

## GEN MEN/WOMEN SIDE

**PLUMMER**

(entering)

Caroline?

**CAROLINE**

Shh! The poor baby finally sleeps.

**PLUMMER**

Her breathing is steady?

**CAROLINE**

For the moment, thank god. She coughed and cried for hours. Just tell me - is it good? Or bad?

**PLUMMER**

You could say it was bad...

**CAROLINE**

A mere three pence, all we have in the world! We are ruined!

**PLUMMER**

No, no, there is hope.

**CAROLINE**

If he relents, there is! Nothing is past hope, if such a miracle has happened.

**PLUMMER**

He is past relenting. He is dead.

CAROLINE lets out a gasp of surprise and joy! She hugs him, then instantly crosses herself.

**CAROLINE**

God forgive me!

**PLUMMER**

I thought it was an excuse to avoid me,  
but it turns out he was not only ill  
but dying.

**CAROLINE**

(tears of joy)

The good lord's miracles are sometimes  
- no, I shouldn't say such a thing. To  
whom will our debt be transferred?

**PLUMMER**

I don't know, but it couldn't be anyone  
worse. And before that time, we shall  
be ready with the money. We may sleep  
tonight with light hearts, my love!