

MATILDA

Are you poor?

MISS HONEY

Yes. Yes, I am. Very.

MATILDA

Don't they pay teachers very much?

MISS HONEY

Well, they don't, actually. But I am even poorer than most, because of... other reasons. I used to live with my aunt. But one day I was out walking and I came across this old shed – I fell completely in love with it. I ran to the farmer and begged him to let me move in. He thought I was mad! But he agreed and I've lived here ever since.

MISS Honey Audition

MATILDA

But Miss Honey, you can't live in a shed!

MISS HONEY

I'm not strong like you, Matilda. My father died when I was young. Magnus was his name and he was very kind. But when he was gone, my aunt became my legal guardian. She was mean and cruel like you can hardly imagine. And then, when I got my job as a teacher, she presented me with a bill for looking after me all those years. And she made me sign a contract to pay her back every penny. She even produced a document that said my father had given her his entire house.

MATILDA

But did he really do that? Just give her his house?

MISS HONEY

I find it hard to believe. Just like I cannot believe that he would have... killed himself, which is what she said happened.

MATILDA

(a realization)

You think she... did him in, don't you, Miss Honey?

MISS HONEY

I... cannot say, Matilda. All I know is that years of being bullied by that woman made me... well, pathetic; I was trapped.

MATILDA

Let's go to the police!