

**SCENE 5: LET'S HOPE SHE WILL STAY - Parlor**

*(WINIFRED is at the study door. GEORGE is working at his desk. The CHILDREN and MARY take off their outdoor clothes.)*

**WINIFRED**

Jane and Michael want to say goodnight.

**GEORGE**

Tell them you've given me the message.

**WINIFRED**

George, please...

*(GEORGE reluctantly comes out into the hall.)*

**JANE**

Oh, Daddy! We've had a fantastic day! We sang with a busker, danced with a statue, and met Queen Victoria! You wouldn't have approved but—

**GEORGE**

If you know that, then why did you do it?

**MICHAEL**

Daddy, could I have a kite? A proper one?

**GEORGE**

Could you fly it?

**MICHAEL**

You could always teach me.

**GEORGE**

When would I have the time to do that?

*(MICHAEL accepts this with a sad nod. He's used to it.)*

**JANE**

Daddy, who was the father of Neleus?

**GEORGE**

Would you please let me get on! Goodnight!

*(As the children go out, GEORGE returns to the study and takes up his pen with a sigh.)*

**WINIFRED**

Poor Michael. All he cares about is flying kites, and his beloved astronomy of course.

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**GEORGE**

I used to love astronomy at his age. My nanny, Miss Andrew, soon beat it out of me.

**WINIFRED**

I suppose we do need a nanny, George. It is out of the question to do without one?

**GEORGE**

Don't be absurd! Of course we need a nanny! All the best people have nannies! So the wives can do charity work and entertain. Which reminds me, how is your tea party coming on?

**WINIFRED**

I'm not sure. It seems so odd to send out invitations to people I hardly know.

**GEORGE**

But they're people you should know. Remember: "By your friends shall ye be judged."

**WINIFRED**

But that's the point. They're not my friends... Actually, I heard today from Clemmie Bunting. She's rehearsing a new play at the moment and I thought I might ask her—

**GEORGE**

How many times must I tell you? I wish you to sever all connection with that part of your life.

**WINIFRED**

George, I was an actress. Lots of people might find that interesting... though you always talk as if I should be ashamed of it.

**GEORGE**

Well, it's not exactly something to be proud of!

*(GEORGE has hurt WINIFRED's feelings, which was not his intention.)*

Winifred. Dearest. I'm only thinking of you. I want people to admire you, to respect you.

**WINIFRED**

I know, George. But sometimes it's hard—

**GEORGE**

It is not hard. It's your job, to be Mrs. Banks.

**WINIFRED**

And what is your job?

**GEORGE**

To pay for everything.

*(GEORGE turns his attention to the desk again. WINIFRED leans in, startling him.)*

(GEORGE)

What is it?

WINIFRED

I was only going to kiss you.

GEORGE

Oh... Oh! All right.

*(GEORGE lifts his face for a rather unsatisfactory kiss. Sadly, WINIFRED starts for the door.)*

Are you going to say something to Mary Poppins about this afternoon?

WINIFRED

I don't think so.

GEORGE

Very well. But just make sure she's doing things our way and not hers.

#7 - Let's Hope She Will Stay

George, Winifred, Jane, Mich

(GEORGE)

WHAT GOOD ARE RULES IF YOU CAN BEND THEM?

WE NEED A NANNY WHO IS DISCIPLINED AND STERN.

WITH BOYS AND GIRLS, YOU DON'T BEFRIEND THEM.

I FEAR THAT MARY POPPINS HAS A LOT TO LEARN.

*(GEORGE turns back to his desk. WINIFRED leaves the study and goes to the parlor as she considers GEORGE's remark.)*

WINIFRED

BEING MRS. BANKS

SHOULD BE AN EASY ROLE,

AND YET IT'S ONE WHICH I DON'T SEEM

TOO GOOD AT ON THE WHOLE.

I HAVE A COMFY HOME.

I HAVE A SIMPLE LIFE.

I HAVE A NAME WHICH TELLS THE WORLD

I'M SOMEONE ELSE'S WIFE.

BEING MRS. BANKS,

WHAT DOES THAT ENTAIL?

FACING TESTS OF CHARACTER I ALWAYS SEEM TO FAIL.

(WINIFRED)

AND AS FOR HIS "BEST PEOPLE,"  
WELL, I'D LIKE TO SAY "NO THANKS."  
THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY MY IDEA OF BEING MRS. BANKS.

*(JANE and MICHAEL appear and look out a window.)*

JANE

I STILL FEEL AS IF I'M DREAMING.

MICHAEL

SO MUCH FUN IN JUST ONE DAY.

JANE, MICHAEL

WHEN MARY HOLDS YOUR HAND, YOU FEEL SO GRAND.  
YOUR HEART STARTS BEATING LIKE A BIG BRASS BAND.

JANE

I'M SURE NELEUS IS BEAMING.

MICHAEL

LET'S HOPE SHE WILL STAY.

JANE

Goodnight, Neleus.

WINIFRED

LET'S HOPE SHE WILL STAY.

JANE, MICHAEL

LET'S HOPE SHE WILL STAY.

GEORGE

PRECISION AND ORDER...

*(MARY POPPINS sends the CHILDREN into the nursery for bed.)*