

THE GOOD NATUR'D MAN

A Genteel Comedy

abridged and adapted by Joan Bates from the play
by Oliver Goldsmith first produced on Friday
29th January 1768 at the Theatre Royal Covent Garden

Dramatis Personae

Mr Honeywood	A good natured man secretly in love with Miss Richland
Jarvis	Manservant to Mr Honeywood
Mr Croaker	A complaining sort of man
Mrs Croaker	A cheerful lady, wife to Mr Croaker
Miss Richland	An heiress, ward to Mr Croaker
Leontine Croaker	Son to Mr Croaker, in love with Olivia
Olivia Woodville	A young lady masquerading as Mr Croaker's daughter
Garnet	Ladies' maid in the Croaker household

ACT I Scene 1 Mr Honeywood's Apartment, one morning
 Scene 2 Mr Croaker's House, later the same day

ACT II Scene 1 Mr Croaker's House, the next morning
 Scene 2 At the Inn, the same evening

The action takes place in the 1760s

THE GOOD NATUR'D MAN

A comedy

Act I. *Scene 1.*

Young Honeywood is seated centre stage at a small round table, on which are the remains of breakfast. He puts down his newspaper and rings a small bell. Enter Jarvis with a salver

Honey Well Jarvis, what messages from my friends this morning ?

Jarv You have no friends

Honey Well, from my acquaintance then ?

Jarv (giving him bills) A few of our usual cards of compliment - this bill from your Tailor, this from your Mercer, and this from the little Broker in Crooked Lane. He says he has been at a great deal of trouble to get back the money you borrowed

Honey That I don't know; but I'm sure we were at a great deal of trouble in getting him to lend it.

Jarv There's that ten Guineas you were sending to the poor gentleman in the Fleet. I believe that would stop the Broker's mouth, for a while at least

Honey Ay Jarvis, but what would relieve the poor prisoner in the meantime ?

Jarv Sir, the question is how to relieve yourself. Everything upon the waste. There's Miss Richland and her fine fortune upon the point of being given to your rival

Honey No, no

Jarv Your uncle in Italy preparing to disinherit you

Honey No (shaking his head)

Jarv Your own fortune almost spent (Honeywood rises and waves him away. Exit Jarvis with the breakfast things. Honeywood walks to and fro. Enter Jarvis)

Jarv Mr. Croaker is below

Honey Then show him up

Jarv Ay, he comes on the match between his son that's just returned from Paris, and Miss Richland the young lady he's guardian to, I suppose.

Honey Perhaps so. Mr. Croaker knowing my friendship for the young lady has got it into his head that I can persuade her to do what I please

- Jarv Ah ! If you loved yourself half as well as she loves you, we should soon see a marriage that would set all things to rights again
- Honey Love me ! Sure Jarvis you dream. No, no, her intimacy with me never amounted to more than mere friendship. That she is the most lovely woman that ever warmed the human heart with desire, I own. But never let me harbour a thought of making her unhappy, by a connection with one so unworthy her merits as I am.
- Jarv Was ever the like ! I want patience
- Honey Besides, Jarvis, though I could obtain Miss Richland's consent, do you think I could succeed with her guardian or Mrs Croaker who, though both very fine in their way, are yet a little opposite in their dispositions you know
- Jarv Opposite enough Heaven knows, the very reverse of each other; she all laughter, he always complaining; a fretful poor soul that has a new distress for every hour in the four and twenty
- Honey Hush, hush, he's coming up, he'll hear you
- Jarv One whose voice is a passing bell
- Honey Well, well, go, do
- Jarv A raven that bodes nothing but mischief, a ~~coffin and cross~~ ~~bones~~; a bundle of rue; a sprig of deadly nightshade (exit Jarvis)
- Honey I must own my old servant is not entirely wrong. There is something in my friend Croaker's conversation that quite depresses me (enter Croaker) Mr.Croaker, this is such a satisfaction
- Mr.C A pleasant morning to Mr.Honeywood (the gentlemen bow to each other) But how is this ! You look most shockingly today my dear friend. I hope this weather does not affect your spirits - but God send we be all better this day three months.
- Honey I heartily concur in the wish, though I own not in your apprehensions
- Mr.C May be not. Indeed what signifies what weather we have in a country going to ruin like ours ? Taxes rising and trade falling. ~~Money flying out of the kingdom - I'm only afraid for our wives and~~ Money flying out of the kingdom - I'm only afraid for our wives and daughters
- Honey I have no apprehensions for the ladies, I assure you
- Mr. C May be not. But formerly I have seen a lady dressed from top to toe in her own manufactures entirely. Nowadays the devil of a thing ~~about them except their faces~~ of their own manufacture about them except their faces
- Honey But, however these faults may be practised abroad, you don't find

them at home

~~then to you~~, either with Mrs Croaker, Olivia, or Miss Richland (to Jarvis) Chairs here ! (Jarvis places a chair for Mr. Croaker and they sit down. Exit Jarvis)

Mr. C By the bye, my dear friend, I don't find this match between Miss Richland and my son much relish'd, either by one side or t'other

Honey I thought otherwise

Mr. C Ah, Mr. Honeywood, a little of your fine serious advice to the young lady might go far; I know she has a very exalted opinion of your understanding

Honey But would that not be usurping an authority that more properly belongs to yourself ?

Mr. C My dear friend, you know but little of my authority at home. People think because they see me come out in a morning with a pleasant face thus, and to make my friends merry, that all's well within. But I have cares that would break a heart of stone. My wife ^{no} has so encroached upon every one of my privileges, that I'm now [^] more than a mere lodger in my own house !

