

Monologue from The Fiddler on the Roof

Yenta:

Golda, Golda! Oh, I have such news for you! And not every day in the week news, once in a lifetime news! Ah, such diamonds your daughters, such jewels! I will find a husband for every one of them, but you shouldn't be so picky. Right? Of course, right! Because even the worst husband is better than no husband, and who should know better than me?

After my Aaron died, I've been all alone with no one to talk to. All I do at night is think of him, and even thinking of him brings me no pleasure. My husband was a diamond among men, so kind, so gentle, and he never raised his voice! But he could never give me children. To tell you the truth, Golda, he hardly ever tried.....

But what is the use complaining, other women enjoy complaining, but not me, not Yenta; ha ha not every woman is a Yenta! Well I have to go home now and prepare my poor Sabbath meal, so good bye Golda, it was nice speaking our hearts out to each other, so good bye and Oh! I have forgotten the news I came to tell you! Uh, I'm losing my head; one day it will fall off all together, and a horse will kick it into the mud and "good bye, Yenta" – of course, the news the news!

It's about Lazar Wolf, the butcher, a good man, and I don't have to tell you he's well off, yes? Yes! But he's lonely the poor man, after all he's been a widower all these years, so to make it short, out of the whole town, he's cast his eye on Zeitel!

Now I know Reb Tevye doesn't like Lazar, so just send him to the butcher's – don't tell him what it's about – let Lazar discuss it himself. He'll win him over. He's a good man, a wealthy man.

So you tell me how it went, and you don't have to thank me Golda! Because aside from my fee, which Lazar will pay me anyway, it give me satisfaction to make people happy! So good bye Golda, and you're welcome!