

Scene 1

(At rise, enter PIRATE CHORUS)

PIRATE CHORUS

To our audience fair we start you with a verse
But your patience we implore for this was unrehearsed
We begin on an island like every one you've seen
Two fair maids sit on barrels by a sea of blue and green
Where we'll go from here will only be clear on another day
For now, we leave you thus employed and hope you enjoy the play

(Exit PIRATE CHORUS)

(We see MAY and BEATRIX sitting on apple barrels. BEATRIX is gazing off to the left, MAY to the right, their backs facing)

MAY

The time is beginning to pass quicker now, don't you think? How much time has passed since I last spoke to you?

BEATRIX

(Consults watch)

About two minutes.

MAY

Two minutes! What are we to do? I shall die of boredom. What are you thinking of at this moment?

BEATRIX

If people refer to being stranded somewhere as being "marooned" because boredom makes them so angry that they begin to see red.

MAY

I fail to see your point.

BEATRIX

Maroon is a shade of red, isn't it?

MAY

We ought to try thinking of something helpful.

BEATRIX

I've got it! "The Lotos Eaters."

MAY

"The Lotos Eaters?"

BEATRIX

The poem by Lord Alfred Tennyson.

MAY

But what do you mean by "The Lotos Eaters?"

BEATRIX

You asked me to think of something.

MAY

Well, go on, then.

BEATRIX

(with paramount 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—'

MAY

(interrupting)

I thought it was "they came unto a *strand*."

BEATRIX

What does it matter?

MAY

I suppose it doesn't. But I am quite certain it is "strand." I can reference my book of Tennyson once we are rescued.

BEATRIX

I think it is better if we don't know. To be wrongly accused of being wrong is bad enough. To be rightly accused is far worse.

MAY

I don't think we will get off this island, at any rate. If only a ship came to rescue us! But I don't see one in this direction.