Honey But a little spirit exerted on your side might perhaps restore your authority

Mr. C No, though I had the spirit of a lion. I do rouse sometimes. But what then ? Always haggling and haggling. A man is tired of getting the better before his wife is tired of losing the victory

Honey (drooping) It's a melancholy consideration indeed, that our chief comforts often produce our greatest anxieties, and that an increase of our possessions is but an inlet to new disquietudes

Mr. C It's a doleful life, where we do nothing but eat and grow hungry, dress and undress, get up and lie down; while Reason that should watch like a nurse by our side, falls as fast asleep as we do

Honey Very true sir, nothing can exceed the vanity of our existence but the folly of our pursuits.

Mr. C Ah, my dear friend, it is a perfect satisfaction to be miserable with you (he rises, Honeywood rings the bell and also rises) My son Leontine shan't lose the benefit of such fine conversation. I am willing to shew him so much seriousness in one scarce older than himself. (Honeywood bows, enter Jarvis who shows Mr. C out)

Honey Poor Croaker ! His situation deserves the utmost pity. I shall scarce recover my spirits these three days (walks up and down) And yet, when I consider my own situation, a broken fortune, a hopeless passion... He little thinks that I love her too. What shall I do ? (walks) Yes, I will discard the fondling hope from my bosom, and exert all my influence in my friend's favour. Yes, I'm resolved. Let me but be the instrument of their happiness, and then quit a country where I must for ever despair of finding my own

(enter Jarvis)

Jarv More company below sir; Mrs Croaker and her daughter, and Miss Richland. Show I show them up ? (laughter heard. Enter Mrs C. Miss R. and Olivia)

Miss R. You're always in such spirits

Mrs C. (laughing) We've just come, my dear Honeywood, from the Auction. There was the old deaf dowager as usual, bidding like a fury against herself (laughs) Herself the most genuine piece of antiquity in the whole collection (all the ladies laugh)

Honey (bows, the ladies curtsy, Mrs C. seats herself, Olivia stands behind her) Excuse me ladies, if some uneasiness makes me unfit to share in this good humour; I know you'll pardon me (he offers a chair to Miss R , she sits and he stands behind her)

Mrs C. I vow he seems as melancholy as if he had taken a dose of my husband this morning. Well, if Miss Richland here can pardon you, I must

Miss R. You would seem to insinuate madam, that I have particular reasons for ...

Mrs C. Whatever I insinuate my dear, don't be so ready to wish an explanation (laughs)

Miss R. I own I should be sorry Mr. Honeywood's long friendship and mine should be misunderstood

Honey I hope you'll never find me presuming to offer more than the most delicate friendship may readily allow

Miss R. And I shall be prouder of such a tribute from you, than the most passionate professions from others. I know none more disinterested or more capable of friendship than Mr. Honeywood

Mrs C. And indeed I know nobody that has more friends, at least among the ladies (laughter) Miss Oddbody is his professed admirer

Miss R. Indeed ! An admirer ! I did not know sir, you were such a favourite there. But is she seriously so handsome ?

Honey (cheering up) The town madam, seldom begins to praise a lady's beauty till she's beginning to lose it !

Mrs C. But she's resolved never to lose it. For as her natural face decays, her skill improves in making the artificial one. (laughter) Well, nothing diverts me more than one of those fine old dressy things, who thinks to conceal her age by everywhere exposing her person

Honey Every age has its admirers, ladies. While you perhaps, are trading among the warmer climates of youth, there ought to be some one to carry on a useful commerce in the frozen latitudes beyond fifty

- Miss R. But then the mortifications they must suffer before they can be fitted out for traffic. I have seen one of them fret a whole morning at her hairdresser, when all the fault was in her face
- Honey And yet I'll engage has carried that face at last to a very good market. This good natur'd town madam, has husbands, like spectacles to fit every age from fifteen to fourscore
- Mrs C. Well, you're a dear good natur'd creature. But you know you're engaged with us this morning upon a strolling party. I want to shew Olivia here the town and everything ^(rising) I believe I shall have business for you the whole day *now she is grown*
- Honey I am sorry madam, I have an appointment which it is impossible to put off
- Mrs C. Nay, I protest you must. I'm resolved to take no refusal. You know I never laugh so much as with you
- Honey Why, if I must, I must. Well, do you find jest and I'll find laugh I promise you
- Jarv (showing them out) ^{*} ~~Madam, Misses, Sir~~ (he has stayed on duty while the ladies were present, and now begins to tidy the room, whistling a Scottish air. A door-knocker is heard) ~~Not more company ?~~ (exit Jarvis)
- Sir W. (entering) Good Jarvis, make no apology for this honest bluntness. Fidelity like yours, is the best excuse for every freedom
- Jarv I can't help being blunt, Sir William, and being very angry too, when I hear you talk of disinheriting so good, so worthy a young gentleman as my master. All the world loves him
- Sir W. Say rather, that he loves all the world; that is his fault
- Jarv I'm sure there is no part of it more dear to him than you are Sir William, though he has not seen you these three years
- Sir W. How can I be proud of his affection to me, or of a place in a heart where every coxcomb finds an easy entrance
- Jarv I grant you that he's rather too good natured; that he laughs this minute with one, and cries the next with another
- Sir W. No Jarvis, his good nature arises rather from his fears of offending the importunate, than his desire of making the deserving happy
- Jarv What it arises from I don't know, But to be sure, everybody has it that asks it

Jarv ^{*} There goes my strange good natur'd, foolish, open-hearted master. And yet, all his faults are such that one loves him still the better for them

