

bottom of 67 till "Will you stop talking about fires!"

Eisenring Joe, can you imagine? They have these beautiful candlesticks and they hide them away! Got any matches?

Schmitz Me? no.

Eisenring Sad to say, we don't have any matches.

Biedermann Ah, but I do.

Eisenring Let's have them, then!

Biedermann No, no, no, allow me. Allow me.

Babette What's he want, this doctor of philosophy?

Anna I don't know what he's on about, madam. He's waiting on the stairs. Says he can no longer be silent.

Babette He wants to speak to my husband in private?

Anna Yes. He says he wishes to expose a scandal.

Babette What kind of scandal?

Anna I don't understand a word he says, Mrs. Biedermann. He could say it a hundred times and I still wouldn't understand it. Something about wanting to disassociate himself from . . .

Lots of candles have been lit

Eisenring You can't beat candlelight for atmosphere, can you? Don't you agree, Babette?

Babette Yes. Yes, it's true.

Eisenring I'm all for atmosphere.

Biedermann Absolutely.

Eisenring Schmitz! Table Manners!

Babette *Takes Eisenring aside*

Leave him alone.

Eisenring He has absolutely no manners, Babette. Eats like a pig. I am so sorry. I'm simply appalled. But then, how could he have table manners? From coalminer's cottage to children's home to . . . well . . .

Babette I know, I know.

Eisenring From children's home to the circus.

Babette I know.

Eisenring From the circus to the theatre.

Babette I know. *(Beat)* The theatre?!

Eisenring Fate, Babette, fate.

Babette *Turns to Schmitz*

Where you in the theatre?

Schmitz *Gnaws at a goose bone and nods.*

Babette Where?

Schmitz Backstage.

Eisenring But very talented. Have you seen him do his ghost?

Schmitz No, no, not now.

Eisenring Why not?

Schmitz I was only in the theatre for a week when it burnt down.

Babette Burnt down?!

Eisenring Come on, don't be shy.

Biedermann Burnt down?

Eisenring don't be shy

He takes off the cloth that has been worn by Schmitz as a napkin, and throws it over Schmitz's head.

Come on!

Schmitz, with white cloth over his head, stands up

See what I mean? Terrific ghost.

Anna It's a bit scary.

Eisenring Aw, poor baby!

Eisenring tries to put his arm around Anna, who covers her face with her hands.

Schmitz Settle down, everybody!

Eisenring Theatre language, Babette. He learned that after only a week of rehearsals. Amazing, eh? Of course, that was before the fire.

Babette Will you stop talking about fires!