

SISTERS GRIMM

by
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FADE IN:

1 EXT. HARBOUR - DAY 1

A view of the sea from Watchet Harbour.

Lapping waves.

CAPTION: 1815, ENGLAND

Seagulls circle overhead.

MR.GREY V.O

With the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo,
the twenty year war with France was
finally over. A new spirit of optimism
was afoot. People returned from far flung
places in search for what was rightfully
theirs.
(beat)

2 EXT. QUAY - DAY 2

Small dark haired FANCY GRIMM and her tall, blonde half
sister ESMERALDA GRIM stand on the quay, kit-bags slung on
their shoulders, two pistols each tucked in their seafaring
belts.

MR.GREY V.O

The sisters Grimm. Shipwrecked off
Portugal and landed at Watchet Harbour,
Somerset

They both laugh.

MR.GREY V.O (CONT'D) (cont'd)

English born but colonial bred, England
beware

They walk off into the town.

3 CREDITS OVER STILL SEQUENCE OF - 3

Pirate Ships

Men of War

(CONTINUED)

Paintings of Battles

Paintings of English country life

Paintings of aristocracy

4

EXT. HILLS

4

Esmeralda and Fancy -

Slowly riding along the ridge of the hills -

Riding in slow motion -

Lying in the grass chewing grass -

The two HORSES looking at one another.

The distant Exmoor hills -

Remounting -

Descending the hills -

Riding onwards down into the woodland -

And twilight -

5

EXT. CHURCH

5

A lonely church at a cross roads.

A corpse hangs from a rope suspended from an old tree.

Fancy and Esmeralda ride slowly up -

The corpse creaks in the night wind.

They push past the corpse -

On towards the church.

Shots - catawumptious headstones.

Gargoyles -

(CONTINUED)

Light glows from the church windows.

The SOUND of dance music.

VOICES

Fancy and Esmeralda stop.

From their horses they peer through the window into the church.

6 INT. CHURCH

6

A group of FAIR HAIREW WITCHES in short shifts are dancing in a candle lit circle.

They break off to leave -

one nubile WITCHETTE in the shortest shift dancing solo to a hornpipe being played by -

A masked WARLOCK.

The Witchette dances faster -

and ever faster.

Fancy and Esmeralda peer through the window -

Their noses press against the glass.

The Warlock quickens his playing

The Witchette reaches a frenzy -

She is in a spin -

A long spin -

finishes by throwing herself in front of the Warlock on his final note.

7 EXT. CHURCH

7

Fancy claps her hands.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

Well done, short shift!!

Esmeralda's mouth drops.

The two HORSES look at one another.

8 INT. CHURCH

8

The Warlock and the Witches stare at the window.

The lights go out.

9 EXT. CHURCH

9

Esmeralda takes hold of Fancy.

ESMERALDA

Ride.

The two Horses bolt -

Carry the riders away from the church -

Fancy looks back -

The Witchette is chasing them like the wind -

Esmeralda looks back -

The Witchette is gaining on them -

The Horses look at each other -

The Witchette is reaching for the Horses tails -

CU - Horses legs galloping across a stream -

The Witchette teeters on the edge of the water draws back -

Fancy and Esmeralda look at one another -

The Horses gallop on.

10 EXT. TAVERN 10

A shot of a swaying tavern sign.

11 INT. TAVERN 11

A quite inn with a few dirty BUMKINS.

Esmeralda is seated drinking grog. Fancy is up on a table entertaining the Bumkins.

FANCY

*About, about, in reel and rout
The death fires danced at night;
The water, like a witch's oils, Burnt
green and blue and white.*

*And some in dreams assured were
Of the Spirit that plagued us so;
Nine fathom deep he had followed us From
the land of mist and snow.*

*And every tongue, through utter drought,
was withered at the root;
We could not speak, no more than if
We had been choked with soot.*

*AH! Well a-day! What evil looks
Had I from old and young!
Instead of the cross, the Albatross About
my neck was hung.*

The Bumkins cheer.

FANCY (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Enough now, lads! A tot more rum!

JOHN WICKLOW, a drunk gentleman, is making eyes at Esmeralda.

WICKLOW

You looking for a husband, my lovely?

ESMERALDA

Maybe You looking for a witch or a
wife?

(CONTINUED)

WICKLOW

Aye, I might be. Are you any good at milking?

ESMERALDA

Depends what kind of milking?

WICKLOW

Only one kind of milking I've a liking for?

ESMERALDA

What's that then?

WICKLOW

You know??????

ESMERALDA

No, I don't know.

WICKLOW

Com' on, a big girl like you. You must have done your share of milking?

WICKLOW moves in beside her.

WICKLOW (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Cor, they're a lovely pair. Can I see 'em?

ESMERALDA

I beg your pardon.

Fancy pushes in with them.

FANCY

Here, have a look at mine.

Fancy shows off the pistols in her belt.

WICKLOW

Cor pure English craftsmanship.
(looks at pistols)
Where you get 'em?

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

In a dark alley in Lisbon

WICKLOW

(suspicious) That's a long ways away.

ESMERALDA

(sniffing John) I wish we were.

WICKLOW

Here, there's no call for that. This is a decent parish and I'm tryin' to make you strangers welcome.

(points his pistol at them)
Where you from?

FANCY

Round here's a way

WICKLOW

Your lyin'! You're robbers! Cutthroats the pair of you! Now drop 'em!

ESMERALDA

Drop what?

WICKLOW

Your breeches, I want to see what you're hiding.

They get up and start to undo their belts.

The Bumkins crowd round.

Two more pistols, a knife, a rope, a club, and other weapons, fall to the floor.

WICKLOW (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I know a witch or two when I catch 'em.

FANCY

Really, sir? Don't you know its folly to meddle with us.

WICKLOW

How's that then?

(CONTINUED)

Esmeralda pulls out a scroll and lets it roll out.

ESMERALDA

We are bone-fide members of the House of Grimm.

The Bumkins back off in fright.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D) (cont'd)

This letter is from our Great Aunt Augusta, Countess Grimm.

FANCY

We are her nearest and dearest recalled from the plantation in the Indies to be with her in her twilight years.

ESMERALDA

On the journey home we encountered the worse gales in the history of sea-faring.

FANCY

We were tossed about on cloudy seas and to cut a woeful story short, we were thrown into the drink and washed up on the shore of Portugal.

ESMERALDA

Befriended by kind Christians, we were clothed and sheltered and put on a ship for England ...

FANCY

And hence we have made our way here on our journey home. (pause)
You have here, sir, Lady Esmeralda Grimm ... my true sister.

ESMERALDA

And here, sir, Lady Fancy Grimm ... my sister it is true.

WICKLOW

You are the nieces of the Mistress of the Moors?
(looking at letter)

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

... The poor rambling of our loving aunt
begging us to return to England. How
could we have stayed in the Indies?

WICKLOW

(smiles) Your forgiveness, Ladies.
(lowers his pistol)
We're overrun with witches spinning us
merry.

ESMERALDA

Not us. You'll hear nothing but talk
about riding and poetry from us.

FANCY

We like riding

WICKLOW

Then let me stable you for the night.

The girls look at one another ... smile.

INT. BARN - MORNING

Fancy and Esmeralda are half dressed, half hung over, covered
in straw.

FANCY

Esme

ESMERALDA

What ???

FANCY

Our horses have gone.

12 EXT. BARN - DAY

12

Fancy and Esmeralda are finishing dressing.

Esmeralda finds a note stuck in a post with a knife.

ESMERALDA

(reads)
I picked the lily from the stem,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA (cont'd)

*I picked the rose from the spray,
I took the bloom of two fair maids,
and then I stole their mares.*

(angry)

That horse thief! He can't even rhyme.

She throws the letter to the ground.

FANCY

This is not his barn then?

ESMERALDA

Or his village! If I ever see him again I
will shoot him with my blunderbuss.

There start off away from the barn across parkland.

FANCY

Its my blunderbuss.

ESMERALDA

It is not. I was given it by Captain
Jeronimo myself.

FANCY

You were not. He gave it me for services
that time we were out of salt.

ESMERALDA

What????

FANCY

Never mind. You were slung in a hammock
with the First Mate.

ESMERALDA

I was not

MR.GREY V.O

And thus it passed that the Sisters Grimm
found themselves on foot knowing that
they would not reach Grimm Manor before
nightfall.

13 EXT. DEAD WOMAN'S DITCH - TWILIGHT

13

Fancy and Esmeralda are foot-sore.

The rain is lashing down on them.

They run for shelter -

Stumble into a ditch.

WICKLOW

Good afternoon, ladies

They both turn to see -

John sheltering under a makeshift lean to made with a cape.

WICKLOW (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Welcome to Dead Woman's Ditch.

Esmeralda pulls out her pistol and levels it at John.

WICKLOW (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Go on, you have every right.

ESMERALDA

Where are our horses?

WICKLOW

Dead.

ESMERALDA

What do you mean Dead?

WICKLOW

I was riding one, walking the other, and they both dropped down dead with fright.

FANCY

Just like that?

WICKLOW

Just like that. The Beast of the Moor scared them. Never seen anything like it before. Squashed my leg.

(CONTINUED)

John's leg is in a splint from the knee down.

WICKLOW (CONT'D) (cont'd)

This place is cursed ... but you'll know that already, you're Grimms.

ESMERALDA

I'm still going to blow your head off.

WICKLOW

Can we wait until the rain stops. I have a fear of drowning.

