

3431

"WHY GIRLS LEAVE HOME"

A DRAMA IN 3 ACTS BY MISS KATE HOWARDE

1914

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES CRS A1336/2

ITEM 3431

HANCER
COLLECTION

"WHY GIRLS LEAVE HOME"

C A S T O F C H A R A C T E R S.

JASPER HEMLIN.....A City merchant
MARK THORDON.....His partner
JACK CHAPTERIS.....Hemlins nephew
ELLY BARNES.....Office Messenger
ABE FAUCETT.....A ne'er-do-well
MONS. MARTEL.....A Paris Hotelkeeper
PHILIP DORET.....A French Officer
MARY ANN ELIZABETH MCGUFFIN.....servant girl
MRS. FOILLINGS.....An old landlady
NELL FAUCETT.....Abe's daughter

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1 SCENE 1 OFFICE OF JASPER HEMLIN
ACT 2 SCENE 1 ENTRANCE OF LE HOTEL GALLIERE IN PARIS
" 2 A STREET IN PARIS
" 3 A FLAT IN KENSINGTON LONDON
ACT 3 " 1 SHabby LOGGINGS IN LONDON
" 2 A STREET IN SOUTH LONDON
" 3 LONDON THAMES EMBANKMENT
ACT 4 " 1 ENQUIRY ROOM IN

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"WHY GIRLS LEAVE HOME"

ACT 1

SCENE 1

Tables and chairs R and L Type-writer on table L - chair
general business ensemble. Entrances C. R. and L.

(Enter Mary Ann to begin carrying pail one hand brush in
other or broom and duster)

Mary

Well if them stairs aint enough to try the patience of a saint and as for the steps - love a duck they're the limit. How Mrs. Miggins keeps them ever tolerable decent is more than I can fathom. Its go go all the blooming time and then if you leave em for one second why they go and disgrace you. Ugh: I wouldnt be an office (Cleans Typewriter with duster) cleaner permanent for all the tea in China. There I've made that look a bit better anyhow. Miss Faurcett will find everything nice and tidy when she comes in-she's a nice girl - upright and down straight as granny used to say. Hullo (goes C looks off) Here comes the guvnor as Billy calls him and his partner Mr. Thordon. Oh I cant stand a bar of him he always makes me feel creepy. Just like as if he was a big sly old cat and I was a poor little shivering mouse (Exit L.B.)

(Enter Hemlin and Thordon C)

Jasper

You've quite decided on this matter Thordon? (Goes R)

Marck

quite (goes to machine)

Jasper

Well speaking from one point of view I shall be sorry to dissolve our Partnership-in another sense I shall be relieved

Marck

That sounds ambiguous

Jasper

Well candidly Thordon I must confess that your methods are just a little too progressive for my-possibly old fashioned ideas-I have felt in fact-that you considered me in the light of a drag upon your views and ideas. Thats is so is it not?

Mark

Well since you have taken the initiative I may as well confess that there have been times-opportunities I may say - when I could have acted more in accordance with my own opinion-had a been playing a lone hand

Jasper

I thought so-then it is much better to dissolve-you know the old saying "A house divided against itself---

Mark

"Is no house at all"-exactly my opinion. Then its settled and the lawyers can fix up matters at once

Jasper

(Coldly) As soon as you like Thordon. Believe me I've no ~~wish~~ wish to hamper you in any way-you can break your tie with me as soon as you please

Mark

Thanks-the fact is I am feeling a bit seedy and as soon as I am free I intend taking a few weeks spell abroad-a bit run down I suppose

Jasper

I dont wonder at it the rush and bustle of the present day are responsible in my opinion for so much of the nerve-wrack and general break-down that we are constantly hearing so much about

Mark

well one must keep pace with the times (x L.)

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Jasper Ah thats the shibboleth of you young men-everywhere-but believe me you live work eat and drink aye, even think too fast. You'll never make the men your great grand-fathers were. We who see with eyes of the past-know and realize that the world is going too fast (Mark moves impatiently) But there I suppose you are not anxious for my opinions-therefore I wont inflict any more on you. I am expecting a messenger from Jarvice and Ford. If he arrives will you oblige me by sending him in ((Exits R Door))

Mark His opinions. I should say I didnt want to be inflicted with them (C) Antequated old fossil. Ah (x to machine pick up papers carelessly) Shes late this morning (Jasper comes Door R)

Jasper Thordon-may I trouble you for ten minutes

Marck Certainly (Jasper goes back (x's)) What a humbug it all is (at door looking C.B.) I wonder how long she'll be (Exit Door R)

(Enter Mary Ann P.L.)

Mary There thats done-thank the stars. I hate doing his room (going C about to exit) Oh here comes Billy I'll give him a shock (Gets behind door as Billy enters whistling she boos Billy starts)

Billy Oh (jumps down R corner startled drops salver and letters has book sticking out of his pocket R) Here do that again and I'll (threatens)

Mary Billy-its me

Billy Mary Ann its ditto (embrace)

Mary did I frighten you Billy?

