

A Man of No Importance

(a play after Oscar Wilde)

by

Julius Galacki

- 2 Page Dialogue Sample -

CAST

Penelope..... a wife, loyal to propriety and style

Helen.....the other woman, loyal to style and propriety

Harry.....the husband, loyal to both women

Casting Note: the characters can be played by anyone in an age range from 30 to 60 though the women should roughly be of the same age, and likewise the man should be the same age or slightly older.

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*(A lovely veranda set for tea. The time is the present but classically timeless,
as are the stylish women and man in the cast.)*

Helen

That's a lovely hat.

Penelope

Thank you.

Helen

The purse, too.

Penelope

Of course.

Helen

Yes. If you can't dress, at least accessorize.

Penelope

Helen, isn't it?

Helen

Yes.

Penelope

Exactly *why* are you here again?

Helen

To take your husband. Of course.

Penelope

Oh, is that all? So there is no reason why we can't be friends.

Helen

If that's the way you feel.

Penelope

It's what I just said, isn't it?

Helen

I'm quite overcome with emotion.

Penelope

I'm quite in love with emotion myself. That's why I couldn't care if you take Harry. You'd be doing me a favor. I haven't felt hatred in quite some time, and I would just love to hate Harry. And you too, of course. But I assure you, that won't stand in the way of our friendship.

Helen

I totally agree. I can't think of a single woman friend whom I don't hate.

(Harry enters.)

Penelope

Oh, Harry my darling.

(Penelope kisses his cheek. Helen physically interrupts them – e.g. clearing her throat or perhaps even pulling him toward her - then offers her hand to be kissed, which Harry takes hungrily.)

Helen

Did you miss me?