ESMERALDA

What's a fear of drowning got to do with blowing your head off, you nag napper!

WICKLOW

Its good manners.

ESMERALDA

Good manners! I receive you ...

FANCY

And me

ESMERALDA

... And then you sneak off without a proposal of marriage and nab our horses.

WICKLOW

I apoligize for neglecting the soft speeches and the polite enquiry of marriage that most well bred ladies would decline anyway

ESMERALDA

Decline! How can you presume I would decline ...

FANCY

... Or me

ESMERALDA

... When you didn't even have the boldness to ask.

(CONTINUED)

WICKLOW

I'm not the type for early morning walks.
I'm not in the least honourable.

FANCY

Shoot him now, Esme.

ESMERALDA

Just because a lady is humble and civil,
it does not mean that she can be treated
roughly. Marriage is a serious kind of
thing, and though it is morally and
physically impossible for a woman to
attach herself to anything as vulgar as
. What's your name?

WICKLOW

John Wicklow ...

ESMERALDA

... as you Mr. Wicklow, nevertheless, you
are going to propose to me

FANCY

... And me ...

ESMERALDA

... On your knees.

WICKLOW

My knee is quite shot

ESMERALDA

So will be your head. Get on your knees.

John gets on his knees.

WICKLOW

The ground is very damp

ESMERALDA

So is our dignity, Mr. Wicklow.

WICKLOW

What do you want me to say?

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

What an honest man always says to a woman
worthy to be his partner for life.

WICKLOW

I've never found a worthy woman yet.

FANCY

Now there's an admission, Esme.

WICKLOW

Come now. Despite my lack of honesty,
don't you find me a reasonable good-
natured fellow? Its obvious you are fond
of receiving gentlemen.

FANCY

You are a horse stealer.

WICKLOW

My knee is quite killing me.

ESMERALDA

What did you say the name of this place
was?

WICKLOW

Dead Woman's Ditch

Esmeralda fires off her pistol.

John falls bleeding - into a pool of water.

14 EXT. MOOR - MORNING

14

The rain has stopped.

Fancy and Esmeralda drag themselves to their feet.

A mist hangs about the trees.

There is a distant HOWL.

They set off across the moor.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Do you believe his story about a Beast of the Moor?

FANCY

Life teaches us to believe only what we've seen with our own eyes.

ESMERALDA

But this is a moor is it not?

FANCY

Yes, this is a moor ... but I see no beast.

ESMERALDA

Am I not a beast?

FANCY

How so?

ESMERALDA

For shooting poor Mr. Wicklow?

FANCY

Indeed not. Mr. Wicklow's manners were just beastly.

ESMERALDA

You know what a complete romantic I am, but I do like men to have manners.

FANCY

The world is full of Mr. Wicklows, sister, it is just a pity we are attracted to them.

ESMERALDA

Yes, it is a shame.

FANCY

Perhaps when we reach Grimm Manor we will shed our shame and feel the urge to change our ways.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

It will not be a moment to soon.

FANCY

We shall give up our wicked past and
become paragons of virtue.

15 EXT. GRIMM MANOR - DAY

15

Grimm Manor looms on the skyline.

It is foreboding and Gothic

WIDE - Fancy and Esme approach the house - stop to gaze on
its ugliness.

FANCY

Cruel and unnatural if ever I saw
anything.

ESMERALDA

The worst tempered house I have ever
seen.

FANCY

(smiles) We are home, sister. Our journey
is over.

ESMERALDA

(smiles back) Yes, but perhaps the
journey was better than the arrival.

CUT TO:

Fancy and Esme are before the front door.

It CREAKS open.

A small woman in black - EVANGELISTA - looks them up and
down.

There is a moment of recognition for Fancy.

FLASH CUT - the Witchette chasing the horses.

Fancy shakes the idea out of her head.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Good day. Is the Mistress of the house at home?

EVANGELISTA
(curt) She's in mourning. Go away.

FANCY
(foot in door) Our business is with your Mistress.

EVANGELISTA
What sort of business?

ESMERALDA
That is none of your business.

EVANGELISTA
Is that right? Who are you then?

Esmeralda pulls out a pistol.

ESMERALDA
Take us to the old lady or I'll blow your head off.

EVANGELISTA
That gun's not loaded.

Fancy pulls out a pistol.

ESMERALDA
That's not loaded either. I can tell.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D) (cont'd)
This is

Esmeralda lands a punch on Evangelista.

16 INT. GRIMM MANOR HALL - DAY

16

Evangelista is helped up off the floor by Fancy.

FANCY
You're bold for a servant.

EVANGELISTA
(angry) I'm not a servant.

Esmeralda pulls out the letter and lets it unroll.

ESMERALDA
Where is Auntie Augusta?

17 INT. GRIMM MANOR DINER - DAY

17

A door CREAKS open.

Evangelista, carrying the letter, leads Esmeralda and Fancy into the room.

At the end of a long table is a slouched figure GREAT AUNT AUGUSTA.

EVANGELISTA
Your Grace

AUGUSTA
Go away!

EVANGELISTA
You have visitors, your Grace.

AUGUSTA
Visitors! To Grimm Manor????

Esmeralda pokes a pistol into her back.

EVANGELISTA
Two young ladies, mistress

Augusta starts to look up -

EVANGELISTA (CONT'D) (cont'd)
They say they are your nieces, mistress.

Augusta straightens up as only an aristocrat can.

Evangelista lays the letter on the table.

Augusta squints at it.

AUGUSTA

Light! Get some light!

Evangelista pushes a candle close to her.

AUGUSTA (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Is this my writing, girl?

EVANGELISTA

I think so, your Grace.

(whispers)

Don't trust them, they're imposters.

AUGUSTA

Leave me!

EVANGELISTA

(pleads) Your Grace

EVANGELISTA (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Get out, Evangelista!

Evangelista shuffles back towards the door.

EVANGELISTA (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I've had enough of the old coot. Do what you want with her.

Evangelista closes the door behind herself.

AUGUSTA

Come into the light!

Fancy and Esmeralda edge slowly towards Augusta.

She squints at them.

AUGUSTA (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Speak!

FANCY

It's I your great niece Fantasia.

ESMERALDA

And I your great niece Esmeralda.

(CONTINUED)

AUGUSTA

You look like a pair of harlots!

FANCY

Our journey home has been full of peril.
When we set out we were young innocent
virgins.

ESMERALDA

Now we are young worldly virgins. We've
had an awful time!

Esmeralda and Fancy burst into tears - throw themselves into
the arms of Augusta.

A shower of dust rises off her.

FANCY

The ship foundered in the Saragosa Sea
and we were all flung boatless into the
ocean.

ESMERALDA

Surrounded by sharks, Fancy and I clung
to one another as everyone else perished.

FANCY

I believe if were not for the fact that
our blood was singularly English, and
without smell, we would have been
devoured too.

There is a tear in Augusta's eye.

ESMERALDA

Our poor mother and father!

FANCY

Drowned! Eaten by the fishes!

All of them are now in tears.

(CONTINUED)

AUGUSTA

Enough! Save an old woman's heart! Your father though my sister's son was my heir. His decision to farm in Jamaica took you all from me.

Lifts candle, looks at their faces.

AUGUSTA (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I have not set eyes on you two children for twenty years.

(To Esmeralda)

In you, I see my sister ...

(To Fancy)

And in you I see myself. You are the fair and dark of Grimm, cursed like the rest of us.

She picks up a little bell and shakes it.

Evangelista reappears.

AUGUSTA (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I want you to take these children upstairs to their old room.

Fancy and Esme exchange quick smiling glances.

EVANGELISTA

I must protest, Aunt Augusta.

AUGUSTA

Do as you are told, girl.

EVANGELISTA

Yes, mistress

18 INT. GRIMM MANOR ATTIC ROOM - NIGHT

18

Fancy and Esme are ensconced in a double bed a small attic room that is decorated like a nursery.

FANCY

It might have been better to have been killed abroad.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

I think we have enjoyed too much liberty
on the open seas.

FANCY

France will soon be open to us.

ESMERALDA

Yes, a little trip to Paris after this
would be lovely.

Fancy places a small kiss on Esmeralda's cheek.

FANCY

Are you hungry?

ESMERALDA

Very

FANCY

Shall I go down to the pantry.

ESMERALDA

Here, take this ... (hands her a pistol)
... Evangelista may be guarding the door.

19

INT. GRIM MANOR STAIRCASE - NIGHT

19

Fancy is descending the staircase.

The stairs CREAK.

Fancy stops - listens.

The sound of things going BUMP in the night.

VOICES

The door to the dining room is ajar.

LEOPOLD V.O

I always knew you were stupid!

AUGUSTA V.O

Hold your tongue, you wretch!

(CONTINUED)

EVANGELISTA

We should have that dirty pair of
imposters gaoled!

AUGUSTA V.O

I will have you both whipped if you
presume to violate my authority or insult
me again!

LEOPOLD V.O

You are a doddering old hag!

AUGUSTA V.O

Take your hands from me!

SOUND of a cane cracking down on a table.

EVANGELISTA V.O

Leopold!

20 INT. GRIMM MANOR DINER - NIGHT

20

Fancy pushes open the door of the diner.

A door on the far side of the room closes.

Edging forward into the room -

Aunt Augusta is slumped over the table, a pen in one hand.

Fancy lifts her other hand -

It drops dead weight back on to the table.

Moving Augusta out of the way -

Fancy uncovers a will.

FANCY

(reads) I hereby leave all of my worldly
possessions, property, lands and titles
jointly to my sister's grandchildren
.....

