

Spettigue

Excerpt 2

SPETTIGUE I have something to tell you. Something you will all be very pleased to hear. But where is Donna Lucia?

MRS BRASSETT Donna Lucia's gone to her room, I fancy!

SPETTIGUE Now, before she returns, I have a little secret to tell you.

ALL A secret? Oh, really? (*etc.*)

SPETTIGUE Situated as I am, a lonely widower, a mateless uncle--surrounded with grave responsibilities--my ward--my niece--a good fairy has, I may say, tripped in among us, bringing with her unexpected light and joy!

CHARLEY (*aside to JACK*) Who does he mean?

JACK (*aside*) Shut up!

SPETTIGUE Under her influence, I have consented to the engagement of my niece to a gentleman in whose honour and probity I have the fullest confidence--Mr. Charles Wykeham.

AMY Charley, how sweet of your dear aunt.

SPETTIGUE Furthermore, charmed by irresistible spells, I have consented to the union of my ward with John, only son of my friend, Sir Francis Chesney. But what will you say to a third engagement? Our good fairy--nay, let me add without further metaphor--one whose name is honoured in the South-Western hemisphere as that of Rothschild is in Europe -has consented to become Mrs. Stephen Spettigue -