

GEORGE (Cont'd)

AND ON THAT SACRED DAY
WHEN YOU BECOME MINE,
SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY
I'LL BUILD YOU A SHRINE.
THERE I'LL PUT YOU, DEAR,
AND WHEN I DO,
I'LL GET ON MY KNEES
AND WORSHIP YOU!

(She turns away — a movement he
assumes indicates awe)

I thought you'd be impressed.

TRACY

Yes ... Well ...

(He notices his watch)

GEORGE

Good heavens! Do you know what time it is? We have to get ready! Uncle Willie wants us by eight! Or is he still Seth? I have to tell you, I really don't understand any of this! Anyway, don't be late.

No. 10a

The Lords' Entrance
(Orchestra)

(George kisses her hand reverently,
then runs off. George never walks when
he can run.)

She watches him go, shaken.

She turns and stares out.

Long pause.

The sound of a woman's muffled laugh from
just off-stage, and the man's voice that
follows, snap Tracy back to attention.

Her father enters with her mother, one of
his arms around her shoulders)

MOTHER LORD

Well, thank you, Seth. Actually, you look rather good yourself.

TRACY

Have you no self-respect!

MOTHER LORD

(startled)

Tracy!

(embarrassed — for Seth's sake)

... Tracy ...

SETH LORD

It's fine. Let her.

TRACY

Yes, "let her!" Who are you to tell us anything? Mother, how can you let him even touch you? I know why! It's because he's here, isn't it? Of course! So, of course, all's forgiven, isn't it? Well, as far as I'm concerned, it's not — and never will be!

MOTHER LORD

I think that what your father and I decide to do with our lives is no one's concern but our own.

TRACY

Oh, oh that's wonderful!

SETH LORD

(simply)

Tracy, I am sorry that I hurt you.

TRACY

Did someone say he's sorry?

MOTHER LORD

(mortified)

Tracy—

SETH LORD

It's all right.

TRACY

For you it's all right!

SETH LORD

Tracy, the affair has been over for a long time now.

TRACY

Really? How long?

SETH LORD

Since winter.

(Clearly, Tracy has not expected this)

TRACY

... Well, that's an interesting little piece of news.
(to her mother)
When did you find that out?

SETH LORD

Your mother has known it almost as long.

(Tracy stares at her mother
in astonishment)

MOTHER LORD

If Seth does move back, there has to be more to it than just the end of an affair.

TRACY
(weakening)

... Oh ... really ...

SETH LORD

Tracy, I make no excuses for what I've done. And for what it's worth, I take full blame, if blame is in fact appropriate — I rather suspect it is.

TRACY

You only "suspect"?

MOTHER LORD

Tracy, stop it!

SETH LORD

Let her be.

(to Tracy, simply and with pain)

It's useless, isn't it?

TRACY

It is. Yes. Now you've got it. *Finally you've got it!*

SETH LORD

(with real regret)

And you have got what I'm afraid to say you've always had.

TRACY

And what exactly does that mean?

SETH LORD

It means you have everything it takes to make a great human being ... except ...

TRACY

No, go on, say it. It's been that kind of day.

SETH LORD

You have everything it takes except the one essential — an understanding heart. And without that you might as well be made of bronze. Like a statue.

TRACY

That's an awful thing to say — to anyone!

SETH LORD

I know.

(He walks off)

(Tracy looks at her mother.
Her mother looks away, then walks off
after Seth.)

Tracy, fighting tears, turns and
stares out)

TRACY

ONCE UPON A TIME
SO THE STORY GOES
THERE LIVED A LITTLE WELL-BRED GIRL
JUST PERFECT, I SUPPOSE
LUCKY LITTLE PRINCESS
IN HER HAND-EMBROIDERED DRESS,
CALLED OUT, AM I A PRINCESS?
AND THE WHOLE WORLD ANSWERED, "YES!"

"SEE HOW WELL SHE RIDES!"

"SEE HOW BOYS ADORE HER!"

"WHO WOULD NOT RUSH TO TURN THE TIDES

AND STOP THE PLANETS FOR HER?"

NO WONDER SHE GREW UP BELIEVING

SHE WAS UTTERLY SUBLIME,

BUT THAT WAS ONCE UPON A TIME.

(Feeling lost and confused, she looks
about ... and sees a champagne bottle.)

She goes over and pours herself a
drink, gulps it down, likes the
feeling, and pours herself another.

As she does, the Staff enter and strike
the furniture. Tracy does not notice
them. *But they notice her*)

STAFF

(staring at Tracy)

HIGH SOCIETY ...

(The Staff exits.)

Tracy turns and gazes out at "the True
Love," champagne bottle in hand)

TRACY

LIFE WAS SO MUCH FUN
LOVE WAS BETTER STILL
BUT FAIRY TALES DON'T SEEM TO END
THE WAY YOU THINK THEY WILL
HAPP'LY EVER AFTER
ISN'T EASY AS IT LOOKS
FOR HAPP'LY EVER AFTER
IS FOR PRINCESSES IN BOOKS