21 INT. GRIMM MANOR LIBRARY - DAY

21

Camera pulls back to reveal solicitor MR. ROBERT GREY reading the will -

Fancy, Esmeralda and Evangelista are seated in upright chairs. Behind them stand LEOPOLD GRIMM, and WILBERFORCE GRIMM.

MR.GREY

... my great nieces Esmeralda Germaine Grimm and Fantasia Octavia Grimm on the sole condition that both my nieces marry English gentlemen within one lunar month of my departing this earth. Their first male child will inherit the title Count Grimm.

Esmeralda leans into Fancy -

ESMERALDA

(whispers) I knew there would be a catch.

MR.GREY

In the event that either or both fail to marry within one lunar month, my possessions, lands and property are to be divided into one half shares to my first cousin's children - Leopold Franklin Grimm and Wilberforce Palmerston Grimm. Leopold will assume the title Count Grim.

LEOPOLD

This is a travesty. We have no proof these two wretches are our second cousins.

MR.GREY

I am sorry, Leopold. (holds up letter)
The Countess wrote a separate letter stating her complete conviction that Esmeralda and Fantasia are her nephew's children.

(CONTINUED)

EVANGELISTA

Fiddlsticks, Mr.Grey! The letter's a forgery!

WILBERFORCE

Let us abide by the wishes of our great Aunt. I am pleased that our cousins are alive and well.

ESMERALDA

Thank you, cousin Wilberforce. You are a true gentleman.

MR.GREY

(coughs)

Two matters remain. An autopsy of your aunt suggests that she was poisoned.

Evangelista turns to look at Leopold.

MR.GREY (CONT'D) (cont'd)

It is not conclusive, but as the family solicitor, when I return in twenty eight days time, I hope to see you all alive and well.

(picks up another paper)

Finally. To avoid the Miss Grimms being inundated with offers of marriage from unworthy suitors, a list of eligible gentlemen will be prepared by myself and Master Wilberforce.

Wilberforce smiles sweetly at Esmeralda.

FANCY

Why can't we make our own choice?

WILBERFORCE

Miss Fancy. You have no knowledge of how English society conducts itself.

ESMERALDA

You underestimate us, cousin.

WILBERFORCE

Indeed, I hope I do.

(CONTINUED)

LEOPOLD

This is all nonsense. Come, Evangelista.

Leopold and Evangelista exit.

FANCY

Our cousin does not care for us much?

WILBERFORCE

Leopold is much put out by your return to England.

ESMERALDA

And how do you feel about it, Wilberforce?

WILBERFORCE

Naturally I am disappointed that I have to continue living in a small house not far from here, but I am happy enough.

ESMERALDA

And Leopold?

WILBERFORCE

He is never in good spirit. He lives in the Manor House annex with Evangelista. He will manage as he deserves.

FANCY

Are you married, Mr.Grey?

MR.GREY

I am not, Miss Grim.

ESMERALDA

And you, cousin?

Wilberforce is embarrassed.

MR.GREY

Wilberforce has had the misfortune of being unlucky in love.

The two girls look at Wilberforce wistfully.

(CONTINUED)

WICKLOW

(turns) Robert! The list my cousins
have urgent matters at hand!

22 EXT. GRIMM GARDENS - DAY

22

A small table, two chairs. Mr. Grey is standing. Wilberforce
rises from one of the chairs.

MR.GREY V.O

And so the sisters Esmeralda and Fancy
Grimm began preparing for the arduous
task of interviewing an array of suitors.

Fancy and Esmeralda, now dressed in clothes befitting ladies
of society, approach the gentlemen.

MR.GREY V.O (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Having been so long out of England, they
required some education in the ways of
polite society.

WILBERFORCE

Good afternoon, ladies.

FANCY

Why, cousin Wilberforce, you look most
agreeable today.

ESMERALDA

And you too, Mr.Grey.

The two girls place themselves on the chairs.

WILBERFORCE

Noble lords, marquises and dukes are but
mortal. If the weather is hot they say
things quite unbecoming to their station.

FANCY

Such as what, Will we may call you
Will?

WILBERFORCE

You may not.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Come, cousin (looking at his breeches) Surely you cannot be so stiff all the time.

The two girls giggle.

WILBERFORCE

Such noble personages are prone to oaths they never keep, and remarks that are utterly indecent.

FANCY

They'll love us then.

WILBERFORCE

That is quite enough chatter!

ESMERALDA

Poor Will! Giving up your day's hunting to offer us your sweet experience of the world.

WILBERFORCE

Dash it, Robert, I can't withstand this. Take over, please!

MR.GREY

Not I, Wilberforce. You are much more a gentleman of the world than I.

Grey stands aside. The girls look at Wilberforce sweetly.

WILBERFORCE

Gentlemen of all classes have the same fault. Secrecy. It is their want to make a poor innocent girl give up her honour and make her swear to tell no-one.

ESMERALDA

How so, Will?

WILBERFORCE

Well, he may request her to come to his chambers just after it is dark.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

On what pretext, cousin?

WILBERFORCE

That it is the only hour he can command
as free from the interruption of clients.

FANCY

Do you have chambers, Mr.Grey?

MR.GREY

Yes, it is my constant habit to refuse
admittance to strangers after day-light.

ESMERALDA

So you are in the habit of working late,
Mr.Grey.

MR.GREY

Indeed I am. I do not leave my chambers
till my papers are all arranged for my
clerks in the morning.

ESMERALDA

How romantic

WILBERFORCE

It is hardly romantic being surrounded by
a sea of writs and vulgar confessions.

FANCY

Surely all confessions cannot be vulgar.
Otherwise our wonderful English poets
would be most dreary.

(quotes)

*She listened with a flitting blush, with
downcast eyes and modest grace for well
she knew, I could not choose
but gaze upon her face.*

*She wept with pity and delight,
she blushed with love, and virgin shame;
and like the murmur of a dream,
I heard her breathe my name.*

(CONTINUED)

MR.GREY

My word, Miss Grimm. I think you quite have the art of entering a man's heart.

WILBERFORCE

Indeed.

ESMERALDA

This is dull. Perhaps our time with you would be better spent playing cards.

WILBERFORCE

Preposterous!

ESMERALDA

I am quite the gambler.

FANCY

In a flash she will have the shirt off your back, cousin.

The girls both laugh heartily at some past experience.

WILBERFORCE

They are quite impossible, Robert.

MR.GREY

Colonial schooling, colonial manners.

WILBERFORCE

Well, we will just have to get on with it, but I don't think it is possible to marry them off in a year never mind a month.

23 INT. GRIMM MANOR DRAWING ROOM - DAY

23

MAJOR BRIDGWATER stands to attention at one end of the room.

Fancy and Esmeralda stand at the other.

FANCY

(whispers) Major Bridgwater

ESMERALDA

I like the tilt of him.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

Too cocky for me.

ESMERALDA

Yes, I see what you mean.

FANCY

Did you receive the verse we sent you?

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

Ladies ... Surely you mean to attack me
from the rear?

FANCY

Your rear is the finest part of you, sir.
There is no better prescription for a
melancholic virgin than poetry.

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

Very well then

(clears his throat)

*And thus he sang: Adieu! Adieu! Love's
dreams prove seldom true.*

The blossoms they make no delay:

The sparkling dew-drops will not stay.

Sweet month of May,

We must away!

To-day! To-day!

The sisters are amused.

FANCY

Bravo, sir. (to Esme) He's got fine
thighs

ESMERALDA

... And he's well developed.

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

Have I spiked my own guns?

ESMERALDA

Not at all, sir. We are eager to have
some of your thunder.

(CONTINUED)

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

(excited) Thank you. I am recently returned from Waterloo, and when I saw your miniatures, I could not press my face near enough to kiss your beauty.

FANCY

Do you have a defect of eye, Major?

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

Not in the least, dear Miss Grimm. I am one of the best shots in the entire army.

ESMERALDA

So, Major, which one of us do you wish to give your best shot?

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

I am not a fussy man. I need a wife and either one of you looks fit enough to accompany me abroad.

FANCY

Accompany you to where, Major?

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

My regiment leaves for Spain next month.

ESMERALDA

Oh that is quite impossible for me. I have ghastly memories of the Peninsula.

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

Then you, Miss Grimm?

FANCY

I am sorry, Major. I have just newly arrived back in England myself and taken comfort in this renewed acquaintance with my family.

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

Oh, how I admire such devotion. Is there any hope of an engagement? I am soon due a promotion.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

An engagement? Are you suggesting that one of us sits on the shelf like some china doll until you return from the plains of Spain - a colonel?

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

I see you are quite entrenched. Can you not give some ground?

FANCY

Major Bridgwater. My sister and I are very fond of one another. We are inseparable. The thought of dusty Iberian plains and soldiers led by you sweating for England on a long heroic trek to provide for our security is romantic beyond words.

(smiles)

But the reality is not in the least appealing.

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

Ladies, I am in the county for a further three weeks. May I be given leave to rearrange my assets. I have been thinking of leaving the regiment and taking up as a member of Parliament.

ESMERALDA

You seem suitably endowed to become a member, Major.

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

I am heartened by your observation. May I call again when I have redressed myself?

FANCY

Certainly, Major. You may come and breech us with your renewed shot.

MAJOR BRIDGWATER

Thank you, the Miss Grimms.

The Major backs out of the door.

24 EXT. WOODS - DAY

24

Fancy and Esmeralda are walking in the woods.

