

## Female Sides

**Berthe:** (In a French accent) *In spite of what she says Berthe is actually quite pessimistic.*

Thank you. You don't often meet people who appreciate a maid's personality, do you? Oh, has monsieur had enough of me? Oh yes. You've had enough of me. When people say, "See you later," especially to a maid, it always means they've had enough. Yes. I'm getting on your nerves. Oh yes. Oh yes. Monsieur Bernard's exactly the same. Always brushing me off. Never wants to talk. But, you know monsieur, conversation is the only thing that separates humans from beasts. If human beings didn't speak they'd be beasts. Well, I don't know anything about it, but I'm guessing...! I sense it! (*mimes*) A beast! What is a beast? Even less than a maid. That just about says it all! It's lucky I'm an optimist. That's what keeps me going.

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**Gabriella:** (In an Italian or Spanish accent) *At this point Gabriella has had a long, frustrating day. Her fiancée, Bernardo, has been acting very suspiciously all day, and now she has come to his only friend to vent.*

What is it with this countryside craze? All through the journey, all through the meal, all Bernardo would do was babble about fresh air and chestnut trees. He went on and on just as if he was trying to hide something. That's just it! I know he has nothing to hide. I know him ... But this insistence is infuriating. The more people tell me to do something the less I want to do it. That's how I am. It's my nature! He got on my nerves so much, I didn't even finish dinner! I went out for some air and when I went back into the restaurant he'd gone! Don't you think that's outrageous? Anyway, we wouldn't have these problems if we were together all the time. I know he's here, all alone, when I'm at the other end of the world ... I wonder what he's doing, I worry... It would all be so simple if only he'd marry me!

**Gloria: American** *Gloria is a confident sarcastic know-it-all.*

You know people wonder why America is such a great country. Well, people don't realize that most American men stay babies all their lives. The Kinsey report proved it. The report proved that, in America, the woman is usually stronger than the man because he always says yes to her. And so by demanding more everyday, she can make the man work his way to total exhaustion. Oh, they complain. But as soon he stops saying "yes" .. or becomes too exhausted, we're off to Reno. Nowadays, women can get a divorce in six weeks – for mental cruelty. And that means alimony. So to avoid going to jail, they pay up and to pay up, they have to work. (*mimes men working hard*) They have to produce. This ensures a stable economy. And that's why America is such a great country.

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**Gretchen:** (In a German accent) *When Gretchen gets swept up in her imagination she dominates the room with her energy and idealism. She is very much the hopeless romantic who actually finds herself in a relationship.*

Berthe, darling, you know I adore him. And I've got three whole days this time. Isn't that wunderbar? Herr Bernard will be pleased. You can't realize how marvelous it is to be back. It seems ages since I've seen him. Though I think of him all the time. In Melbourne. In Ankara, in Colombo. I am always dreaming of our little flat, and my little Bernard sitting here all alone thinking of me. And when we're up about nineteen or twenty thousand feet, roaring away at six hundred miles an hour, and if I've nothing special to do, do you know I creep back into the luggage hold. I'm all alone there, you see. And I look out of the porthole and stare at the stars dancing and the moon out there in the sky. And I say to myself that my Bernard is looking at them too. And I feel as though we are looking into each other's eyes across the layers of planets and meteorites and the nebulae. I'm madly romantic, you see.