Act II - Scene 1

(The quay of the port of the Barbadoes. In the distance ships at anchor, and on the stage bales, parcels, and trunks.

Overture, cut into at end by the cries of pedlars calling their wares on the street. Many indians in chains with increasingly high luggage, parcels, objects, and goods balanced on their heads pass through.

Some PLANTERS and LADIES move straight forward down the apron peering through a telescope as curtain rises)

FAT PLANTER

(With telescope)
I saw her this morning, ladies, you may depend on it. My telescope never fails me. I peeped upon her as I was taking a peep from my balcony. A brave tight ship, I tell you, bearing down directly for the Barbadoes here.

MRS. WINITZER

Ods my life, but that's rare and welcome news! We have not had a vessel arrive in our harbor here these six weeks. Let me look.

(Takes the telescope)

The last was a parcel of fine Englishmen.

FAT PLANTER

A parcel of idle folks all it was. Such cargoes will never go for our profit or trade, neighbor.

PLANTER

No, we need slaves. There's a terrible dearth of them in the Barbadoes lately.

MRS. MEADOWS

My husband can scarce get anybody to work in the fields, and I have only nineteen to help around the house. It's enough to make me fail to weeping from fatigue at all of the work I must do because of it.

MRS. WINITZER

(Impatiently, peering around)
Well, I can't see a thing.

FAT PLANTER

Do you doubt my glass? I can discover a gull by it six leagues off!

MRS. WINITZER

Be that as it may, I still don't see anything.

PLANTER

You have the wrong eye closed.

MRS. WINITZER

Ah, now I see. A ship all right!

OTHERS

What are her colors? What flag does she fly?
MRS. WEWITZER

There's a flock of Indians on board from the look of all the feathers.

MRS. MEADOWS

I will run and tell my husband, so he can be first at the dock to bid

(Shuffles out, as others leave also, some taking out money,

others talking excitedly.)

FAT PLANTER

Come on, Mrs. Wewitzer, let's go down. There'll be a sure mob with new

slaves coming in.

(Shot. Bell clanging. A cry from off of "A sail! A sail!"

NARCISSA enters, dressed in white, and looks in the direction

of the arriving ship.)

A ship has been sighted, Miss Narcissa.

NARCISSA

Ah yes, I see it Mr. Hillsbury.

(The FAT PLANTER and MRS. WEWITZER hurry out.)

I wonder if they have found inkle. Oh confusion, confusion for one

so young as I am to be caught in circumstances such as mine!

(Singing. MUSIC.)

Freshly now the breeze is blowing

As you ship at anchor rides

Sullen waves incessant flowing

Rudely dash against the sides

So my heart, its course impeded

Beats in my perturbed breast,

Doubts, like wave by waves succeeded,

Rise and still deny it rest,

Deny it rest,

Deny it rest,

Oh, deny it rest.

(Enter PATTY, Narcissa's maid, in muslin dress, blue apron, and

ribbons.)

PATTY

Well, ma'am, as I was saying —

NARCISSA

Say no more of what you were saying. Sure, Patty, you forget where you

are. A little caution will be necessary now, I think.

PATTY

But how is it possible to help talking I ask you? We are in the

Barbadoes to be sure — but then, ma'am, one may let out a little in

a private morning's walk by ourselves.

NARCISSA

Nay, it is the same thing with you indoors.
PATTY

Why lady, I have heard it said of me that I am one chambermaid who seldom blabs, and of that you may be sure. Of course, I did tell our story to the butler but he won't tell a soul.

NARCISSA

So thus, you lead him to know that I am but little inclined toward this marriage with Master Inkie that has been arranged for me by my father, the Governor of these islands. Now it'll spread.

PATTY

And ma'am, how could that be? Why I never said a word about Captain Campley.

NARCISSA

That name, hush, hush, for heaven's sake!

PATTY

Not said a word, ma'am. The name Captain Campley has not passed my lips once.

NARCISSA

There is no end to this! Remember, Patty, and be warned. Keep your secrecy or you will entirely lose my favor.

PATTY

Never fear, ma'am. I won't utter a syllable. You know me.

(Exit PATTY).

