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Jimmy Langton, a plump, bald, red-cheeked gentleman of forty-five, who looked like one of Rubens's wealthiest burghers, adored the theater. He was abnormal, self-assertive, filled of boiling vitality, narcissistic and overpowering. He liked to amuse oneself, but his appearance was fitting for very few roles, and thank God, because he was a miserable actor. He could not calm his essential expansiveness, and although he carefully planned and considered his part, they all turned into bizarre. He exaggerated every movement, immoderately emphasized every discussion.

But when he was conducting a repetition with the troupe, it was a different topic, then he could not carry any pretense. Jimmy's attention was fulfilled, and although he himself couldn't utter the words in the right key, he at once noticed if someone else was fake. The actors are all juices. In the morning, from ten to two, there were rehearsals, then he let them go home to learn roles and let go before the evening play. He cracked them, he screamed at them, he mocked them. He paid them insufficiently. But if they are good performed a moving scene, he cried like a offspring, and when a funny phrase they uttered as he wanted, he clutched his sides. If he was satisfied, he hopped across the stage on one limb, and when he was furious, threw the play on the floor and stamped it, and annoyed tears rolled down his cheeks. The troupe laughed at Jimmy, scolded him and did everything to please him. He aroused a defensive feeling in them, all of them, to one, felt that they simply could not let him down. They said that he was pulling three skins from them, they didn't have a second to spare, even cattle cannot stand such a life, and at the same time they gave you some special pleasure to fill his exorbitant requirements.

And once he met Julia. This drunkard and loser was a talented director, he not only taught the young actress a lot, but also helped her to make a career. But, unfortunately, she found another man.