

*EMMANUEL CHABRIER*

**AN EDUCATION INCOMPLETE**

(one-act)

*English Version by Donald Pippin*

**OVERTURE.**

**GILBERT:** *(a passionate but remarkably naïve young man, sung by a soprano)* **Finally! Home at last! ... Come in, dearest Helen.**

**HELEN:** *(his equally naïve young bride, a mezzo soprano)* **What horrible weather! From the carriage to the door, and I'm nearly soaked.**

**GILBERT:** **You'll get warm and dry in no time. Welcome to my house. Forgive me ... I mean *our* house. After all, what's mine is yours. Isn't that so?**

**HELEN:** **Yes, cousin ...**

**GILBERT:** *(reproachfully)* **Cousin! ...**

**HELEN:** **No, no! Of course, husband! Dearest husband!**

**GILBERT:** *(taking her hands)* **My wife! How I like to say the word.**

**HELEN:** **Yes, indeed. Especially the very first time.**

**GILBERT:** **Just think. Yesterday when they came rounding us up, you at the convent, me at the library – with old Pausanias, the devil take him with his Greek and Latin! – neither one of us suspecting that today ...**

**HELEN:** **That Mademoiselle would change her name to Madame!**

**GILBERT:** **Dear, dear Madame! A married woman for nearly an hour. Any regrets?**

**HELEN:** **Oh, how could you even imagine!**  
*(looking around apprehensively)* **But ...**

**GILBERT:** **But what?**

**HELEN:** They seem to be leaving us alone together for a long time.

**GILBERT:** Oh, I've not been noticing the time.

**HELEN:** I was expecting my Auntie. She has ... certain things to tell me about.

**GILBERT:** For that matter, my Grandfather promised to be here.

**HELEN:** (*worried*) Do you suppose they're not coming?

**GILBERT:** Not coming! Could they let us down like that? No, that wouldn't do at all.

**HELEN:** Why not?

**GILBERT:** Why, because ... because it's expected. It's the custom. One always greets the bridal couple on their first night. Ah! A noise from outside. Someone *is* coming! (*sound of a fall*)

**HELEN:** My goodness! Whoever it is has just fallen down the stairs.

**GILBERT:** (*going to open the door*) Don't worry. I recognize that tumble. It's Pausanias – my tutor, my overseer, my watchdog ...

**PAUSANIAS:** (*entering, a bit tipsy*) Here I am, my young married man! Two stairs caught me in the dark. (*rubbing himself*) *Pro cumbit humin bos.*

**GILBERT:** Forgive my saying so, Professor Pausanias, but you are tipsy.

**PAUSANIAS:** Me! A scholar! Overindulgent? Inebriated? Swacked?

**GILBERT:** One *could* get that impression ...

**PAUSANIAS:** *Sapiens!* No, merely merry and mellow. The shock of leaving the rarified atmosphere of the study. *Vir studiosus.* Well, well. It was a pleasant little wine.

To honor the day  
 I have had perhaps a glass or two,  
 And I notice right away  
 A broader, liberated point of view.

After only two,  
 My heart is light and happy as a bird.

So why not follow through  
And see what happens with a third?

Ah! Heigh-ho! Ha, ha, he!  
Here's good company!  
A bit of Beaujolais  
Can make a day.

So down, down, down! To feel up, up! Hey!  
Bravissimo!  
Be it Bordeaux  
Or Beaujolais.

Simple, yet profound  
Is a fact of life that I embrace:  
All it takes is one more round  
To make the world a better place.

After only three,  
I'm the wisest, wittiest of men!  
So would you not agree,  
We should pass around the glass again?

