

The Release Of Theodore Marlow

By
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a period romantic drama

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Cast of Characters

Theodore Marlow:

Rebecca Evans:

Oliver Hampford:

Bailey Jameson:

Elsie Marlow:

Percival Harding:

Dr Forster:

Constable Lowry:

ACT 1-1

The Dining Room - evening.

At Rise: A dimly lit dining room. THEODORE MARLOW (mid thirties and well dressed in Victorian attire) sits to the left of a long dining table and ELSIE MARLOW (late twenties, pretty, well dressed) sits to the right. A meal is set before them as is an assortment of cutlery. Each has a small hand bell easily within reach. A decanter of wine sits in the middle of the table.

Elsie and Theo are eating.

ELSIE

Heavens, I swear I have not had the time to draw breath today. I took tea with Lady Green and we spent the afternoon discussing the antics of her younger sister. Honestly, she is positively dreadful in her behavior, a lady she is most certainly not!

Theodore does not respond.

ELSIE

May I inquire as to your day?

THEODORE

You may but you will no doubt find my exploits tiresome.

ELSIE

Why do you say that?

THEODORE

Because my dear it did not involve lewdness or laughter at the expense of others.

ELSIE

Oh come now, it is human nature to have an interest in the activities of others.

THEODORE

Yes, I am all too aware of your interest in others and to where it may lead.

Elsie slams her cutlery down.

ELSIE

Meaning what exactly?

Theodore does not answer. Elsie resumes eating.

(CONTINUED)

ELSIE

I forgot what a joy dining with you had become. Do you not remember how we would set the world to rights over a fine meal back when we were courting?

THEODORE

(sighing)

I am afraid I must not, I recall no such conversation, intellectual or otherwise whilst you have a full plate under your nose.

ELSIE

(ignoring his insult)

Have I not told you about Lady Forshaw's latest misdemeanor? Oh it's positively ghastly! How Lord Forshaw is able to live with that woman I shall never understand!

THEODORE

No, you have not and I beg that you go no further. I have no time for the sordid details of Lady Forshaw's latest affairs and in answer to your question - assuming it was not rhetorical, Lord Forshaw is able to live with that vile woman because he is unaware of the majority of her exploits.

Elsie places her cutlery neatly onto her plate and reaches for her glass of wine. She finishes it in one gulp.

ELSIE

Well, that may be so but I was merely trying to partake in the art of casual conversation. Apparently it's the done thing at dinner? Trying to engage you further is becoming a frightful bore!

THEODORE

Apologies. My thoughts are elsewhere for I have much to ponder.

ELSIE

Oh, not this again! Theodore, you always were a dreamer but that is all you shall ever be! How many times must we discuss this? Now is the time of the achiever and I for one am glad! If we did little but look to the stars our days would be spent with crooked necks!

Elsie places her empty glass onto the table.

ELSIE

(shouting)

Boy! Boy! My glass is empty. Boy!

THEODORE

(sighing)

His name is Bailey, this much I have told you many times and for the sake of both of our ears please use the bell to call for his attention.

ELSIE

I have no time to learn the names of our help and that you well know!

Elsie picks up the bell and begins to ring it.

THEODORE

He has been with us for three years.

ELSIE

Well he won't be with us for much longer if he keeps me waiting! Has he got lead in his shoes?

Bailey enters.

BAILEY

Yes my lady?

Elsie points to her empty glass.

ELSIE

It's about time! My stomach thinks my throat has been cut!

Bailey fills Elsie's glass.

THEODORE

Such a wonderful turn of phrase for a lady.

ELSIE

Oh come now, you always did like my vulgar side.

THEODORE

Again you are mistaken.

Bailey places the wine decanter back onto the table and awaits his next order.

THEODORE

Thank you Bailey, that will be all.

Bailey nods and leaves the room.

ELSIE

You do know that you don't need to thank the help? Payment is thanks enough for the likes of them.

