

MIDAS

Now, I'm not a greedy man, but it is an accepted fact a proven fact-- that money is a good thing. A thing to be longed for, a necessary thing. And my god, I have a lot of it! It wasn't always this way with me-- the boats, the houses by the sea, the summer cottages and the winter palaces, the exotic furnishings, the soft clothes, the food and--

(To his daughter.)

Honey, can you stop that now? Be still now. Daddy's talking.

*She stops, momentarily. Midas turns back to the audience.*

Excuse me. The outrageous food and two-hundred-year-old wine. No, it wasn't always like this. I came up from poor and I worked hard all my life. Still do, mind you. My father was a minor manufacturer in...

(he can't remember)

...somewhere... in... somewhere. But I was born with a head for business and it's always been as though everything I touched has turned to gold. Not literally, of course wouldn't that be something? Turned a profit, I meant. And--

(Again to his daughter.)

Sweetheart. Daddy asked you: Be still. Take it inside.

*She retreats but shortly reenters, jumping rope.*

You see this pool? It cost a pretty penny, I can tell you... But all it takes is hard work. Plain and simple. And those who haven't got it in them, well, what can anyone do? They just haven't got it.

(To his daughter.)

Be still! You're driving me nuts already!--

(To the audience.)

But you know, I never forget that I do it all for my...

(he can't remember)

...let's see, all for my... it's all for the, uh... for the, um... the family. Yes, that's what it's all for. Family is the most important thing, isn't it? One's own family, I mean not anyone else's for god's sake. When I get home at midnight seven days a week, in the moments before sleep, I realize that... um... I realize... what was I? Oh yes, that the family is what really matters.

*A SERVANT enters.*

SERVANT

Sir?

MIDAS

Yes, what is it?