NARCISSA

Oh how awkward is my present situation! I am promised to one who perhaps may never again be heard of since he was lost some weeks ago on the main of unexplored America. Or, perhaps he is on that very ship. And even if that one — Inkie, his name — does come, he will claim me, I know, only to add to his own good interest by a profitable marriage. Then there is another, another who has great interest already in my heart. What, oh what, can I do?

CAMPLEY

(Marching in)
Follow my advice, Narcissa, by all means.

NARCISSA

Oh but Captain Campley, consider our case.

CAMPLEY

The forces are deployed as follows: one, your intended spouse is all for money. I am all for love, dear lady. Second: he is a rich rogue. Alas, I am rather a poor honest military man.

NARCISSA

Ah, Captain Campley, if only I could be clear in my mind as what to do.

CAMPLEY

But enlist with me under the best banner in the world. General Cupid for my money! Little Cupid's his drumer, and he has been beating a round rub-a-dub on our hearts. We have only to obey the word of command, fall into the ranks of matrimony, and march through life together — and so forth.
NARCISSA
Your words, your images, overwhelm me.

CAMPLEY
Third: This Inkle if he lives would but pocket your fortune. I will take you without a fortune in your pocket.

NARCISSA
Oh! I am sensible of the favor, most gallant Captain Campley.

CAMPLEY
I am not yet acquainted with your father, the governor of these islands, Sir Christopher Curly. I am not known to him even by sight, being here only as a private gentleman on a visit to my old relation, out of regimentals, and so forth and so forth. Be all that as it may: one question only Miss Narcissa.

NARCISSA
Ask it, Captain Campley.

CAMPLEY
If I should ask your father for your hand, would you — that is, could you — I mean . . .

PATTY
Oh Lord, ma'am, I'm frightened out of my wits. Sure as I'm alive, ma'am, Mr. Inkle is not dead. He was coming ashore in a boat with other passengers from the vessel that's just come to the islands.

(Looks off wringing her hands)

NARCISSA
Look ye, Captain Campley, something has happened which makes me wave ceremonies. Yes, I'd be delighted to marry you, now for heaven's sake rush and apply to my father. He is about to leave on his regular three week tour of the island. If you can catch him before he goes, you will be able to obtain his favor before Inkle has had opportunity to claim me.

CAMPLEY
Ah lady!

(kisses her hand)
I will speak to your father at once.

(Comes back and kisses her hand again)

NARCISSA
Delays are dangerous, sir.

CAMPLEY
Indeed.

(starts to go, then comes back)
How can I leave you even for a moment.

NARCISSA
Here, take my handkerchief.
CAMELEY
I'm off! Pray I can persuade your father.
(Exit, with handkerchief as his banner).

NARCISSA
Now, Patty, let us go, you and I, before Inkle comes on us here in
the street. I will look myself in and you must report I am taken
with the spotted fever so he won't be able to visit me until the whole
matter is settled.

PATTY
Even if your father should leave before Captain Campley can speak
to him.

NARCISSA
Yes, anything.

PATTY
Oh look mat'am, here he comes now.

NARCISSA
Hurry! Hurry!
(They rush out. CAPTAIN DUVEDOT and INKLE enter).

INKLE
Nay, Captain Duvedot, I understand the customs here well. These
Indian market-places are not unknown to me.

DUVEDOT
This woman of yours is just what I'd like to have aboard the ship
to brighten the place up a bit — to work in the scullery, to amuse
the crew, and such. Her name, you say is . . . ?

INKLE
Varico, but urge no more I beg you. For, to speak freely, her anxious
care of me in America demands that here — though here it may seem
strange — I should aver my love for her.

DUVEDOT
Lord help you for a merchant! It's the very first time I ever heard
a trader talk of love; except, indeed, the love of trade, and the
love of money.

INKLE
Then, sir, you cannot feel my situation.

DUVEDOT
Oh yes I can. We have a hundred such cases just after a voyage; but
they never last long on land. It's amazing how constant a young man
is in a ship!

INKLE
I was deserted, defenceless, cut off from my companions as you will
know. She found me . . .

CAPTAIN
Nay, nay, talk like a man of this world and less like that boy of yours.
DUVEDOT (cont'd)
So, because she preserved your life your gratitude to her is to make you give up all you have to live upon.

INKLE
No, it's not that at all.

