

AMALIA - GEORG I

She Loves Me

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GEORG

I'm only following Mr. Maraczek's instructions.

AMALIA

I can't stay.

GEORG

You are not being very cooperative, Miss Balash.

AMALIA

Well — why did he have to pick *this one night?*
(*Mulling that over*)

Or did you pick it, Mr. Nowack? Just because you knew I had an appointment?

(*KODALY'S CUSTOMER starts to leave. KODALY opens the door*)

#23 Thank You, Madam #4 (Amalia, Ritter, Kodaly, Georg, Sipos)

KODALY, SIPOS, RITTER, GEORG, AMALIA
THANK YOU, MADAM.
PLEASE, CALL AGAIN.
DO CALL AGAIN, MADAM.

(*The CUSTOMER EXITS*)

START:

AMALIA

You know, I find it quite depressing that anyone could hate me that much —

GEORG

I don't hate you. But until you came here, this was a happy, peaceful place. Now — the whole atmosphere's changed: everyone's cranky — Mr. Maraczek's on the war-path...

AMALIA

That's not *my* fault!

GEORG

The Mona Lisa's coming out the wrong end of the tubes!!

AMALIA

And *that's* not my fault!
(*With a sudden pang of guilt*)

Is it?

GEORG

You've been filling them.

AMALIA

According to *your* instructions.

GEORG

Well — let's not argue about it now. Can we have a truce?

AMALIA

Anytime, Mr. Nowack. After all, you're the one who always starts things.

GEORG

I'm the one?

AMALIA

You've always resented me — from the very first day I came here — when I made you lose that bet to Mr. Maraczek. For ten-and-six, wasn't it? To think that anyone could hate me so much — just for ten-and-six!

GEORG

That's nonsense!

AMALIA

Or was it your male pride that was wounded? Because I went over your head? Men always do seem to resent things like that.

GEORG

I do not resent you, Miss Balash.

AMALIA

Oh, yes, you do.

GEORG

Oh, for Heaven's sake! I do not resent you. But if I did, I would have a very good reason. Can you deny you hadn't worked here two weeks before you started making very public, very humiliating remarks about me?

AMALIA

Only because you were going around calling me *Miss A-mal-ia* Balash. *Miss A-malia* Balash. You think I liked that?

GEORG

You think I liked your criticizing my socks — my tie — my fingernails...? (wiggles his fingers)

AMALIA (looking at his fingernails)

MUCH BETTER.

END