

George & Winifred

MARY POPPINS

- 29 -

CHILDREN

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.)

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(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, Michael

(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.

(JANE and

Goodnight, N

(MARY PO