DUVEDOT
Why, what return can the wench wish more than taking her from a wild, idle, savage people, and providing for her, here, with reputable hard work in genteel, polished, tender, Christian country?

INKLE
Your words are eloquent. But no, no sir. Thankyou Captain Duvedot, but I will not sell Yarico.

(TRUDGE enters)

INKLE
Trudge.

TRUDGE
Sir?

INKLE
Provide a good apartment for us if you will.

TRUDGE
Yes sir, at the Crown Inn sir; a neat, spruce room that you have not seen the likes of for some time.

INKLE
That's not saying much I fear. If you don't mind, will you run to the end of the quay and conduct Yarico thither. The road is straight before you; you can't miss it.

TRUDGE
Very well, sir.

(Starts to go)

What a fine thing it is to turn one's back on a master without running into a wolf's belly. One can follow one's nose on an errand here and be sure it won't be bit off as you go.

( Goes off)

DUVEDOT
"If you will", "if you don't mind". Well, well.

INKLE
My interest, honor, engagement to Narcissa all demand that I abandon Yarico, that is TRUE. My father's precepts: Prudence, my father would caution, prudence Thomas and you'll rise. His maxims rooted in my heart, and as I grew, they grew, till I was reckoned among our friends a steady, sober, solid, good young man; and all the neighbors called me the prudence Master Thomas Inkle.

CAPTAIN
Then it seems your background would lead you to accept my offer.
INKELE
Yet, Captain Duvedot, in three weeks I learned of other things, which
even now I am enough of my old self to be embarrassed to speak of.
I have learned — of love, of personal relations, of affection. I
have learned these from Yarico, even if you will, the affection of
gentle Trudge, my servant.

DUVEDOT
What bosh! A mere overdose of some humour or another, an unbalance of
your bile. I leave you, sir because I see your friends are returning.
We can discuss it again though because I've had experience in similar
cases. I warrant you'll be of different mind soon.

INKELE
Perhaps sir. For now, at least, good day.

(CAPTAIN DUVEDOT goes. Enter YARICO and TRUDGE).

YARICO
Oh Inkle, such wonders!

TRUDGE
I have been showing her all the bailes of goods we met on the quay, sir.

YARICO
Oh! I have feasted my eyes on wonders.

INKELE
Come, Trudge, take Yarico in. I must find the governor and explain
to him my change of plans and get that unpleasant part done with.

TRUDGE
No left on a boat, I fear Mister Inkle, for a three week tour of the
islands they said. There was a young man trying to attract the boat
as I arrived, a young military man named Campley; but the ship had
pulled away.

INKELE
No matter then. It must wait.

TRUDGE
I'll go back down, sir, if you don't mind sir and help my cows along
with her things.

INKELE
By all means.

TRUDGE
(Starts to go)(Coming back)
Oh, but I forgot to arrange for the room.

INKELE
Leave it, I can do so. You go along to your Wowski.

TRUDGE
Oh thank you sir.

(Delighted, skips out.)
YARICO
My mind has been so busy. I wish you had stayed with me —
you would have seen such sights!

INKLE
(Laughing)
These sights are all familiar to me, Yarico.

YARICO
Yet I wish they were not so that you might partake my pleasure —
but now again, methinks I will not wish so, for, with too much
gazing, you might neglect poor Yarico.

INKLE
Nay, nay, my care is still for you.

YARICO
I'm sure it is, and if I thought it was now, I'd tell you tales
about our poor old grotto, bid you remember our palm-tree near
the brook where you often stretched yourself. I would remind you
of your lovely poem which I have here. Though I cannot yet read,
I know it by heart, and can follow all the words, adding here
and there some of my own.

(MUSIC. Takes out the paper, and sings as if reading from
it.)

Remember when we walked alone
And heard, so gruff, the lion growl
And when the noon so bright it shone
We saw the wolf look up and how;
I led you well, safe to our cell,
While, tremblingly
You said to me
(and kissed so sweet) — dear Yarico, tell,
How could I live without ye!

But now you come across the sea,
And tell me here no monsters roar;
You'll walk alone and leave poor me,
When wolves to fright you howl no more.
But ah! Think well on our old cell
Where, tremblingly
You kissed poor me
Perhaps you'll say — dear Yarico, tell,
How can I live without ye?

