

FANCOURT

Well... learn something new every day, don't we? (laughs weakly)  
For example, I didn't realize that... (sudden inspiration) my  
nephew had become acquainted with such a lovely and  
intelligent young woman.

AMY

(Flattered) Thank you. And yes, Charlie and I have become  
quite close over the years. I met him around the same time  
that Kitty met Jack, in fact.

FANCOURT

Oh, do tell.

AMY

(Lost in thought) When I first met him, I thought he was a  
bumbling fool.

FANCOURT

(Slight sarcasm) Can't imagine why.

AMY

I was carrying an armful of books on ancient history to the  
library checkout. He was careening around the corner, head in  
the clouds. We smacked right into each other at the corner of  
the Greco-Persian War and the siege of Jerusalem. My books  
went flying, and he collapsed into a pile of Herodotus.

FANCOURT

Sounds dreadful!

AMY

(Smiling) You can imagine how miffed I was. I gave him a  
piece of my mind while he scooped up all of our books.  
Somehow, the fool had mixed everything together, so of course  
I had to help sort them out. One thing led to another, and  
before you know it, we're both sitting cross-legged in the  
middle of the library, comparing the merits of Arrian versus

Plutarch as accounts of the life of Alexander the Great. The library assistant had to kick us out at closing time.

FANCOURT

What happened next?

AMY

He walked me home, carrying my books the whole way. Ever since, we've been... getting closer. We have such wonderful talks about all types of subjects. You can't imagine how difficult it is for a young woman to have an intelligent conversation. The boys talk past me to each other, and the girls get bored and start gushing over boys. Charlie... he's special. Even if he *is* a bit thick in the head sometimes.

KITTY

I have the same problem with Jack sometimes!

FANCOURT

Oh, really? How did you two meet?

KITTY

Nothing as exciting as my dear sister Amy! Spettie and I were in stands at the Oxford University Boat Club against Cambridge. Jack was two spots down from the coxswain, and he caught the crab when the rower in front over-feathered during the layback.

FANCOURT

(Hopelessly lost) Oh.

AMY

She means that Jack got hit in the eye with an oar.

KITTY

Yes! (Pause) That's funny, I never knew what any of that meant. I just thought Spettie was being poetic. Anyway, Jack fell out of the boat. I thought he was drowning and before I

knew what I was doing, I jumped into the river and helped fish him out.

FANCOURT

Exciting stuff.

KITTY

Spettie was absolutely livid and hustled me off home, but not before Jack invited me to the Oxford Cricket Club for a quick whack at the wicket! Ever since, we've been fast friends!

FANCOURT

How romantic!

AMY

Yes... romantic. Except that... Charlie seems so awkward sometimes. Almost as if he is trying to avoid me. Sometimes, I think he wants to keep our relationship... friendly.

KITTY

I know just what you mean! Boys are so stupid sometimes!

FANCOURT

You're absolutely right! Especially *those* boys!

AMY

Sometimes, I wish I could just... run away and join the Foreign Legion or something.

KITTY

You know very well Spettie wouldn't allow that.

AMY

Don't I know it. I love my father, of course. I just wish he weren't so mean. In every sense of the word.

KITTY