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Scene 1

(Lights up.)

EMMA *can be seen through the kitchen window hanging out washing in the garden.*

EMMA: *(Faintly.)* One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a kiss and four for a boy, five for silver, six for gold seven a ...

STEWART: There you are. Thought I heard the machine stop.

EMMA: Yes, I want to get these bits of washing out. They could be dry before I meet mum and gran.

STEWART: You shouldn't be stretching like that. Can't be good for you or the baby can it? Don't want you rushing to hospital today do we?

EMMA: *(Sighs.)* All done. No, not really, especially as I've seen just one magpie this morning. You know what that means?

STEWART: *(Groans.)* Oh no! *(Pause.)* Come inside. It's freezing out there.

(Sound of door being closed and movement about the kitchen. Indulgent laugh.) Magpies! Just because our tree is full of them, you just can't let that old superstition go can you?

EMMA: *(Seriously.)* Don't Stew. Don't tempt fate. There might be something in it. You never know. You have to admit the old saying quite often proves right. My gran says ...

STEWART: *(Sceptical.)* Your gran's an old witch. She thrives on trying to frighten you.

EMMA: She's not! You stop that. She's a lovely old gran.