

~~(Withdraws his head)~~

~~GEORG~~

~~That reminds me. I have to have a word with Mr. Kodaly.~~

~~(HE EXITS into the shop)~~

RITTER

Isn't it wonderful!!

SIPOS

A miracle! An absolute miracle!!

(Wandering inquisitively to the door)

A word with Mr. Kodaly...

RITTER

Oh — who cares about him? That's all in the past.

SIPOS

It is?

RITTER

Ever since last night — remember what a silly confused girl I was last night?

SIPOS

You were?

RITTER

Oh, very! I didn't know what to do or where to go — and then somehow my feet started walking down the street and across the bridge and past the Metropole Cinema — and you know where?

SIPOS

Where?

RITTER

Right into the library!

SIPOS

The library?

RITTER

Can you imagine?

SIPOS

How did you like it?

#47 *A Trip To The Library (Ritter)*

RITTER

You've never seen such a place. So many books... so much marble... so quiet...

AND SUDDENLY ALL OF MY CONFIDENCE
DRIBBLED AWAY WITH A PITIFUL PLOP.
MY HEAD WAS BEGINNING TO SWIM
AND MY FOREHEAD WAS COVERED WITH
COLD PERSPIRATION.
I STARTED TO REACH FOR A BOOK AND MY HAND
AUTOMATICALLY CAME TO A STOP.
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I STOOD FROZEN,
A VICTIM OF PANIC AND MORTIFICATION!
OH... HOW I WANTED TO FLEE...
WHEN A KINDLY VOICE... A GENTLE VOICE
WHISPERED "PARDON ME."

SIPOS

Pardon me?

RITTER

AND THERE WAS THIS DEAR, SWEET,
CLEARLY RESPECTABLE,
THICKLY BESPECTACLED MAN
WHO STOOD BY MY SIDE AND
QUIETLY SAID TO ME... "MA'AM,
DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE, BUT
I WAS JUST WONDERING
ARE YOU IN NEED OF SOME HELP?"
I SAID "NO... YES I AM!"
THE NEXT THING I KNOW,
I'M SIPPING HOT CHOCOLATE
AND TELLING MY TROUBLES TO PAUL
WHOSE TENDER BROWN EYES
KEPT SENDING COMPASSIONATE LOOKS.
A TRIP TO THE LIBRARY
HAS MADE A NEW GIRL OF ME
FOR SUDDENLY I CAN SEE
THE MAGIC OF BOOKS!

I HAVE TO ADMIT IN THE BACK OF MY MIND
I WAS PRAYING HE WOULDN'T GET FRESH.
AND ALL OF THE WHILE I WAS WONDERING WHY

AN ILLITERATE GIRL SHOULD ATTRACT HIM.
THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN HE SAID THAT I
COULDN'T GO WRONG WITH "THE WAY OF ALL FLESH."
OF COURSE IT'S A NOVEL BUT I DIDN'T KNOW
OR I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE SMACKED HIM!
WELL, HE GAVE ME A SMILE
THAT I COULDN'T RESIST
AND I KNEW AT ONCE... HOW MUCH I LIKED
THIS OPTOMETRIST.

SIPOS

Optometrist!

RITTER

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS DEAR, SWEET,
SLIGHTLY BESPECTACLED GENTLEMAN SAID TO ME NEXT?
HE SAID HE COULD SOLVE THIS PROBLEM OF MINE.
I SAID... "HOW?"
HE SAID IF I'D LIKE, HE'D WILLINGLY READ TO ME
SOME OF HIS FAVORITE THINGS.
I SAID "WHEN"?...
HE SAID "NOW".
HIS NOVEL APPROACH SEEMED HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS
AND POSSIBLY DANGEROUS, TOO.
I TOLD MYSELF "WAIT... THINK...
DARE YOU GO UP TO HIS FLAT?
WHAT HAPPENS IF THINGS GO WRONG?
IT'S OBVIOUS HE'S QUITE STRONG..."
HE READ TO ME ALL NIGHT LONG!
NOW, HOW ABOUT THAT?

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HOW TRULY DOMESTIC
AND HAPPILY HOPEFUL I FEEL.
I PICTURE MY PAUL THERE
READING ALOUD AS I... COOK.
AS LONG AS HE'S THERE TO READ
THERE'S QUITE A GOOD CHANCE, INDEED,
A CHANCE THAT I'LL NEVER NEED TO OPEN A BOOK!

UNLIKE SOMEONE ELSE...
SOMEONE I DIMLY RECALL,
I KNOW HE'LL ONLY HAVE EYES FOR ME,
MY OPTOMETRIST... PAUL.

(GEORG RE-ENTERS the workroom)

GEORG

Well, I might as well tell you: Mr. Kodaly is leaving us — right now. Mr. Maraczek's orders.

RITTER

Why? I mean — it's nice. But what happened?

GEORG

I'm afraid I can't tell you.

RITTER

I bet I know. I warned him they'd catch up with him. Do you know that half the perfume and toilet water in this shop ended up in his bathroom?

(Realizing what SHE'S said)

I mean — he told me!

(SHE dashes out)

~~SIPOS~~

~~*(With elaborate calmness)*~~

~~Oh — incidentally — now that you're back and everything's straightened out — I might as well tell you: I sent the anonymous letter.~~

~~*(Starts out quickly)*~~

~~GEORG~~

~~Ladislav!~~

~~*(SIPOS stops)*~~

~~What anonymous letter?~~

~~SIPOS~~

~~*(A little less casual)*~~

~~You didn't know? What do you think caused all the trouble? I wrote to Mr. Maraczek about his wife and one of our clerks...~~

~~GEORG~~

~~I don't believe you!~~

~~SIPOS~~

~~*(Getting serious)*~~

~~I was desperate! Business was so bad! And I thought to myself — if he fires Mr. Kodaly — who deserves it — he might not fire me — who doesn't.~~