

CHARLES DICKENS MEETS QUEEN VICTORIA SKETCH

Charles Dickens enters during the voice over. He looks about expectantly.

VOICE OVER:

Charles Dickens lived during the reign of Queen Victoria ...and the two of them knew each other quite well. The Queen enjoyed his writings and he, in turn, was often invited to Buckingham Palace for a private audience with the Queen.

Announcing her Majesty, Queen Victoria.

Queen Victoria enters. Charles Dickens bows.

QUEEN:

How nice to see you again, Mr. Dickens.

DICKENS:

Thank you, your majesty. It is always a pleasure.

QUEEN:

That's very kind of you to say.

DICKENS:

No, it's true. As you know I spend a great deal of my time writing about people, about their characters, their personalities....and I think you have an incredibly strong and honourable character.

QUEEN:

Why thank you Mr. Dickens.

DICKENS:

You are very proper, very decent, very respectable. Nothing inappropriate would ever escape your lips.

QUEEN:

Thank you Mr. Dickens. So...how long is it?

DICKENS:

I'm sorry?

QUEEN:

How long is it since we've seen each other?

DICKENS:

Oh, I see what you mean, yes. Well, it's been over a year I think. It was winter, I believe, because it was snowing.

QUEEN:
Are you getting any?

DICKENS:
I'm sorry?

QUEEN:
Snow. Are you getting any snow...in your part of London?

DICKENS:
No, not at all. Although it was very cold. I have to protect my neck or I lose my voice.

QUEEN:
You need to get your ascot.

DICKENS:
My ass....oh, my ascot. Yes, to keep my neck warm. My wife hates the cold.

QUEEN:
I understand last winter your wife broke it off.

DICKENS:
I'm sorry?

QUEEN:
Your relationship.

DICKENS:
Oh yes. But we're fine now. It was just a misunderstanding. A comedy of errors.

QUEEN:
When was it you had your cock up?

DICKENS:
Just after the holidays. But, as I say, we're fine now.

QUEEN:
Although I suppose you've got to hand it to her.

DICKENS:

Your Majesty...I'm feeling a bit flustered right now, actually. Maybe I should go. I actually have a train to catch. Heading up north.

QUEEN:

Do you go all the way?

DICKENS:

Uh...uh....

QUEEN:

Mr. Dickens, you seem very upset. I don't understand. I've been asking about your life...the weather, your marriage.

DICKENS:

No, no. I'm sorry. Of course it's just been innocent conversation. I guess being a writer, my imagination runs a bit off course. It's been a wonderful conversation. Very proper. Very kind. Very appropriate.

QUEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Dickens. I'm glad we got that straightened out. (Pause). Want to come up to my room?

DICKENS:

Yup.

They exit hurriedly.