

BOB/EMILY (Peter/Belinda) SIDE

EMILY

Here's Father now.

CRATCHIT enters.

Martha's just put the kettle on.

CRATCHIT

My darling. You'll never guess who I saw on my way back from ... you'll never guess.

EMILY

Who?

CRATCHIT

I was just crossing the square and there was Mr. Shaw, Mr. Scrooge's nephew.

EMILY

And he said hello?

CRATCHIT

Strangely enough, he said he was looking for me. Imagine that? But yes, he said he'd been looking for me because he'd heard about ... and he - he's just the most pleasant-spoken gentleman you've ever heard. I'd only ever seen him when he'd come 'round to the office, usually at Christmas time, but he remembered me and said he was heartily sorry for what happened. He sends his very best to you, Emily, to all of us.

EMILY

That was very kind.

CRATCHIT

He said if there was anything he could do - if there was anything...

Overcome he gets up and heads to the other room. He sits by the cot and the dead body of TIM.

CRATCHIT

Wait till you see how green a place it is, Tim.

EMILY comes in unnoticed.

CRATCHIT

You can almost see the city and if you look the other way you can almost see the river, you know, where we watch the skaters -

(He breaks down)

My little child.

EMILY goes to CRATCHIT.

CRATCHIT

I promised him we'd go every Sunday.

EMILY

And we will.

They embrace. Sharing their sorrow.

CRATCHIT

And you, my love? Are you...?

EMILY

The children keep my mind busy - most of the time.

CRATCHIT

Oh! Mr. Shaw, as if his kindness wasn't all, said he might have a position for our Peter.

EMILY

A position?

CRATCHIT

(brightened a bit)

Yes! Let's ... all of us.

(leads Emily back to the main
room)

Peter?

PETER

Yes?

EMILY

Father has some news.

BELINDA brings CRATCHIT a cup of tea.

CRATCHIT

Thank you, dear. Yes. Peter, Mr. Shaw,
who I ran into earlier, a very nice man
with a growing business in textiles. He
inquired about you and said he may have
a position.

PETER

A position? For me?

CRATCHIT

Yes. I told him you'd been apprenticing
at the mill. He said he'd even start
you out at two shillings a week.

PETER

Two shillings?

EMILY

Imagine that!

CRATCHIT

I'm certain you could learn quite a lot
from Mr. Shaw. He's a kind man with a
solid business and you'd be setting off
on a fine career.

PETER

I could even buy my own starch collar!
Like a real gentleman.

BELINDA

(Laughs)

You don't have enough neck for a starch collar!

EMILY

Hush, Belinda. That's wonderful, Peter. What a blessing.

CRATCHIT

A blessing! Yes. Children now listen.

I want us all to remember this. This moment. Because even though - even though we have lost so much - our Tim, we must look forward now, always keeping him in our hearts. How good and kind he was. How he always saw the best in everyone and even though he has parted from us. We will love one another, stay together and carry his memory wherever we go.

EMILY

Always.