

you knew more about her than any one of us. I did it purposely, for it seemed just the right opportunity for you to get even with Lucy.

CRYSTAL: You were very thoughtful, I am sure. *(Crosses over. MABEL meets her at center.)*

MABEL *(aside)*: Tell me, Crystal, how is it with Lucy? Lizzie refused to say a word about her; she referred me to you. Isn't she a desirable girl to have around?

CRYSTAL *(going closer to group, and speaking so that all can hear)*: I am glad that you are inviting Lucy to your party, Mabel. She is so bright and witty that she is an addition to any company. *(Moves to left exit. Cries of "Where are you going, Crystal?")*

CRYSTAL *(without turning around)*: To the school-room, after my history. *(Cries of "Hurry up, hurry up. We're going.")* Don't wait for me. I have some errands to do on the way home. *(Exit at the left.)*

MABEL: Well, she's a queer girl; not a word against Lucy. *(To LIZZIE)*: I thought you said they were not good friends.

LIZZIE: They are not, and if I were you I'd leave Lucy out. We don't any of us like her.

MABEL: But, why not? Crystal said she is an addition to any party, and I don't need to be told that she is lively and interesting.

STELLA: Oh, come on, girls, and stop bothering about Lucy. *(Exeunt all at right, noisily.)*

CRYSTAL *(enters at left, carrying book)*: All gone. Well, I'm glad of... *(Goes up and puts on hat, etc.)* I'm tired of hearing about Lucy's envy of me. Why will girls tell each other things of that kind? Just now, too, when the blessed Christmas time is so near and we ought to be at peace with all the world. *(Exit at right.)*

*Curtain.*