Ah! Heigh-ho! Ha, ha, he!  
Here's good company! *etc.*

**PAUSANIAS:** I'm steady as a clock, solid as a rock. (*he staggers*)  
*Impavidum ferient ruine.*

**GILBERT:** Impavidum! Impavidum! Enough Latin! What brings you here, Mister Antiquarian?

**PAUSANIAS:** A message for Madame. Her Auntie wishes to speak to her in private in her own bedchamber.

**GILBERT:** Then hurry, dear, hurry! Mustn't keep Auntie waiting.

**HELEN:** Certainly. At once!

**PAUSANIAS:** Madame!

**HELEN:** Madame! Oh, it does sound nice! (*she leaves*)

**GILBERT:** And what about my grandfather? Is he on his way?

**PAUSANIAS:** Ah, your grandfather! Alas, ill fated! He is incapacitated,

In disrepair, struck down, prostrate—in the language of the layman, sick. More specifically, he is confined to his bed.

**GILBERT:** Confined to his bed! But I need him! Go tell him that I have to see him, I have to talk to him. This is no time for him to take to his bed.

**PAUSANIAS:** Though unable to come personally, *in propria persona*, he entrusted me with a letter to give you. *Grandis epistula*.

**GILBERT:** Well, that's something ...

**PAUSANIAS:** It contains, said he, all the advice you will need.  
(*he opens and starts to read*)

**GILBERT:** Then let me have it! And you'd better go sleep it off.

**PAUSANIAS:** I'm leaving. But before doing so, you must allow an old professor to express a few personal sentiments. Dear pupil, the hour has come for separation. No more shall we decline together: nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, ablative. No more shall we conjugate together: present, perfect, imperfect, pluperfect ...

**GILBERT:** Yes, Pausanias. I understand. It's a very touching moment, but it's getting late ...

**PAUSANIAS:** Say no more. Other duties claim your attention. *Paulo Minor Camamus*. I depart.  
(*He leaves, with a little song, followed by a crash.*)

**PAUSANIAS:** (*offstage*) Blasted steps!

**GILBERT:** Finally gone! And not a moment too soon. So! The letter! I'm depending on it ... Up till now, life has been so easy. I've never had to think for myself. Somebody else said do this, I did it. Say this, I said it. Sign here, I signed. Things took care of themselves ... But tonight I'm on my own. Thank God for this letter.

My dear son, your old grandfather,  
As you enter this new stage,  
Wanted so to come and bother  
You with some wisdom born of age.

Much as I would like conversing,

**Tonight there's no going out.  
Stuck at home, alas! I'm nursing  
An accute attack of gout.**

**Angry gods there's no use fighting –  
I am not to have my say.  
So I'll put it down in writing,  
Profit by it as you may.**

**Day is done, the light receded,  
In the room alone, she and you!  
Sound advice will not be needed;  
Love will tell you what to do.**

**Your darling is there, close beside you –  
I know you well.  
And so I have no more than this to tell;  
Your heart will guide you.**

**I was just your age, or nearly;  
Your dear granny was my bride.  
All in white, I saw her clearly;  
How my bosom swelled with pride!**

**Heaven help us! How time passes!  
It seems like just yesterday.  
She was queen of all the lasses;  
I was handsome, too, some say.**

**By a festive mob surrounded,  
Barely could I hold my own.  
When the midnight bell then sounded.  
Suddenly we were alone.**

**Day was done, the light receded,  
Who could tell me what to do?  
Where was sound advice when needed?  
Where to find the missing clue?**

**My darling there, close beside me—  
You know me well.  
And so I have no more than this to tell:  
I needed none to guide me.**

**What! Is this all the advice I get? So, nobody had to tell him  
what to do. But what about me? Left in the lurch! And Helen**

**will come out any minute. Dear God! They fill your head with Latin and Greek and all kinds of useless stuffing, but when it comes to matters of importance, the things that really count ... Ah! That dratted Pausanias! (*stopping*) Pausanias! That's an idea. My salvation! After all, he's my tutor, and it's his job to keep me informed. I'll send him a note post haste! Dead or alive, I've got to see him! (*he leaves hurriedly*)**

**HELEN:** (*entering from her bedroom*) **Yes, Auntie, yes ... just as you say. I'll remember ...**

**GILBERT:** (*returning*) **There! I've sent a servant with the message. Come! Quick! Emergency! Underlined three times. That should bring him. Ah, Helen! (*aside*) So soon!**

