

LAUREN My point exactly. If you take care of yourself nobody takes you seriously.

Pause.

So let's have your trousers off.

JEFFERSON You're kidding?

LAUREN I need to look at your posture. Is that a problem? Do you have difficulty bending down?

JEFFERSON I'm not that old. Aaargh!

Struggles to remove trousers.

LAUREN Give me your leg.

LAUREN *begins kneading his calf.*

Your hamstring's very tight. It's referring the pain upwards.

Ok - on your back...

She leans over massaging his thighs.

How's that?

JEFFERSON That feels good. Oh God. That is really good.

Suddenly the door opens, and MARY is there. She sees JEFFERSON without trousers, and LAUREN on top, and it looks bad. She closes it again quickly. JEFFERSON and LAUREN are oblivious.

More of that. Harder. Ow. That hurt! Do it again!

We hear the FOOL's song.

MARY/FOOL

FOOLS HAD NEVER LESS GRACE IN A YEAR/FOR WISE MEN ARE GROWN FOPPISH/AND KNOW NOT HOW THEIR WITS TO WEAR/THEIR MANNERS ARE SO APISH.

Scene Three

We are in the bed and breakfast at night. DOROTHY arrives with bags of takeaway food.

DOROTHY All part of the noble theatrical tradition - the takeaway. I am afraid Mary is at her flamenco night so you have to fend for yourself on a Thursday.

She produces tin/foil containers.

JESSICA Well I'm famished.

DOROTHY It must be nice to spend some time with your father.

JESSICA I wouldn't know.

DOROTHY Oh come on you must be proud of what he's doing here.

JESSICA I just can't get my head around it. Could he actually be doing something decent for once?

JEFFERSON *enters.*

JEFFERSON That's me. Full of surprises.

JESSICA The surprise will be if you don't screw up.

DOROTHY *starts dishing out food.*

DOROTHY So how's your back?

JEFFERSON Lauren has hidden talents. She has amazing hands.

DOROTHY *(bridling a bit)* I'm sure she has. Now, I hope everyone's hungry.

JEFFERSON So Jessica can you eat this or are you gonna explode or something?

JESSICA If you had bothered to take an interest you would know I'm not allergic to *everything*. I can eat most things. Apart from wheat and dairy products. And gluten and shellfish. And nuts, obviously...