

## SCENE FOR SEÑORA POLICHINELA

*Señora Polichinela arrives to Doña Sirena's party with her husband and daughter, anxious to enlist Doña Sirena's help to secure a high born suitor for her daughter. Note: A reader read Doña Sirena and Señor Polichinela.*

Sirena: Oh, Señor Polichinela! I was afraid you wouldn't come. Only now has the party begun.

Polichinela: The tardiness was not my fault. It was my wife's, who couldn't decide which of her forty dresses to put on.

Señora P: If it was up to him, I'd present myself any which way. See how flustered I am from all the rush.

Sirena: You look as beautiful as ever.

Polichinela: She's not even wearing half her jewels. She couldn't handle the weight.

Sirena: And who better than you to bask in your wife flaunting the fruits of a fortune acquired through your labour?

Señora P: But, isn't this the time to enjoy it, as I say to him, and to have more noble aspirations? Imagine. Now he wants to marry our daughter off to a businessman.

Sirena: Oh, Señor Polichinela! Your daughter deserves much more than a businessman! You mustn't think of it. You shouldn't sacrifice her heart for your own interest. What do you say, Silvia?

Polichinela: She would prefer some young dandy, for, very much in spite of me, she's taken up reading novels and poetry.

Silvia: I'll always do what my father orders, if it doesn't contradict my mother and it doesn't displease me.

Sirena: That's very wise.

Señora P: Your father thinks that only money is of worth and value in this world.

Polichinela: I think that without money nothing is of worth or value in this world; it's the price of everything.