

(With feeling)

"Courage!" he said, and pointed toward the land,
"This mounting wave will roll us shoreward soon."
In the afternoon they came unto a land
In which it seemed always afternoon.
All round the coast the languid air did swoon,
Breathing like one that hath a weary dream.'

DUCHESS

Oh! My heavens! Captain Tarragon *does* love me. Where is he?

MAY

He is in your foyer.

DUCHESS

Tell him to come here this minute!

(Exit MAY AND BEATRIX. Enter CAPT. TARRAGON with his hat in his hands. MAY, BEATRIX, FREDERIC, and CAPT. ANDREWS spy from the doorway)

CAPT. TARRAGON

Your grace?

DUCHESS

I have just been informed of something most extraordinary by the two young ladies with whom you were traveling.

CAPT. TARRAGON

Of course, milady ... I must give my apologies ... I meant to kidnap Fitzwilliam, but I managed to kidnap Frederic instead—

DUCHESS

You kidnapped Frederic when you meant to kidnap Fitzwilliam?

CAPT. TARRAGON

Yes, I am afraid so ... I am quite awful at telling twins apart.

DUCHESS

You don't suppose you mixed them up because you were thinking of other things? It is the easiest thing in the world to observe that Frederic and Fitzwilliam's forelocks curl in distinctly different directions. Your mind must have been occupied!

CAPT. TARRAGON

Well, perhaps it is true ... I beg leave to apologize, your grace-

DUCHESS

It is true, you say?

CAPT. TARRAGON

(nodding)

And I will accept whatever punishment you see fit.

DUCHESS

Marry me!

(CAPT. TARRAGON staggers backwards, stunned, but he faces his fate with bravado)

CAPT. TARRAGON

Gladly!

(DUCHESS and CAPT. TARRAGON embrace)

CAPT. TARRAGON

I am sincerely glad that I find it impossible to tell twins apart. To think, all my life I was ashamed of this deficiency, but now it is the cause of all my mortal bliss!

DUCHESS

How charming you are. At long last, I have found a man worthy of me! Come, Tarragon, let us sit in the parlor and discuss all the cliched romance tropes that exist in contemporary fiction.

(Exit DUCHESS and CAPT. TARRAGON)

CAPT. ANDREWS

(To May)

A happy ending.

MAY

Yes, indeed. I hope more happy endings are in store.