

AUTOGRAPH

By David J. LeMaster

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CHARACTERS

- 1 Female, any age.
2 Female, any age.

- 1: Excuse me, but are you Miss Gloria Maria Primadonna, star of stage and screen?
2: No, you've got me mixed up with someone else. Sorry.
1: Oh. **(pause)** Um, excuse me?
2: Yes, what is it?
1: Are you sure?
2: Of course I'm sure. My name is Alicia Smith. Sorry.
1: No problem. **(pause)** You're lying.
2: I beg your pardon?
1: I mean, you've got to be Gloria Maria Primadonna.
2: I'm not.
1: Yes you are.
2: Are you insane?
1: No, it's just—
2: Just what?
1: I just want your autograph.
2: All right, already. Here. **(signs a piece of paper)**
1: Thank you. Make that to "Jane."
2: Jane. Right.
1: I knew it was you!
2: Right, whatever. Now just beat it, will you?
1: **(looks at autograph)** You just signed this Alicia Smith.
2: Yes. That's my name.
1: But you're Gloria Maria Primadonna.
2: I'm not!
1: Would you sign it for her anyway—
2: I'd be forging her signature.
1: You're just trying to avoid publicity.
2: No, I'm not.
1: You're shy. They say so in the gossip magazines.
2: Whatever you say.
1: So sign it to Jane—
2: I won't! I'm not Gloria Maria Primadonna, and I won't pretend to be!
1: All right.

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2: All right!

(Pause.)

1: Do you even know who Gloria Maria Primadonna is?

2: Look, do you mind?

1: I just want to know—

2: No, I don't know who she is. Never heard of her.

1: Star of stage and screen?

2: No.

1: Never seen one of her movies.

2: No.

1: "The Mad Widow and Miller Village?" "Death and the Governor's Wife?" "The Secret Treasure of the Himalayas?"

2: Those sound awful.

1: They got great reviews.

2: Well, I've never seen any of them.

1: I see.

2: In fact, I wouldn't know this Gloria Maria Whatever Person if she tapped me on the shoulder and said "boo."

1: You wouldn't, huh?

2: No. Sorry.

(2 turns to go. Pause. 1 taps her on the shoulder)

1: Boo.

2: Look, I— **(slow realization)** You mean, you're—

1: Want my autograph?

2: I don't even know your movies.

1: I just told you.

2: Yeah, but—

1: Do you know what it's like to be a star no one recognizes?

2: I'm sure it's—

1: Just once I long for a scathing article in the gossip magazines. A photographer catches me with my secret lover. A candid photo coming out of the supermarket. Pictures on the beach. Rumors about my family, for heaven's sake. Something!

2: I'm really not comfortable here—

1: Do you know I was nominated for a Sedwick Award?

2: Is that the Oscar?

1: No—it's this guy, Bob Sedwick, and he has a favorite movies website.

2: Oh.

1: I don't mean to brag—but I came in third place for the Sedwick after my performance in "The Roaring Jeeps."

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2: I think I missed that one—

1: So did everyone else. It was on cable.

2: Yes, well—

1: Would you like a photograph with me? I can sign it.

2: Sure! Give me a signed photograph.

1: Really?

2: Yes. Whatever it takes.

1: Whatever what takes to what?

2: Nothing.

1: No, really. You're just asking because you feel sorry for me.

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