

(GEORG goes to the toilet water)

FIRST CUSTOMER

(To SIPOS)

Thursday? Good. I'll stop by for it.

SIPOS

Thank you very much, madam.

(FIRST CUSTOMER goes to the door and opens it, the bell rings)

#12 Thank You, Madam #1 *(Ritter, Kodaly, Georg, Sipos)*

RITTER, KODALY, GEORG, SIPOS

THANK YOU, MADAM.

PLEASE, CALL AGAIN.

DO CALL AGAIN, MADAM.

(FIRST CUSTOMER EXITS. GEORG returns to AMALIA with an atomizer)

GEORG

Let me spray a little on your hand —

AMALIA

No!

GEORG

No?

AMALIA

Actually you see — I'm not going to buy any. Not today. I'm not going to buy anything. Is Mr. Maraczek here?

GEORG

He's in the back room.

AMALIA

Could I speak to him, please?

GEORG

Perhaps I can help you.

AMALIA

I don't think so.

GEORG

He's quite busy.

AMALIA

Then I'll wait. I don't mind. Really. I'll just sit somewhere quietly and wait 'til he's free.

GEORG

May I ask — the nature of your business?

AMALIA

I think I'd better speak to Mr. Maraczek personally.

GEORG

Very well. May I have your name, please?

AMALIA

Balash. Amalia Balash.

GEORG

Very well, Miss Balash, I'll tell him you're here.

(GEORG starts for the back room)

AMALIA

Oh — just one thing. Miss Horvath — who used to work here — the one who's having a baby — she hasn't been replaced yet — has she?

GEORG

Are you looking for a job?

AMALIA

No! I guess you could call it that.

(Eagerly)

I'm a very good salesgirl. Really! Very good! And I know the parfumerie business — inside and out! I worked at Hammerschmidt's — five years! Five years and eight months! And they were always very satisfied with me. I have a letter here — from Mr. Hammerschmidt himself...

(Searches in her pocketbook)

somewhere here. It says: "Miss Balash is honest, dependable, dedicated."

(With emphasis)

"Dedicated."

(Frantically looking through the pocketbook)

It's here somewhere. "She also has an abundance of those qualities which go toward making a superior salesperson. I highly recommend her. Signed: Herman Hammerschmidt..."

(Remembers something)

Oh!

(AMALIA finds the letter and gives it to GEORG)

Here —

GEORG

I'm sure it's just as you say. But — unfortunately — we're not replacing Miss Horvath right now. If you'd like to leave your name...

AMALIA

Balash. Amalia Balash.

GEORG

And then — if anything should come up...

AMALIA

I'd like to speak to Mr. Maraczek, please.

GEORG

I'm afraid — if it's only about a job...

AMALIA

Please!

GEORG

I'm sorry.

(MARACZEK ENTERS)

It just can't be done.

MARACZEK

What can't be done? At Maraczek's, nothing is impossible.

(To AMALIA)

Perhaps I can help you.

GEORG

She wants a job.

MARACZEK

What?

AMALIA

I know this business — inside and out! I worked at Hammerschmidt's...