

JO

You're not intruding.... Come inside, I'll introduce you -

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

*(stopping her)*

No. Not yet....

JO

*(After an awkward beat)*

... So how is Mrs. Kirk?

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

As impossible as ever.

JO

And the boarders?

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

As strange as ever.

JO

And you?

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

Me? ... The same.

JO

You look -

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

Old, I know. Nearly 50.

JO

You're 34.

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

35.

JO

You had a birthday?

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

They made a party for me. I get sick. I do not like parties.

*(HE moves uncomfortably about. HE turns to her)*

I brought back your manuscript. It was so good of you to send the book to me. A novel?

JO

There's no one who's opinion I respect more than yours. Forgive me for presuming -

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

*(coming right in)*

It touched me deeply, Miss March. I saw you on every page. I heard your voice. I felt your spirit. It was magnificent!

*(MEG rushes in)*

**MEG**

Jo, Amy is driving me insane. Now she's talking about changing her veil.

*(SHE sees Professor Bhaer)*

Oh, excuse me.

**JO**

This is my sister Meg. This is Professor Bhaer.

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

Aah, yes, I recognize you now from your sister's book.

**MEG**

*(with a smile)*

So you're the one she's let read it.

**JO**

I'll be right there.

*(MEG goes)*

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

I have come at a bad time.

**JO**

No, it's just a wedding.

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

A wedding?

**JO**

*(coming right in)*

I often think about you, Professor. I wonder how you were doing.

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

I bought a kite.

**JO**

You bought a kite?

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

Soon after you left. I bought a kite and took it to the park. I never had a kite. You know you were right to think I was old. I was old.

JO

No, I -

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

I was. But since we meet - everything is different. Everybody noticed. My students even. They say, 'Professor Bhaer, you are smiling today.' Miss March -

JO

Jo.

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

Jo. We are not at all alike.

#25 - *Small Umbrella In The Rain*

We have our differences. May I be blunt?

JO

Be blunt. By all means.

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

*(Fumbling with the umbrella)*

I THINK, PERHAPS, IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN.

JO

THE SKY GETS BLUER BY THE HOUR.

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

THE WATER FALLS IN LITTLE DROPS.

JO

THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED A SUN SHOWER.

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

AH, AND NOW IT STOPS...

*(HE fidgets more)*

JO

You were about to be blunt?

**PROFESSOR BHAER**

IF I SAY RAIN, THEN YOU SAY SUN.

IF I SAY YES, THEN YOU SAY NO.

IT SEEMS BEFORE WE START, WE'RE DONE.

WE EVEN ARGUE AT "HELLO"

IF I SAY, SHARE WITH ME THIS SMALL UMBRELLA.