ACT TWO
SCENE THREE
<u>IT'S WILD HOW OBLIVIOUS THEY ARE</u>

[The Edwards family drawing room. GRANVILLE, ELEANORA, and CLARENCE sit in stiff silence.]

ELEANORA

[Desperate] Is Anthony asking after Winifred?

GRANVILLE

My dear—

ELEANORA

No. No, I'm tired of playing these silly games. Mr. Tailor, is your son asking after my daughter?

CLARENCE

From what it seems, my son is interested in beginning a relationship with your daughter.

GRANVILLE

A relationship?

CLARENCE

Of the romantic type, yes.

ELEANORA

Praise the Lord.

GRANVILLE

You'll have plenty of time to do that on Sunday. For now, we need to discuss this… Relationship between the two.

CLARENCE

What do you have in mind?

GRANVILLE

We should focus on their courtship.

ELEANORA

Oh, a courtship! My daughter will have a courtship! Then marriage, then—

GRANVILLE

You're getting ahead of yourself.

ELEANORA

Not only myself, but ahead of both of you. I predicted this eons ago.

GRANVILLE

You've barely been alive for one eon.

ELEANORA

The two of them would be perfect together. Oh, think of it— The life they would create together would be beautiful. Oh, I will be crying at their wedding, I can promise you that.

CLARENCE

You look like you're about to start crying, Mrs. Edwards.

ELEANORA

Rest assured, Mr. Tailor, I would never subject any man other than my husband to my tears.

GRANVILLE

Back to the matter at hand, the two would need a chaperone if they are to start courting.

CLARENCE

Mr. Woods' eldest son. Victor.

GRANVILLE

My thoughts exactly. If he were open to the idea.

ELEANORA

But the three are close friends. Surely placing Mr. Woods into the equation would cause the outing to feel more platonic than romantic.

CLARENCE

I think Mr. Woods will do just fine. If anything, he'll attempt to make the outings more romantic, if we ask.

GRANVILLE

Outings? As in more than one outing? Isn't that a bit presumptuous, considering their courtship hasn't even begun?

CLARENCE

I've seen the two interact. There will be more than one outing.

GRANVILLE

And Anthony. What can you tell us about him?

CLARENCE

You've met my son. He is a kind man. Spends most of his time worrying. Excellent at mathematics. Desperate for love.

ELEANORA

Desperate?

CLARENCE

Longing is a better word. He hasn't thought of anything but your daughter since our dinner.

ELEANORA

Winifred is the same, I'm sure.

CLARENCE

I should hope so.

ELEANORA

But she hasn't mentioned anything to me about wanting to begin this courtship. Now, I know she isn't one to confide in her mother on matters of the heart, but it is worrisome.

GRANVILLE

You didn't speak to your mother about our courtship, dear.

ELEANORA

My mother couldn't even attract her own husband. Staying away from her courting advice was in everyone's best interest, I promise you.

CLARENCE

If we truly want this to go further, both of our children should be present, it seems.

GRANVILLE

Meaning?

CLARENCE

Meaning another meeting is in order. With the three of us and Winifred and Anthony.

ELEANORA

Oh, this is all so exciting! I'll find Winifred!

CLARENCE

Not now. We need time to sit with this. To prepare.

GRANVILLE

Tomorrow, then?

CLARENCE

Tomorrow.

[The two men shake hands, while ELEANORA squeals excitedly. Transition into:]