

RITTER- AMALIA

The workroom. AMALIA and RITTER are sitting at a long table,
Christmas-wrapping packages)

START:

RITTER

This is fun. I love Christmas-wrapping.

AMALIA

It's certainly a pleasant change. You know — for the last month, I've done practically nothing but fill those darn tubes of Mona Lisa.

RITTER

Well — what do you care? You're in love with some nice, eligible young man. Pretty soon you'll be able to kiss all this goodbye. Tell me — what's he like? Tell me all about him. I love to suffer.

(AMALIA hesitates noticeably)

AMALIA

Well —

RITTER

Is he tall?

AMALIA

(Evasively)

So-so.

RITTER

So-so six feet? So-so five feet?

AMALIA

I never measured.

RITTER

Color of hair? Color of eyes?

AMALIA

Eh — sandy hair. Not really light. Not really dark.

RITTER

And the eyes —?

AMALIA

Bluish — greenish —

RITTER

(Beginning to smell something fishy)

Brownish?

AMALIA

A little.

RITTER

Is he handsome?

AMALIA

It's difficult to say. I mean — at times he is — and then again at times he's not.

RITTER

Well-built?

AMALIA

Oh — average.

RITTER

Would you like a piece of good advice?

(AMALIA nods)

Don't lose him in a crowd.

(There is a brief pause)

AMALIA

Why — oh, why — am I such an unconvincing liar? The fact is I've never met him — ever, really.

RITTER

Never?

AMALIA

(Nodding)

That's why I don't know if he's tall, wide, short, narrow, pink or green — or even what his name is.

RITTER

You mean all of this fuss is just for a blind date? My God, you're even more desperate than I am.

AMALIA

It's not a blind date! I *know* him!

RITTER

How?

AMALIA

Letters. Many, many letters.

RITTER

You belong to a Lonely Hearts Club?

AMALIA

(Shaking her head)

I've never *done* that sort of thing. I used to read the advertisements in the papers...

RITTER

Who hasn't? Young man wants young lady. Young lady wants young man.

AMALIA

But I never took them seriously. Until — one day — I saw his advertisement. Even then, I tried not to answer it. Really. But it kept calling out to me...

RITTER

He could be seventy-five!

AMALIA

(Shaking her head)

The advertisement said: "Young man."

END