Billy Frighten me-Mary Ann what are you giving us (loftily)

Mary (Innocently) Then what did you drop the tray for Billy?

Billy To see if you'd pick it up

Mary You never

Billy I did

Mary Well I wont

Billy I say you will

Mary I say I waont wait on a man-not on your life

Billy What ah (starts tragically claps hand to forehead) Would you see me-me the hero of your girlish dreams. Wouldst see me stoop to such degradation. N-never N'never do

Mary Are you going balmy

Billy Have I not cause-ah-there lies a tray-a common tray-oh would it were a tray bit-twould never linger there. Woman (grabs her) Who was that fatal letter from

Mary What letter

Billy The letter addressed to thee false one-in a mans handwriting

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Mary A letter for me-oh where (picks up tray and letters) Billy
I cant see the letter

Billy (takes tray from her cooly) I said you'd pick it up

Mary You little wretch I'll never speak to you again + R

Billy Then I shant tell you of my adventures in Paris

Mary Billy are you going to Paris?

Billy Yes-for the week-end how does it strike you?

Mary It doesnt strike me at all what are you going to that
horried place for?

Billy Experience

Mary You'll get it

Billy Listen-ambition leads me yonder. One of these days I'm
going to be a 'tec-tec-tec--

Mary A detective

Billy Yes-the real mackril-no blue coated peeler-but a real live
nab his bobes-in other lingo-Sherlock Holmes

Mary You dont say---

Billy Meet me to-night same place same time-same togs and I'll
communicate th K-plot to you. Hush someone coming. We
must vamoose (Exit tiptoe mysteriously C singing softly
now on tiptoe)

(Enter Hemlin and Thordon R)

Jasper You seem rather interested in my typist Thordon?

Mark I am-she strikes me as rather a superior sort of girl
for her position

Jasper Theres nothing degrading^m work Thordon

Mark Oh of course not but one wouldnt imagine that a woman of
Miss Faucett's type would have been content to become a
mere office automaton- a drudge at ~~she~~ so much a week

Jasper miss Faucett is contented with her position and is a
capital worker. I've never heard her complain which
shews she has the right ort of spirit

Mark No doubt you are right- I confess I never did understand
a woman

Jasper I dont think a man ever does. But I wonder if my parcel
from Jarvice and Ford has arrived-I'll find out if Billy
knows anything about it (ring bell Mark picks up paper
down L)

Mark (reading) Blue rockets are rising I see

Jasper (decisively) I dont like them

Mark That doesnt alter the fact that the shares are going up

Jasper Rockets usually do-go up and go off leaving nothing but
an empty space-wherever is that lad (ring agin)

Billy (Off C) Coming sir

Mark So is doomesday

(Enter Billy with book in R pocket)

Jasper Didnt you hear me ring?

Billy Yes sir (swallowing food chokes)

Jasper Why didnt you answer at once

Billy I couldnt sir

Jasper Couldnt -why not?

Billy Me mouth was full

Mark You'd have come quick enough had I been behind you

Billy Would I sir? (aside) Thats news

Jasper I am expecting a messenger from Jarvice and Fords Jewellery establishment-show him in as soon as he arrives

Billy Very good sir (going)

Jasper A moment-bye-the-bye Thordon I expected a call from Bryce of Oldham. I suppose he will 'phone if he hasnt done so already

Billy No calls this morning yet sir

Jasper Sure

Billy Yes sir

Mark quite sure

Billy Is this a cross-examination sir

Mark None of your impertinence. I shouldnt be at all surprised Hemlin if your calls havent been answered. This fool is too much of a featherhead for my taste

Billy I'd rather have a feather head than a wooden block like some people

Mark Why you imp dent young---

Jasper Thordon (pause bus) You misunderstand-the lad is perfectly reliable. I can thoroughly trust his word Billy place those papers for Miss Faucett (Billy walks round loftily gazes at Thordon crosses to machine) (Jasper exits R.R.)

Mark (at door L) You'd learn better manners my deft young cock-sparrow or you may regret it-see (Exit R.L.)

Billy (mimics) Learn better manners my deft young cock sparrow or you may regret it. Oh how I'd like to give him one-two-three-then a rat tap tap-fair on the boko (spars round) (Enter Jack Charteris C)

Jack Hullo Billy whats the game going in for the prize ring

Billy No going out for the paper

Jack That wont wash Bill-theres the paper lying there. Whats the trouble?

Billy Well you see Mr. Charteris I've got the spike

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Jack Oh have you-thats bad

Billy Horrible

Jack And (laughs) What was the cause?

Billy Mums the word sir

Jack (quickly) Of course

Billy Your uncles partner sir Mr. Thordon

Jack Oh whats he been doing now?

Billy What hes always do ng chipping me-and throwing off-I can see through him and he knows it

Jack What have you done now?

