

MARIAN
(Pulling back)
I take your word.

HAROLD
Could we sit down?

MARIAN
Are all music teachers as dense as I am?

HAROLD
All music teachers?

MARIAN
I daresay you meet dozens -- even a hundred --

HAROLD
Well I --

MARIAN
(Cutting in)
Have they all been as fascinated as I have with ... the Think System?

HAROLD
Some more, some less. One young lady had thought up the same system before I got to her town. She showed me a few refinements ...

MARIAN
(Turning away)
I see ...

HAROLD
Have I said something wrong?

MARIAN
(Turned away from him)
Please don't let me keep you, Professor Hill. You must have many more important things to do than to explain the Think System to me.

HAROLD
Can't think of one.

MARIAN
And I must be very dull company for a man of your experience.

HAROLD
Now saaaaay ... where'd you get an idea like that?

MARIAN
One hears rumours of travelling salesmen.

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HAROLD

Now, Miss Marian -- you mustn't believe everything you hear. After all, one even hears rumors about Librarians.

MARIAN

(Turning on him)

I suppose you're referring to Uncle Maddy.

HAROLD

Uncle Maddy?

MARIAN

Mr. Madison -- my father's best friend. No matter what they say he left me an assured job so Mother and Winthrop and I would have some security. Surely you don't believe...

HAROLD

Of course not! That's exactly what I'm saying. But why do you think people start those rumours.

MARIAN

Narrow-mindedness, jealousy -- jealousy, mostly, I guess.

HAROLD

Exactly. And jealousy mostly starts rumours about travelling salesmen.

(Catching her off-guard.

Quietly.)

What have you heard?

MARIAN

Oh -- oh nothing about you personally -- just generally

HAROLD

What have you heard generally?

MARIAN

Just that --

(HE is very close to her)

but of course, it stands to reason that -- that disappointment and jealousy can lead to -- I mean -- take you for instance -- your attentions to -- to -- customers and -- and well, teachers might easily be misinterpreted mightn't they ...

(Frantically hoping for reassurance)

I mean, now honestly -- mightn't they?

HAROLD

Why ...

MARIAN

(Racing on)

And, as you say -- if another salesman -- or somebody were jealous -- I mean -- well, they could be downright lies --

end