

BRIDGERTON 4

INT. BENEDICT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BENEDICT AND SOPHIE JUST MADE LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME. BENEDICT THINKS IT MEANS THAT SOPHIE HAS FINALLY AGREED TO BE HIS MISTRESS, BUT HE IS ACTUALLY WRONG.

BENEDICT
How do you feel?

SOPHIE
Fine.
(Beat)
Good.
(Beat)
(Smiling)
Splendid.

BENEDICT IS SMILING, PLEASED WITH HIMSELF.

BENEDICT
I'll send someone over to collect
your belongings.

SOPHIE
(Beat)
What do you mean?

BENEDICT
Don't worry. I'll make sure he's
discreet. I know it might be
embarrassing for you, now that you
know my family -

SOPHIE SHAKES HER HEAD.

SOPHIE
Please don't send anyone over.

BENEDICT
What?

SOPHIE
I can't be your mistress!

BENEDICT STIFFENS.

BENEDICT
What do you call this?

SOPHIE

I call it a lapse in judgment.

BENEDICT

Oh, so I'm a lapse? How nice. I don't think I've ever been someone's lapse before.

SOPHIE

You know that's not the way I meant it.

BENEDICT

Do I? Frankly, my dear, I have no idea what you mean anymore.

SOPHIE

I shouldn't have done this!

BENEDICT

Now I'm a shouldn't? Excellent. Even better than a lapse. Shouldn't sounds much naughtier, don't you think? A lapse is merely a mistake.

SOPHIE

There is no need to be so ugly about this.

BENEDICT

Is that what I'm being? I rather thought I was acting in a most friendly and understanding manner. Look - no yelling, no histrionics.

SOPHIE

I'd prefer yelling and histrionics to this!

BENEDICT

Well, we don't always get what we prefer, do we, miss Beckett? You're hardly in a position to ask me anything.

SOPHIE

Benedict...

BENEDICT

Except, of course, to rejoin you, which I'd gladly do. Do you understand what it feels like to be pushed away? How many times do you expect you can reject me before I stop trying?

SOPHIE

It's not that I want to!

BENEDICT

Oh, stop with that old excuse. It's grown tired. If you wanted to be with me, you would be with me. When you say no, it's because you want to say no.

SOPHIE

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! You've always been in a position where you could do what ever you wanted. Some of us don't have that luxury.

BENEDICT

Silly me. I thought I was offering you that very luxury.

SOPHIE

The luxury to be your MISTRESS!

BENEDICT

You don't have to do anything you haven't already done.

SOPHIE

I got carried away!
(Beat)
I made a mistake...
(Beat)
but it doesn't mean I should do it again.

BENEDICT

I can offer you a better life.

SOPHIE IS SHAKING HER HEAD WITH PAIN. SHE WANTS HIM MORE THAN ANYTHING.

SOPHIE

I won't be your mistress. I won't be ANY MAN'S mistress.

BENEDICT

Sophie... You know I cannot marry you.

SOMETHING IN SOPHIE BREAKS.

SOPHIE

Of course I know that! I'm a servant,
Not an idiot.

BENEDICT

It would be hard for you as well. Even if I were to marry you, you would not be accepted. The ton can be cruel.

SOPHIE

(Laughs ironically and hollowly) I know. (With a hollow look and smile) Believe me, I know.

BENEDICT

Then why -

SOPHIE

(Deciding sharply) Grant me a favor. (Turning her face) Find someone to marry. Find someone acceptable, who will make you happy. And then LEAVE ME ALONE.

BENEDICT

Sophie, I know the situation is not ideal -

SOPHIE

Don't.

BENEDICT

If you'd only listen -

SOPHIE

Please. Don't.

BENEDICT

But you're not -

SOPHIE

STOP!

BENEDICT

Sophie, I know you'll agree if -

SOPHIE

I will not have an illegitimate child!
(Beat)
I won't do it! I love you, but not that much. I do not love anyone that much!

BENEDICT

It may very well be too late for that, Sophie.

SOPHIE

I know. And it's already eating me up
inside.

BENEDICT

(Beat)
Regrets have a way of doing that.