

MOTHER SUPERIOR MONOLOGUE, ACT 2
From *Expecting*
By Mark Chrisler
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MOTHER SUPERIOR

There was, it seems, a man who fell in love with a woman. And he brought her home to his mother, who every night would soak chickpeas to cook the next day. You have to soak them, you know, or they're just disgusting little fleshy balls. Useless. Not long after her son's future bride arrived, she began losing those soaking chickpeas in the night. She suspected, naturally, that it was her son's lover, stealing them. And so she waited in a darkened alcove one night, hoping to catch the thief in the act. And what do you know; along came the girl, and right before the mother's eyes, plucked up a chickpea. Right then, the mother burst into the kitchen to accuse her, but the girl said two words which proved her innocence. Do you know what she said? It wasn't "No! I swear!," you can bet that much. She said: "what's this?" That's what she said. That's how I'd believe you. But you said "No! I swear!," so you can consider my doubts less than allayed.

See, Isobel: what I'm saying is, those who are innocent, don't even understand the crime.