Julia, Ludwig

Julia: And now that everybody has gone, and we're happily and comfortably married, I want to have a few words with my new-born husband.

Ludwig: *{aside}* Yes, I expect you'll often have a few words with your new-born husband! *{aloud}* Well, what is it?

Julia: Why, I've been thinking that as you and I have to play our parts for life, it is most essential that we should come to a definite understanding as to how they shall be rendered. Now, I've been considering how I can make the most of this part, the Grand Duchess.

Ludwig: Have you? Well, if you'll take my advice, I shouldn't make it another one of your hoity-toity vixenish viragos.

Julia: You think not?

Ludwig: Oh, I'm quite clear about that. I should make her a tender, gentle, submissive, affectionate (but not too affectionate) child-wife – timidly anxious to coil herself into her husband's heart, but kept in check by an awestruck reverence for his exalted intellectual qualities and his majestic personal appearance.

Julia: Oh, that is your idea of a good part?

Ludwig: Yes – a wife who regards her husband's slightest wish as an inflexible law. A crushed, despairing violet, whose blighted existence would culminate (all too soon) in a lonely and pathetic death-scene! A fine part, my dear.

Julia: Yes. There's a good deal to be said for your view of it. Now there are some actresses whom it would fit like a glove.

Ludwig: *{aside}* I wish I'd married one of 'em

Julia: But, you see I must consider my temperament. For instance, my temperament would demand some strong scenes of justifiable jealousy.

Ludwig: Oh, there's no difficulty about that. You shall have them.

Julia: With a lovely but detested rival –

Ludwig: Oh, I'll provide the rival.

Julia: Whom I should stab – stab – stab!

Ludwig: Oh, I wouldn't stab her. It's been done to death. I should treat her with a silent and contemptuous disdain, and delicately withdraw from a position which, to one of your sensitive nature, would be absolutely untenable. Dear me, I can see you delicately withdrawing, up centre and off...off…off!