

## RS#5 Mr. Laurence & Beth

**Start**



*BETH is at the piano playing. The piano has one broken note which BETH hits and hits again. MR. LAURENCE appears in the doorway)*

**MR. LAURENCE**

That piano sounds terrible.

**BETH**

It needs a tuning, sir.

**MR. LAURENCE**

*(Entering)*

Where is my grandson, Laurie?

**BETH**

I'm sure he'll be home soon.

**MR. LAURENCE**

The boy's missed six lessons - fallen behind in all his work. I have strictly forbidden him to associate with this family.

**BETH**

Why, sir?

**MR. LAURENCE**

Because a man needs an iron will if he's to succeed in this world. And this family will only soften him.... Which one of the dreadful little March girls are you?

**BETH**

I'm dreadful Beth.

**MR. LAURENCE**

Oh, yes, Laurie said you're the one who wants to play my priceless piano. It's out of the question. The piano belonged to my daughter, Laurie's mother. It's been locked since she passed away, and that's how it shall stay...

Are you afraid of me?

**BETH**

A little.

**MR. LAURENCE**

Why?

**BETH**

It might have something to do with your face, sir. It's very hard.

**MR. LAURENCE**

I cannot help my hard face. Continue what you were playing.... Come now, I haven't all day.... Are you going to play or not?

 **End**