(HE puts his arm around her, and THEY go toward the Crown
Int. Meanwhile some of the LADIES and OTHERS Enter)

WOMAN
Well, if he likes these heathens so much, why didn't he say among them?

ANOTHER
Look ye, here comes some more.

SAILOR, who are these?

PANTLER
SAILOR
A chiefmen, so tie said; king of a region larger even than England, so tie said.

FAT PLANTER
Pshaw, an Indian Kingdom — that's of no matter.

(Enter QUEEN MATOAKA, CHIEF MATOAKA, STARLIGHT, with baggage).

QUEEN
Now here we are, isn't it quite as I told you? I told you all along we should travel.

CHIEF
Yes, it is a wondrous place.

QUEEN
(Pleasantly to the PEOPLE)
How do you do. I'm Queen Matoaka of the Pocahontas Indian Nation, and this is my husband the great Chief Matoaka; our son, Prince Starlight. Could you direct us to suitable quarters for the evening?

RUNNER
Nothing at the Crown.

PLANTER
I hear you folks sleep out in the open anyhow.

QUEEN
Nothing? Then, we'll just have to call on the King and family. Where is the royal tepee?

In London.

QUEEN
Well if you'll just direct us there, I'm sure the king will be happy to have us for a few days until we get settled.

(EVERYBODY laughs).

MRS. WENITZER
Faith, it's too far to walk from here, I can tell you that.

QUEEN
Then we'll have to find a place around here. I understand these stone are valued very highly around here —

(Opens a satchel of jewels)

ALL
Diamonds, jewels, pearls, amethysts!

FAT PLANTER
Why, your graces, I'm sure my wife and I would be delighted to have you stay with us!
RUNNER
This way to the Crown Inn, your grace! Stand aside there, make way! Quick, somebody go tell them to dust the royal suite.

QUEEN
Of course, we'll want to buy a place of our own in order to be able to entertain and all that —

FAT PLANTER
Why, of course, your grace. Do you know I think I have just the place for you. It was built near here at great expense but never lived in except by an old widow woman. By a freak change it is just now being sold at a fraction of its real worth.

QUEEN
Come along, Starlight.

STARLIGHT
I want to stay out for a while to look around. I'll find you.

QUEEN
What was the name of the place?

RUNNER
The Crown, ma'am.

QUEEN
We'll be at the Crown, Starlight dear. Come in early. I'm sure there will be some social reception this evening that we will all be expected to attend.

STARLIGHT
Yes ma'am.

QUEEN
(As THEY go out)
NATOOKA, lift your feathers — they're dragging in the mud!

SAILOM
That father of yours sure is an impressive looking man with all of those feathers and decorations, Starlight.

STARLIGHT
He King, as I will be.

SAILOM
And lad, did you say those jewels are just rolling around out on the ground in your country.

STARLIGHT
Why no, I didn't say that, but it is true.

SAILOM
And, my boy, have you any for yourself?
STARLIGHT
Oh yes, I have these in this sack. I was going to string them together
to wear around my neck because these flowers are beginning to wither.

SAILOR
Blud! Will you look at those? Say, why don't we and you, laddy,
just go out for a little work to look around, eh? Might meet some
fellows I know, or pick up a wench or so, eh? Play a game or two,
how's that? Would you like that, eh?

STARLIGHT
That would be nice. I like games very much.
(They go as Trudge and Nowski enter).

TRUDGE
Come along, Nows. Take care of your furs and your feathers, my
girl.

Nowski
Aye.

TRUDGE
And don't let anybody get too near to your ermine or your jewels.
Somebody might steal them here.

Nowski
Steal? What's that?

TRUDGE
Sblood, see what one loses by not being born in a Christian country.

Nowski
Aye, this country wonderful place.

TRUDGE
Fine men and women. Fine clothes, and fine things on their heads.

Nowski
Aye. One lady carry good fish — so fine she call everybody to turn
around and look at her. Fr-esh f-ish, fr-esh f-ish!

TRUDGE
Pahay, an old woman selling flounders. But the fine girls we met
here on the quay —
(Teasing her)
So round and so plump — just look ee over there.

Nowski
(Pouting)
You not love me now.

TRUDGE
(Having pushed the joke too far, unable to bear her unhappiness.
Hugs her)
Not love you! Zounds, never fear dear girl.

