

Mrs. Stapleton

It was a relief to Franklin when the aunt bustled into the room with a whirl of apologies for keeping him waiting.

MRS. STAPLETON

I hope Vera has been amusing you?

FRANKLIN

She has been very interesting.

(He smiles sadly in Vera's direction. He extends his hand and introduces himself.)

Franklin Neally, ma'am, It is very nice to meet you.

MRS. STAPLETON

I hope you don't mind the open window, my husband and sons will be home directly from hunting, and they always come in this way. They've been out for squirrel today, so they'll make a fine mess over my poor carpets. Just like a man.

Franklin is unable to answer. His mouth hangs open as he tries to think of something to say.

MRS. STAPLETON

My husband and son's love to hunt. I think duck season is their favorite but that's not til the fall.

(Franklin is horrified. He tries to turn the conversation.)