Sir W. Ay, or that does not ask it

Jarv It was but last week he went security for a fellow whose face he scarce knew, and that very fellow has just absconded

Sir W. And upon that I shall proceed. My intention is to involve him in fictitious distress, before he has plunged himself into real calamity. I shall take up the security, arrest him for that very debt, clap an officer upon him, and then let him see which of his friends will come to his relief

Jarv If I could but any way see him thoroughly vexed, every groan of his would be music to me. Yet I believe it impossible. I have tried to fret him myself every morning these three years

Sir W We must try him once more however. I'll go this instant to put my scheme into execution, and, as my return from Italy is not yet made public, I can succeed without being known (rises and moves towards the door) What a pity it is Jarvis, that any man's goodwill to others should produce so much neglect of himself, as to require correction. Yet we must correct his weaknesses with a delicate touch. There are some faults so nearly allied to excellence, that we can scarce weed out the vice without eradicating the virtue (exit)

Jarv Well, go thy ways Sir William. It is not without reason that the world allows thee to be the best of men

ACT I~~4~~ Scene 2

A Reception Room in Mr.Croaker's house, similar to Honeywood's but more opulant

Enter Leontine and Olivia, from separate doors

Leon My dearest Olivia, what would I give to see you cheerful

Oliv How, my Leontine, can I be cheerful when I have so many terrors to oppress me ? The fear of being detected by a censoring world -

Leon The world ! my love, what can it say ? At worst it can only say that being oppressed by an unkind guardian, you formed a resolution to fly with the man of your choice (kissing her hand) and took refuge in my father's house

Oliv But consider Leontine, your disobedience and my indiscretion: your being sent to France to bring home a sister; and instead of a sister bringing home -

Leon One dearer than a thousand sisters. One that will be equally dear to the rest of the family when she comes to be known

Oliv And that, I fear, will shortly be

Leon Impossible, till we ourselves think proper

Oliv But won't your refusing Miss Richland, for whom you know your father intends you, create a suspicion ?

Leon Ah, there's my master-stroke. I have resolved not to refuse her. Indeed, an hour hence I have consented to go with my father, to make her an offer of my heart and fortune

Oliv Your heart and fortune !

Leon Don't be alarmed, my dearest. Can Olivia think so meanly of my love, as to suppose I could ever hope for happiness from any but her ? I only offer Miss Richland a heart I am convinced she will refuse; as I am confident that her affections are fixed upon Mr. Honeywood

Oliv Mr.Honeywood !

Leon Indeed. However, by making this offer, I show a seeming compliance with my father's commands; and perhaps upon her refusal, I may have his consent to choose for myself

Oliv And yet, my Leontine, I consider every look, every expression of your esteem, as due only to me

Leon My life's treasure (taking her hand) At worst you know, if Miss Richland should consent, or my father refuse his pardon, it can but end in a trip to Scotland, and -

(enter Mr.Croaker)

Mr.C Where have you been my boy, I have been seeking you (laughter is heard) There it goes: a plague take their balderdash. Yet I could expect nothing less when my precious wife was of the party

Leon Since you find so many objections to a wife sir, how can you be so earnest in recommending one to me ?

Mr.C I have told you my boy, that Miss Richland's fortune must not go out of the family. One may find comfort in the money, whatever one does in the wife

Leon But sir, though in obedience to your desire, I am ready to marry her, it may be possible she has no inclination to me

Mr.C I have told you, and will tell you once again how it stands. One half of Miss Richland's large fortune she is to forfeit, by her father's will, in case she refuses to marry you. So, if she rejects you, we are seized of half her fortune; if she accepts you, we seize the whole, and a fine girl into the bargain

Leon But sir, if you will but listen to reason -

Mr.C Come then, produce your reasons. When I'm determined, I always listen to reason, because it can then do no harm

Leon You have alleged that a mutual choice was the first requisite in matrimonial happiness

Mr.C Well, and you have both of you a mutual choice. She has her choice, to marry ^{you} or lose half her fortune. You have your choice to marry her or pack out of doors without any fortune at all

Leon An only son, sir, might expect more indulgence

Mr.C An only father, sir, might expect more obedience (Leontine hesitates then bows humbly) Besides, has not your sister here, as good a right as you ? Livy my dear, you shall have your share

Oliv (curtseys) Dear sir, I wish you'd be convinced that I can never be happy in any addition to my fortune, which is taken from his

Mr.C (patting her head) Well, well, it's a good child, so say no more. Come with me (exeunt Mr.Croaker, Olivia, and Leontine)

(enter Miss Richland and Garnet)

Miss R. Olivia not his sister ? Olivia not Leontine's sister ? You amaze me !

Gar No more his sister than I am

Miss R. But how ? Tell me again Garnet

Gar Why madam, as you know, Mr. Leontine was sent to Paris to bring home his sister, who has been there at school these three years with her aunt

Miss R. Indeed

Gar Well, there he saw and fell in love with this young lady; by the bye, of excellent family

Miss R. And brought her home to my guardian, as his daughter ?

Gar Yes, and daughter she will be. If he don't consent to their marriage, they talk of trying what a Scotch parson can do

Miss R. Well I own they have deceived me (sits down) Would you believe it Garnet, to add to their deceit, Leontine pretends to make me serious proposals ? Mr. Croaker and he are to be here presently, to open the affair in form. You know I am to lose half my fortune if I refuse him

Gar Yet, what can you do ? For being, as you are, in love with Mr. Honeywood madam -

Miss R. (jumping up) How, girl ! What do you mean ? In love with Mr. Honeywood ! Is this to provoke me ?