Nowski
Now you get here, you forget poor Nowski.
TRUDGE

My promise.
(Peeks her on the cheek)
Now, do you remember the instruction I gave you on the voyage?

Wowski

Aye, I do laddy.

TRUDGE

Let's see now: what are you to do when I introduce you to the nobility, gentry, and others of my acquaintance?

Wowski

Make believe sit down, then get up.

TRUDGE

Let me see you do it.
(She does so)

Quite well done. And how are you to recommend yourself when you have nothing to say amongst all our great friends.

Wowski

Grin and show teeth.
(Steps forward and does so)

TRUDGE

Right! Why, they'll think you've lived with people of fashion all your life. Now let us suppose that you meet an old friend in misfortune that you don't wish to be seen to speak to — what would you do?

Wowski

Look blind — not see him.
(Does so.)

TRUDGE

What would you do that for?

Wowski

(Sweetly)
Because Wowski never can stand to see good friend in distress.

TRUDGE

That's a good girl! And I wish everybody could boast so kind a motive for such cursed cruel behavior. Lud, how some of your shabby banker's clerks have cut me in Thread-needle street. But come, though we have got among fine folks here in an Englishmen settlement I won't be ashamed of my old acquaintance. Odebow, look at all the people coming this way from the Crown.
(People come in excited.)

Pat Plantar

(Subbing his hands)
Sold it to her, sight unseen! What a transaction!

Patty

Look, there's Trudge.
ANOTHER
Stay with us Trudge, and relate to us your adventures in America.

TRUDGE
Of course. Hurry in now Wows, and call for anything you want. I'll be along in a moment.

WOWSKI
But I call for you.

TRUDGE
Go along now.

WOWSKI
All right.
(SHE goes. Returns around wing.)
If I must.

TRUDGE
I'll be right in!
(HE hurries her off.)

SAILOR
Yes, tell us Trudge, what happened in America.

TRUDGE
Well, when the ship left us ashore, my master turned as pale as a sheet of paper. It isn't everybody that's blest with courage alas.

WENITZER
True.

TRUDGE
However, I bid him cheer up, never fear, and such, told him to stick to my elbow, and took the lead through the jungle, and began our march.

DUVEDET
Through the jungle?

TRUDGE
Through the middle of the jungle. We hadn't gone far, when a one-eyed black beast, that grinned like a devil came down the hill head on in a jog-trot! My master melted as fast as a pot of pomatum.

WENITZER
Mercy on us, were you saved?

TRUDGE
(Whipping himself about.)
What does I do, but whips out my deskknife that I use to cut the quills with at home; met the monster and slit his throat like a pen.

ANOTHER
Lad, Trudge, what a traveller you are.
TRUDGE
I remember we fed on the carcass for a week.

CAPTAIN
But what of those slave women you got?

TRUDGE
By and by, we came to a cave — a large hollow room underground, like a warehouse in the Adelphi. Well, there we were half an hour before I could get him to go in, there's no accounting for fear you know. Then there was a teepee before us, a blue ermine skin teepee —

ALL
Blue? Ermine? Skin?

TRUDGE
Teepee, which I started to ppen, but Inkle in terror tried to stop me. "If there's a seven-foot giant back there," I said, "have no fear, bring him on, damme I'll fight him!!" I whirled back the curtain, and there was a fine lady, snoring on a bow and arrow.

PATTY
All alone?

TRUDGE
No. She had a young lion by way of a lap-dog.

MEADOWS
What did you do?

TRUDGE
Gave her a jog, and she opened her eyes. She struck my master immediately.

NEWITZER
(Alarmed)
Struck him you say! Mercy on us. With what?

TRUDGE
With her beauty to be sure. They contracted engagement on the spot, the wolves witnessed the contract, I gave her away, the cows croaked Amen, and we had board and lodging for nothing.

PATTY
But what of the slave you have?

TRUDGE
She happened to be chambermaid to this particular teepee.

FAT PLANTER
Now tell us, young man, is that young Indian of yours going to our market?
TRUDGE

Not immediately, of course. She's new here and doesn't know how to shop yet.

FAT PLANTER

No, I mean is she for our sale of slaves?

TRUDGE

I don't follow you.

PLANter

She's your slave, n'est ce pas?

