

"Did you really advise him to beat me, Johnnie?" asked Beatrice sweetly. "I never would have guessed you were such a cave man."

Johnnie flamed to the roots of his hair. "Now, ma'am, if you're gonna believe that — "

Beatrice repented and offered him her hand.

"We'll not believe anything of you that is n't good, even if you did want to kidnap me," she said.