**HELEN:** **Auntie just left. She told me everything that she has to say.**

**GILBERT:** **Ah! (*aside*) Perhaps I can pick up a few pointers as well. Dear, darling Helen, just exactly what did your Auntie have to tell you?**

**HELEN:** **Oh, I'm not sure that I ought to repeat it.**

**GILBERT:** **Of course you should! We must be entirely open with each other. Speak freely.**

**HELEN:** **Well ... she told me that now I'm a married woman, things are different.**

**GILBERT:** **And your Auntie is absolutely right.**

**HELEN:** **You and I are no longer just friends ...**

**GILBERT:** **Very true ...**

**HELEN:** **As your wife, I am to fulfill your needs, I must try to please you, to satisfy you ...**

**GILBERT:** **Yes, yes! Go on!**

**HELEN:** (*very shyly*) **And give myself to you.**

**GILBERT:** **Go on! Go on!**

**HELEN:** **By being cheerful, considerate, agreeable and obliging.**

**GILBERT:** What else?

**HELEN:** I believe that's all ...

**GILBERT:** That's all? It's obvious that dear Auntie doesn't know a damn thing. I should have expected as much ... the old prune!

**HELEN:** I do want so much to be a good wife. So here I am, eager and willing. You give the orders.

**GILBERT:** But I have no orders to give! (*aside*) Lord! Why doesn't Pausanias hurry up?

**HELEN:** You must tell me exactly what to do.

**GILBERT:** Well, it's like this.

**DUET: GILBERT & HELEN**

**GILBERT:** Dear little wife, if you intend  
To open up the doors of marriage.  
These simple words I recommend:

Yours forever,  
In vows heavenly and whole.  
I love you, love you  
With all my heart and soul.

**HELEN:** Yours forever,  
In vows heavenly and whole.  
I love you, love you  
With all my heart and soul.

**GILBERT:** Sweet! Sweet! How very sseet ...  
But ... only very sweet.

**HELEN:** Go on!

**GILBERT:** Eager for more even than this,  
Ignited by a flame of passion,  
A husband might invite a kiss.  
With a hug and a kiss, you and I can share  
Love entire,  
Earth and water, fire and air.

**HELEN:**                   **With a hug and a kiss, you and I can share, etc.**  
*(He gives her a very chaste kiss,)*

**GILBERT:**               **Yes, yes! How very nice!**  
**But ... does kissing quite suffice?**

**HELEN:**                   **Keep going!**

**GILBERT:**               **God help me! I shall throw a fit.**  
**Keep going? Keep going?**  
**That's all there is!**

**That's all there is?**  
**Yes, that is it!**

**HELEN:**                   **But how unsatisfactory**  
**If that is it, if that is it!**

**GILBERT:**               **Yes, that is it!**

**HELEN:**                   **So that is it?**

**GILBERT:**               **Yes, that is it!**

**BOTH:**                   **Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh!**  
**Even though we're going to the limit,**  
**I would hope for more by the minute.**  
**Such a nice, pleasant thing to do**  
**Clamors for a grand follow-through.**

**An overture, or what you will.**  
**Brings on a play to fill the bill.**  
**Opening a vast territory,**  
**Leading to the heart of the story.**

**GILBERT:**               **Ah! *(running to the door)* No one there. I thought I**  
**heard someone coming.**

**HELEN:**                   **So this is what being married means?**

**GILBERT:**               **Well, not entirely. *(aside)* My reputation is on the line.**  
***(to her)* I believe there is a little more to it.**

**HELEN:**                   **Like what?**

**GILBERT:** *(aside)* Such curiosity! *(to her)* In fact, there is a *lot* more to it... But we have plenty of time. After all, we're married for life. Rome wasn't built in a day. There's no need to rush into these things ... Pleasure should be rationed out. Today we do this, tomorrow that. Yes! Tomorrow we can ...