THEODORE

That is where you and I differ in our view of the world my dear. I know that I am not required to thank Bailey but I feel it only right to do so.

Elsie drinks her wine.

ELSIE

I do wonder what I ever saw in you, we are worlds apart you and I.

THEODORE

You mean aside from my wealth, good standing and promising career? Come now, you saw exactly what you wished to see.

ELSIE

I also saw a man, kind and noble...at least I thought that I had.

THEODORE

You did. Once.

Theodore continues his meal in silence.

Bailey knocks on the door and enters the room.

BAILEY

Begging your pardon sir, Mr Hampford is here to see you.

Theodore places his cutlery to one side and wipes his mouth with a napkin.

THEODORE

Ah, excellent. I was beginning to worry that Oli had dropped off the face of the earth! Send him to my quarters, I shall follow in a moment.

BAILEY

Yes sir.

Bailey exits the room. Theodore stands in readiness to leave.

ELSIE

So you are just going to leave your darling wife to drink alone whilst you entertain your boorish friend?

THEODORE

That seems to be the sum of it, yes. You do tend to enjoy your drink more when I am not amongst your company.

(CONTINUED)

ELSIE

Meaning?

THEODORE

I had Bailey update me on our wine stock. It has depleted rapidly these past few months.

ELSIE

Hmph. What else would you have me do? A girl needs to entertain herself!

THEODORE

Yes, so I keep hearing. Excuse me, I shall not keep Oliver waiting.

Theodore leaves the room. Elsie helps herself to another glass of wine.

ELSIE

(shouting)

Boy! Boy!

Bailey enters the room.

BAILEY

Yes my lady?

ELSIE

Fetch another bottle. My good husband has taken it upon himself to leave me to my own amusement, I fear I shall be here a while.

BAILEY

Yes my lady.

Bailey turns to leave.

ELSIE

Oh-boy?

BAILEY

Yes?

ELSIE

Better if you bring a few.

Bailey leaves the room. Elsie continues to drink alone. She empties her glass and holds it up to the light. She catches her reflection in the glass.

ELSIE

Ah, there you are. What ever happened to your spirit? Your vigor? You look so tired now...so very tired. It's because he knows, and though I shall never admit it, not even in my dying breath, I cannot lie to myself. What was I to do? Drown amongst the misery of a loveless marriage? Whilst it is true that he has extended every kindness to me I see that my infidelity although unspoken, erodes our union.

Bailey enters the room. He sees that Elsie is talking and holds his position in the shadows.

ELSIE

He hurts because of me but he can never know. I have standing, I have influence and these things mean more to me than a wounded ego. He could have me again if he so wished, I'd lay with him and all would be forgotten. Oh how I am angry at that cursed man! If only he reached out now and again, if only he would trust enough to let me in! Perhaps then my eye would never have wandered...

Elsie notices Bailey standing in the shadows.

ELSIE

(angry)

You! Boy! How much did you hear just now?

BAILEY

(panicked)

Not a word my lady - not a word a swear!

ELSIE

Liar!

Elsie throws the empty wine glass at Bailey.

ELSIE

Begone with you boy and not a word of this to my husband or I shall have you flogged to within an inch of your life!

Bailey places the wine onto the table and quickly leaves.

Elsie rises from her seat and fetches Theo's glass for herself.

ELSIE

Insolent boy, I'd have him out were it my decision to make.

CONTINUED:

7.

Elsie takes her seat and resumes her drinking.

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 1-2Theodore's Chambers - evening.

MASTER BEDROOM. OLIVER is standing and looking out of the window. There is a table with two chairs to the right of a grand four poster bed. A decanter of Scotch sits upon the table with two empty glasses.

Enter Theodore.

THEODORE

Dreadfully sorry for the wait, I made haste my escape as best I could.

Oliver turns to face his friend.

OLIVER

Not at all, I was quite content here watching two crows have at it over a worm. I find amusement in the most trite of situations. I must ask, why are we reduced to meeting in your chambers? I much prefer the library myself, for the ease of access to your Scotch as much as any book mind!

