

**Doña Sirena** – a passionate wealthy widow on the surface, a wily schemer underneath

*She complains to her servant and Colombina that her scheme to get money through matchmaking will be ruined because her creditors will close down her party.*

DOÑA SIRENA: I don't trust you, because you're very capricious and you've always let yourself be guided by your fancy. But let's think about what's important right now. What are we to do in such a great emergency? My guests will be arriving before long, all persons of quality and importance, among them Mr. Polichinela with his wife and daughter who for many reasons are more important to me than all the rest. You know that my home is frequented by some gentlemen of the highest nobility, though, like me, they're greatly tarnished in their nobility for lack of money. For any one of them Mr. Polichinela's daughter, with her enormous dowry and the great fortune she is to inherit when her father dies, could be a most advantageous match. Many men seek her hand. In favor of all of them I intercede with Mr. Polichinela and his wife on the strength of my close friendship with the family. Whoever is the husband selected, I know he'll compensate my good office generously, because I had all of them sign an agreement to that effect, to put my mind at ease. Now I have no means other than these mediations to restore my finances to some extent; if, at the same time, some rich businessman or merchant should take a liking to you...who knows? This house might still be what it was in the past. But if that rabble's insolence were to leak out tonight, if I'm unable to give the party ...It's unthinkable...it will be my ruin!