**HELEN:** Do what?

**GILBERT:** We can take a walk in the park.

**HELEN:** How nice. But this evening? ...

**GILBERT:** This evening? ... Well ... we can talk.

**HELEN:** Talk? *(sweetly)* What about?

**GILBERT:** *(aside)* From bad to worse. She must think I'm an idiot. *(to her)* We've had a good deal of rain this spring.

**HELEN:** *(aside)* Is that all he has to say?

**GILBERT:** *(aside)* Pausanias, where are you? *(to her)* So what were we saying?

**HELEN:** We were saying nothing at all.

**GILBERT:** That's true ... *(aside)* I'll simply have to bide my time and hope for the best. *(to her)* Ah, there he is! *(he runs to the door)* No, wrong again. Just the wind.

**HELEN:** *(starting to get sleepy)* You do run around a lot. Is something the matter?

**GILBERT:** Oh, no, nothing. Just a habit. In the evening, after dinner. I like a little exercise. It aids the digestion.

**HELEN:** Ah!

**GILBERT:** But if it bothers you ... *(sits down again)* What were we talking about?

**HELEN:** I don't believe we were talking about anything.

**GILBERT:** *(aside)* Oh, Pausanias! Pausanias!

**HELEN:** *(with a sigh)* Ah!

**GILBERT:** Something the matter?

**HELEN:** Nothing, nothing ...just a habit. In the evening, about this time, I get sleepy and lie down ... If you'll excuse me, I'll go to my room.

**GILBERT:** To your room?

**HELEN:** Unless you have more to talk about.

**GILBERT:** *(sadly)* No, nothing more. Go, go! *(aside)* Ah, grandfather! What you've done to me! It's no joke!

**HELEN:** *(leaving very slowly)* Well, goodnight, Gilbert.

**GILBERT:** *(without moving)* Goodnight, Helen.

**HELEN:** *(at the door)* Call me ... if you feel like talking.  
*(she goes to her room)*

**GILBERT:** Oh, she's making a fool of me! She's laughing at my expense. And she's right! I am an idiot, and I 'm sure that her opinion of me is not far from the truth ... and it's all the fault of Pausanias. Oh, that stuffed dodo! That depository of facts and figures. That lush! What's keeping him? Probably fast asleep. *(a light tap at the door)* Ah, a knock! It's him!

**PAUSANIAS:** *(timidly)* And may one come in?

**GILBERT:** Fine question! I sent expressly for you.

**PAUSANIAS:** I trust I'm not barging in, not interrupting anything? ...

**GILBERT:** No, no, sit down. I want to talk to you.

**PAUSANIAS:** Because if I'm in the way...they say three is a crowd.  
*(starting to leave)*

**GILBERT:** *(dragging him back)* Will or will you not sit down?

**PAUSANIAS:** Well, well, how nice, seeing you again so soon. What a surprise! *(looking around with undisguised astonishment)* You are all alone? Spending a quiet evening by yourself?

**GILBERT:** Yes!

**PAUSANIAS:** Ah!

**GILBERT:** What does that mean, “Ah!”?

**PAUSANIAS:** Nothing ... a release of air, an exhalation of the breath. (*aside, looking around on all sides*) What has he done with his wife?

**GILBERT:** (*severely*) Pausanias, I am most dissatisfied with you.

**PAUSANIAS:** (*surprised*) Dissatisfied?

**GILBERT:** Yes, with you! When my parents hired you to take charge of my education, if I’m not mistaken, to teach me everything a man has to know about life.

**PAUSANIAS:** Yes, and I flatter myself that I have fulfilled my obligations in a manner beyond reproach.

**GILBERT:** Wrong, sir! Wrong!

**PAUSANIAS:** Wrong?

**GILBERT:** (*solemnly*) My education is incomplete.

**PAUSANIAS:** Incomplete?

**GILBERT:** Most incomplete!

**PAUSANIAS:** You astonish me. What have I omitted? ... Oh, possibly a detail here and there ...

**GILBERT:** This is no detail. On the contrary. This is rock bottom!

**PAUSANIAS:** Rock bottom! I am baffled, confounded, perplexed, mystified, stumped. Let us review the situation.

**GILBERT:** All right, let’s review.

**DUET: PAUSANIAS & GILBERT**

**PAUSANIAS:** To choose what a youth ought to know  
I have applied my talent and acumen.  
For the course he must undergo  
Is taught by only one or two men.

