

ACT ONE

SCENE 6

A Lakeside Hotel at Chizzlemere. ASQUITH JR. and MISS BARLEY are bundled up in fashionable winter wear. MUSIC continues under.

MISS BARLEY

Just fancy, Asquith, three whole days at the lake together! It will be perfect, won't it?
(MONTY follows at a discreet distance.)

ASQUITH JR.

Chizzlemere is extraordinary out of season and quite private—the hotel register has an unrivalled list of false names. I trust you don't mind our being discreet.

MISS BARLEY

I've never known a man to take such care with my reputation...
(MONTY approaches the couple as MUSIC fades out.)

MONTY

Pardon me, Miss, but don't I know you from somewhere?

ASQUITH JR.

(Mortified:)
Certainly not! What are you insinuating, you insignificant upstart?!
(ASQUITH JR. steers MISS BARLEY away from MONTY)

MONTY

I meant no offense, I assure you.

ASQUITH JR.

Were you raised in a shanty town by some chee-chee punkah wallah?!

MISS BARLEY

(Noticing something:)
Oh, Asquith, look—! There are people skating on the lake! Doesn't it look fun?!

ASQUITH JR.

(Uninterested:)
What a shame we didn't bring our skates.

MISS BARLEY

We can rent them, right on the dock!

ASQUITH JR.

It's getting a bit late, don't you think?

(Suggestively:)

Nearly time for beddy-bye.

MISS BARLEY

Oh, Assie, please, please, please let's!

ASQUITH JR.

Oh, all right, crumpet. I say, may I warm my hands in your muff?

#8 – Poison in My Pocket

(Singing:)

YOU AND I GO SAILING BY,
AND NO ONE WILL KNOW WHERE TO FIND US.
UNSEEN, UNKNOWN, AND BLISSFULLY ALONE,
WE'RE LEAVING THE RIFF-RAFF BEHIND US.

ALL AFTERNOON IN OUR SWEET COCOON,
OUR CARES, FOR THE MOMENT, AT BAY;
SIDE BY SIDE,
WHO KNOWS HOW FAR WE'LL GLIDE?

BID THE WORLD GOOD-BYE,
EAGERLY WE FLY
AWAY.

(As THEY glide onto the ice, MONTY is left behind, frustrated.)

MONTY

I AM STANDING HERE WITH POISON IN MY POCKET,
STANDING ON THIS FROZEN LITTLE DOCK, IT
SEEMS THAT I'VE JUST LET THEM
SKATE MY OPPORTUNITY AWAY.

IF I'D HAD THE POISE TO PUT THE POISON IN
A POT OF TEA OR ELSE A SHOT OF GIN,
I WOULD BE BACK AMID THE NOISE OF LONDON
BY THE END OF DAY.

BUT,