

MISS BLAKE. Thank you. Now, I'll leave you to it, Miss Bott. *She leaves.*

CAROLYN. Oh, Miss Bott, we brought you a present from Paris.

MISS BOTT. For me? Well. Most kind.

CAROLYN *hands her a box, which she opens.*

What's this? Crustaceans?

CAROLYN. Escargot. They're Parisian.

MISS BOTT. That's hardly a recommendation. Be gone with you! I'm sure Mr Bennett has no interest in being entertained by the whole pack of you.

CELIA *tries to walk but can't.*

TESS. Are you alright?

CELIA. No.

MISS BOTT. I told you, nothing good comes out of France. You'll have to come with me to get that seen to.

CAROLYN. I'll help.

MISS BOTT. No male may be left alone with a female.

CAROLYN. Oh, Miss Bott! I'll stay here. Will, don't even touch her.

WILL *puts his hands up, protesting his innocence.* MISS BOTT *helps CELIA out.*

MISS ~~BOTT~~ Miss Addison, I hope I can trust you.

CAROLYN. With your life, Miss Bott.

CELIA *hobbles out, leaning on MISS BOTT. As she exits...*

MISS BOTT. I thought you understood the laws of gravity. *(Without looking back.)* Miss Addison, don't even think about it.

*As soon as MISS BOTT is out of sight -*

CAROLYN. I'll be off then.

TESS. Is there news?

MISS BLAKE. We heard yesterday.

CAROLYN. What...

TESS. The vote...

MISS BLAKE. Yes!

TESS. We didn't get it?!

MISS BLAKE. We did! We got it!

*Jubilation.*

It's hard to believe but we did! You should have heard her speak.

CAROLYN. What did she say?

MISS BLAKE. Never mind that. The Senate didn't know what to do with themselves. They agreed that your right to graduate is at least a vote-worthy issue, though only university members can vote.

CELIA. So none of us? What?

MISS BLAKE. No women at all. And no undergraduates. So write to everyone you know. Times are changing, ladies.

TESS. Imagine. Maybe one day we'll have even have a voice.

MISS BLAKE. And, the most remarkable woman is coming to Cambridge to speak. Millicent Fawcett.

CAROLYN. The suffragist? The one in the papers.

MISS BLAKE. Yes. There's to be a rally on Saturday. It'll be quite the occasion.

TESS. We can organise support -

MISS BLAKE. I think it's best not to publicise it too much. I wouldn't trouble Mrs Welsh with it.

TESS. But she's the one who put all the work in.

MISS BLAKE. Suffrage is political. We have to be careful.

TESS. We understand.