

# Mary + Rosalie

MARY. (*Crosses to below armchair.*) Wait a minute, I'll come with you.

ROSALIE. (*Stops u. l. of armchair.*) What for?

MARY. I want to tell her about Helen Burton's bracelet.

ROSALIE. (*Slowly turns to MARY.*) What about it?

MARY. Just that you stole it.

ROSALIE. (*Crosses to MARY.*) Shut up! I didn't do any such thing.

MARY. Yes, you did.

ROSALIE. (*Tearfully.*) You made it up. You're always making things up.

MARY. You can't call me a liar, Rosalie Wells. That's a kind of dare

and I won't take a dare. (*She starts for arch. ROSALIE blocks her way.*)

I guess I'll go tell Grandma, anyway. Then she can call the police and

they'll come for you and you'll get tried in court. (*She slowly backs*

ROSALIE to behind r. end of L. love-seat. *While she speaks, she pulls*

ROSALIE'S glasses down on her nose and pulls her hair.) And you'll go

to one of those prisons, and you'll get older and older, and when you're

good and old they'll let you out, but your mother and father will be

dead by then and you won't have any place to go and you'll beg on

the streets —

ROSALIE. (*Crying.*) I didn't steal anything. I borrowed the bracelet and I was going to put it back as soon as I'd worn it to the movies. I never meant to keep it.

MARY. Nobody'll believe that, least of all the police. You're just a common, ordinary thief. Stop that bawling. You'll have the whole house down here in a minute.

ROSALIE. You won't tell? Say you won't tell.

MARY. Am I a liar?

ROSALIE. No.

MARY. Then say: "I apologize on my hands and knees."

ROSALIE. I apologize on my hands and knees. Let's play with the puzzle.

MARY. Wait a minute. Say: "From now on, I, Rosalie Wells—(*Crosses her wrists in front of her.*) am the vassal of Mary Tilford and will do and say whatever she tells me under the solemn oath of a knight."

ROSALIE. (*Crosses downstage to below r. end of love-seat.*) I won't say that. That's the worst oath there is. (*MARY starts down r.*) Mary! Please don't — (*She quickly follows MARY and stops her below r. love-seat.*)

MARY. Will you swear it?

ROSALIE. (*Sniffing.*) But then you could tell me to do anything.

MARY. (*Starts to move r.*) Say it quick or I'll —

ROSALIE. (*Hurriedly.*) From now on—(*Slowly turns and crosses L. to*

L. love-seat, *holding her wrists crossed in front of her.*) I, Rosalie Wells, am the vassal of Mary Tilford and will do and say whatever she tells me under the solemn oath of a knight.

MARY. Don't forget that.