

**Music Theatre International**

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## **Audition Central: The Music Man JR.**

### **Script: Marian Paroo**

I don't suppose you live alone, or anything?

HAROLD

No!

MARIAN

I've got some wonderful caramels over't the hotel if you'd -

HAROLD

*(MARIAN and MUSIC stop abruptly)*

Mister Hill.

MARIAN

HAROLD

Professor Hill.

MARIAN

Professor of what? At what college do they give a degree for annoying women on the street like a Saturday night rowdy at a public dance hall?

HAROLD

Oh I wouldn't know about that. I'm a Conservatory man myself. Gary Indiana Gold Medal Class of '05.

MARIAN

Even should that happen to be true does that give you the right to follow me around wherever I go? Another thing, Mister Hill, I'm not as easily mesmerized or hoodwinked as some people in this town and I think it only fair to warn you that I have a shelf full of reference books in there which may very well give me some interesting information about you.

HAROLD

*(After a pause)* Shall we "set" as your mother said?

MARIAN

Well, I...

HAROLD

You did ask me to call...?

MARIAN

Professor Hill...Is it true that you've -

*(SHE starts to lose her nerve)*

...what I'm trying to say is...I must be very dull company for a man of your experience.

HAROLD

Now say, where'd you get an idea like that?

MARIAN

One hears rumors of traveling salesmen.

HAROLD

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

MARIAN

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 rumors.

MARIAN

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

HAROLD

Exactly. And jealousy mostly starts rumors about traveling salesmen. What have you heard?

MARIAN

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

HAROLD

Why...

MARIAN

And, so you say - if another salesman - or somebody were jealous - I mean - well, they could be downright lies - couldn't they?

HAROLD

What could?

MARIAN

Rumors and things!

HAROLD

Why, of course.

MARIAN

It just proves you should never believe everything you hear, doesn't it? I mean if you discuss things...

HAROLD

Miss Marian, I would be delighted to discuss anything in the world with you. But couldn't we do it sitting down? (Trying to lighten her mood) You do sit? Your knees bend and all?

MARIAN

We could sit on the porch steps.

HAROLD

We could also sit on a large hollow log over't the footbridge.

MARIAN

I couldn't think of it. I've never been to the footbridge with a man in my life.

HAROLD

Just to talk. Meet me there in fifteen minutes.

MARIAN

I just can't. Please, some other time? Maybe tomorrow.

HAROLD

My dear little librarian - pile up enough tomorrows and you'll find you've collected nothing but a lot of empty yesterdays. I don't know about you but I'd like to make today worth remembering. The footbridge - fifteen minutes.

MARIAN

Fifteen minutes.

*(HAROLD exits quickly. MARIAN's voice is suddenly loud and desperate)*

Mama!

MRS. PAROO

*(Entering onto porch)*

What?

MARIAN

I just told Professor Hill I'd meet him at the footbridge in fifteen minutes.