

## Side for DOÑA SIRENA

*She complains to her servant, Colombina, that her matchmaking scheme to restore her fortunes will be ruined if her creditors close down her party.*

Doña Sirena:                    I do not trust you, you're very capricious and you let yourself get carried away by fantasy. But let's think about what's important now. What can we do amid so great a plight? My guests will be here momentarily, all people of quality and importance, and among them Señor Polichinela with his wife and his daughter, who, for many reasons, matter more to me than all the rest. You know how some of the most noble gentlemen frequent this house, but, like me, their nobility is tarnished, for lack of money. For any of them, Señor Polichinela's daughter, with her lavish trust fund, and the immense fortune that she'll inherit on the death of her father, would be a very advantageous match. Many are they that pay her court. For the benefit of them all, I enlist my great friendship with Señor Polichinela and his wife. Whoever is favoured, I know he'll requite my good offices fulsomely, because I made each of them sign a contract to be sure. I have no other means than these to restore my estate; if, in the meantime, some rich businessman took a fancy to you ... who knows? This house could be again what it was in days gone by! But if tonight the insolence of those people prevails, if I cannot hold my party ... I don't want to think about it ..., it will be my ruin!