Gar That is, in friendship with him; I meant nothing more than friendship, as I hope to be married; nothing more

Miss R. Well, no more of this ! As to my guardian and his son, they shall find me prepared to receive them. I'm resolved to accept their proposal with seeming pleasure, to mortify them with compliance and so throw the refusal at last upon them

Gar Excellent, and that will secure your whole fortune to yourself. Who could have thought so innocent a face could cover so much acuteness !

Miss R. Why Garnet, I only oppose my prudence to their cunning, and practise a lesson they have taught me

Gar And here they come

(enter Mr. Croaker and Leontine)

Leon Excuse me sir, if I seem to hesitate upon the point of putting the lady so important a question

Mr. C Good sir, moderate your fears. I tell you we must have one half or the whole. Come, let me see with what spirit you begin. Eh ! Well then, I must (to Miss R.) Miss Richland my dear (the gentlemen bow, Miss R. curtsies) I believe you guess at our business; an affair which my son here comes to open, that nearly concerns your happiness

Miss R. Sir, I should be ungrateful not to be pleased with anything that comes recommended by you

Mr C. (to Leon) How, boy, could you desire a finer opening. Why don't you begin, I say ?

- Leon 'Tis true madam, my father madam, has some intention - hem - of explaining an affair - which - himself can best explain madam
- Mr C. Yes my dear, its a request entirely of his own madam. And I will permit him to make the best of it
- Leon The whole affair is this madam, my father has a proposal to make
- Mr C (aside) My mind misgives me, the fellow will never be brought on (to Miss R.) In short madam, you see before you one who loves you
- Miss R. I never had any doubts of your regard sir, and I hope you can have none of my duty
- Mr C. No, no, that's not the thing, my love; there he stands madam, his very looks declare the force of his passion (to Leontine) Call up a look you dog
- Miss R. I fear sir, such a declaration would have come most properly from himself
- Mr C. Himself madam ! He would die before he could make such a confession
- Miss R. I must grant sir, there are attractions in modest diffidence, above the force of words. A silent address is the genuine eloquence of sincerity
- Mr C. Madam, silence is become his mother tongue
- Miss R. And it must be confessed sir, it speaks very powerfully in his favour. And yet, I shall be thought too forward in making such a confession; Shan't I Mr Leontine ?
- Leon (aside) Confusion ! my reserve will undo me. But if modesty attracts her, impudence may disgust her. I'll try (to Miss R.) Don't imagine from my silence madam, that I want a due sense of the happiness intended me. Your humble servant is not totally indifferent to you; he admires you, he adores you; and when we come together I believe we shall be the happiest couple in all London
- Miss R. If I could flatter myself you thought as you speak sir -
- Leon A doubt of my sincerity madam ? Ask the brave if they desire glory
- Mr C. Well, well -
- Leon Ask the sick if they long for health, ask misers if they love money, ask -
- Mr C. What's come over the boy ? If you would ask to the purpose, ask this lady's consent to make you happy
- Miss R. Why indeed sir, his uncommon ardour almost forces me to comply And yet I'm afraid he'll despise a conquest gained with too much ease; won't you Mr Leontine ?

Leon O, by no means madam. And yet madam, you talked of force. There is nothing I would avoid so much as compulsion in a thing of this kind. No madam, I will still leave you at liberty to refuse

Mr C. But I tell you sir, the lady is not at liberty. You see, she says nothing. It's a match. Silence gives consent

Leon But sir, she talked of force

Mr C. Don't you know, blackhead, that girls have always a roundabout way of saying yes before company ? So get you both gone together into the next room, and hang him that interrupts the tender explanation

Leon But sir, I must beg leave to insist -

Mr C. Get you gone, or I'll beg leave to insist upon knocking you down (exeunt Miss Richland and Leontine)
Stupid boy ! But I don't wonder, he takes entirely after his mother !

END OF ACT I

ACT II Scene 1

At Mr Croaker's house the next morning

Mr Croaker and Miss Richmond at the breakfast table

(enter Garnet)

Garn I suppose you have heard what has just happened to Mr Honeywood ?

Miss R. (jumping up) No accident, I hope !

Garn Undone, madam, that's all. His creditors have taken him into custody

Miss R. Poor dear man

Garn A prisoner in his own house

Miss R. A prisoner in his own house ? How ! I'm quite unhappy for him

Mr C. Why, so am I. The man to be sure, was immensely good-natur'd. I tried once or twice to know if he was fit for business - A poor impracticable creature

Miss R. His manner to be sure, was excessive harmless (exit Miss R.) *Garnet*

Mr C. Life at the greatest and best is but a froward child, that must be humour'd and coax'd till it falls asleep, and then all the care is over

(enter Mrs Croaker waving a letter)

Mrs C. Mr Croaker, I bring you something my dear, that I believe will make you smile

Mr C. I'll hold you a guinea of that my dear

Mrs C (sitting down) A letter; and as I knew the hand, I ventured to open it

Mr C. And how can you expect your breaking open my letters should give me pleasure ?

Mrs C. Poo, it's from your sister at Paris, and contains good news - read it

Mr C. What a Frenchified cover is here, I could never teach my sister to fold a letter

Mrs C. Fold a fiddlestick. Read what it contains

Mr C. (reading) My dear brother - An English gentleman, of large fortune has for some time made private proposals to your daughter Olivia. They love each other tenderly, and I find she has consented, with out letting any of the family know, to crown his sddresses. As such good offers don't come every day your own good sense, his excellent fortune and family, will induce you to forgive her - Yours ever - Rachael Croaker

(Mr and Mrs Croaker exchange looks)

Mr C. My daughter Olivia, privately contracted to a man of large fortune ! This is good news indeed. And yet, how sllily the little baggage has carried it since she came home. Not a word on't to the old ones ! But, I thought I saw something she wanted to conceal.

