

**CHARLOTTE** How was Miss Desiree Armfeldt? In good health, I trust?

**CARL-MAGNUS** Charlotte, my dear. I have exactly five hours.

**CHARLOTTE** (*Dead-pan*) Five hours this time? Last time it was four. I'm gaining ground.

**CARL-MAGNUS** (*Preoccupied*) She had a visitor. A lawyer in a nightshirt.

**CHARLOTTE** Now, *that* I find interesting. What did you do?

**CARL-MAGNUS** Threw him out.

**CHARLOTTE** In a nightshirt?

**CARL-MAGNUS** In *my* nightshirt.

**CHARLOTTE** What sort of lawyer? Corporation, Maritime, Criminal—Testamentary?

**CARL-MAGNUS** Didn't your sister's little school friend Anne Sorensen marry a Fredrik Egerman?

**CHARLOTTE** Yes, she did.

**CARL-MAGNUS** Fredrik Egerman. What are you planning to do today?

**CHARLOTTE** After the five hours?

**CARL-MAGNUS** Right now. I need a little sleep.

**CHARLOTTE** Ah! I see. In that case, my plans will have to be changed. What will I do?  
(*Sudden mock radiance*) I know! Nothing!

**CARL-MAGNUS** Why don't you pay a visit to Marta's little school friend?

**CHARLOTTE** Ah ha!

**CARL-MAGNUS** She probably has no idea what *her* husband's up to.

**CHARLOTTE** And I could enlighten her. Poor Carl-Magnus, are you *that* jealous?

**CARL-MAGNUS** A civilized man can tolerate his wife's infidelity, but when it comes to his mistress, a man becomes a tiger.

**CHARLOTTE** As opposed, of course, to a goat in rut. Ah, well, if I'm back in two hours, that still leaves us three hours. Right?

**CARL-MAGNUS** *(Unexpectedly smiling)* You're a good wife, Charlotte. The best.

**CHARLOTTE** That's a comforting thought to take with me to town, dear. It just may keep me from cutting my throat on the tram.