

# MARY AUDITION SIDES

## Scene 3

start:

(MARY, at home. She is surrounded by boxes.)

MARY. Mauritius is a paradise tropical island in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Africa, east of Madagascar.

JACKIE. I don't need to know about the island. I was curious about the stamps.

(She enters, carrying a box full of stuff, drops it on the floor.)

MARY. But you have to know all of it, that's what's so fun! Mauritius, what do I remember? Volcanic in origin, surrounded by coral reefs, what else? The Labourdonnais orchards –

JACKIE. These are all the bills. Most of them I can't even read, to tell the truth. You look at it, there's so many numbers, I have no idea what we owe. Every time I try to figure it out my head starts to hurt. I feel so stupid.

MARY. (off a box) Oh, look, her jewelry! Did you bring this down?

JACKIE. Yes, I, yes, I did.

MARY. Let's see what else do I know about Mauritius. They have beautiful beaches. I dislike the beach, don't you? All that sand. Do you like the beach?

JACKIE. I've never been.

MARY. You've never been?

JACKIE. No, I've never been.

MARY. To the beach? Any beach?

JACKIE. No. I've never been to any beach.

MARY. You've never seen the ocean.

JACKIE. Oh god. You know –

MARY. I just find that –

JACKIE. I'm not –

MARY. What? Why can't I even comment?

JACKIE. Because there's nothing to comment on. I've just never seen it. I will see the ocean. I will, I'll see it, I'll see it some day. I'm young. I'm I'm young.

MARY. (*smiling at her, lovely*) Of course you are! Of course you are. We don't have to talk about it. Let's see, where were we?

JACKIE. The stamps?

MARY. Oh yes. They had this stamp, the Mauritians – Mauritians, that sounds like Martians, could that be right? Oh well, actually, it wouldn't have been the Mauritians, it would have been the British, they took it over back when they were you know, taking things over, and in 1847, they printed one of the first postage stamps on earth. The fifth country, I think. The head of the young Queen Victoria – oh, look at this! I remember this!

(*She holds up an ugly broach.*)

JACKIE. Take it. Take all of it.

MARY. I'm sure you want some of it.

JACKIE. It's not worth anything.

MARY. Maybe not to anyone else, but to us – oh, look at this!

JACKIE. (*off the stamp book*) So it's worth a lot of money then. This Mauritian stamp.

MARY. Both of them. The one penny and the two penny post office. Together. They're considered the crown jewel of philately. It's quite a spectacular error.

JACKIE. Error?

MARY. Well, that's what makes it so valuable, the errors are what make it – well, you don't know anything about stamps, do you? END