THEODORE

I fear this to be the one room in which she dare not tread.

Theodore motions towards the table.

THEODORE

As you can see, I took the liberty.

OLIVER

Are things between you so bad?

THEODORE

On the contrary! I am glad that she avoids my chambers! I sleep more soundly knowing that she is residing in another wing.

OLIVER

I really do not understand you dear friend. You have wealth beyond measure, status that is unparalleled and a darling wife who is blessed by both youth and beauty.

THEODORE

It would seem that I have much to be envious of I imagine, especially regarding Elsie. Yet she is both beautiful and terrible in equal measure and I am rapidly becoming disillusioned with my place beside her.

(CONTINUED)

Oliver takes a seat

OLIVER

Really? I have always thought of you as happily in love!

Theodore joins Oliver and pours him a drink

THEODORE

Not so. With every passing day my outlook darkens. The future for Elsie and I is uncertain.

OLIVER

Must I remind you of what you do have? Again?

THEODORE

No, I have counted my blessings many times yet still an emptiness gnaws within my belly. I ask you, would you forgo your life of freedom and merriment for one of commitment?

OLIVER

Of course not! Marriage is not for the likes of me, a fellow such as I needs his freedoms, but are you really so desperately unhappy?

THEODORE

I know not how to describe my temperament other than I feel that a good portion of myself is missing. Did I ever feel complete? That I cannot say. I believe that as a man grows to know himself he faces stark truths that he either acknowledges and makes an effort to address, or buries deep in some forgotten part of his mind in the vain hope that they will one day fade to nothing. I have buried mine for too long and yet they trouble me still. I must admit that change needs to be made and soon. Alas, I suspect Elsie has already acted upon her unhappiness.

OLIVER

How do you mean and what changes are you contemplating? I must say this is all news to me!

Theodore gets up from the table and walks towards the window.

THEODORE

The very gravest. As for Elsie, though I cannot say for certain...I fear she has bedded with another.

Oliver joins Theodore.

OLIVER

You suspect?

THEODORE

I do, though it may well be my predicament which clouds my judgment so I shall discount it. I believe that I must act on what I know for certain.

OLIVER

Promise me that you will not make any decision in haste? There is your standing to consider - your fall from grace will be sharp and painful should you decide to -

Theodore shakes his head.

THEODORE

I care not for the wagging of tongues. Let them fill their engagements with talk of my fortunes if they must. Whatever course of action I shall decide upon will be the one which suits Elsie and I. Of course, she may not see it that way but I shall endeavor to ease her pain the best I can.

OLIVER

Well at least permit me to take your mind away from such troublesome thoughts. Sir Gathwell is holding a small gathering tonight, of which I am invited. You shall also join me. It will do you the world of good to be away from this place and amongst the company of decent people for a change. What say you?

THEODORE

I am in no mood to socialize. I would be poor company.

OLIVER

Then that is settled. Be sure to bring your current humour, you shall make me appear all the more charming and desirable! I shall see you at eight.

Oliver leaves the room. Theodore finishes his drink by the window.

THEODORE

Very well, eight it shall be.

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 1-3Gathwell's Ball - evening.

BALLROOM: Theodore and Oliver stand on the edge of a crowded ballroom floor. Each are holding a glass of wine. Couples dance to a Waltz in the background. PERCIVAL HARDING and REBECCA EVANS stand to the far left.

OLIVER

Tell me you feel much better drinking wine that has cost you nothing, in the splendor of Gathwell's gaudy mansion?

Theodore takes a sip from his wine.

THEODORE

It will take more than a few glasses of second-rate wine to lift my spirits tonight friend.

OLIVER

Remind me why I insisted upon your company again?

THEODORE

I am at a loss as to an answer.

Percival notices Oliver from across the ballroom and catches his eye. Percival approaches Theodore and Oliver with Rebecca following behind.