A body swings on a noose from a tree.

FANCY

I haven't heard anything going bump in the night for awhile.

ESMERALDA

Your imagination is quite rampant. I think all this talk of beasts and the like is just wife's tales.

FANCY

You may think so, Esme, but have I ever been wrong before?

ESMERALDA

No, but you are not infallible. Remember Madeira?

FANCY

Even I can't predict when a volcano is going to blow its top.

ESMERALDA

Same with men, Fancy. Stiff lipped and solid, then boom!

FANCY

Bits of them shooting everywhere.

ESMERALDA

Like Major Bridgwater

FANCY

Like Master Wilberforce.

They both giggle.

25 EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

25

Fancy and Esme are before the door of a small village house.

(CONTINUED)

Wilberforce opens the door.

WILBERFORCE

Ladies

ESMERALDA

Excuse us for this intrusion, cousin, but we thought we would call on you.

26 INT. COTTAGE - DAY

26

Fancy is looking around the cottage which is sparsely furnished.

FANCY

You do not possess many worldly comforts, Will.

WILBERFORCE

I am a man of simple tastes.

ESMERALDA

Cousin, we seek your advice.

WILBERFORCE

Ask freely

FANCY

Can we see the list of suitors you have drawn up?

ESMERALDA

So far you have only given us the names of three.

FANCY

We have interviewed Major Bridgwater.

ESMERALDA

We are seeing Lord Ponsonby tomorrow.

FANCY

And the Marquis of Clewer the day after.

WILBERFORCE

Yes, that is correct?

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Who else is on the list?

WILBERFORCE

If memory serves me, there is Count Ludlow, the Earl of Fife, and Commander Hardy.

FANCY

Are there others on the list.

WILBERFORCE

Yes. But it is our hope that these gentlemen will not be called for.

FANCY

But you do know who they are?

WILBERFORCE

Indeed I do.

FANCY

You refuse to tell us more?

WILBERFORCE

I suggest you return to Grimm Manor and prepare yourself for the lively Lord Ponsonby. He is a handsome man of fortune and breeding who loves the opera, but a rascal.

ESMERALDA

You are a rascal yourself, Wilberforce Grimm!

WILBERFORCE

I have no defence against your assertion, Miss Grimm.

ESMERALDA

I am beginning to believe that you have no desire to see us married at all!

Esme and Fancy make to leave.

(CONTINUED)

WILBERFORCE
(smiling) Cousins

They girls exit.

27 EXT. WOODS - DUSK

27

Fancy and Esme are returning through the wood.

FANCY
I tell you, Esme, they are all in on it.

ESMERALDA
Why don't they just have done with us.

A HOWL pierces the fading light.

FANCY
Oh laws amighty! What was that?

They draw their pistols -

Back up slowly -

Into the hanging corpse.

ESMERALDA
Gordon Bennett!

Fancy is reading a tag in red ink tied to the corpse's toe.

FANCY
Its Lord Ponsonby.

ESMERALDA
What????? Our handsome man of fortune and
breeding

FANCY
He's not looking his best.

ESMERALDA
We shall not be going to the opera then?

FANCY
No. He's a dead rascal.

The HOWL is heard again.

ESMERALDA
Lets get out of here!

They bolt.

28 INT. GRIMM MANOR HALL - NIGHT

28

Fancy and Esme slam shut the door -

Turn and breathe deeply.

LEOPOLD
Good evening, ladies.

Leopold is dressed in fine evening wear.

LEOPOLD (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Care to join me for supper.

FANCY
Not feeling hungry, are we, Esmeralda?

LEOPOLD
Come, cousins, I know you haven't eaten
all day. Eat with me

29 INT. GRIMM MANOR DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

29

Leopold, Esmeralda and Fancy are seated in chairs before a
fire. Their plates are empty.

FANCY
Where is Esmeralda this evening?

LEOPOLD
She had to go out.

FANCY
For fresh air?

LEOPOLD
You could put it like that.
(hands her a letter)
This came for you this afternoon.

(CONTINUED)

Fancy examines, then opens the letter.

LEOPOLD (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Good news?

FANCY

It is from the Marquis de Clewer. He is eager to be received tomorrow.

ESMERALDA

(coily) But arn't we seeing Lord Ponsonby tomorrow.

LEOPOLD

Lord Ponsonby has left the county.

ESMERALDA

I suppose he did not fancy hanging about here?

LEOPOLD

No, he has quite departed us for higher things. I should not mourn his loss.

FANCY

Lord Ponsonby is quite dead, Leopold. You will find him strung up in the woods.

LEOPOLD

Nonsense, he has gone up to London. There are many things in our woods that defy explanation.

ESMERALDA

You are stating we have imagined it?

LEOPOLD

I am stating that the Marquis de Clewer is a young man of twenty five, with fingers covered in red ink from franking too many love letters.

ESMERALDA

And you, Leopold? No red on your fingers?

(CONTINUED)

LEOPOLD

Alas, my writing skills are limited.

ESMERALDA

To names?

LEOPOLD

To signing my own name

Evangelista enters the room.

ESMERALDA

This is all very cosy, Leopold.
Consorting with the enemy!

LEOPOLD

My dear Evangelista

EVANGELISTA

Don't you Evangelista me, Leopold Grimm.
I know what your intentions are, you
beast!

LEOPOLD

Please, excuse her ... she is well
fortified with brandy.

EVANGELISTA

I am as sober as a judge!

LEOPOLD

Then you are out to hang us all.
(Catches her. He is angry)
Go to the annex! Now!

Evangelista bursts into tears - runs from the room.

LEOPOLD (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I apologize for my outburst. I hope I
have not disgusted you, cousin.

FANCY

I cannot make judgement. I have not been
married.

(CONTINUED)

LEOPOLD

Oh, Evangelista and I are not married.
She lives under my protection.

ESMERALDA

What are you protecting her from,
Leopold?

LEOPOLD

Wilberforce. She is madly in love with
him.

ESMERALDA

Does Wilberforce love her?

LEOPOLD

Wilberforce is incapable of love.

FANCY

Lord above, you are a merry bunch.

LEOPOLD

We are Grimms.

There is a distant HOWL.

FANCY

What is that?

LEOPOLD

Its the wind
(stands up)
I'm off to bed now. Good night.

Leopold exits the room.

30 INT. GRIMM MANOR ATTIC ROOM - NIGHT

30

The two girls are in bed sharing a single candle. Each has a
pistol in their hand.

FANCY

There is something indecent and dishonest
in his eyes that I like.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

You always favour rogues.

FANCY

You're no different. I've seen you making eyes at Wilberforce.

ESMERALDA

Its proven. He is incapable of love. Look at poor Evangelista. He's a beast of a man. They are both toying with us.

FANCY

Are we not also toying with them?

ESMERALDA

A little Any decent woman would have run a mile by now, and here we are lying in the Devil's den fearing the worst.

FANCY

That's their advantage of being handsome.

ESMERALDA

You find Leopold handsome?

FANCY

He has a fine mane.

ESMERALDA

So had the Spanish but they lost it by and by.

31 EXT. BEACH - DAY

31

Esmeralda and Fancy are sitting on a rock yawning.

MR.GREY V.O

And so the sisters Grimm, watchful of their present danger, kept an eye on the main chance - a husband - Bernard, Marquis de Clewer.

From behind a rock.

(CONTINUED)

MARQUIS DE CLEWER O.S
You who! Hello! Miss Grimms????

MARQUIS DE CLEWER, dark, handsome and a dandy, appears before them carrying sea shells.

MARQUIS DE CLEWER
My, my, my. I have not seen such beauty in this county before.

ESMERALDA
You must be referring to my sister Fancy, sir.

MARQUIS DE CLEWER
Indeed, indeed, but you too, Miss Esmeralda. The sun shines brightly on you too. To find you here on a rock as ancient as any hill, nestled in a sunny spot of greenery, creates a deep romantic chasm in my bosom.

FANCY
I feel it is about to rain ... a squall so heavy that your chasm will be quite filled ... with a flood.

MARQUIS DE CLEWER
Bring it on! Bring it on! Huge fragments of rebounding hail, or chaffy grains of bursting wet. I am ready! Indeed I am ready.

The girls laugh at the comic Marquis.

ESMERALDA
Where is Clewer, sir?

MARQUIS DE CLEWER
It is a small hamlet of wood and dale, nearby with caves of ice.

ESMERALDA
Far from here?

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Five miles meandering in a mazy motion
....

FANCY

And your prospects, sir?

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

I have an income of thirty thousand a
year from an estate in the West Indies. I
am filthy rich, and my father is filthier
still.

ESMERALDA

We are of the mind that you are not
genuine in your search for a life
companion.

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Heaven forbid! I am a most serious
fellow!

FANCY

With all your wealth, what attracts you
to such lowly creatures as ourselves?

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Ladies, you are quite famous in the
county! Your miraculous survival from sea
creatures and hideous swarthy pirates is
being related in every house from Bristol
to Exeter! In all versions of accounts,
you are heroines!

FANCY

We are?

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Indeed! Crude images of you both that do
not do you justice have been published in
the broadsheets. You are quite
celebrated!

ESMERALDA

This is news to us, sir.

(CONTINUED)

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

I have come as a consequence to ask for
your hand in marriage.

ESMERALDA

Me, sir?

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Yes. Your picture was by far the superior
in the papers.

ESMERALDA

You underestimate my sister's beauty,
Bernard. She is far more beautiful than
I.

