

if I'd known you all my life. (Joe groans. Lucinda looks delighted)
My sister—or—

JOE MANN:

H'm—h'm—h'm—There seem to be lodestones about the old home.
LUCINDA *looks pleased*:

I shall never forget how pleased you were to see me when you came
back from England—~~Tee—hee—I really thought he was going to kiss me.~~

JOE MANN, *under his breath*:

I haven't mended matters.

MINA:

What would have been the harm.

JOE MANN:

H'm—h'm—h'm—

MINA:

It's all the style in Canada for women to kiss when—

JOE MANN:

My nieces, Alpha—

MINA, *tugging at Joe*:

Miss Alpha.

JOE MANN *doesn't heed*:

ALPHA, *grasping Lucinda's hand*:

Pleased to meet you. I've heard so much about you that I feel as
if I'd known you all my life.

(Joe Mann groans and hangs up cedar broom).

BETA, *shakes hands*:

Pleased to meet you. I've heard so much about you that I feel as
if I'd known you all my life.

JOE MANN *groans*:

Another county heard from.

(Mina pulls pluma (wing) out of Lucinda's hat and dusts).

GAMMA *doesn't follow the old formula*:

How do you do?

(Lucinda picks up her hat stealthily and holds it).

MINA:

Joe's just like a—

JOE MANN:

H'm—h'm—h'm—

MINA:

A man— He made us start off in such a hurry that I didn't have time
to put a pluma in my trunk. But don't worry. I'll get you another one
if I have to send to Canada for it. If I hadn't had poor Larson's little
trunk, I declare, (forgets to say he) she'd made us start without a stitch
of our clothes— Poor Larson. (Weeps gently) HE WAS SUCH A MORAL
MAN.

LUCINDA, *casting a glance at Joe*:

There are others.

ALPHA:

Traveling so long has got on maw's nerves.

LUCINDA:

I presume you have traveled more and therefore stood the journey
better.

ALPHA, *in her most affected way*:

Obviously. I have went as far as Saskatchewan, traveling intermit-
tently— I say intermittently advisably— I mean advisedly.

(When Alpha begins to speak, Mina and Beta step forward, crane
necks and look at her admiringly. Lucinda suppresses a smile).

BETA, *to Mina*:

Now is Lucinda's chance to get an education.

LUCINDA:

That was some travel.

ALPHA:

Some one said I'd traveled as far as Doctor Cook— whoever he is—
but got nearer the North Pole—whatever that is.