

ACT TWO

Scene Four

Widow Corney's Parlour.

#41 – Back To The Workhouse

MR BUMBLE sits, looking out into thin air with a most melancholy expression on his face. He has a tankard and takes a swig. He thinks he is alone and so he thinks aloud.

MR BUMBLE

Married! And two weeks ago tomorrow it was done. It seems an age!

(he heaves a sigh)

WIDOW CORNEY enters.

I sold myself for six teaspoons, a pair of sugar-tongs and a milk-pot with a small quantity of second hand furniture and twenty pounds cash. I went very reasonable! Cheap! Dirt cheap!

WIDOW CORNEY, (Mrs Bumble) has been locking doors in the background.

WIDOW CORNEY

(shrieking)

Cheap! You would have been dear at any price; and dear enough I paid for you, Lord above knows that!

MR BUMBLE belches.

Are you going to sit there snoring, all day?

MR BUMBLE

I am going to sit here as long as I think proper, madam... and, although I was not snoring, I shall snore, gape, sneeze, laugh or cry, as the humour strikes me—such being my prerogative.

WIDOW CORNEY

(contemptuously)

Your prerogative!

MR BUMBLE

I said the word ma'am. The prerogative of a man... is to command.

WIDOW CORNEY

And what's the prerogative of a woman, in the name of Goodness?

MR BUMBLE

To obey, madam! To obey. Your late unfortunate husband should have taught you that, and then, perhaps, he might have been alive today, and I wish he was — poor man!

WIDOW CORNEY

Ooooooh! You hard-hearted brute!

MR BUMBLE

Oh 'ere we go. Cry away, madam! It opens the lungs, exercises the eyes, softens the temper, and washes the face — so cry away!

WIDOW CORNEY rushes up behind MR BUMBLE and hits him on the back with his hat several times. He jumps up screaming and shouting.

WIDOW CORNEY

Now talk about your prerogative, if you dare!

MR BUMBLE attempts to argue.

Shut up! And take yourself away from here, unless you want me to do something desperate. Well, are you going?

MR BUMBLE

(backing away)

Certainly my dear, certainly. I had no intention of staying. It's just that you are so very violent.

MR BUMBLE exits.

Eerie MUSIC pulse continues under scene.

There is a knock on the Workhouse door. WIDOW CORNEY rises and opens it. THE MATRON is standing there with OLD SALLY.

#42 – Old Sally

WIDOW CORNEY

What's the matter?

MATRON

It's old Sally, ma'am. She says she's got something to tell you that must be heard. She's not got long and she'll never die quiet till you listen, ma'am.

WIDOW CORNEY

You better come in.

They enter.

(WIDOW CORNEY)

Well what is it?

SALLY

(indicating MATRON)

Turn her away.

MATRON

But Sal... it's your old friend.

WIDOW CORNEY

(to MATRON)

Go on, get out of it!

MATRON tries to protest but WIDOW CORNEY pushes her off into the shadows.

SALLY

Now listen to me. In this very workhouse... I once nursed a pretty young creature that I brought in from the cold with her feet cut and bruised with walking... she gave birth to a boy... and died. Let me think—what was the year again!

WIDOW CORNEY

Never mind the year, what about her?

SALLY

(sitting up fiercely with wild eyes)

I robbed her! I robbed her so I did! The only thing she had of any worth, it was round her neck and it was gold.

WIDOW CORNEY

(drawing closer)

Gold? Go on, go on—yes. What of it?

SALLY

This is it! The locket! She charged me to keep it safe, and trusted me. It's my belief she came from a rich family.

WIDOW CORNEY bends over to inspect the locket taking it in her hand.

WIDOW CORNEY

The boy's name?

SALLY

They called him—

WIDOW CORNEY

(shaking OLD SALLY)

Yes?

SALLY

Oliver. The gold I stole was...

WIDOW CORNEY

Yes, yes – what?

SALLY dies. WIDOW CORNEY drops her back onto the floor, tugs off the locket and steps over her body.

We must retrieve that boy, Mr Bumble.

MR BUMBLE

We must indeed, ma'am. We must indeed.

#43 – Oliver! (Reprise)**BOTH**

OLIVER! OLIVER!

WIDOW CORNEY

THAT WAS THE MITE
WITH THE LARGE APPETITE.

BOTH

OLIVER! OLIVER!

MR BUMBLE

APPARENTLY HE'S FROM A RICH FAMILY!

WIDOW CORNEY

AND TO THINK WE NEARLY
STUPIDLY WENT AND LOST TRACK OF HIM...

MR BUMBLE

IF THE TRUTH WERE KNOWN, WE
BOTH WERE DELIGHTED AT SEEING THE BACK OF HIM.

BOTH

OLIVER! OLIVER!

MR BUMBLE

WHAT'LL WE DO...?

WIDOW CORNEY

WE MUST GIVE HIM HIS DUE...

BOTH

...AND WE'LL PRAISE THE DAY
SOMEBODY GAVE US

5. Scurry Music - TACET

6. I Shall Scream

CUE: WIDOW CORNEY:

What can you want to know for, Mr B.?

WIDOW CORNEY:

Mr Bumble, I shall scream.

WIDOW C.

Allegretto ♩ = 120

You're a naught-y bad man If you think I can't be

6

pro - per prim and haugh - ty I can and you'll par - don if I men - tion You must

WIDOW C: No!

11

state your true in - ten - tion Is there not an - oth - er room here? If there were a bride and

16

groom here Would there be? Well there might We shall see

23

I shall scream I shall scream At the thought of what you're

29

think - ing I shall scream You will won - der where the scream went When we

34

come to an a - gree - ment As my lov - ey dove is chub - by could she love a chub - by

39 // WIDOW C. **A tempo**

hub - by I shall scream, Mis - ter Bum - ble I shall scream Bum - ble Wum - ble I shall

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of musical notation, measures 39 through 43. It is written on a single treble clef staff. Measure 39 starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. Measure 40 has quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5. Measure 41 has quarter notes A5, B5, C6, and D6. Measure 42 has quarter notes E6, F6, G6, and A6. Measure 43 has quarter notes B6, C7, B6, and A6. The lyrics are: "hub - by I shall scream, Mis - ter Bum - ble I shall scream Bum - ble Wum - ble I shall".

44 *On kiss*

scream, scream, scream.

Detailed description: This block contains the second line of musical notation, measure 44. It is written on a single treble clef staff. The measure begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4 with a fermata. The lyrics are: "scream, scream, scream." The instruction "On kiss" is written above the staff.