Act I

MISS OVERLOOK. I hope I see you again, Iris

stage is in darkness. IRIS does not fook at the "Still suspended in mid-air above the stage. The rest of the SHIFT, \isolating only IRIS and a [perhaps] miniature As she does so MUSIC PLAYS—the same music we starts to put the button in her pouch. She stops, looks his As she continues to rub the button, the light on the "Stil heard\under the "Still Life" earlier—and IRIS nods and watches MISS OVERLOOK exit. IRIS OUT, as MISTER MATYERMOT reappears, quickly, sayher eyes and puts the button/back in her pouch, the Life" grows brighter and brighter. Then, as she opens Life"—instead\she closes her eyes, fightly, once again the button, holding it in front of her. She closes her eyes. "Still Life" goes suddenly black. It is gone. MUSIC the rubs the button between her thumb and forefinger. " the table, cocoa, and the irs in its vase, *LLIGHTS*

MISTER MATTERNOT. We've due at one o'clock, Iris, and we mustn't be late. Are you ready?

RIS. Ready!

(IRIS runs off. MISTER MATTERNOT follows her, as MUSIC PLAYS, and LIGHTS REVEAL the Great Room of the Great Goods. HIS MOST EXCELLENT, GROTTO GOOD stands in the room. His dashingly elegant clothes have one button, one pocket, one tassel of fringe. He wears one shoe, only. He holds a monocle in his hand, which he uses from time to time. He speaks to his servant, MISTER OTHERGUY—dressed in the same som-

ber manner as MATTERNOT and wearing a similar sort of tool belt—who is hurriedly dusting everything in the room with a single-feather duster. MUSIC UNDER and OUTS.

GROTTO GOOD. But, my fear is this, that I will handle it badly. I fear I don't know how to maintain a little girl. What do they do? What do they eas? And what will I do if she says something to me?

MISTER OTHERGUY. I'm sure you'll handle it well, Master Good.

GROTTO GOOD. Shouldn't they be here? It's nearly one o'clock.

(HER MOST EXCELLENT, GRETTA GOOD enters. She is dressed in a similarly elegant style to her husband. She, too, wears only one shoe. She has one ring on her finger. She is affixing her one earring as she arrives.)

GRETTA GOOD. I must tell you, a terrifying thing just happened to me.

GROTTO GOOD. What was it, my dear?

ing there, next to this one.

GROTTO GOOD No. 2021 what Jid 1.2.

GROTTO GOOD. My good, what did you do?

GRETTA GOOD. I threw it away, instantly.

GROTTO GOOD. Oh, thank good.

GRETTA GOOD. It set me back, I must tell you. A shock like that.

GROTTO GOOD. Don't think of it again. Now, Gretta dear, I've been assured by Mister Otherguy that I needn't be nervous about meeting a little girl.