So thanks to me  
You hold the key  
To vast and universal knowledge.  
Starting out with the ABC's,  
Winding up with the PHD's.

When all is said and done,  
I am myself a one-  
Man college.

**GILBERT:** All this and more I do not doubt,  
But ... something you left out.

**PAUSANIAS:** I proudly promote  
Absolute reliance  
On the reigning giants  
In the realm of science.

You've mastered by rote  
Latin conjugations,  
Multiple equations,  
Classic dissertations ...

**GILBERT:** All this and more I do not doubt.

**PAUSANIAS:** So there!

**GILBERT:** But ... something you left out.

**BOTH,** *with adjusted pronouns*

I've taught you to speak  
In Hebrew and Greek,  
While hammering home  
The glories of Rome.

**GILBERT:** Though I've been through the list,  
Yet something I must have missed.

**BOTH** With infinite pains

**On solids and planes,  
I've lighted the path  
To mastering math.**

**GILBERT:**                   **Yes, all that stuff and more!  
Yet something you quite ignore.  
You've taught me to speak, etc.**

**PAUSANIAS:**               **What more can you want  
To be *au courante*?**

**GILBERT:**                   **There's more that I want  
To be *au courante*.  
This learned stuff  
Is not enough.  
No, not enough.**

**PAUSANIAS:**               **You call this not enough?  
Still not enough?  
Following a plan,  
Early we began  
With medieval mystics.**

**GILBERT:**                   **Medieval mystics!**

**PAUSANIAS:**               **Going on from there,  
Ready to compare  
Latter day linguistics.**

**GILBERT:**                   **Latter day linguistics.**

**PAUSANIAS:**               **Stopping to discuss  
Law and logic, plus  
Study in statistics.**

**GILBERT:**                   **In statistics!**

**PAUSANIAS:**               **Turning then perhaps  
To historic maps.  
You may recollect  
I did not neglect  
Geography, orthography,  
Geology, philology,  
Topography, biography,  
Astrology, mythology.  
Physio ...**

**GILBERT:** You taught me all this learned stuff  
How often must I say  
It was not enough?

**BOTH:** We've taken apart  
Pascal and Descartes,  
While leaving some room  
For Hegel and Hume.

**GILBERT:** Though I've been through the list,  
Yet something I must have missed.

**BOTH:** We've started to work  
On Bentham and Burke,  
At last to relax  
With Latin syntax.

**GILBERT:** Yes, all that stuff and more!  
Yet something you quite ignore.  
We've taken apart  
Pascal and Descartes, *etc*,

**PAUSANIAS:** And all that's not enough? You still insist that I have left  
something out?

**GILBERT:** No, sir, it's not enough. And there is indeed something you  
have left out.

**PAUSANIAS:** Something else? Are you sure?

**GILBERT:** Think hard. Rack your brain.

**PAUSANIAS:** I can't imagine what you could be referring to.  
*(the light turns on)* Ah!

**GILBERT:** Ah! So now you know!

**PAUSANIAS:** Of course! Cartography!

**GILBERT:** Cartog – you're mad!

**PAUSANIAS:** Epistemology!

**GILBERT:** No, no, no! A thousand times, no!

**PAUSANIAS:** Then I give up.

**GILBERT:** All right, I'll tell you – the crucial, basic thing you have never even mentioned ... *(he whispers in his ear)*

**PAUSANIAS:** You're right! Absolutely right! How could I have forgotten?

**GILBERT:** You admit the oversight?

**PAUSANIAS:** Yes, all too true. But you see, it is not a subject on which I have specialized.

**GILBERT:** No excuses! It's unforgivable. But it's never too late. And that's why I have sent for you. I want you to repair the damage right now.