OLIVER

Oh good lord, I curse my wandering eye! Brace yourself for we are about to be joined by an insufferable simpleton!

PERCIVAL

Ah, good evening gentlemen, such a pleasant evening wouldn't you say?

Percival and Oliver shake hands.

OLIVER

Indeed it is, Percy isn't it? How wonderful to see you again

PERCIVAL

Lord Harding if you would, only my mother calls me by my christian name. I shall be glad when the witch finally gives up the ghost so that I will no longer have to suffer that cursed word ever again!

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA

I find it a lovely name my Lord.

Upon hearing Rebecca's voice, Theodore's attention is drawn from his wine glass and onto her.

PERCIVAL

Yes, well, the things that you find appealing could fill an entire library my dear! I pay your opinion little attention.

OLIVER

And who is this delightful young lady? I have not yet had the pleasure.

PERCIVAL

(laughing)

Nor shall you! This is Lady Rebecca Evans. She and I are to be wed in the autumn. Her father owns an lavish estate beyond the border, has a few mountains dotted about the place but beggars can't be choosers!

REBECCA

(sheepish)

No my Lord.

OLIVER

Lovely to meet you Miss Evans.

Theodore approaches Rebecca, his eyes are locked with hers. He takes her by the hand before planting a small, delicate kiss upon it.

THEODORE

My lady, permit me to introduce myself, I am Theodore Marlow and it is an honor to make your acquaintance.

REBECCA

(blushes)

Why thank you Sir.

THEODORE

Theodore. Please.

PERCIVAL

(interrupting)

Yes well, please excuse us, we have drinks with Sir Gathwell waiting.

Rebecca and Theodore's eyes are locked together.

REBECCA

Must I attend? You do know that I find Sir Gathwell a frightful bore!

PERCIVAL

(angry)

You shall do as you are bid woman.

THEODORE

Permit me if I may, I would be happy to entertain the good lady whilst you talk business with Sir Gathwell. After all, a man's affairs should be his and his alone.

PERCIVAL

(cautiously)

Well...I suppose you have a point. Rebecca, you are to remain here with...

THEODORE

Theodore.

PERCIVAL

Yes, you are to remain here with him. I will not hasten my business but I shall not be absent for long either.

Percival nods at Theodore and Oliver before disappearing of stage.

OLIVER

What a complete and utter Oaf - apologies my lady, I meant no offense.

REBECCA

None taken. His manner can be overbearing at times but his heart is...well, there are worse men than he in this world.

THEODORE

I don't doubt that at all. However, as you are in my care and it is my duty to entertain you, would you care to dance?

Rebecca smiles.

REBECCA

I would, although I have danced little. I fear that I may embarrass you.

Theodore smiles.

THEODORE

Nothing could be farther from the truth, it will be I who demonstrates poor technique and I have plenty

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THEODORE (cont'd)

enough to shame the hall, they shall avert their gaze in pity.

Theodore takes Rebecca's hand and leads her into the middle of the dance floor. The lights dim and the dancers continue to move around Theodore and Rebecca, who in turn dance very slowly. They look deep into each others eyes. After a moment Theodore speaks.

THEODORE

I have something to confess.

REBECCA

Oh? We have only just met, you are either awfully trusting or you are carrying around an abundance of guilt!

Theodore laughs.

THEODORE

Trusting perhaps, but I must say this for I know not if I shall see you again. When our eyes first met I felt a warmth within my chest that I have never felt before. It feels almost like the explosion of a thousand suns. It remains still.

REBECCA

You did? What do you suppose it could mean? Did you eat the shellfish? I hear they can lead to an all manner of sensations if not adequately prepared!

Theodore laughs again.

THEODORE

No my dear, though I know that you tease. I don't know how to describe it other than you seem awfully familiar to me, your eyes - I have gazed into them before.

Rebecca looks away. She is embarrassed.