Mrs C. (rising) Well, if they have concealed their amour, they shan't conceal their wedding; that shall be public I'm resolved

Mr C. I tell thee, woman, the wedding is the most foolish part of the ceremony (exit Mrs Croaker) I can never get this woman to think of the more serious part of the nuptial engagement (rising) I must go to chide my little Olivia for intending to steal a marriage without mine or her aunt's consent (exit Mr Croaker)

(enter Olivia and Leontine)

Leon And yet, trust me Olivia, I had every reason to expect Miss Richland's refusal. What more could I do ?

Oliv Let us now rather consider what's to be done. We have both dissembled too long - I have always been asham'd

Leon Then why should we defer our scheme of humble happiness ?

Oliv But can it ever be thought, that your father's kindness to a supposed child, will continue to a known deceiver ?

Leon I have reasons to believe it will. As his attachments are but few they are lasting. His own marriage was a private one, as ours may be. Nay, I am persuaded, if you informed him of our situation, that he would be disposed to pardon it

Oliv You had equal expectations Leontine, from your last scheme with Miss Richland, which you find has succeeded most wretchedly

Leon He comes this way ! My dearest Olivia be resolute. I'll just retire within hearing, to come in at a proper time, either to share your danger or confirm your victory

(enter Mr Croaker)

Mr C. Yes, I must forgive her; and yet not too easily neither. I must seem to be angry, or she too, may begin to despise my authority

Oliv (aside) How I tremble to approach him
(to Mr Croaker) Might I presume sir, if I interrupt you -

Mr C. No, no, child. Where I have an affection no little thing can interrupt me

Oliv Sir you are too kind ! I'm sensible how ill I deserve this partiality

Mr C. With those endearing ways of yours, on my conscience, I could be brought to forgive anything, unless it were a very great offence indeed

Oliv But mine is such an offence - yes, you shall know it, though I feel the greatest pain in the confession

- Mr C. Why then, if it be so very great a pain, you may spare yourself the trouble. I know every syllable of the matter before you begin
- Oliv Then I'm undone !
- Mr C. ~~Ay miss, you wanted to steal a match, without letting me know it, did you?~~
- Mr C. Ay miss, you wanted to steal a match, without letting me know it, did you ? But I'm not worth being consulted I suppose, when there's to be a marriage in my own family !
- Oliv Dear sir, nothing but the dread of your authority could induce us to conceal it from you
- Mr C. No, no, my consequence is no more. No, no, I'm nobody !
- Oliv I was prepared sir, for your anger, and despaired of pardon, even while I presumed to ask it
- Mr C. (aside) It goes to my heart to vex her
(to Olivia) And yet you should not despair neither, Livy. We ought to hope all for the best
- Oliv (kneeling) And do you permit me to hope sir ! Can I ever expect to be forgiven ?
- Mr C. Why then child, I forgive you this very moment. I forgive you all, my daughter !
- Oliv This kindness overpowers me
- Mr C. I was always against severity to our children. We have been young and giddy ourselves, and we can't expect boys and girls to be old before their time
- Oliv But can you forget the dissimulation -
- Mr C. You did indeed dissemble, you hussy you, but where's the girl that won't dissemble for a husband ! My wife and I had never been married, if we had not dissembled a little beforehand
- Oliv It shall be my future care never to put such generosity to a second trial. And as for the partner of my offence, I can answer for him that -
- (Leontine reveals himself)
- Leon Permit him thus to answer for himself (kneeling) Thus sir, let me speak my gratitude for this unmerited forgiveness
- Mr C. Good sir, who sent for you ? I don't know what we have to do with your gratitude upon this occasion !
- Leon How sir ! Is it possible to be silent when so much obliged ? Would you refuse me the pleasure of adding my thanks to my Olivia's

Mr C. Lord sir, we can be happy enough, without your coming in to make up the party. I don't know what's the matter with the boy

Leon But sir, is the being admitted to your favour so slight an obligation ? Is the happiness of marrying my Olivia so small a blessing ?

Mr C. Marrying Oliva ! marrying Olivia ! marrying his own sister ! The boy is out of his senses. His own sister !

Oliv (aside) Sister ! How have I been mistaken (rising)

Leon (aside) My sister ! Some cursed mistake in this I find (rising)

Mr C. What does the boy mean - eh, what do you mean, you blockhead, you ?

Leon Mean sir - why sir - only when my sister is to be married, that I have the pleasure of - that is, sir - of giving her away

Mr C. O, is that all ? Giving her away. Then you had as good make a point of first giving away yourself, as I'm going to prepare the writings between you and Miss Richland this very minute
(Olivia sobs) Why, what's the matter now ? I thought I had made you at least as happy as you could wish

Oliv O, yes sir, very happy

Mr C. (patting Olivia's head) What a fuss is here about nothing

(Olivia curtsies, Leontine bows. Exit Mr Croaker)

Leon He knows something, and yet for my life I can't tell what

Oliv It can't be the connection between us, I'm pretty certain

Leon Whatever it be, my dearest, I'm resolved to put it out of Fortune's power to repeat our mortification. I'll prepare for our journey to Scotland this very evening. I'll go to my friend Honeywood, whose honest heart will relieve our distresses with advice and assistance

~~(exeunt Olivia and Leontine)~~ (exeunt Olivia and Leontine)

(enter Miss Richland and Garnet)

Miss R. (with a note in her hand) Mr Honeywood has desired an interview with me in private

Garn I wonder madam, that the lawyer you just employed to pay his debts has done it by this time. Lawyers are always more ready to get a man into troubles, than out of them !