**PAUSANIAS:** Me!

**GILBERT:** Yes, you! Speak out! I'm listening.

**PAUSANIAS:** Oh, dear! ... To put it candidly ... in plain words, shorn of classical allusion ... to be brutally frank ... *(piteously)* I don't know any more than you do.

**GILBERT:** You don't know?

**PAUSANIAS:** I'm afraid that's how it is.

**GILBERT:** A man of your age?

**PAUSANIAS:** I've been so ... busy. And it was not listed in the curriculum ...

**GILBERT:** *(going after him with an umbrella)* Imbecile!

**PAUSANIAS:** But I will go find out. I'll make inquiries ...

**GILBERT:** *(pursuing him)* Blockhead!

**PAUSANIAS:** From a colleague! ... I'll return! I'll return! *(he runs out)*

**GILBERT:** *(alone)* What a donkey! But so am I. With me it's understandable. When did I have a chance to find out? But for a professor, a man of science! Inexcusable! *(with a sigh)* Ah, well. It's no use. I'm not going to learn any more tonight ... perhaps tomorrow. So I might as well go to bed ... *(he starts toward his room, then stops)* Strange ... I don't feel at all like sleeping ...

No, I'm all on edge, restless. I don't know what has come over me ... It's burning up in here! *(he opens a window)* Ah, look! Still raining ... the storm hasn't let up ... a wild night outside. No wonder I feel so unsettled.

Stormy outside, and I am perplexed;  
I'm blown to and fro like a feather.  
Languid one minute and raging the next,  
And all on account of the weather.

Reduced to a bundle of nerves,  
I freeze, I sweat, and little wonder!  
Odd, the sensations a fellow observes  
Because of the rain and the thunder!

Take the sad case of the gardener's child;  
A good girl, and quite all together.  
Seventeen, suddenly reckless and wild –  
I blame it, of course, on the weather.

To folly soon led to succumb,  
She left her old man torn asunder.  
Is it not strange what happens to some  
Because of the rain and the thunder?

**Brrr! The weather's getting worse and worse!** *(a thunder clap)*  
**And now thunder and lightning! ... It's definitely time to go to bed.** *(casting a last look at Helen's door, another thunderclap)*  
**Ah, Helen!**

**HELEN:** *(offstage)* Gilbert! Gilbert!

**GILBERT:** She's calling!

**HELEN:** *(still offstage)* Gilbert! *(more thunder)* Gilbert! *(She runs in, in a state of some disarray)* I'm trembling, shaking all over.

**GILBERT:** *(aside)* How pretty she looks!

**HELEN:** Gilbert, I should have told you before we got married, but I didn't dare.

**GILBERT:** How is that?

**HELEN:** I'm not very brave.

**GILBERT:** My darling! *(aside)* She looks so adorable!

**HELEN:** I'm terrified of thunderstorms.

**GILBERT:** *(distracted)* That's good. *(aside)* I'm going berserk.  
*(to her)* Yes, that's wonderful.

**HELEN:** Good? Wonderful? You're not listening to me.

**GILBERT:** *(with intensity)* That's because I'm looking at you.

**HELEN:** *(suddenly noticing her disarray)* Oh, my God! No, no! I beg you, Gilbert! Don't look ... I'm not even dressed.

**GILBERT:** So I see ... So I see ... *(aside)* How utterly enchanting!

**HELEN:** Gilbert, if you look at me, I'm leaving.

**GILBERT:** *(aside)* Try and get away! *(simulating fear)* Ah!

**HELEN:** What's the matter?

**GILBERT:** At the window! A horrible flash of lightning! ... The thunder will soon follow.

**HELEN:** *(returning to him)* Oh, God help us!

**GILBERT:** I wish I were brave myself ...

**HELEN:** What? You, a grown man? Afraid of thunder?

**GILBERT:** Well, yes and no ... Only when I'm by myself. *(tenderly)* But when I'm with someone ...

**HELEN:** What happens then?

**GILBERT:** Then I'm perfectly calm.

**HELEN:** How is that?

**GILBERT:** Because then I know what to do ... You get closer, you nestle up, you hold hands, all the time looking straight into each other's eyes ... and the thunder ... can't do a thing.