THEODORE

What is it? Have I said too much? I apologize, my emotions run deep and at times can get the better of me.

REBECCA

No, it's not that. I thought I would feel foolish admitting this but I too have that same sensation in my bosom. It is almost as though a hundred butterflies decided to take flight all at once.

THEODORE

It is.

REBECCA

I have a confession too. I never intended to attend drinks with Percy and Gathwell. I was hoping that I could arrange further time in your company. Thank you for speaking up for me.

THEODORE

Not at all, there was something within me that was not ready to let you disappear, I almost felt as though my actions were not my own! Tell me, have we met before? I must know!

REBECCA

We have not, yet your touch, your voice, your eyes, I know you but from where I cannot say.

*The music ends and the dancers stop and applaud.
Percival enters the stage.*

REBECCA

I'm afraid that I must go, it looks as though his business is complete. Thank you for the dance.

*Rebecca moves to leave the ballroom floor but
Theodore catches her arm.*

THEODORE

Please, give me one more moment of your time for if I do not speak now, regret shall haunt me for the remainder of my days. I must see you again, I must.

REBECCA

How? I-I cannot, I am arranged to marry Percy.

THEODORE

Do you love him?

Rebecca shy's away from this question.

REBECCA

It matters not, the date is set.

THEODORE

Of that I am aware but hear me out. Do you know Thistlewood Grove? It is located on the northern edge of the city?

REBECCA

I do?

THEODORE

There is a lake situated within it, I shall be there every day for the next two weeks at one o'clock in the afternoon. If you wish to pursue this meeting further, if you feel that fate has placed us together this night for a reason, then please...meet me there.

PERCIVAL

(shouting)

Rebecca! Come now, I require your presence!

REBECCA

I-I must go, I'm sorry.

THEODORE

Please. One o'clock by the lake in Thistlewood Grove.

Rebecca goes to join Percival on the edge of the dance floor. Theodore remains alone. Rebecca gives him one last longing look before disappearing off stage with Percival. Oliver joins Theodore in the center of the dance floor.

OLIVER

Oh don't look so fearful, I'm not here to ask for the next dance! I do however want to know what the devil you are playing at?

THEODORE

(absently)

How do you mean?

OLIVER

How do I - what you just did was most out of character. I would blame the wine but you have hardly touched a drop!

THEODORE

Oli, do you believe in true love?

OLIVER

Do I what?

THEODORE

I know it sounds completely preposterous but Rebecca, I know her and I have loved her, I am sure of it.

OLIVER

Well, one brunette looks much the same as another if you ask me.

(CONTINUED)

THEODORE

Oh Oli dear boy, you really have no idea what I am talking about do you?

OLIVER

I am beginning to have my doubts as to what that good lady wife of yours has done to your sanity...but, tonight was the first time that I have seen you smile in an age and I cannot begrudge you that no matter how absurd your reasoning. By the way, what did you say to her when she left? Percival looked most aggrieved.

THEODORE

I asked if she would consider meeting me again.

OLIVER

You asked the fiance of Percival Harding whether she would be prepared to meet you in secret? My word, you really have gone up in my estimation tonight old chap!

THEODORE

I felt compelled to for I am convinced fate is yet finished with she and I.

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 1-4Woodland

Theodore is waiting in the woods. Time passes in a series of stage blackouts in which Theodore changes his stage location and looks to become increasing anguished.

ACT 1-5Theodore's Chambers - afternoon

Theodore is gazing out of the window whilst Bailey busies himself making the bed etc.

BAILEY

Forgive my intrusion Sir but are you feeling well?

THEODORE

(after a pause)

I am Bailey.

BAILEY

If I may be so bold I do not agree. I have served you for many years and one grows attuned to the mood of the house and it's occupants. Lately you appear most distant, more so than usual. So if I may ask again, are you feeling well?

Theodore turns towards Bailey.

THEODORE

I am sorry, you deserve an honest answer and I feel compelled to give it. I am not sick but I am missing something, missing someone in my life. I had the merest taste of happiness several nights ago and it has left an enduring impression upon my soul.

