

He only cares about himself. If I had been Romeo, we would have got away.

Mrs. KENDAL. But then there would be no play, Mr. Merrick.

MERRICK. If he did not love her, why should there be a play? Looking in a mirror and seeing nothing. That is not love. It was all an illusion. When the illusion ended he had to kill himself.

Mrs. KENDAL. Why. That is extraordinary.

MERRICK. Before I spoke with people, I did not think of all these things because there was no one to bother to think them for. Now things just come out of my mouth which are true.

(TREVES enters.)

TREVES. You are famous, John. We are in the papers. Look. They have written up my report to the Pathological Society. Look—it is a kind of apotheosis for you.

Mrs. KENDAL. Frederick, I feel Mr. Merrick would benefit by even more company than you provide; in fact by being acquainted with the best, and they with him. I shall make it my task if you'll permit. As you know, I am a friend of nearly everyone, and I do pretty well as I please and what pleases me is this task, I think.

TREVES. By god, Mrs. Kendal, you are splendid.

Mrs. KENDAL. Mr. Merrick I must go now. I should like to return if I may. And so that we may without delay teach you about society, I would like to bring my good friend Dorothy Lady Neville. She would be most pleased if she could meet you. Let me tell her yes? (MERRICK nods yes.) Then until next time. I'm sure your church model will surprise us all. Mr. Mer-

rick, it has been a very great pleasure to make your acquaintance.

TREVES. John. Your hand. She wishes to shake your hand.

MERRICK. Thank you for coming.

Mrs. KENDAL. But it was my pleasure. Thank you. (Exits, accompanied by TREVES.)

TREVES. What a wonderful success. Do you know he's never shook a woman's hand before?

As lights fade MERRICK sobs soundlessly, uncontrol-
lably.

SCENE 11

HE DOES IT WITH JUST
ONE HAND

Music. MERRICK working on model of St. Phillip's church. Enter DUCHESS. At side TREVES ticks off a gift list.

MERRICK. Your grace.

DUCHESS. How nicely the model is coming along, Mr. Merrick. I've come to say Happy Christmas, and that I hope you will enjoy this ring and remember your friend by it.

MERRICK. Your grace, thank you.

DUCHESS. I am very pleased to have made your acquaintance. (Exits.)

(Enter COUNTESS.)

COUNTESS. Please accept these silver-backed brushes and comb for Christmas, Mr. Merrick.