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

My mind is made up, Miss Grimm.
(gets down on his knees)
Will you do me the honour?

ESMERALDA

You must let me consider. How much did
you say you had a year?

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Thirty thousand.

The Marquis is kissing Esmeralda's hand.

ESMERALDA

I feel quite giddy.

32 INT. GRIMM MANOR DRAWING ROOM - DAY

32

Esmeralda is lying prostrate with the Marquis hanging over
her.

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Is she quite well, Miss Fancy?

FANCY

I believe she is quite overjoyed.

Fancy exits the room.

(CONTINUED)

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

I have quite swept you off your feet.

ESMERALDA

Yes, terribly

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Leave everything to me. I will speak with Mister Grey this evening.

ESMERALDA

Surely you should go now. Mr. Grey locks his door to strangers after daylight.

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Robert and I were schoolhouse chums at Rugby. He deals with all of my affairs.

ESMERALDA

Am I just another affair then, Bernard?

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

I fell in love with you the moment I heard your name. Esmeralda! I had a vision of you! A damsel with a dulcimer as fairy feet ran over dancing rocks neath a waning moon.

He attempts to kiss her.

ESMERALDA

Marquis! I am chaste!

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

(grins) That is not what I have heard, Esmeralda

ESMERALDA

Then you have heard wrong.
(pushes him away)
Now, toodle along to Mr. Grey and present him with our good news.

Fancy enters with a glass of water. He gets up.

(CONTINUED)

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

We will be married before the week is
out! I am in Xanadu!

He exits.

FANCY

Bully for him. Where's he off to?

ESMERALDA

Mr.Grey's

Fancy looks out the window.

FANCY

Is that a good thing after daylight?

ESMERALDA

You are quite out of cheer today, sister?

FANCY

Perhaps coming here was not such a good
idea afterall. Leopold, Evangalista, and
now gay Bernard. They are all quite mad.
Is it this house, or is it the effect we
have on them?

ESMERALDA

We have set our course and we must blow
with it.

FANCY

I feel we are running on an ill wind. Now
the moon is rising, I am sure matters can
only grow darker.

33 EXT. MR.GREY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

33

There is a light in the window.

The Marquis de Clewer is rapping on the door of the office.

Mr.Grey briefly comes to the window - disappears.

(CONTINUED)

MARQUIS DE CLEWER

Robert! It is I, Bernard! I have come to give you news.

The light in the window goes out.

MARQUIS DE CLEWER (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Well I'll be dashed!

The HOWL of a wolf.

The Marquis strikes a match to light a cigar.

He looks up - stares curiously into the dark.

MARQUIS DE CLEWER (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Do I know you?

The match goes out. Blackness.

The sound of a frenzied attack.

Silence.

34 INT. GRIMM MANOR ATTIC ROOM - MORNING

34

Esmeralda is grooming Fancy.

ESMERALDA

Half our task is done, sister.
Grimm Manor and thirty thousand a year.
All we need do is obtain a man of equal standing for you.

FANCY

I'm not inclined to marry anyone.

ESMERALDA

I will not have this place go to Leopold and Wilberforce when we can have it for ourselves. So I sent to Mr. Grey this morning while you were fast asleep and he sends word that we are to be called upon next by

35 EXT. GROUNDS - DAY

35

Fancy is all done up and waiting under a tree.

ESMERALDA

... Count Ludlow.

COUNT LUDLOW, pleasant in face - but a man of some temper and violence - smiles grimly at Fancy.

Esmeralda turns to leave.

COUNT LUDLOW

You are leaving us, Miss Esmeralda?

ESMERALDA

My sister is quite beyond the age where she needs to be chaperoned.

Fancy makes a face. She is seeing Count Ludlow under sufferance.

COUNT LUDLOW

(disappointed) I see

Esmeralda walks away.

COUNT LUDLOW (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Shall we take a walk, Miss Fancy.

36 EXT. HILLS - DAY

36

Fancy is striding ahead of Count Ludlow who is puffed out.

COUNT LUDLOW

Miss Grimm! Please, not so fast!

She lets him catch her up.

FANCY

(smiles) You are getting on in years, my dear Count.

COUNT LUDLOW

I am in my prime, Miss Fancy! Why have you brought me here?

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

So I may have room to run away, in case I don't like you.

(turns)

What think you of the view?

COUNT LUDLOW

It is quite dull!

FANCY

I perceive you have no passion for beauty, my lord.

COUNT LUDLOW

What beauty is there in such wildness? There are rabbit droppings underfoot.

Fancy sits in the heather.

FANCY

Do you wish to hear some poetry, my dear Count?

COUNT LUDLOW

(standing) I am not taken by poetry, Miss Fancy. I find it false and demeaning.

FANCY

Demeaning of whom, my Lord?

COUNT LUDLOW

The birds, the bees

FANCY

I think the birds and bees are elevated by poetry rather than demeaned by it. Take Robert Burns for example.

COUNT LUDLOW

I would if I knew who he was.

FANCY

William Wordsworth?

COUNT LUDLOW

Sorry

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

Samuel Taylor Coleridge?

COUNT LUDLOW

You have me at an advantage, Miss Fancy.

FANCY

(gets up) Surely you must know of one poet at least!

COUNT LUDLOW

(thinks, shakes his head) Not one.

FANCY

William Shakespeare?

COUNT LUDLOW

There I can correct you. Will Shakespeare was a man of the theatre. He wrote no poetry.

FANCY

My dear, Count. I am a simple young girl much acquainted with Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, and Much A Do About Nothing. I may not know a donkey from an ass, but I know poetry when I hear it.

Fancy starts back the way they came.

COUNT LUDLOW

(getting visibly angry) I am not accustomed to being so rudely spoken to, Miss Fancy.

FANCY

Then it is all the better that you experience it from me than a man twice your size.

COUNT LUDLOW

If you were a man I would have satisfaction with pistols.

FANCY

I'm a good shot. Let's have a go!

(CONTINUED)

COUNT LUDLOW
You are quite incapable of drawing a
bead.

FANCY
Am I?

Fancy pulls out one of her pistols from her drawers.

FANCY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Shall we count?

COUNT LUDLOW
Count what?

FANCY
Count to ten before I pull the trigger.

Count Ludlow starts to back away.

COUNT LUDLOW
You are mad!

FANCY
I would be obliged if you ran now.

COUNT LUDLOW
Gladly!

Count Ludlow turns and starts to trot hastily off down the
hill.

36a EXT. HILLS - DAY

36a

LEOPOLD
Well done, cousin.

Fancy turns to see Leopold leaning against a tree.

FANCY
How long have you been there?

LEOPOLD
Long enough to confirm some of the
stories I've heard about the pair of you.

37 INT. GRIMM MANOR HALL - DAY

37

Esmeralda and Count Ludlow are arguing. He is following her through the house.

COUNT LUDLOW

Your sister is quite ready for the mad house. The Grimms are notorious for producing mad women.

ESMERALDA

You are the most contentious rascal.

(stops)

No, I take that back! You are an arse!

COUNT LUDLOW

I am not an arse! If you do not withdraw your remark, I will have you shot with your sister!

ESMERALDA

I am not Napoleon Bonaparte! And you are not Wellington! You are a bore and an arse!

COUNT LUDLOW

I am not an arse! You will be hearing from my solicitor Mr. Grey!

ESMERALDA

Mr. Grey is everybody's solicitor, so he will be forced to write to himself! Good day, sir!

Ludlow turns and exits the house.

37a INT. GRIMM MANOR HALL - DAY

37a

ESMERALDA

(to herself) What an awful man! His face is so like a knocker!

Fancy enters the house.

FANCY

Is that ferret gone?

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Most certainly for good! What was Grey thinking of picking him as a suitor for you! I hope the Beast gets him.

Leopold is now behind Fancy.

LEOPOLD

Its quite possible. The Beast is loose.

ESMERALDA

How loose?

LEOPOLD

Alas, the poor Marquis

ESMERALDA

Bernard???? My intended?

LEOPOLD

Last night

FANCY

What is wrong with people round here!
They keep getting themselves dead!

ESMERALDA

Even the rich ones!

FANCY

There must be no room left in the
churchyard!

LEOPOLD

Yes. The churchyard is getting quite
cramped.

ESMERALDA

Quite cramped????

LEOPOLD

Have no fear. As Grimms, we have our own
family vault.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

I have no intention of taking up
residency in the family vault.

FANCY

It is my observation, Leopold, that this
house serves equally well as the family
vault.

(to Esme)

We are back to where we began, sister.

LEOPOLD

(cheerful) You have two weeks left.

ESMERALDA

You are enjoying this charade, cousin.

LEOPOLD

It is amusing. To your credit, you have
brought life back into this house with
your capriciousness.

ESMERALDA

I am not capricious!

LEOPOLD

Then what are you? You are certainly not
humble.

FANCY

You still think that we are imposters?
That we sailed with pirates and came upon
the real sisters Grimm on the high seas,
slit their throats, and thereafter have
acted out their parts in order to steal
your inheritance?

LEOPOLD

Yes, I think that about sums it up.

FANCY

Then why don't you just murder us and
blame it on the Beast of the Moor.

LEOPOLD

It has crossed my mind.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY
Has it, Leopold?

LEOPOLD
Yes, now and then

He smiles and shuffles off into the house.

38 EXT. WOODS - DAY

38

Fancy is leading Esmeralda through the woods.

ESMERALDA
Do you think this is a good idea?

FANCY
We are being played as fools. We must
confront Mr.Grey and determine our
standing in these matters.

