

GREATEST ACT OF KINDNESS

by

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INT. COUNT DIRAFF HOME - AFTERNOON

COUNT DIRAFF plans on putting a stop to the budding romance between SANDRA and SIR TALBOLT.

MILDRED (caretaker) dusts the furniture.

COUNT DIRAFF
Mildred, have you seen the arrival
of Sir Talbolt?

MILDRED
No sir, should I send for him?

COUNT DIRAFF
No, no, that's quite alright.

MILDRED
May I serve you tea on the hour?

COUNT DIRAFF
None for me. That will be all.
(beat) Oh, Mildred. On second
thought, would you be so kind as
to inform Sandra that I would like
to have a word?

MILDRED
By all means.

Mildred exits the room and a moment later walks in Sandra.

COUNT DIRAFF
Please, have a seat. There seems
to be an issue at hand.

SANDRA
What issue may that be?

COUNT DIRAFF
I would like to be direct, if I
may.

SANDRA
Please.

COUNT DIRAFF
I would like for you to tell me
what your relation is with Sir
Talbolt?

SANDRA
Whatever do you mean?

COUNT DIRAFF
Don't fool with me girl, you know
exactly what I mean!

SANDRA
We are friends. Good friends,
indeed.

COUNTR DIRAFF
Good friends, indeed.

SANDRA
Will that be all?

COUNT DIRAFF
I have sent for him. I will have
you know that your relation shall
come to its end today.

SANDRA (SHE STANDS)
What are you doing?

COUNT DIRAFF
You will have nothing to do with
this man. He is not fit to be in
the presence of your company. I
know his family quite well. Enough
to know that any further
communication between you and him
will only deliver you to great
harm.

SANDRA
How dare you---

COUNT DIRAFF
Don't! You will abide by my rules.
This is not for discussion. When
Sir Talbolt arrives, he will be
greeted and treated most fair but
I assure you, when he leaves our
premises, he will never look back
upon the likes of you again.

SANDRA
My father would never---

COUNT DIRAFF
I know what's best for you and
this is final! It is my honor and
duty to care for your well being
at all times. This friendship you
claim must go no further, simply
because of whom this man is
spawned from.

SANDRA

Who? Who is he derived from? He is not like his family. He has nothing to do with any of them. He is a good man, living an honest life. His reputation is remarkable. Ask anyone in town---

COUNT DIRAFF

I said that's enough! There shall be no debate. My word is final, Sandra. The apple does not fall far from it's tree. There is no doubt in my mind that this man here, will not fall far from where his father rests at this present time.

SANDRA

You are wrong about this, Uncle.

COUNT DIRAFF

I might be, but why take a chance? I will not play chess with your soul.

SANDRA

Why must you always be so hard? Haven't you any kindness?

COUNT DIRAFF

I assure you my dear, this is my greatest act of kindness. I don't expect you to understand.

SANDRA

May I leave now?

COUNT DIRAFF

That you may.

Sandra rushes out.