

MRS MACGRUDER: I was hoping you'd be a little late, Miss Daniels. You see, he hasn't arrived yet.

MELANIE: You said three o'clock.

MRS MACGRUDER: I know. Oh, I know. I've been calling all morning. Oh, you have no idea. Miss Daniels, they're so difficult to get, really they are. We get them from India, you know, when they're just little chicks, and then we have to ...

MELANIE: Well, this one won't be a chick, will he?

MRS MACGRUDER: Certainly not. Oh, no. Certainly not. This will be a full grown myna bird. Full grown.

MELANIE: And he'll talk?

MRS MACGRUDER: Well, yes, he'll talk. Well, no, no. You'll have to teach him to talk.

MELANIE: Yes.

MRS MACGRUDER: Yes. Oh my, I suppose I should call them again. They said three o'clock. Maybe it's the traffic. I'll call. Would you mind waiting?

MELANIE: I think maybe you'd better deliver him. Let me give you my address.

MRS MACGRUDER: Oh. Oh, well, all right. I'm sure they're on the way, though. Could I just call?

MELANIE: Well, all right, but ...

MRS MACGRUDER: Hello, this is Betty MacGruder at Davidson's. It's past three, you know. Well, how long do you think ...? All right, would you check it please? Yes, I'll wait.

MRS MACGRUDER: I was hoping you'd be a little late, Miss Daniels. (*apologetically*) You see, he hasn't arrived yet.

MELANIE: You said three o'clock.

MRS MACGRUDER: I know. Oh, I know. (*She is more distressed now.*) I've been calling all morning. Oh, you have no idea. Miss Daniels, they're so difficult to get, really they are. We get them from India, you know, when they're just little chicks, and then we have to ...

MELANIE: Well, this one won't be a chick, will he?

MRS MACGRUDER: Certainly not. Oh, no. Certainly not. This will be a full grown myna bird. Full grown.

MELANIE: And he'll talk?

MRS MACGRUDER: Well, yes, he'll talk. Well, no, no. You'll have to teach him to talk.

MELANIE: Yes.

MRS MACGRUDER: Yes. (*pause*) Oh my, I suppose I should call them again. They said three o'clock. (*pause*) Maybe it's the traffic. I'll call. Would you mind waiting?

MELANIE: (*judiciously*) I think maybe you'd better deliver him. Let me give you my address. (*She begins taking off her gloves.*)

MRS MACGRUDER: (*producing pencil and pad*) Oh. Oh, well, all right. (*As MELANIE starts writing:*) I'm sure they're on the way, though. Could I just call?

MELANIE: (*with a resigned sigh*) Well, all right, but ... (*MRS MACGRUDER scurries out behind the counter and out of sight. MELANIE finishes writing her address and stands impatiently by the counter. She taps her teeth with the pencil.*)

MRS MACGRUDER: (*off screen*) Hello, this is Betty MacGruder at Davidson's. (*pause; accusingly*) It's past three, you know. (*pause*) Well, how long do you think ...? All right, would you check it please? Yes, I'll wait.