

From Emily Bronte, Teenage Necromancer by Don Zolidis

CHARLOTTE BRONTE, 19, a teacher at a boarding school
GEORGE WADSWORTH, 21, her would-be suitor.

George has arrived to court Charlotte – he's quite bad at it.

CHARLOTTE

Sorry to keep you waiting, Mr. Wadsworth.

GEORGE

Please, call me George. I hope we shall be very intimate with each other.
As in fast friends.
As in friendly.
Not in the other sense. Yet.
And may I refer to you as Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE

I suppose.

GEORGE

Excellent. I must say the portrait I received of you did not do justice to your immense beauty.

CHARLOTTE

You received a portrait of me?

GEORGE

Your brother sent it. A sketch really. But quite well-done. He is most talented.

CHARLOTTE

My brother sent you a sketch of me?

GEORGE

It was quite small. And you are quite large. I mean – dash it all, that isn't what I meant to say. You are much bigger than how he portrayed you. Which is good. Which is wonderful. I would not want to marry a leprechaun.

CHARLOTTE

Are you suggesting that you initially believed that my brother's miniature portrait of me was meant to be life-sized?

GEORGE

I don't know what I am suggesting, to be honest. I am merely flabbergasted by your beauty.

CHARLOTTE
Flabbergasted.

GEORGE
Right. Shall I recite a poem I have composed about your beauty?

CHARLOTTE
I'd rather you didn't.

GEORGE
It shall remain a surprise then. At any moment this evening, I may pull it out.

CHARLOTTE
Oh dear.

GEORGE
So tell me about yourself.

CHARLOTTE
My mother is dead.

GEORGE
I'm sorry to hear that.

CHARLOTTE
As is my eldest sister.

GEORGE
Quite sad.

CHARLOTTE
As is another sister.

GEORGE
Yes. Well. Perhaps we should talk about something else then.

CHARLOTTE
What is your family like?

GEORGE
Mostly dead as well. I do have one sister whom I care for very much, even though she can be quite disagreeable.

CHARLOTTE
Ah it seems we have something in common!

GEORGE

And you are hoping to become headmistress some day?

CHARLOTTE

Whatever gave you that impression?

GEORGE

That is the scuttlebutt.

CHARLOTTE

Whose butt is scuttling that?

GEORGE

It's in the air. So you do not mean to be headmistress?

CHARLOTTE

I am nineteen years old, Mr. Wadsworth, I have not yet resigned myself to a life in education. I fear that if the small children are any example, they will drive me mad and I will be locked up in an attic.

GEORGE

That sounds dreadful.

CHARLOTTE

Yes, small children are dreadful.

GEORGE

No the attic part.

CHARLOTTE

I suppose that as well. Although one assumes the children wouldn't be there, so.

GEORGE

Well I am a progressive man and believe that a woman may enter any occupation she chooses, whether that is education or owning a small bakery. If you were – if we were to –

CHARLOTTE

To what?

GEORGE

To – become engaged – I would not forbid you from becoming headmistress. Even though many men would.

CHARLOTTE

Mr. Wadsworth, we have just met seven minutes ago. Are you proposing marriage?

GEORGE

Are you familiar with Romeo and Juliet?

CHARLOTTE

They both die.

GEORGE

Right. Well yes that is not a grand example.

CHARLOTTE

Romeo and Juliet is a fine example. When one chooses a mate too hastily, one is doomed to murdering relatives, drinking poison, and stabbing.

GEORGE

I must confess I have not read Romeo and Juliet.

CHARLOTTE

I gave you an accurate summary.