Miss R. What can he mean ? Or rather, what means this palpitation at his approach ? (fanning herself) It is the first time he ever shewed anything in his conduct that seemed particular. He cannot mean to -

(enter Honeywood. Garnet stations herself by the door)
and Jarvis with Jarvis

Honey I presumed to solicit this interview madam, before I left town, to be permitted -

Miss R. Leaving town, sir ?

Honey Yes madam; perhaps the kingdom. I have presumed to desire the favour of this interview, in order to disclose something which our long friendship prompts. And yet my fears -

Miss R. (aside) His fears ! What are his fears to mine ?
(to Honeywood) We have indeed been long acquainted, sir

Honey Very long (pauses) If you recollect, our first meeting was at the French Ambassador's

Miss R. Perfectly sir. You danced that night, in your good-natur'd way, with the most awkward woman in company, because you saw nobody else would take her out

Honey Yes, and was rewarded the next night, by dancing with the finest woman in company, whom everybody wished to take out

Miss R. Well sir, if you thought so then, I fear your judgment has since corrected the errors of a first impression

Honey The first impression madam, did indeed deceive me. I expected to find a woman with all the faults of a flattered Beauty. But every day has since taught me, that it is possible to possess Sense without Pride, and Beauty without Affectation (bows)

Miss R. This sir, is a style unusual with Mr Honeywood

Honey I ask pardon madam. Yet, from our long friendship, I presumed I might have some right to offer, without offence, what you may refuse without offending

Miss R. Consider sir ! I fear I shall scarce have any power to refuse a request of yours. You may be precipitate

Honey I own my rashness; but as I plead the cause of friendship, of one who loves - don't be alarmed madam - who loves you with the most ardent passion -

Miss R. (fanning herself) I fear sir, I shall never find out whom you mean by this description of him

Honey Ah madam, it but too plainly points him out; though he should be too humble himself to urge his pretensions, or you too modest to understand them

Miss R. Well, I will own sir, I have long been prejudiced in his favour

Honey (aside) I see she always loved him
(to Miss R.) How happy is my friend, to be the favourite of one with such sense to distinguish merit, and such beauty to reward it

Miss R. Your friend sir ! What friend !

Honey My good friend - my friend Mr Leontine, madam

Miss R. He, sir !

Honey Yes, he, madam

Miss R. Amazement ! No more of this, I beg your sir

Honey I see your confusion madam, and know how to interpret it. Shall I make my friend happy, by communicating your sentiments ?

Miss R. By no means

Honey Excuse me; I must; I know you desire it

Miss R. Mr Honeywood, let me tell you that you wrong my sentiments and yourself. I see that it is vain to expect happiness from one who has been so bad an economist of his own. I must disclaim the friendship of one who ceases to be a friend to himself (retires to the far side of the room)

Honey How is this ! She has confessed she loved him and yet she seemed to part in displeasure (hesitates) Yet, after all, these things should not be done by a third person; I should have spared her confusion (bows to Miss Richland who ignores him) My friendship carried me a little too far (exit Honeywood)

(exit Jarvis after exchanging a farewell with Garnet)

Garn There, there, madam (assisting Miss Richland)

(enter Sir William Honeywood)

Sir W. Madam, allow me to present myself, Sir William Honeywood, at your service (bows; Miss Richland curtsies)
I hope you'll excuse me if I wanted to see so good a friend to my nephew as yourself

Miss R. Mr Honeywood is not my friend (fanning herself)

Sir W. Forgive me madam, if I believe otherwise. But I was also willing you should be fully apprised of the character of the gentleman you intended to serve

Miss R. To censure it must come with very ill grace from you sir (fanning herself) His tenderness, his humanity, his universal friendship, may atone for many faults

Sir W. That friendship madam, which is extended in too wide a sphere becomes totally useless. They, who pretend most to this universal benevolence, are either deceivers or dupes. You see I am willing to prevent your losing by it

Miss R. (turning away) I always suspect those services which are denied where they are wanted, and offered perhaps in hopes of a refusal

Sir W. Madam, I have only punished in hopes to reclaim his follies

Miss R. Sir, my directions have been given, and I insist upon their being complied with

Sir W. Amiable woman ! I can no longer contain the expressions of my gratitude, my admiration !

Miss R. You amaze me ! I fear sir, you'll think I have been too forward in my services, and confess -

Sir W. Don't make any apologies madam, I shall endeavour to return the obligation (bows)

Miss R. How shall I conceal my confusion ? (curtseys, and exits) *with Garnet*

Sir W. (aside) For Miss Richland to undertake setting my nephew free from his debt to me, I own was quite unexpected. It gives me pleasure to find that he has made one acquisition of real value, for there must be some softer passion on her side that prompts this generosity. I have discovered that Miss Richland is not indifferent to my nephew, and will endeavour to establish that connection (exit Sir William)

End of ACT II Scene 1

ACT II Scene 2

The Waiting Room at a Coaching Inn

(enter Olivia and Garnet, dressed for travelling and carrying hand luggage)

Oliv Dear me, I wish this journey were over. No news of Leontine yet ?

Garn Why, to be sure, madam -

Oliv To be gone a full hour, though he had only to get a bill changed in the city !

Garn I'll lay my life, madam -

Oliv Are you sure you have omitted nothing, Garnet ?

