LEADING PLAYER

Enter Catherine.

(The lights shine on the portal, but no one appears. After a moment of awkward silence, the LEADING PLAYER tries again)

Enter Catherine!

(Again nothing. After a beat we hear CATHERINE stumbling about backstage, causing wreckage and destruction, crying “Sorry!” we see her struggle to find the opening in the curtain. When she finally finds it, she steps out sheepishly)

CATHERINE

(To the LEADING PLAYER) I couldn't get my eyelash on...

LEADING PLAYER

How many years have you been playing this role?

CATHERINE

I’m sorry, sorry.

LEADING PLAYER

It's okay. (To the audience) We'll just do it again.

(The LEADING PLAYER nods her head back to the portal, CATHERINE, all smiles, mimics her, thinking that’s what’s wanted of her. Another nod, another imitation, the LEADING PLAYER turns to her)

LEADING PLAYER

Get out of here!

CATHERINE

Oh! Sorry, sorry! (CATHERINE disappears behind the portal curtains)
LEADING PLAYER

Enter Catherine! (CATHERINE enters, properly this time) A lovely, young widow. (She looks at CATHERINE) A lovely widow.

CATHERINE

(After an awkward moment, CATHERINE begins to speak to the audience)

When I first saw Pippin he was lying by the side of the road. He didn’t know where he was, and he looked so exhausted... and lost...ed. Well the man had obviously lost the will to live. So the first thing that I had to do was to get him interested in something... something that would restore his faith in life... something like... me.

(Crossing to PIPPIN) Well, I'm sure there are many things you'd like to know about me, aren't there?

No. Good. My name is Catherine. I'm a widow. I have a son. I own this estate.

God! What a challenge! I was determined to somehow pierce that dedicated apathy. Now, I've always found that no man—no matter what his condition—can resist the charm of a growing boy. So, I sent my son, Theo, to him.