

The Hat.

The parable of the precious pearl

Characters

Mrs Hattington-Smythe - the hat lover.

Peter: the hat shop man.

Props:

A collection of different Hats laid out on a table to one side of the stage.

A particularly spectacular hat.

Hat stand or second table.

(Enter H-S)

H-S: There are many things that I love. Chocolate, jam doughnuts, beautiful flowers... (list of other things that you love) ... Oh yes, and my husband of course! But above everything else, yes everything else, I love hats! Tall hats, wide hats, small hats, big hats. I just love hats! There's something about wearing a hat that makes me feel ... well ... well.... special, yes special. Hats make me feel special! :Look, I've brought a few a long to show you:

(Show hats, try them on and talk about where they were bought and worn and why you like them).

H-S: But I have to say that although I do love my hats I know that somewhere out there, there is a very special hat. A hat that will make me feel more special than any other. Somewhere out there is 'the' hat and one day I will find it! Today I'm off to the Hat Shop, my favourite place. I need to buy a new hat, a special hat, a very special hat and Peter, who runs the hat shop, rang me up. He rang me up and told me that he has a special surprise for me. So I'm off to the hat shop. Ah, here we are!

(Make way to opposite side of stage and enter shop)

Peter: Ahh Mrs Hattington-Smythe, how good to see you. I trust you had a good journey here today?

H-S: Well yes Peter, I did. I only have to walk about four hundred yards. Just around the corner. I moved there so I could be close to your wonderful shop.

Peter: Ahh Mrs Hattington-Smythe you are my favourite customer. No one else appreciates hats like you do. You are a true hat connoisseur .

H-S: Well Peter, I do like my hats, all of my hats, very much.

Peter: Which is why Mrs Hattington-Smythe, I wanted you to be the first to see my latest hat. My greatest hat, the hat of hats!

H-S: Oh... Peter, you make me feel all strange in side!

Peter: And so will this hat Mrs Hattington-Smythe, and so will this hat!

(Brings out hat)

H-S: (Makes noises of speechless excitement).

Peter: Yes Mrs Hattington-Smythe, it is

H-S: Its ... its ... its wonderful. I .. I .. I must have it. How much is it!

(Peter points to price ticket and H-S looks at it)

H-S: (gasps) Errr.... errr... that's, that's, that's expensive.

Peter: But worth every penny Mrs Hattington-Smythe, every penny. I'll leave the hat here and leave you to think about it.

(Peter places hat on stand or table and exits.)

H-S: Oh no! It's expensive, too expensive. But I must have it. It's... it's not just a hat but this is 'the' hat. 'The' hat I've been looking for.

(H-S looks through her purse)

H-S: Oh no! Even with all my money and credit cards I still can't afford it. What can I do?

(H-S looks at the hat. Makes various gasps of excitement etc)

H-S: It's no good. I must have it and there's only one thing I can do!

(Goes across stage. Collects up the other hats and returns to shop)

(Peter enters)

Peter: Ahh .. Mrs Hattington-Smythe. Have you made up your mind.

H-S: Yes Peter I have. I can't really afford this hat, but it is 'the' hat. 'the' hat I've spent my life looking for so I must have it. So here are all my other hats and all the money I have.

Peter: What? All your other hats? All your precious hats? All the hats you love so much? All the hats you've bought from here and all the hats you've told me about so many times?

H-S: Yes Peter. Have them all. All I need from now on is one hat, this hat!

Peter: Well Mrs Hattington-Smythe, if you are sure?

H-S: Oh yes Peter I'm sure, very sure.

Peter: Well then the hat is yours.

(Peter exits with all the other hats)

(H-S reaches out to touch the hat with much hesitation and gasps of excitement. Eventually she picks it up and puts it on to squeals of delight).

exit

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