Garn Not a stick, madam - all's here. Yet I wish you could take the white and silver to be married in. It's the worst luck in the world, in anything but white. I knew one Bet Stubbs of our town, that was married in red, and as sure as eggs is eggs, the bridegroom and she had a miff before morning

Oliv No matter. I'm all impatience till we are away

Garn Bless me madam, I had almost forgot the wedding ring ! The sweet little thing - I don't think it would go on my little finger !

(enter Leontine) (dressed for travelling and armed)

Oliv O Leontine, are you come at last ? We have been ready this half hour. Let us fly !

Leon My dear Olivia, we have been most cruelly disappointed. Mr Honeywood's bill upon the city has been protested, it is not worth a rush. Here it is, Mrs Garnet may pin up her hair with it

Oliv How could Honeywood serve us so ? He could not mean to deceive us

(enter Mr Croaker) (aside)

Mr C. Ha ! Who have we here ? My son and daughter ! What can they be doing here ?

Oliv Every moment we stay increases our danger, and adds to my apprehensions

Leon Trust me my dear, there can be no danger if Honeywood has acted with honour, and kept my father employed as he promised

Oliv I have no doubts of Mr Honeywood's sincerity, my fear's are from your father's suspicions

Leon Believe me Olivia, you have no great reason to dread his resentment. His repining temper, as it does no manner of injury to himself, so will it never do harm to others. He only frets to keep himself employed, and scolds for his private amusement

Oliv I don't know that; but I'm sure, on some occasions, it makes him look most shockingly

Mr C. (revealing himself) How does he look now ? Eh ! How does he look now ?

Oliv Ah !

Leon Undone !

Mr C. (sketching a bow) Sir, I am your very humble servant. Madam, I am yours. What, you are going off, are you ? Then first, if you please, tell me where you are going, and when you have told me that, perhaps I shall know as little as I did before

Leon If that be so, our answer might but increase your displeasure

Mr C. And you too, good madam, what answer have you got ?

(enter Honeywood dressed for travelling and armed, followed by Jarvis with luggage)

Honey What's here ? Leontine, Olivia !

Leon Honeywood here ! Then sir, it was Mr Honeywood that directed you hither

Mr C. No sir, it was Mr Honeywood conducted me hither

Leon Is it possible ? Then sir, he's a villain !

Mr C. How sirrah, a villain ! I'll not bear it. Honeywood is a friend to the family and I'll have him treated as such

Leon I shall study to repay his friendship as it deserves

Oliv Oh, my terrors ! What can this mean ?

Leon Some new mark, I suppose of Mr Honeywood's sincerity. But he shall give me instant satisfaction

Oliv It must not be, my Leontine, if you value my happiness. Consider that our innocence will shortly be all we have left us. You must forgive him

Leon Forgive him ! Has he not in every instance betrayed us ? Forced me to borrow money from him, which appears a mere trick to delay us: promised to keep my father engaged till we were out of danger, and here brought him to the very scene of our escape ?

Honey Confusion !

Leon Yes sir, I find you have kept your word with me. After such baseness, I wonder how you can venture to see the man you have injured

Honey My dear Leontine, by my life, my honour -

Leon Peace, peace, for shame; and do not continue to aggravate baseness by hypocrisy. I know you, sir !

Honey Why, won't you hear me ! By all that's just, I knew not -

Leon Hear you sir ! to what purpose ? I now see through all your low arts; your ever complying with every opinion; your never refusing any request; your friendship as common as it is fallacious; all these sir, have long been contemptible to the world, and are now perfectly so to me

Honey Ha ! Contemptible to the world -

Leon Draw, villain !

(Mr Croaker and Jarvis separate Leontine and Honeywood)

Jarv Soft and fair, young gentleman

(Honeywood offers his hand to Leontine who turns his back)

Honey Mr Croaker, we have all been under a strange mistake here, it was all an error

Mr C. And I say sir, that you're in error, for there's guilt and double guilt here, and I must have proof of it

Honey Do but hear me

Mr C. What, you intend to bring 'em off, I suppose; I'll hear nothing
(turns away)

Honey Madam, you seem at least calm enough to hear reason

Oliv Excuse me (turns away)

Honey Good Jarvis, let me then explain it to you

Jarv What signifies explanation when the thing is done ?

Honey Will nobody hear me ? (Jarvis and Garnet turn away)

Mr C. Come then, you, madam, if you ever hope for any favour or forgiveness, tell me sincerely all you know of this affair

Oliv Unhappily sir, I'm but too much the cause of your suspicions. You see before you sir, one that with false pretences has stepped into your family to betray it - not your daughter -

Mr C. Not my daughter !

Oliv Not your daughter - but a deceiver who - support me - I cannot -

Garn Help, she's going, give her air (Garnet and Leontine assist her)

Mr C. Ay, ay, take the young woman to the air. I would not hurt a hair of her head, whose ever daughter she may be

(exeunt Garnet and Leontine with Olivia, Honeywood and Jarvis after)

Mr C. Yes, yes, all's out - I now see the whole affair. My son is

either married, or going to be so, to this young lady, whom he imposed upon me as his sister. Ay, certainly so, and yet I don't find it afflicts me so much as one might think. There's the advantage of fretting away our misfortunes beforehand, we never feel them when they come

(enter Sir William Honeywood and Miss Richland)

Miss R. And you believe sir, that your nephew intends setting off from this place

Sir W. His servant Jarvis assured me that he was come to this Inn, and your own knowledge of his intending to leave the kingdom suggests the rest dear madam

Miss R. But here is my guardian ! (to Mr C.) Who could have expected meeting you here sir, to what accident to we owe this pleasure ?

Mr C. Why, I came here with my friend Mr Honeywood, as he had the intention of leaving town - and my son is going to be married - so now you are as wise as I am !