ESMERALDA
Do you think we will have the truth from
him?

FANCY
We are the fairer sex, sister. We are
better suited to deceit than he can ever
cloak himself with.

39 INT. MR.GREY'S OFFICE - DAY

39

Two CLERKS are scribbling away. Robert Grey looks up.

Esmeralda and Fancy stand before him.

ESMERALDA
We need to know about the Beast.

MR.GREY
You wouldn't want to marry him.

ESMERALDA
Don't be flippant with us, Robert!

MR.GREY

These are miserable times, Esmeralda. The war has ruined many families.

ESMERALDA

Where are the society women? In our entire time here, I have only seen one - Evangelista!

MR.GREY

Women here hide themselves from sight.

FANCY

Are we to believe that in our absence from England, society has become as in Arabia?

ESMERALDA

We are free and independent women, Robert. The free and independent kind of women that England so proudly prides itself on producing.

MR.GREY

And rightly much admired, Esmeralda.

ESMERALDA

So, where are they?

MR.GREY

They are around.

FANCY

Around were?

MR.GREY

About

ESMERALDA

Show us.

MR.GREY

That might be difficult.

Esmeralda looks around - sees a door.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Is there a woman behind that door?

MR.GREY

Yes, there is.

FANCY

Can we see her please?

MR.GREY

I assure you it is for her own protection.

Esmeralda opens the door -

Reaches in -

Pulls out LUCINDA GREY, a fair haired young woman.

ESMERALDA

Who is this?

MR.GREY

My sister, Lucinda.

ESMERALDA

Can she speak?

LUCINDA GREY

I can speak quite well, thank you.

ESMERALDA

Her voice is quite thin, Robert.

FANCY

Give her a cough drop, and lets take her for some fresh air.

MR.GREY

My sister's place is at home.

ESMERALDA

Come along, Lucinda.

Esme and fancy bundle Lucinda out of the office.

40 EXT. CHURCHYARD - DAY

40

Esme, Fancy and Lucinda.

LUCINDA GREY

It really is quite awful round here. We are kept locked away.

FANCY

Because of the Beast?

LUCINDA GREY

And the witches.

ESMERALDA

Ah, now I get it

FANCY

I don't.

ESMERALDA

Fancy! Is your memory so short?

FANCY

Not short, Esme. My memory is shot. All these deaths and goings on.

ESMERALDA

Look at her she is the girl in the short shift.

FANCY

No, I'm sure that was Evangelista.

LUCINDA GREY

We take turns

FANCY

Really?????

LUCINDA GREY

Every Saturday night in a different place.

FANCY

Just Saturdays?

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Who then is the Beast?

LUCINDA GREY

That is taken in turn too.

REVEREND SPAXTON

Lucinda!

The girls turn and see -

REVEREND SPAXTON, a grey haired man.

LUCINDA GREY

I must go!

FANCY

Why?

LUCINDA GREY

We are not meant to speak with you.

Lucinda runs towards Spaxton, and past him.

REVEREND SPAXTON

Please leave my churchyard.

ESMERALDA

Alright, keep your hair on, vicar.

They sweep past him.

FANCY

See you Saturday night, Vic.

Spaxton watches them go.

41 EXT. WOODS - DAY

41

Fancy and Esme are heading back to Grim Manor.

ESMERALDA

This is like that time we went to Haiti.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

At least we knew it was called mumbo
jumbo and voodoo.

ESMERALDA

It was entertainment ...

FANCY

You don't expect this in England?

ESMERALDA

Black magic is everywhere, Fancy. Just
because this is a Christian country does
not mean that it is not rife with pagans.

FANCY

Stonehenge?

ESMERALDA

That's sun-worship. This is much darker.

FANCY

Hocus pocus?

ESMERALDA

Do you think that's what we have here?

FANCY

Witchcraft. These woods are perfect for
them.

They march on through the woods.

42 INT. GRIMM MANOR HALL - NIGHT 42

Esmeralda has her eye at the keyhole of the diner door.

43 INT. GRIM MANOR DINER - NIGHT 43

Evangelista is laying the table for supper.

Fancy springs up from under the table.

EVANGELISTA

Great God!

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

Surely not?

EVANGELISTA

How dare you scare me like that!

FANCY

How would you like to take me to the dance on Saturday?

EVANGELISTA

I would rather die than go anywhere with you.

FANCY

Is that so?

EVANGELISTA

Unlike you, I was never left in the care of servants to learn bad grammar and worse morals.

(continues setting the table)

Unlike you, I have never consorted with thieves and murderers.

(stands proud)

And unlike you, I have always exercised politeness and humility in my deportment.

FANCY

What's this then? Your church clothes?

Fancy throws a short shift and a white wig on to the table.

EVANGELISTA

I do not feel well.

FANCY

You should take your Anderson Aperion Pills every night before going to bed. The pills would rid you of your prudish frost -bitten nose.

EVANGELISTA

I am a paragon! A *vertue* paragon!

(CONTINUED)

FANCY
You are a witch!

EVANGELISTA
(bursts into tears) How dare you!

She flees from the room.

44 INT. GRIMM MANOR HALL - NIGHT

44

Fancy emerges from the diner carrying the shift and wig.

ESMERALDA
That didn't go to well.

FANCY
We've got them on the back foot.

ESMERALDA
How so?

FANCY
They know we know more than they do.

Esmeralda pulls out a letter.

FANCY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Another note from Grey?

ESMERALDA
The Earl of Fife will call tomorrow morning.

FANCY
My love days are over.

ESMERALDA
Fie! Lets go catch rabbits instead!

FANCY
Spurn the Earl?

ESMERALDA
Yes. If we have become objects of desire,
then let us be chased.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

We are hardly chaste?

ESMERALDA

Chased, dear sister. Chased over hill and moor. Let us play hide and seek like the Pimpernel.

FANCY

What about the dance?

ESMERALDA

Fiddlesticks! Its only Wednesday! (takes the shift from her)

45 EXT. HILLS - DAY

45

Esmeralda and Fancy, dressed in their seafaring clothes, are chasing rabbits through the bracken.

MR.GREY V.O

And so the sisters Grimm took to the hills in pursuit of rabbits instead of men.

Wilberforce, Leopold and Grey watch from afar.

MR.GREY V.O (CONT'D) (cont'd)

This quite vexed us all, for there was a full scheme of things still to be unravelled about the Miss Grimms.

Esme and Fancy continue to chase the rabbits.

MR.GREY V.O (CONT'D) (cont'd)

They were quite unlike any other women we had encountered. Uncertain as we were about their origins, there was something of the Grimm about them.

46 INT. GRIMM MANOR LIBRARY - DAY

46

Wilberforce, Leopold and Grey are in heated discussion.

(CONTINUED)

WILBERFORCE

I am sorry, gentleman, I am not convinced.

LEOPOLD

Nor I!

MR.GREY

Chasing rabbits is an old Grimm tradition, gentlemen.

WILBERFORCE

At Eastertime, Robert!

MR.GREY

It is almost Eastertime?

LEOPOLD

I still think they are imposters.

MR.GREY

Gentlemen. Another twelve days and you will inherit without any further concerns. It is obvious that they will not be able to secure husbands in that time.

WILBERFORCE

No, Robert, we must be certain and stick to the plan. Is Fife still on hand?

MR.GREY

Eagerly standing by.

Leopold is staring out the window.

WILBERFORCE

Leopold?

LEOPOLD

I thought this all ridiculous when it started. Now I think it charming. That is a woman now, a poor weak man would find very difficult to resist.

(CONTINUED)

WILBERFORCE

Miss Esmeralda?

LEOPOLD

Miss Fancy.

WILBERFORCE

My dear Leopold, I have heard you talk of horse-riding, cock-fighting, fencing, religion, languages, claret and champagne, house and hobbies, venison, parrots, and art ... but never women.

Leopold continues to stare out the window.

MR.GREY

The Earl????

WILBERFORCE

Of course

47 EXT. RIVER - DAY

47

Fancy, Esmeralda and EARL OF FIFE, a nervous, selfish man, prone to illness.

FANCY

Do you like the birds, Earl?

EARL OF FIFE

Aye, I do. I like it better when they are on my plate at supper.

ESMERALDA

I can't help but notice you are unattended by servants?

EARL OF FIFE

Servants are very jealous people, deary. They'll rob you blind if you even nod off for just a second.

ESMERALDA

I think it unfortunate that we need servants in this day and age.

(CONTINUED)

EARL OF FIFE

Well, there will always be those who have everything and those who want to steal it from them. Take a bird for example. A wee robin wrestles a worm from the earth and along comes a muckle big crow and snatches it away from him. That's the world we live in.

ESMERALDA

Aren't we the crows, Angus?

EARL OF FIFE

Not at all. We're the wee robins. See, we robins are very territorial, we like to stay in the same spot, get to know a place. Faithful wee things. (curious) Do you no have servants at Grim Manor?

ESMERALDA

One. But she's hardly a servant. She's Leopold's lover.

EARL OF FIFE

You don't say! Who does your washing and cleaning and that?

ESMERALDA

We are very capable, Angus. We are modern women.

EARL OF FIFE

So you believe in free love? You'll not be a virgin?

ESMERALDA

I have at times enjoyed receiving gentlemen. How else is a woman to get on in life. Are you shocked?

EARL OF FIFE

Not at all.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

I never tell on any man. No power can induce me to name a single male whom I have favoured.

FANCY

What about Mr. Wicklow?

ESMERALDA

Don't mention that man to me!

