

ACT ONE

Scene 2

A Hudson River pier. Sunset.

The QUEEN MARY SHELLEY is about to set sail for Europe. As lights come up on the scene, we hear the loud SOUND of a boat horn. A STEWARD stands near the ship. FREDERICK, dressed for travelling and carrying a suitcase, enters. Waiting for him at the pier is ELIZABETH BENNING, his adorable madcap fiancée.

STEWARD

(with a British accent; banging a gong)

All aboard, please! All aboard! Sailing in ten minutes!

START →

FREDERICK

Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH

Frederick! Oh, my sweet darling. Oh, my dearest love, how can you leave me on the eve of our engagement party?

SHE removes a compact from her purse and checks her make-up.

FREDERICK

I hate to, but I must.

ELIZABETH

Must you? Must you?

FREDERICK

I just said I must.

ELIZABETH

I mean, I'm so much in love with you I can't think straight.

FREDERICK

Oh, my beloved.

HE leans in for a kiss.

ELIZABETH

LIPS! Not on the lips! You'll smear my lipstick. And I've got to look perfect for our pre-engagement party tonight in the Champagne Room at the Plaza. We'll be married, of course, the minute you get back. I hope you like old-fashioned weddings.

#3 -

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FREDERICK

I prefer old-fashioned wedding nights.

ELIZABETH

Oh, you naughty boy, you're incorrigible! I can't wait.

FREDERICK

Oh, darling....

HE reaches to take her hand.

ELIZABETH

(screams)

NAILS! THEY'RE STILL WET!

If they're not dry by the time I get to the party, I'll just have to skip the hors d'oeuvres. That's all there is to it.

FREDERICK

(wrapping his arms around her from behind)

Oh, my only love. One last farewell embrace.

ELIZABETH

Taffeta, darling.

FREDERICK

Taffeta, sweetheart.

ELIZABETH

No. The dress - it's taffeta. It wrinkles so easily.

FREDERICK

Oh, yes, of course. Taffeta. How stupid of me.

← END

STEWARD

All aboard! Last call! All aboard!

#3 - *Please Don't Touch Me*

ELIZABETH

Oh that horrid man

FREDERICK

Oh, darling, forgive me. I'm so frustrated. I want you so much. I hope you won't mind if I dream about you?

ELIZABETH

Of course not.