Miss R. Married ! To whom sir ?

Mr C. To Olivia; to my daughter as I took her to be; but who the devil she is, or whose daughter she is, I know no more than the man in the moon

Sir W. Then sir, I can inform you, and though a stranger, you shall find me a friend to the family: Sir William Honeywood

Mr C. Sir William Honeywood ! (bows)

Sir W. (bows) It will be enough at present to assure you that, both in point of birth and fortune, the young lady is at least your son's equal. Being sent by her father, Sir James Woodville -

Mr C. Sir James Woodville ! What, of the West Indies ?

Sir W. Being sent by him, I say, into France for the purposes of education, she came under the care of a mercenary guardian whose only aim was to secure her fortune to himself

Mr C. (aside) Her fortune !

Sir W. This wretch tried every art to fix her for life in a Convent, contrary to her inclinations. Upon my arrival in Paris -

Mr C. (aside) In Paris !

Sir W. - as I had once been her father's friend, I did all in my power to rescue this young lady from her guardian's base intentions -

Mr C. When my son -

Sir W. When your son stepped in with more pleasing violence, gave her liberty and you a daughter (they move aside)

(enter Honeywood)

Honey Insulted by my friend, despised by all, I now begin to grow contemptible even to myself. How have I overtaxed all my abilities lest the approbation of a single fool should escape me ! But all is now over; I have survived my reputation, my fortune, my friendships, and nothing remains henceforward for me but solitude and repentance

Miss R. Is it true Mr Honeywood, that you are setting off, without taking leave of your friends ? The report is, that you are quitting England. Can it be ?

Honey Yes madam, and though I am so unhappy as to have fallen under your displeasure, yet thank Heaven, I shall leave you to happiness and to one who deserves your love. As for me, weak and wavering as I have been, obliged by all and incapable of serving any, what happiness can I find but in solitude ? What hope but in being forgotten ?

Miss R. A thousand hopes - to live among friends that esteem you, whose happiness it will be to be permitted to oblige you

Honey No madam, my resolution is fixed. Inferiority among strangers is easy, but among those that once were equals, insupportable. Nay, to show you how far my resolution can go, I can now speak with calmness of my former follies, my vanity, my dissipation, my weakness. I will even confess that, among the number of my other presumptions, I had the insolence to think of loving you. Yes madam, while I was pleading the passion of another, my heart was tortured with its own. But it is over, it was unworthy of our friendship, and let it be forgotten

Miss R. You amaze me !

Honey But you'll forgive it, I know you will, since the confession should not have come from me even now, but to convince you of the sincerity of my intention of - of never mentioning it more

Miss R. Stay sir, one moment -

(enter Mrs Croaker with Leontine and Olivia,
Garnet and Jarvis following)

Mrs C. Where's my husband ? Come, come, lovey, you must forgive them

Mr C. Madam

Mrs C. Garnet has told me the whole affair, and I say you must forgive them

Mr C. Mrs Croaker

Mrs C. Our own was a stolen match you know my dear, and we never had any reason to repent of it

Mr C. I wish we could both say so. However, this gentleman Sir William Honeywood,, has been beforehand with you, in obtaining their pardon

Honey My uncle !

- Mrs C. How blest, and unexpected !
- Mr C. So if the two poor fools have a mind to marry, I think we can tack them together without crossing the Tweed for it (joining the hands of Leontine and Olivia)
- Leon What can we say to such goodness ! But our future obedience shall be the best reply. And as for this gentleman, to whom we owe -
- Sir W. Excuse me sir, if I interrupt your thanks, as I have here an interest that calls me. (to Honeywood) Yes sir, you are surprised to see me
- Honey (bows)
- Sir W. (bows, and then they embrace) I own that a desire of correcting your follies led me hither. I saw with indignation, the errors of a mind that only sought applause from others; that easiness of disposition which though inclined to the right, had not courage to condemn the wrong. I saw with regret, your charity that was but injustice, your benevolence that was but weakness, and your friendship but credulity. I saw with pity, great talents and extensive learning only employed to increase your perplexities, and -
- Honey Cease to upbraid me sir, I have for some time but too strongly felt the justice of your reproaches. But there is one way still left me Yes sir, I have determined to quit forever a place where I have made myself the voluntary slave of all, and to seek among strangers that fortitude which may give strength to the mind, and marshall all its dissipated virtues. Yet, ere I depart, permit me to speak my gratitude to one who has laid me under the most signal obligations -
- Sir W. No, sir, you have been obliged to a kinder fairer friend for that favour. To Miss Richland
- Honey To Miss Richland !
- Sir W. Would she complete our joy, and make the man she has honoured by her friendship happy in her love, I should then be as blest as the welfare of my dearest kinsman can make me
- Miss R. (aside) After what is past, it would be but affectation to pretend to indifference (to Sir William) Yes, I will own an attachment which I find was more than friendship. And if my entreaties cannot alter his resolution to quit the country, I will even try if my hand has not the power to detain him (gives her hand to Honeywood)
- Honey Heavens ! How can I have deserved all this ? How express my happiness, my gratitude ? (kisses her hand)
- Sir W. Henceforth nephew, learn to respect yourself. He who seeks only for applause from without, has all his happiness in another's keeping
- Honey Yes sir, I now too plainly perceive my errors. Henceforth therefore, it shall be my study to reserve my pity for real distress; my friendship for true merit; and my love for her who first taught me what it is to be happy (the other three couples acknowledge each other, and form a tableau, Sir William in the centre)
- Mr C. Well, now I see content in every face, but Heaven send we be all better this day three months

CURTAIN