EARL OF FIFE

John Wicklow?

ESMERALDA

You knew him, Angus?

EARL OF FIFE

Utter scoundrel!

FANCY

Well, you don't have to worry about him now. He's gone to the devil.

EARL OF FIFE

That's odd I swore I saw him in the pump room at Bath the other day.

ESMERALDA

You must have been mistaken.

EARL OF FIFE

Surely, yes.

Esmeralda indicates to Fancy to make herself scarce.

ESMERALDA

So, Angus, will you be able to marry me within ten days.

EARL OF FIFE

It is rather sudden. I am partial to bachelorhood.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

Please, just for me

(kisses him)

I am smitten by you.

EARL OF FIFE

Kiss me again. I need more time to think.

48 INT. GRIMM MANOR ATTIC ROOM - NIGHT

48

Fancy is in bed. Esmeralda is walking back and forth.

ESMERALDA

That Angus! How could I have been such a fool!

FANCY

Maybe he'll come back for second helpings?

ESMERALDA

Yes, I didn't think of that. Oh, but the thought. Perhaps it is for the best he has done a runner.

FANCY

Major Bridgwater must be due back any day? I quite liked the way he strutted about like some stag.

ESMERALDA

Maybe the beast got him too? (thinks)
Oh this really is such a bind! Why won't they believe that we are the sisters Grimm.

FANCY

Twenty years of war. People are still looking to uncover French spies. I'm surprised we have not been accused of that yet.

There is a KNOCK.

Esmeralda picks up a pistol, opens the door.

(CONTINUED)

A note is lying on the floor - with two straw wigs and two short shifts.

Esmeralda picks it them, unfolds the note.

ESMERALDA

(reads) The Abode of Love, Seven Sisters
Road. Midnight. Saturday.

Esmeralda closes the door.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I've changed my mind. I do not want to go
to the dance.

FANCY

What is there to be scared of?

ESMERALDA

A straw wig and a short petticoat? I
don't think so.

FANCY

You'll be the toast of the ball.

ESMERALDA

I will look like a knob. You are fine,
you are very close to the ground, but
with my big spider legs, I will most
certainly look like a knob.

FANCY

Its our society introduction.

ESMERALDA

To the Beast?

FANCY

There is no Beast. They are all in on it.
Leopold, Wilberforce, Mr.Grey.

ESMERALDA

In on what. Making us look ridiculous?

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

Have you ever thought that this will
thing was all made up?

ESMERALDA

For what purpose?

FANCY

To scare us off!

ESMERALDA

No! It is far too far fetched to have any
credence.

FANCY

Aye, maybe you're right.

ESMERALDA

You sounded just like Captain Jeronimo
there.

FANCY

(dreamy) Captain Jeronimo. What a man!

ESMERALDA

Even though he was a cut-throat and a
vagabond

FANCY

I admit he was a villain for indenturing
us to a life of piracy, but its done us
no harm.

ESMERALDA

It ruined our chances of a genteel life
of afternoon tea and whist.

FANCY

Given the chance, I'd go back to sea
tomorrow.

ESMERALDA

I also. Life here is dull, dark and
without excitement.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

So, its settled. We are going to the
dance on Saturday, sister?

ESMERALDA

Settled, sister.

49 EXT. ABODE OF LOVE - NIGHT

49

A full moon.

A chapel ill-light stands silhouetted against the night sky.

MR.GREY V.O

And so the sisters Grimm decided on a
course of action to uncover the mysteries
of the Abode of Love.

50 INT. ABODE OF LOVE - NIGHT

50

Fancy and Esme in cloaks, are dressed in straw wigs, short
shifts, two pistols each tucked into their belts, and
carrying candles.

All is quiet and dark.

FANCY

This is the right place?

ESMERALDA

Yes.

FANCY

And this is Saturday night?

The church bells STRIKE midnight.

ESMERALDA

Its Sunday now.

MUSIC from a hornpipe begins slowly.

A candle flickers -

And another -

(CONTINUED)

And another -

Until they are surrounded by a circle of candles held by straw haired WITCHES.

The music tempo quickens slightly.

FANCY

I think we are meant to dance.

ESMERALDA

What kind of dance?

FANCY

Just make it up as you go along.

Fancy and Esmeralda dance to the music.

The music quickens -

Fancy and Esmeralda quicken their dancing.

Out of the gloom the masked WARLOCK in breaches appears playing the hornpipe.

ESMERALDA

Who do you think it is?

FANCY

He looks familiar?

The Warlock is limping.

The music gathers pace.

FANCY (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I haven't danced like this since we did the limbo in St.Kitts.

ESMERALDA

I think its Mr.Grey.

The music is in full flow.

FANCY

I'm getting hot.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA

I think that's the idea.

FANCY

Do you think he wants to?

ESMERALDA

The pirates did.

FANCY

(big eyed) What if its Leopold?

ESMERALDA

(excited) Or Wilberforce?

The Warlock is now dancing with the girls.

The Witches are working themselves up into a frenzy.

Fancy and Esmeralda are lost in the music.

The Warlock is rubbing himself up and down them -
they are loving it.

The door to the Abode opens -

Reverend Spaxton appears.

The music stops.

REVEREND SPAXTON

Are you raving! This is a church!!!

Esmeralda and Fancy look at one another.

The lights go out.

51 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

51

The Warlock is limping swiftly through the trees.

He is being followed by Esmeralda and Fancy.

He stops - rustles in the leaves -

(CONTINUED)

The Warlock is dressing into his day clothes.

Esmeralda and Fancy watch.

ESMERALDA

He smelt of horses.

FANCY

He was hung like one too.

ESMERALDA

He's just a mere mortal, Fancy.

FANCY

So is a horse. Who is he?

Esme pulls out a pistol from her belt. Fancy does the same.

They creep forward through the undergrowth.

Mr.Grey is in a clearing waiting for the Warlock

MR.GREY

You are an ass, sir!

WARLOCK

You are a madman, sir. I have done nothing to you.

MR.GREY

Put up your sword, sir.

WARLOCK

As you can see, I have no sword.

MR.GREY

You are a coward, sir.

WARLOCK

I am no coward. I am a gentleman.

MR.GREY

You are no gentleman, sir, you are a villain!

Mr.Grey laughs.

(CONTINUED)

The Warlock removes his mask to reveal John Wicklow wearing an eye patch.

Esme and Fancy gasp.

ESMERALDA

It's Wicklow!

FANCY

How's that possible?

Grey embraces Wicklow.

MR.GREY

You are a fine fellow, John.
So how did you find the sisters Grimm?

WARLOCK

If the Vicar had not disturbed us the shrews would have had me.

MR.GREY

Then you think them shameless?

WARLOCK

I think they have seen service in a brothel.

Fancy and Esmeralda exchange a look of shock.

ESMERALDA

The wickedness of that man!

FANCY

I'll shoot him this time!

Fancy rises up, Esmeralda pulls her down again.

MR.GREY

How are things with your mistress?

WARLOCK

She is down in Devonshire in confinement.

MR.GREY

You can't leave that girl alone, can you?

(CONTINUED)

WARLOCK

Indeed, not, but I am currently in want of female company.

Grey hands him a purse of coins.

MR.GREY

Go tomorrow as arranged to Grimm Manor and I guarantee you some satisfaction.

Fancy and Esme exchange looks.

52 EXT. GRIMM GARDENS - DAY

52

Fancy and Esmeralda are deep in conversation.

ESMERALDA

Grey has sent word that we are to be visited today by a Commander Hardy.

FANCY

Wicklow?

ESMERALDA

A Nelson veteran. (reads note) Shy but faithful in love as he is always at sea.

FANCY

Then indeed it is Wicklow in the guise of a war hero. We are being taken to be fools, Esme. Wicklow surely has told them of our encounter in Dead Woman's Ditch.

ESMERALDA

Perhaps not. His pride may have prevented it.

FANCY

More like the fact that he stole our horses. Horse theft is still a hanging offence.

Leopold enters the garden.

LEOPOLD

There is a navy man here to see you.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

Come, Leopold, surely you know Commander Hardy.

LEOPOLD

No, I don't. Have you met him before?

FANCY

Does he have an eye-patch?

LEOPOLD

Yes, he does. Just like Nelson.

FANCY

Cousin, after this last charade, we need to have a good talk. Come, sister.

They brush past Leopold.

53 INT. GRIMM MANOR LIBRARY - DAY

53

COMMANDER HARDY (a heavily disguised John Wicklow) is limping about the room looking at the paintings with a view to stealing them.

Fancy and Esmeralda enter.

FANCY

Commander Charles Hardy, I believe.

WICKLOW/HARDY

Hard to believe, I know. Don't know what came over me. One minute I'm on me ship, and the next, here I am conversing with the ladies of this beautiful house.

FANCY

It is not our house yet, Commander. We need your help in that matter.

WICKLOW/HARDY

Aye, that's what Mr.Grey said. Charlie, get yourself up the Manor as there is two ladies in mortal distress.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

Hardly mortal. More morally undressed than distressed.

WICKLOW/HARDY

(laughs) Nice joke, miss.
(looks at Esmeralda)
This one not speak, then? Dumb is she?

ESMERALDA

Totally by the mere presence of a hero of the battle of Trafalgar! Why you must have been just a man of our age when you saw Nelson fall.

WICKLOW/HARDY

I was, miss. A young lieutenant hanging about on deck with the big boys.

ESMERALDA

The big boys have more fun, don't they?

