

(MONTY)

Monty / Phoebe

Upon my return to Salisbury, I paid a discreet visit to the honey shack as soon as I saw an opportunity.

(MONTY sprays lavender into HENRY'S beekeeping hat, and emerges from the honey shack to find himself face to face with PHOEBE D'YSQUITH [20's, earnest and lovely]. SHE has been gathering rosebuds in the garden.)

PHOEBE

Oh...!

(Love at first sight?)

MONTY & PHOEBE

(At the same time:)

Oh...

(MUSIC fades out.)

MONTY

Do pardon me...

(Courtly:)

Miss D'Ysquith, I presume... ?

PHOEBE

You are...?

MONTY

Mr. Navarro. But please, do call me Monty.

PHOEBE

My brother tells me you are a cousin?

MONTY

Yes. My mother was Isabel D'Ysquith.

PHOEBE

Isabel. Forgive me, but I don't recall ever hearing about her.

MONTY

Shall I tell you why?

PHOEBE

I wish you would.

MONTY

You see, my father was considered... unsuitable. Because my mother married for love and not for money or property –

k as soon as I

from the honey
nest and

PHOEBE

They cut her off.

MONTY

Without a schilling. They ever after behaved as if she and I had never even been born.

PHOEBE

Why, Mr. Navarro...

MONTY

I warned your brother you... may not care to receive me...

PHOEBE

On the contrary, I am most intrigued. What a beautiful story. Horrid, yes, I'm certain, but still beautiful: she dared to marry for love! Tell me, did your father have his own fortune, or were you quite penniless?

(HE hesitates.)

You must forgive me; Henry often scolds me for being indelicate.

MONTY

Not at all. My father left no legacy; he died when I was quite young. But we managed to scrape by, Mother and I.

PHOEBE

When I think of the indignities you've suffered. It must have inspired an awful resentment of the upper classes.

(Admonishing herself.)

Oh no! There I go again! And now I'm making *assumptions* about you, when there's nothing I despise more than people making assumptions about *me*.

(PHOEBE sits on a vine and flower bedecked swing.)

I know they talk about me in the village. They see a girl who's rich and from an important family and not unattractive and they assume... well, they assume a lot of things.

(MUSIC starts under.)

The truth is... none of them know me at all. Not who I truly am.

#11 - Inside Out

(Singing.)

AN OYSTER SHELL ITSELF IS UNASSUMING,
BUT LOOK INSIDE, YOU'LL FIND A PEARL.
THE MAN WHO OTHERWISE IS UNPRESUMING
MAY SHARE THE SAME BLOOD AS AN EARL.

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