

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)