TRUDGE

She is, and I'm her humble servant.

PLANter

Aye, aye, natural enough at sea and all that. Tell me, at how much do you value her?

TRUDGE

As much as she saved me — at my own life.

PLANter

Pshaw! Sure you mean to sell her.

(TRUnging)

Zounds — sell Nows! Sell my dear lovely Nowski?

PLANter

Come, come, don't leg's haggie. I'll bid as high as any trader amongst us; but no tricks on me now to raise the price.

TRUDGE

Sir, let me pass!

PLANter

Lad, I'm a man of position and you a clerk!

(Laughter)

TRUDGE

I've a good master already, thank you sir, and an honest one. I wouldn't be a-creticled clerk to such a fellow as you for the world.

MRS. BERNitzer

Hey day! The booby's in love with her! Why, squire, friend, you would not live here with a red Indian.

(Laughter)

TRUDGE

Aye, I would and will!

(Laughter from all has been increasing throughout. TRUDGE rushes forward and points toward the audience, having to shout to be heard over the jeers.)

There it is, plague on it! I shall be laughed out of my honesty here. Aye, aye, but I may feel a little queer perhaps at showing her face, but damme if ever I do anything to make me ashamed of showing my own!
FAT PLANTER

(Overcome with laughter)
Why man, I tell you you have but to look at her complexion ...

TRUDGE

Mind your own complexion! I'll tell you what, Mr. Planter, if your head and heart were to change places, I've a notion you'd be as black in the face as an ink-bottle.

PLANTER

My sword, let me at my sword!
(The OTHERS try to quiet him, taking him off but still laughing)
The fellow's a fool — a rude rascal — he ought to be sent back to the savages again if he liked them so much. He's not fit to live among us Christians.
(EVERYBODY goes off except PATTY. TRUDGE bites his lip unhappily.)

PATTY

Well Trudge, I must go, too, but I want you to know even though I'm supposed to tell you to tell your master that my lady Narcissa is ill and can't be seen for at least three weeks, I am myself at home every evening. Here's a little brass key to the back door so you can drop in and we can have a cup of tea and discuss old times.

TRUDGE

No, thank you, I'm very busy lately.

PATTY

(Very annoyed)
You'll be tired of those ladies with smelly faces soon enough!
(She goes out.)

TRUDGE

Sounds, smelly. Those red ladies, as she calls them, are some of the very few I've ever met whose complexions never rub off. Shod, if they did, Wows and I should have changed faces by this time.
(Enter WO斯基)
Ah Wows, let's us go in and sup.

WO斯基

What that lady give you?

TRUDGE

Ah Wows, never fear, I won't be ashamed that's flat. Master Inkle, to be sure, taught Yarico to count in the forest, and you never caught on. And you're used to feeding with your hands, and instead of using a fork, you pop a morsel into your mouth up to your knuckles. But no matter to any of that. After all the fine, flashy, flesh, London girls, Woski's the venge for my money. And here's a pretty little piece of shiny brass to replace the lost bead on your necklace.
(MY gives her the large key on a chain that Patty has given him.
SHE is delighted, polishes it, puts it on as a jewel)
(Singing)
Off for America I did sail
Yankee doodle diddle;
The sailor boys cried, smokes his tail,
Jimmy linkum seedle,
No English bellies did turn my head
Diddle, diddle, diddle;
I picked a foreign fair, quite red,
O twaddle, twaddle, tweedle!
(HE takes her hand and they start out, taking up the verse once again.)
Come along Wows! Come along, my girl!

(The inner CURTAIN is drawn.)
Act II — Scene 2

(Brief musical interlude. The guay, at night, three weeks later. As the curtain in pulled back SIR CHRISTOPHER CURRY and MR. MEDIUM walk straight forward arm in arm, MEDIUM with a lantern held high.)

SIR CHRISTOPHER
Well Mr. Medium, I fear this is a late hour to be returning from the tour of the islands.

MEDIUM
Long past midnight by the dial.

SIR CHRISTOPHER
Your nephew Inkle, I understand, has been back from his adventure on the mainland all this while, and I dare say he's finely chagrined at this wait. Let's with the blue devils, I warrent.

MEDIUM
Let up by the red devils, I warrent, Governor Curry, for I left him in hellish hungry company on the main of America last I saw him.