BAILEY

Who was she Sir?

THEODORE

(laughing)

You are right not to assume it was Lady Marlow!

BAILEY

I have seen the cruel way with which her words cut you. I could not pardon her words quite so easily.

THEODORE

It is true that at one time her remarks would wound my spirit, but as the years have passed I gradually became numb to her venomous outbursts. Really, you need not worry.

BAILEY

So who is she? Who is the lady that has captured your thoughts?

(CONTINUED)

THEODORE

It matters not. She is betrothed to another.

BAILEY

Is she the reason for your daily excursions?

THEODORE

Bailey my boy, in any other house your curious tongue would lead you to a sound scolding!

BAILEY

I'm sorry sir.

Theodore turns back to the window.

THEODORE

No Bailey, I am sorry. You were merely showing concern for my well being, and I have few others around me that do. Her name is Rebecca Evans and she is to wed Percival Harding. The reason for my frequent absence is I requested she meet me in Thistlewood Grove should she have any desire to pursue our connection further.

BAILEY

Connection? It was my understanding that you had only met her the once?

THEODORE

You understand correctly yet the bond between us was almost tangible.

Bailey stops what he is doing. Theodore turns to face him and ushers him to take a seat upon the bed.

BAILEY

Please, go on.

THEODORE

When our eyes met, It was as though every doubt that I had about myself and the direction that my life was taking, every worry that I ever had, they all vanished and everything made complete sense. It was a moment of absolute clarity and it was charged with the kind of intensity that rises from your knees and erupts inside your chest. Every sense was heightened, and for a heartbeat the world stood still. At that moment I knew that I loved her, but strangely, and this I cannot explain, I knew what it would be like to be loved by her. And then she was gone and I have not seen her since.

(CONTINUED)

BAILEY

I see. No wonder your heart hangs heavy.

THEODORE

Indeed.

BAILEY

Do you think that you will see her again?

THEODORE

I fear not. The window in which I set to meet has expired. It is clear to me that she has made her choice.

BAILEY

Permit me if I may, but I have something that I need to discuss with you?

THEODORE

Is that so?

BAILEY

Indeed, though I am not sure as to whether now is the time-

THEODORE

Out with it boy! You know that you and I can discuss all but the most personal of matters.

Bailey looks to the floor.

BAILEY

I'm afraid this would be considered a personal matter.

THEODORE

I can see the weight upon your shoulders. Out with it.

BAILEY

Several nights back I interrupted Lady Marlow as she was thinking aloud. She was speaking of an act that she had committed -

THEODORE

(interrupting)

There is no need to continue.

Theodore and Bailey are silent for a moment.

THEODORE

I suspected as such. It seems that the stars have aligned dear boy.

BAILEY

How do you mean?

THEODORE

One encounters many signs upon his journey, it is up to he whether he chooses to follow them.

BAILEY

So what will you do now?

THEODORE

I do so hope that is the last of your questions today?

Bailey nods.

THEODORE

Good - As for now...I feel that a change of direction is in order.

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 1-6Dinning Room - evening.

Lady Marlow is sitting at the dining table, eating her evening meal alone. Theodore enters the room with Bailey trailing behind.

ELSIE

Well it's about bloody time! I was beginning to think that my wish had come true and I had at last become a widow! I have seen barely hide nor hair of you these past few weeks!

THEODORE

I see you have made you customary early start on the wine?

ELSIE

(ignoring his comment)

Honestly now, I don't know whether to rejoice or despair!

THEODORE

(annoyed)

Enough of your jibes Elsie! I have reached a conclusion regarding our marriage, in fact I reached it many months ago yet much to my discredit, dithered over carrying out my intentions.

Elsie places her wine onto the table and turns in her chair to face Theodore.

ELSIE

Oh, a little entertainment to go with dinner, this shall be fun!

