CATHERINE

(Going to PIPPIN) Pippin, you have been lying in the bed for seven days now, what is the matter with you?

PIPPIN

Look, it is nothing you could possible understand.

CATHERINE

Well, try me. Come on! Give me a chance. (She punches him “playfully”, but it’s a pretty solid hit)

Come on! (She punches him again)

Come on! (She moves to punch him a third time, but PIPPIN stops her)

PIPPIN

All right, all right! Fine, I’ll give you a chance. (CATHERINE climbs into bed next to him)

(whispering) Scoot over.

(HE does, SHE then whispers) Okay, let’s talk.

PIPPIN

I have been searching and searching for something important and fulfilling to do with my life, and I have tried everything I can think of and I haven’t even come close! So I am in utter, abject, complete despair.
CATHERINE

And that's it?

PIPPIN

Yeah. That's it.

CATHERINE

Pippin, let me tell you something about despair. (A PLAYER appears behind the bed carrying an accordion, and he plays a tune that sounds as if it’s right out of a soap opera. CATHERINE sits on the end of the bed and begins speaking with incredible melodrama, optionally with an affected French accent)

CATHERINE

I loved my husband very much. The years we spent together were the happiest years of my life. And then one day he was struck by fever! And when his hand went cold in mine...! (SHE breaks for a moment, giggling at her own melodramatic lines, then resumes, speaking normally)

I felt my life, too, was over. It’s true; I was overcome by the deepest despair. I took to my bed for five days. On the sixth day I got up. There were things to be done, an estate to be run, a boy to raise...

(PIPPIN reaches out and touches CATHERINE's hand. SHE looks at the hand for a long moment, caught off guard. Then tenderly, to PIPPIN)

Pippin, this is such a large estate. I'm all alone here and I can't do all this work by myself. Couldn't you please help me?
LEADING PLAYER

(Interjecting) No! No! No! You’re supposed to read the line “naggingly”!

CATHERINE

I know, but he put his hand on my face, they don’t usually do that.

LEADING PLAYER

I don’t care where he puts his hand, read it naggingly.

CATHERINE

Okay...

LEADING PLAYER

Listen, you’re almost too old for this role, so you better watch it. I’ve got my eye on you.

(SHE steps back, watching CATHERINE intently. CATHERINE, now incredibly aware of the LEADING PLAYER’s presence, steps off the bed awkwardly, and prepares herself)

CATHERINE

(To PIPPIN, naggingly, very shrewish) Pippin, this is such a large estate! I'm all alone here and I can't do all this work by myself. Couldn't you please just help me!?

PIPPIN
All right! All right! Anything to shut you up!

CATHERINE

(To audience)

Well, Pippin was finally out of bed and working, and slowly he became part of everything... part of our everyday lives!