SIR CHRISTOPHER
I hope above all that this match between my daughter, Narcissa, and your nephew, Inkle, is a good one.

MEDIUM
I'm sure it is, sir Christopher. It will bring together two leading firms — er, families.

SIR CHRISTOPHER
I will send for Inkle first thing in the morning, and you marriage will be completed by noon. You have my word. These youngsters have waited too long already, and need wait no longer through cause of me. Come along.

(THEY start to go. SAILOR appears with a weapon.)

SAILOR
(Frightened)
Who goes?

SIR CHRISTOPHER
Governor Curry, returning from my tour by yonder ship.

(MEDIUM points)

SAILOR
Aye, now I recognize you, your grace. I'm rather on edge sir, because we have nightly visits from a ghost, sir, on this very spot.

MEDIUM
A ghost!
(In alarm drops his handkerchief)
SIR CHRISTOPHER

A ghost you say?

SAILOR

Every night for three weeks.

SIR CHRISTOPHER

Well, let us move along then. Medium. I'm not one to converse with ambassadors, especially from other worlds, when tired. Have no fear young man, I'm sure it is only a creaking rope.

(THEY go)

SAILOR

Aye sir.

(Puts his hat back on. Meanwhile Medium's hankie has become attached to the halberd end of his halberd. He puts the weapon on his shoulder and starts along, becoming aware that something is behind him. Turns rapidly.)

Who's there?

(Discovering nothing, starts to go, is followed again. Tries various steps. Again whirls.)

Who's there? Who's there, I say?

(Finding nothing, relaxes, letting end of halberd fly up behind with hankie attached. Frightened, dashes out pursued.)

INKLE

(Entering)

A night walk perhaps will ease my mind. Three weeks now since arriving here and now the Governor will soon return, and I must make some decision for all and well. Whether to remain with Yarico or not to remain with Yarico. That is the question. Shall I rid myself of her and marry Narcissa? Though I did learn to love Yarico, true, now since my return to life here amid enterprise, enlightenment, and commerce my old dilemma has returned: whether my heart, or my own good profit.

SAILOR

Who's there?

INKLE

Inkle.

INKLE

Inkle?

SAILOR

He.

INKLE

You come out late. It has struck twelve some time ago.

INKLE

I was trying to reach a decision in my mind and was uneasy. I could not sleep.
SAILOR
Well, I can tell you I'm uneasy myself. It draws near the season when the spirit is wont to make his walk here.

INKLE
The spirit? Ah, yes, I have heard of him.

SAILOR
He comes moaning over and over—it's enough to make me quit the merchant navy if I have to stand guard amid such things much longer.

Moaning, you say?

INKLE
Aye, and calling some name over and over. Looking for some young lady named Prudence Thomas.

Odd.

SAILOR
And odder still, because nobody knows of any wench named Prudence. This thing is probably off his rocker, deranged you know at finding itself dead, and materializing himself at the wrong place every time.

INKLE
Hold. You say, the ghost calls the name Prudence Thomas.

SAILOR
Sixty times a night if he says it once.

(Anxiously)
And tell me: how is he dressed? In a business suit?

INKLE
Aye, could be; I never look at him more than I have to.

INKLE
A blue vest, with a silver chain cross it?

SAILOR
(Abecoming more and more convinced)
Aye, come to think of it, I think he does. And clanking a long chain behind him, too, that I know.

INKLE
And tell me, man, does he have a long, fierce silver beard?
SAILOR
Now that you speak of it, I'm almost sure he does.

INKLE
Heavy wrinkles, and a very pale complexion? A beaver hat?

SAILOR
That's the one! Do you know him?

INKLE
It is the ghost of my father dressed for the counting house! What can have brought him from the dead in this dress?

(Pointing fearfully)
Look, it comes now! Come away, quickly!
(DRUM and CHIME. Enter TRUDGE sleepwalking, dressed in a long nightshirt and cap, with bare feet).

INKLE
Father, is that you?

TRUDGE
Prudence Thomas, Prudence and you'll rise.

INKLE
Not my father, but Trudge, sleepwalking.