THEODORE

I shall not mix my words. I am leaving you Elsie, I want a divorce.

ELSIE

(shocked)

You wish to leave me?

THEODORE

Do not even attempt to act as though this is not what you truly desire.

Elsie turns her attention to Bailey.

(CONTINUED)

ELSIE

(spiteful)

He told you didn't he! That blasted boy opened his mouth when I told him not to!

THEODORE

Bailey has not uttered a word regarding your adultery, I am no fool, I suspected as such.

ELSIE

You know that should you ever air this in public I shall deny it. I have many who would rally round to defend my character. You on the other hand do not. Your solitude counts against you. It would be so much easier to besmirch the good name of Theodore Marlow.

THEODORE

Worry not for I intend never to discuss the matter beyond tonight.

Elsie claps her hands

ELSIE

Good! I am glad that you can at least see the sense in my argument. I will take what's mine and more you know.

THEODORE

Have it. Have it all. Tis nothing but trinkets and furniture, it means nothing to me. The house too, it is yours. After all It is filled with naught but stale air and bitter memories.

ELSIE

You mean you are just going to hand it all over to me and walk away? Your fortune... this house... everything?

THEODORE

Yes, it is all that you ever wanted anyway. It was never me, it was always what I had.

ELSIE

What of your name? What of your honour?

THEODORE

Do what you will. You shall either tarnish my name or you shall not.

Elsie returns her attention to her meal.

ELSIE

(coldly)

Then I accept your decision. If you would kindly leave first thing in the morning.

(CONTINUED)

THEODORE

I shall, Bailey - if you would accompany me to my chambers we shall make a start now.

Bailey leans close to his master

BAILEY

(whispering)

Sir, I beg of you, take me with you. Don't leave me here to serve her.

Theodore acknowledges Bailey's request.

THEODORE

Bailey has requested that he remain with me.

ELSIE

That's fine so long as he prefers working for bread and water!

THEODORE

(to Bailey)

Fear not, I have enough set aside for us start a humble house, though I cannot pay you what I once did.

BAILEY

Have no worries sir, If I remain here I will be out on the street within a week, of that I am certain!

ELSIE

Are you two still here?

THEODORE

I wish you well Elsie, I am sure you will be happy here now that I shall no longer be.

Theodore and Bailey leave the stage.

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 1-7Hallway - night

There is a knocking upon the door. Bailey answers.

BAILEY
Yes?

REBECCA
I...well, I came to see if Theodore was at home?

BAILEY
And who might I say is calling?

REBECCA
Lady Rebecca Evans.

BAILEY
Ah - in that case I must inform you that Sir Marlow is not in the best of minds at this time.

REBECCA
Oh...I do not wish to add to his woes. He requested to see me and only now have I managed to escape the attention of my wretched Fiance.

BAILEY
Wretched you say? Do come in.

Bailey welcomes Rebecca into the Hallway and hurries to fetch Theodore.

THEODORE
(surprised)
Rebecca - what are you doing here?

REBECCA
I hope my visit shall not cause trouble with your wife?

THEODORE
Worry not, she is gripped by a wine induced slumber. We shall hear no more from her tonight.

REBECCA
I'm sorry, I feel that I must apologies. I couldn't get away before tonight and I feared it was too late?

THEODORE
Too late for what?

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA

Ever since we danced I have thought of no-one but you. I feel foolish allowing myself to be swept up by my emotions but I know in my heart that marrying Percival is not what I truly desire.

THEODORE

(smiling)

Are you saying that you want to explore this connection further? I must warn you that tonight I have left my wife and all of my worldly possessions behind. I have little to offer but the man I am.

REBECCA

That is more than I would ever need. I thought that I would be afraid leaving Percival and coming here, but in your presence those fears turn to ash. I know not what the future holds but I want to experience it with you.

THEODORE

As do I with you.

Theodore takes Rebecca into his arms and they kiss.

CURTAIN FALLS - END OF ACT ONE.