

(Spoken in rhythm.) "WELL, MISTER SNOW, HERE I AM!"

(Now ENOCH is very pleased. He makes his presence known by singing.)

ENOCH.

THEN I'LL KISS HER SO SHE'LL KNOW -

CARRIE. *(Mortified.)*

MISTER SNOW!

WOMEN. *(Thrilled.)*

MISTER SNOW!

ENOCH.

THAT EVERYTHIN'LL BE AS RIGHT AS RIGHT KEN BE,
A-LIVIN' IN A COTTAGE BY THE SEA WITH ME,
WHERE THE SALTY BREEZES BLOW!

(CARRIE squeals and hides her head on JULIE's shoulder. The GIRLS are delighted.)

I LOVE MISS PIPP'RIDGE AND I AIM TO
MAKE MISS PIPP'RIDGE CHANGE HER NAME TO
MISSUS ENOCH SNOW!

WOMEN. *(Ad libs.)* Carrie...! My lands, he give me sech a start...! Well...! I never...!

CARRIE. *(Looking up at JULIE.)* I'll never look him in the face again! Never!

(Laughs, shouts, whoops, and squeals from the GIRLS.)

WOMEN. C'mon inside and leave the two love-birds alone!

(They exit into the house. CARRIE clings to JULIE and won't let her go.)

CARRIE. *(Not turning to face him yet.)* Oh, Enoch!

ENOCH. Surprised?

CARRIE. Surprised? I'm mortified!

ENOCH. He-he!

(This, we are afraid, is the way he laughs. CARRIE straightens out, looks at him, then beams back at JULIE.)

CARRIE. Well, this is him.

(ENOCH bows and smiles. There is a moment of awkward silence.)

JULIE. Carrie told me a lot about you.

(CARRIE and JULIE nod to each other. CARRIE and ENOCH nod.)

CARRIE. I told you a lot about Julie, didn't I?

(CARRIE and ENOCH nod. CARRIE and JULIE nod.)

JULIE. Carrie tells me you're comin' to the clambake.

(He nods.)

CARRIE. Looks like we'll hev good weather fer it, too.

(They nod.)

JULIE. Not a cloud in the sky.

ENOCH. You're right.

CARRIE. *(To JULIE.)* He don't say much, but what he does say is awful pithy!

(JULIE nods. CARRIE looks over toward her love.)

(Still addressing JULIE.) Is he anythin' like I told you he was?

JULIE. Jest like.

ENOCH. Oh, Carrie, I near fergot. I brought you some flowers.

CARRIE. (*Thrilled.*) Flowers? Where are they?

(**ENOCH** hands her a small envelope from his inside pocket. She reads what is written on the package.)

Geranium seeds!

ENOCH. (*Handing her another envelope.*) And this'n here is hydrangea. Thought we might plant 'em in front of the cottage. (*To JULIE.*) They do good in the salt air.

JULIE. That'll be beautiful!

ENOCH. I like diggin' around a garden in my spare time – like t'plant flowers and take keer o' them. Does your husband like that too?

JULIE. N-no. I couldn't rightly say if Billy likes to take *keer* of flowers. He likes t'smell 'em, though.

CARRIE. Enoch's nice lookin', ain't he?

ENOCH. Oh come, Carrie!

CARRIE. Stiddy and reliable too. Well, ain't you goin' to wish us luck?

JULIE. (*Warmly.*) Of course I wish you luck, Carrie.

(**JULIE** and **CARRIE** embrace.)

CARRIE. You ken kiss Enoch, too – us bein' sech good friends, and me bein' right here lookin' at you.

(**JULIE** lets **ENOCH** kiss her on the cheek, which he shyly does. For a moment she clings to him, letting her head rest on this shoulder, as if it needed a shoulder very badly. **JULIE** starts to cry.)

ENOCH. Why are you crying, Mrs... Er... Mrs...

CARRIE. It's because she has such a good heart.

ENOCH. We thank you for your heartfelt sympathy. We thank you Mrs... Er... Mrs...

JULIE. Mrs. Bigelow. Mrs. Billy Bigelow. That's my name – Mrs. B...

(*She breaks off and starts to run into the house, but as she gets a little right of center, BILLY enters. He is followed by JIGGER. JULIE is embarrassed, recovers, and goes mechanically through the convention of introduction.*)

Billy, you know Carrie. This is her intended – Mr. Snow.

(**JIGGER** crosses up to the porch, standing under the arbor.)

ENOCH. Mr. Bigelow! I almost feel like I know you.

BILLY. How are you?

(*He starts up center.*)

ENOCH. I'm pretty well. Jest gettin' over a little chest cold.

(*As BILLY gets up center.*)

This time of year – you know.

(*He stops, seeing that BILLY isn't listening.*)

JULIE. (*Turning to BILLY.*) Billy!

BILLY. (*He stops and turns to JULIE, crosses down to her in a defiant manner.*) Well, all right, say it. I stayed out all night – and I ain't workin' – and I'm livin' off yer Cousin Nettie.

JULIE. I didn't say anything.

BILLY. No, but it was on the tip of yer tongue!