SAILOR
Your men, Trudge? Possessed by spirits more like.
(He hastily leaves)

TRUDGE
Ah, Tom. Is that you? This is your father's spirit entered into this simple—m— open-hearted boy here. Every night I bring him forth, hoping that we might meet and I may speak to you before it is too late.

INKLE
What brings you from the dead, father?

TRUDGE
Before the tormenting flames render me up, I must bring you the word, Tom.

INKLE
What is the word, father?

TRUDGE
Listen carefully—
(From off, faintly at first a bleating female voice "Tom. Tom.
I am fading ever now . . .
(Starts to back away)
INKLE
What is your message father?

TRUDGE
Reform, Tom... reform... reform... (Vanishes behind the wing.)

INKLE
(Rushing to the wing)
I need your advice father! What does it mean!
(OWSKI enters sleepwalking in one, crossing rapidly and stops.) (THUNDER DRUM and CHIME as before)

OWSKI
Hello, Thomas dear, this is your mother speaking. Well, I finally got through to you.

INKLE
Mother?

OWSKI
Are you well wraped? This chilly morning air is not healthy you know.

INKLE
I was just speaking to father, mother.

OWSKI
I know; that's why I interrupted. You know your father and how I always had to keep after him to keep him on the right path. What did he tell you?

INKLE
He told me to reform, mother. Tell me what he means.

OWSKI
Well, that's just like him not to make himself clear, isn't it? Well, it's like this, Thomas, things are not all well even here.

INKLE
That is your message then; even in death, all is useless?

OWSKI
No! Your father is partly right; reform. This place is nothing for anybody; but heaven, you know, has gold streets. That's what I want for you my son.

INKLE
Then I should do the right thing and remain with Yarico.

OWSKI
That just shows you what kind of confusion your father's advice can bring. Well. Listen now. In the morning you will be called to come immediately to wed Narcissa. Well. The matter is so immediate just now there's no way we can contrive a method to keep your record here unsullied and get rid of this Yarico at the same time.
(WOSKSI (cont'd))
The thing to do is to dispose of her at once anyhow; then when you're safely married to Narcissa, repent and send this Varico an apology and a few shillings. That will make everything all right.

INKLE
Will that be acceptable to heaven?

WOSKSI
Why certainly. We didn't raise you as a good Christian for nothing, my son. Besides she's a heathen savage, and I'm sure they'll take that into consideration.

(TRUDGE, sleepwalking appears from the other side)

TRUDGE
Tom . . . Tom . . .

WOSKSI
Thomas, did you hear me?

INKLE
(At center, between them)
Yes mother, I hear you.

WOSKSI
I'm sure heaven won't be nearly so strict and you'll be able to carry along some baggage.

TRUDGE
No, Tom, listen . . . listen . . .

WOSKSI
We won't mind what's in front of us at all so long as you're getting along. Tom, listen . . .

TRUDGE
Tom . . . Tom . . .

INKLE
Mother, father is trying to speak.

WOSKSI
Don't let him confuse you. Follow my advice.
(Starting to back away)
And take along some tobacco, I hear it would sell well . . . Be a good boy, dear.
(Vanishes)

TRUDGE
No Tom, Please pay attention.
(A cock crows loudly.)
Too late, alas. It is morning. Too late. Doomed, doomed. Alas . . .
 alas . . . doomed . . . doomed . . .
(Vanishes. INKLE stares after him a moment.)

INKLE
Poor father. Poor mother.
INKLE
But now I know what I must do! Oh, how the base passion do struggle for our possession, putting aside all our good reason! Well, at least I have learned through experience that which I should have known from my commercial tutoring. I was turning into — God knows what. Business, ah there's an occupation to engage the whole of man!

SAILOR
(Returning)
Has he gone, sir?

INKLE
Gone, yes. And I think never to return.

SAILOR
Aye, that's a relief. And look, now it's morning. The sun is already coming up.

INKLE
Indeed, it is. And there is much I must do.
(Enter PATTY)

PATTY
Master Inkle, sir, a message from Governor Curry. He wants you to come to his house to claim Narcissa as soon as you can.

INKLE
Already? Thank you, Patty, go along.
(PATTY goes. The SAILOR wanders off)
Now — to find some place for Zarico, then call on the Governor. This night at least has brought some good.
(DRAM and CHIME.)
Thanks, father.
(HE goes. CURTAIN closes.)