**HELEN:** *(marvelously impressed)* Are you sure?

**GILBERT:** Pausanias says so ... you see ... he knows all about the laws of nature.

**HELEN:** We have nothing to lose by trying ...

**DUET: GILBERT & HELEN**

**BOTH:** Come and snuggle up,  
Cozy as can be,  
Let it rumble, not a grumble  
Will you hear from me.

Nestled in the nest,  
We can stay  
Until the thunder goes away,  
Until the thunder is far away.

Linking hand in hand,  
Never letting go,  
This together we can weather,  
Holding on, like so.

**GILBERT:** See, my dear, the rage is subsiding;  
The storm would appear on the mend.  
Bashful stars, coming out of hiding,  
Make the sky once again a friend

**HELEN:** Mercy me! Now it's starting over!

**GILBERT:** Yes, because we've drifted apart.  
Safe in my arms, O my darling,  
Safe in my arms you must remain ...

**HELEN:** I'm still afraid ...

**GILBERT:** Here on my heart,  
Close to my heart,  
Finding courage and peace again.

**BOTH:** Come and snuggle up, *etc.*

**GILBERT:** The priceless privilege,  
To hold you in my arms!  
Fear gives a finer edge  
To your abundant charms.

So nubile and so near,  
Just waiting to be kissed!  
I wonder if ... bah!  
How can I resist? O God!

**HELEN:** What is wrong?

**GILBERT:** Oh, your lips undoubtedly are  
Softer and sweeter than ever before.  
Softer ... sweeter by far.

**HELEN:** How can that be?

**GILBERT:** So tantalizing, I must have one more.

**HELEN:** No, no! I beg you to refrain.

**GILBERT:** You court disaster. Yes, the thunder is back again!

**HELEN:** The thunder!

**GILBERT:** Heading right this way.

**HELEN:** The thunder is heading right this way!  
If so... if so ... I am bound ... to obey ...

Taking one, taking, two, taking three, taking four,  
From you! For me!  
Simple to learn, easy to do,  
Kissing is too good to be true.

**GILBERT:** Kisses too good to be true ...  
Too good to be true.

**HELEN:** Far too good to be true.

**GILBERT:** Hand on my heart,  
Feel it go thumping.

**HELEN:** Listen to mine,  
Bumping, bumping.

**GILBERT:** Here all alone, on our own.  
We've found the key.

**HELEN:** Here all alone, on our own.  
We've found the skeleton key.

**GILBERT:** Out of the fog of mystery,  
Love has provided the key.

**BOTH:** Love has supplied the key.  
So simple to learn and so easy to do,  
Yes, kissing is far too good to be true.

**GILBERT:** Darling Helen!

**HELEN:** Dearest Gilbert!

**GILBERT:** Grandpa was right. Some things you find out all by yourself.

**PAUSANIAS:** *(from outside)* Gilbert! Gilbert!

**GILBERT:** Pausanias! The devil take him! What do you want?

**PAUSANIAS:** *(entering)* I spoke to an old colleague ...

**GILBERT:** Go away! You're not needed.

**PAUSANIAS:** But ...

**GILBERT:** Will you go away? *(to Helen)* Isn't it so? We don't need him.

**HELEN:** *(lowering her eyes)* I believe not, my love.

**PAUSANIAS:** So I see ... Ah, but there is one thing we must not overlook ...

**GILBERT:** Of course! Right as usual! ... All these lovely ladies and gentlemen who have been so patient, so cordial and gracious ...  
*(he makes a gesture toward the audience)*

**ALL THREE:** Such an oversight!  
It would never do.  
So impolite to say goodnight  
Without including you.

So goodnight!  
So goodnight!  
So goodnight!

**THE END**

