

FOOLPROOF



1912/2019
(extract)

Scene 1: A classroom

A bell rings and EVERYONE enters a classroom. Some are running, some dragging their feet, some are fighting, some are chatting etc.

MR ALBERT *comes into the room and hardly anyone notices.*

MR ALBERT: Settle down, everyone. Annie Jackson, get off the table, and sit on your chair please.

He claps a rhythm and eventually everyone joins in.

MR ALBERT: Good. Now, this afternoon we are going to begin our project for this term.

ROSIE: Mr Albert, are we doing a project on dinosaurs?

MARIGOLD: Is it on the Romans again?

ENID: I hate the Romans. They're so boring!

AMELIA: Is it on feminism, Mr Albert?

MR ALBERT: All right, all right, enough! It is not on the dinosaurs or the Romans.

ROBBIE: Is it about feminism?

MR ALBERT: No more questions, please. Our project for this term, is about an important year in history.

MILLIE: Is it 1066?

CHARLOTTE: Is it 1984?

CRAWFORD: Is it 2018?

MR ALBERT: I said, no more questions. This term we are going to travel back in time to 1912. Can anyone tell me something that happened in 1912? No? Then maybe we should do some investigation. Let me tell you about some people who lived long ago.

Scene 2: Rosie and Enid's Room

Enid is resting, either in bed or on a couch. There is a window overlooking the street (can be imagined).

ROSIE: Oh, Enid. What am I to do?

ENID: What do you mean, Rosie? You know what you should do. You can't turn down an opportunity like this.

ROSIE: I shall have to tell Lady Marigold that I cannot go to America after all, and if that means losing my job, then so be it.

ENID: Rosie, no. Don't worry about me. You will never have another chance to see the world!

ROSIE: I don't care about seeing the world, Enid! I just don't want to break my promise.

ENID: I'd give anything to get aboard an ocean liner to America.

ROSIE: I know you would, and the sea air would do that cough good. But what's the use in dreaming?

ENID: Rosie. You must go to America with Lady Marigold. You must write to me every day and tell me what you see. That way it will almost be as though I was with you.

ROSIE: No, I shall write a letter resigning my job today. I can't bear to leave you and I can't break my promise to mother.

ENID: But what if you can't find another job? We shall be poor and I will not have had the chance to read of your adventures.

ROSIE: But who will keep an eye on you when I'm gone?

ENID: Dr Crawford will visit. She is kind and will look after me. If you lose your job we will have no money to buy medicine, and that would be much worse.

ROSIE: Dr Crawford is only interested in her practice and her politics. I don't believe she cares at all about what happens to you unless it pays her to care. If only there was a way to smuggle you aboard the ship.

ENID: Rosie, help me out of bed, so we can look out of the window at the street below. I miss seeing people. You must not speak so unkindly of Dr Crawford. I like her. She is brave.

ROSIE *helps ENID to the window and they peer down.*

ROSIE: I wonder, if I could -

ENID: Rosie, you are the kindest sister in the world, but sometimes you are too kind. Promise me that you will go to America.

ROSIE:

I promise, Enid. But before I do, there is a question I must ask Lady Marigold.