

SIDE – MRS. SEGSTROM/MRS. ANDERSSEN

First Lady (MRS. SEGSTROM): Tell me something about this remarkable Countess, Madame.

SECOND LADY (MRS. ANDERSSEN): I shall try the best I can to depict the personality of the Countess, Madame, although it is too rich in mysterious contradictions to be described in a few short moments.

FIRST LADY: It is said that her power over men is most extraordinary.

SECOND LADY: There is a great deal of truth in that, Madame, and her lovers are as many as the pearls in the necklace which she always wears.

FIRST LADY: Your own husband, Madame, is supposed to be one of the handsomest pearls, is he not?

SECOND LADY: He fell in love with the Countess on sight. She took him as a lover for three months and after that I had him back.

FIRST LADY: And your marriage was crushed?

SECOND LADY: On the contrary, Madame! My husband had become a tender, devoted, admirable lover, a faithful husband and an exemplary father. The Countess's lack of decency is most moral.