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Meg + Duncan

LEADING LADIES

29

Scene 4

*(We hear a telephone ring and the lights come up on DUNCAN and MEG, in separate places, on the phone with each other. MEG has placed the call and DUNCAN is answering it. MEG is bright-eyed with excitement, and can't wait to tell DUNCAN her news.)*

DUNCAN. Hello. Evangelical United Brethren Church of York. Reverend Wooley speaking.

MEG. Duncan, it's me! Guess what?! A telegram just arrived and guess who it's from. And don't say Grandma Kunkle.

DUNCAN. Winston Churchill.

MEG. Wrong. It's from Max and Steve!

DUNCAN. Max and Steve?

MEG. Yes! Isn't it wonderful! I have cousins! They arrive today at 5:30. And I've never even met them. Isn't it exciting?!

DUNCAN. Yes it is, my goodness, but... You do realize this means you'll have to split your inheritance.

MEG. Well of course.

DUNCAN. Instead of three million, you'll only get one million.

MEG. A million dollars is enough for ten lifetimes. And you always say yourself that money isn't important.

DUNCAN. Well it isn't. Per se. But one can do so much good with three million dollars. I could set up a foundation. And run it from a nice new office. I'd interview charities that ask me for grant money. They'd take me to lunch and try to woo me ...

MEG. Or we could give it all away in one big lump and just go on living the way things are.

DUNCAN. Now that's ridiculous! It would be vain and boastful.

MEG. Oh, Duncan. You were counting on all three million,

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weren't you.

DUNCAN. Yes, I was. But not for myself. For the foundation.

MEG. And for that little house on Nantucket.

DUNCAN. Well we'd have to run it out of some place.

MEG. They arrive on the six o'clock train.

DUNCAN. Very fortuitous, their arriving this week. And then one has to ask if it's entirely by chance.

MEG. What do you mean?

DUNCAN. Have you ever thought that they might be frauds.

MEG. Oh, stop it.

DUNCAN. Why not? I mean it's a very convenient time to arrive. They will get two million dollars.

MEG. Would you please forget about the money.

DUNCAN. I am not thinking about the money! I told you that. But maybe they're not

BOTH. as Christian as we are.

MEG. Duncan, you're becoming awfully intolerant.

DUNCAN. Nonsense.

MEG. You know what God thinks of intolerant people.

DUNCAN. Meg —

MEG. One minute you're brushing your teeth, then whammo, you're a pillar of salt.

DUNCAN. Meg!

MEG. With greedy people it's even worse.

DUNCAN. I am not greedy! ... Look. We'll all be very happy to meet your cousins. That's all that matters.

MEG. You will be here when they arrive, won't you? I want to meet them on the platform.

DUNCAN. I'll try. But we have a Boy Scout meeting here at five and I'm handing out the merit badges. It's very exciting. One of the boys is making Eagle, and we have two Hawks and a Pigeon, so I'd better go now and get ready.