WICKLOW/HARDY

No doubting it. Cannons shooting off all the time. Hardly time for reloading when you're in the thick of it.

FANCY

How came you by the eye, Commander?

WICKLOW/HARDY

Shot right through the head by a Mousselman in Egypt.

FANCY

While engaged in manoeuvres?

WICKLOW/HARDY

So to speak. I was playing backgammon with his wife and I was well up. The bullet initially lodged in me timbers but now rattles around my brain.

ESMERALDA

Your limp, Commander. Another battle wound?

(CONTINUED)

WICKLOW/HARDY

It was out in India. This thumping great Raj of a fella took a bite out of me leg when he found me in a four poster bed with his daughter. A vegetable eater! Court marshalled he was. Caused a mutiny it did. Never so happy to get back to sea before gangrene set in.

(pause)

I hope you don't think I am a man prone to misfortune?

FANCY

You still have two arms, Commander. Are you at all musical?

WICKLOW/HARDY

I love a good blow on a hornpipe. You can't beat a shanty. Do you have a favourite tune?

FANCY

Charlie is my darling.

WICKLOW/HARDY

Most droll. Is it you, Miss, that wishes to be married first? I do not think the law will allow me to marry you both though I have the stamina.

FANCY

Has Mr.Grey talked terms with you, Mr.Wicklow?

WICKLOW/HARDY

He has.

(startles)

My name is Hardy, Miss.

ESMERALDA

Come, we know you are John Wicklow. There is no mistaking that bulge in your pants.

Wicklow takes from his pocket a small jeweller box, puts it down.

(CONTINUED)

WICKLOW/HARDY

I didn't think the item would be missed from such a large establishment.

FANCY

You are a thief and a scoundrel!

Fancy points a pistol at him.

WICKLOW/HARDY

Not again! No, I'll do anything you ask! The bullet really does rattle in my brain.

FANCY

We left you for dead.

54 EXT. DEAD WOMAN'S DITCH - DAY 54

Wilberforce dismounts and turns Wicklow over.

WICKLOW V.O

Master Wilberforce found me in the ditch and knowing me from the Abode of Love brought me to Mr.Grey's.

55 INT. MR.GREY'S OFFICE - DAY 55

Wilberforce brings him into the office and puts him on Grey's desk.

WICKLOW V.O

I was delirious and spurted out all sorts of good and evil about my attackers.

56 INT. GRIMM MANOR LIBRARY - DAY 56

Wicklow sits down

FANCY

You told Wilberforce that we had attacked you.

WICKLOW

I told them I had met two witches pretending to be the sisters Grimm.

57 INT. MR.GREY'S OFFICE - DAY 57

Wilberforce dictates and Grey writes.

WICKLOW V.O

So Master Wilberforce employed Mr.Grey to draw up a plan of action for it was certain that you two would soon arrive at Grimm Manor.

58 INT. GRIMM MANOR LIBRARY - DAY 58

Esmeralda sits down.

ESMERALDA

I don't understand cousin Wilberforce's motive?

WICKLOW

Ah well, there's the rub. See, your great Aunt Augusta died two years back and left you the lands of Grimm. But when you didn't show up, after one year by default the estate was divided between Wilberforce and Leopold.

ESMERALDA

This is a cock and bull story! Shoot him, Fancy!

Esmeralda prods Wicklow in the leg.

WICKLOW

(pained) Its the truth.

FANCY

What else do you know?

Esmeralda prods him again.

WICKLOW

Nothing! You will have to ask Mr.Grey. Please, let me go! I'll quit the county.

They let him get up.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

If you don't, we will have you hung for horse stealing.

WICKLOW

I'm on my way.

(picks up the jewelry box)

I'll have me a little something to buy me an nag?

(pockets the box again)

Wicklow hobbles to the door, looks back.

WICKLOW (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I was a fool. I should have had you's again in the barn instead of the nags.

Wicklow exits.

59 EXT. MR.GREY'S OFFICE - DAY

59

Grey is coming out of his office.

ESMERALDA

Mr.Grey.

MR.GREY

Esmeralda

ESMERALDA

Can we go somewhere quiet?

MR.GREY

Certainly

60 EXT. CHURCHYARD - DAY

60

Esmeralda, Fancy and Grey

ESMERALDA

You have been deceiving us.

MR.GREY

I have only followed the instructions of my clients.

(CONTINUED)

ESMERALDA
Wilberforce?

MR.GREY
And Master Leopold.

FANCY
What's going on, Robert?

MR.GREY
They wish to marry you.

FANCY
They are our cousins?

MR.GREY
They are removed enough to be legal.

FANCY
I don't want to marry Leopold.

MR.GREY
It is Wilberforce who wishes to marry
you, Miss Fancy.

ESMERALDA
And Leopold wishes to marry me?

MR.GREY
Yes.

ESMERALDA
What a strange going on.

FANCY
But what about all the other suitors?

MR.GREY
Two of them are my clerks, the others the
servants at Grimm Manor.

FANCY
What?

MR.GREY

Look, I think it better that the Master
Grimms answer all your questions.

61 EXT. MOOR - DAY

61

Leopold and Esmeralda are walking.

LEOPOLD

I apologize if we have put you under
duress. At no time was your life in
danger.

ESMERALDA

My dear Leopold, it is a relief to
discover there is no Beast.

LEOPOLD

I would not go that far.

ESMERALDA

So Lord Ponsonby was not strung up from a
tree.

LEOPOLD

No, that was our footman Tucker. He got
cold feet so we had to kill him off so to
speak.

EDIT - SHOT OF TUCKER

ESMERALDA

Major Bridgewater?

LEOPOLD

Our butler Duckett.

EDIT - SHOT OF DUCKETT

ESMERALDA

The Marquis de Clewer?

LEOPOLD

Our groom Cooper.

(CONTINUED)

EDIT - SHOT OF COOPER

ESMERALDA
Earl of Fife?

LEOPOLD
Jones, one of Robert's clerks

EDIT - SHOT OF JONES

ESMERALDA
I'd keep my eye on that Jones.

62 EXT. HILLS - DAY

62

Fancy and Wilberforce are walking.

FANCY
Is Evangelista really Leopold's mistress?

WILBERFORCE
She is our maid Eliza

EDIT - SHOT OF ELIZA

FANCY
Aunt Augusta?

WILBERFORCE
That was me.

FANCY
No!

EDIT - SHOT OF WILBERFORCE REMOVING HIS WIG.

FANCY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
The Reverend Spaxton?

WILBERFORCE
Robert's senior clerk Willis.

EDIT - SHOT OF WILLIS

FANCY
Lucinda?

WILBERFORCE

Our kitchen maid Grace Wilson

EDIT - SHOT OF GRACE

Fancy scratches her head trying to remember something.

FANCY

And that awful Count Ludlow?

WILBERFORCE

He was genuine. He really was looking for a wife.

Fancy laughs.

WILBERFORCE (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I have a confession, Fancy. I am in love with Esmeralda.

FANCY

Oh fiddlesticks, Wilberforce! Why did you not say so earlier?

WILBERFORCE

This has quite turned out wrong?

FANCY

(kisses him on the cheek) Not at all! Stay here! Close your eyes and do not move!

Wilberforce closes his eyes.

Some moments pass as Wilberforce is buzzed by a fly.

WILBERFORCE

Can I open them yet?

FANCY

(distant) Not yet!

WILBERFORCE

Filthy fly!

Esmeralda puts herself in front of Wilberforce.

(CONTINUED)

WILBERFORCE (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Where are you?

ESMERALDA

Right here

Wilberforce opens his eyes.

WILBERFORCE

Esmeralda.

ESMERALDA

Wilberforce Grimm. You are a bully of a man, but I love you for it.

She kisses him.

CUT TO:

Fancy and Leopold are arm in arm.

FANCY

Why did you not believe us that we were the sisters Grimm.

LEOPOLD

That man Wicklow. He told us you were imposters. We thought if we could scare you away, you would not contest Aunt Augusta's will. (apologetic)
We are so ill-liked in the county it was a foregone conclusion that a court would find in your favour whether you were the real sisters or not. We would be out on our ears.

FANCY

So you concocted an elaborate deception in the hope we would go away?

LEOPOLD

Yes, and I am sure you would have in time. We did make life out to be very grim.

(CONTINUED)

FANCY

And the marriage - one full lunar month?

LEOPOLD

Well, it was our attempt to elicit information about you both.

FANCY

It acquainted me with English society, and I am not so sure that I like it.

LEOPOLD

They were servants, dear Fancy.

FANCY

Yes, of course.

They kiss.

63 EXT. GRIMM MANNOR - DAY

63

Wilberforce and Leopold are walking towards the house.

Fancy and Esmeralda are watching them.

FANCY

Farewell, farewell! But this I tell
To thee, thou Wedding-Guest!
He prayeth well, who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.

He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

(smiles)

Well, all's well that ends well. I
thought the poetry had quite gone out of
me.

ESMERALDA

Indeed. We have the house, we have the
husbands, we have our place in society.

FANCY

Not bad for a pair of imposters.

(CONTINUED)

They both laugh -

Kiss -

and head towards the house.

MR.GREY V.O

And so the sisters Grimm became the
mistresses of Grimm Manor and all it
surveyed.

The light begins to fade -

64

EXT. MOOR - DUSK

64

Mr. Wicklow is tramping out upon the moor.

MR.GREY V.O

But in time they would come to learn that
the Beast of the Moor was no mere fancy.

The sound of a distant HOWL.

FADE TO BLACK