(Rhapsodic.)

Regularity!

VERSATI

It's barbaric!

COHEN

(Indignant.)

How dare you insult barbers!

THEO

Versati, I like where I am. In the middle. I'm proud to have done no better.

VERSATI

Theo, is the woman next to you not enough to motivate you to a higher place?

THEO

How could I be motivated by a little housewife?

LOUISE

I am not a little housewife.

THEO

That's no embarrassment. I have descended from a long line of government clerks. You have descended from a long line of little housewives.

You could be an artist!

VERSATI

THEO

Do you think that if I came home and sang to Louise of my tender feelings for the heavens she would ever respect me again?

LOUISE

Yes.

You just think so.

THEO

VERSATI

(To Theo.)

Does the name Nietzsche mean anything to you?

THEO

One of the giants.

VERSATI

You've read him?

THEO

No, I haven't.

VERSATI

Do you want to know what he stands for?

THEO
No thank you.

VERSATI
I'll lend you my copy.

THEO
(Insulted.)

I do not read!

VERSATI
You don't read?

THEO
Never. I work seven hours a day. After that, I'm tired.

VERSATI
So eat, sleep, work. That's your life. And where does it all end?

THEO
With a pension.

VERSATI
And politics doesn't interest you.

THEO
Doesn't affect me.

VERSATI
Science?

THEO
Ho hum.

VERSATI
Theology?

THEO
The stricter the better.

VERSATI
Poetry?

THEO
I'd rather sit on nails.

VERSATI
You disavow the power of poetry? I'll get you a volume.
Promise me you'll read it.

THEO
I'll tell you what. I'll go to the zoo and see the giraffe.

VERSATI
Why?

THEO
Because a giraffe is like a poem. They both make no sense.