Billy Its not what I've done-but I shall do something one of these days. It'll be smash bang go and one of us will be out Employer or no employer

Jack I dont cotton particularly to the chap myself but I fancy its only his way. I think hes got an unfo rtunate manner. I dont think hes a bad sort of fellow really (sitting on table R Billy down L)

Billy (qu estioningly) No

Jack (encouragingly) No

Billy Ah-I'll tell Miss Faucett that

Jack (rises quickly) Miss Faugett how does it concern her?

Billy Nothing-thats what narks him

Jack Billy what do you mean?

Billy Nothing-its not my place to talk

Jack Yes it is-and you're going to answer me-you've said too much or too little. Why should you repeat anything that concerns Thordon to that lady?

Billy I dont want to reapeat anything. I hate the sight of him and so does she

Jack She does-then there must be some reason

Billy Bet your life there reason-shes afraid of him

Jack Afriad og him-What here in my uncles office-oh you're dreaming

Billy Ask her

Jack Did she tell you

Billy Not in so many words but she says to me one day-Billy whenever I'm alone in the office with Mr. Thordon dont go far away-well a man dont want eyes in the back of his nut to grasp ~~the manner of that~~ ^{what that means} does he

Jack I can hardly believe me

Billy Perhaps he dont mean any harm though eos hes not a bad sort of fellow really (quotes Jacks words)

Jack (sternly) That'll do Billy my boy. You see I've been here a couple of weeks and I haven't had time to notice much but I've kind of taken an interest in that little lady and if I catch him at any of his games (straightening himself) Hes likely to have a bad time X

Billy That's a spoke in your wheel Mr. Mark Thordon Esquire (Exit C)

(Enter Hemlin B.R.)

Jasper Ah good morning lad

Jack Morning uncle-turned up again you see

Jasper Glad to see have you Jack. Been lost lately?

Jack No I'm beginning to know my London now. If I'm fogged I ask my way-you can't follow the sun as we do out in the bush-and I must say your London bobbies are jolly decent fellows always willing to give you a hand if you're boxed

Billy (Entering C) Messenger in the Hall sir from Jarvice and Ford

Jasper Show him into my office

Billy Very good sir (Exit C)

Jack Am I in the way

Jasper Not at all. I am about to select a diamond necklet for the daughter of a very old and valued friend of mine and prospective client. Will you come and help me make a selection?

Jack With pleasure sir-a diamond necklace-rather a big order in present isn't it?

Jasper Not in this case-the lady is making a very wealthy marriage. My present I look upon as a polite investment and will in all probability return me a hundred fold

Jack Really (laugh) Oh you men of business (both exit R.B.)

(Enter Billy C)

Billy Hat all alone and by myself. Now for a peep-Here we are-Buster Bill the Bosca bouncer of Blue Nose Gully. Lets see where did I leave off-Oh I know. When the girl got shot in the tunnel by Black Bogan and Buster goes in search of the murderer. Its a bonser detective yarn this(read) "When Bill Buster left the " "gully he struck the trail of his prey at the " "mouth of the long canyon. Bill gave a whoop and " "muttered to himself in a gutter" (look up) Muttered to himself in a gutter Oh I see (look at book)"in" "a guttural whisper- I'm on to him a few feleting" "minutes and the girl will be avenged-with the " "tenacity of a bull pup and the scent of a blood-" "hound Bill crept on and on till just as he came to " "the bend of the three forks (Enter Mark L stands listening L.C.) "with a stealthy gesture Bill parted" the brushwood and there in the half light Black " "Bogan was cornered. With the blood lust of murder" "gleaming in his eyes Buster leaped and gripped his" "foe and so they stood both panting with hate face" "to face"

Mark Very edifying no doubt (Billy r shes to C door) Bot not what you're paid for
Billy Beg pardon sir I was only
mark I'm quite aware about the only (x's R) Miss Faucett not here yet
Billy (C) Five minutes to the hour sir
mark Very well when she comes
Billy She here now sir
mark Ah (stand door R)
 (Enter Nell C)
Nell Good-morning Billy am I late?
Billy No just on the tick
Nell Thats good-I just hate being behind time (not seeing Mark
Mark Good morning Miss Faucett
Nell Oh I beg pardon I didnt see you
Mark Dont apologise. Boy you may go
Billy (aside) ~~Way I~~ (saunters up very slowly)
Mark Let me help you (about to cross to her)
Nell (as Billy turns quickly to her) I wont trouble you thanks Billy is quite proficient in these matters (Billy looks triumphantly at Mark as he helps Nell with coat)
Mark Of course if you prefer the assistance of a servant
Nell Why not-I am a servant myself
Mark You do not flatter yourself. Surely theres some difference between this (points to Billy)
Nell Pardon me-I see none-we both do our work and are paid by one employer. Theres no difference-I look upon Billy as one of my best friends
Billy Thank you miss
Mark Miss. You see your friend observes a difference evidently
Nell Some people respect, not abuse, a privilege. I daresay you've noticed that (sits at machine)
Billy (aside) Thats nasty
Mark Get out
Billy Beg pardon sir
mark Angrily) Get out
Billy Oh-with pleasure
mark You-impudent dog
Billy (aside) You infernal puppy bah (Exit C)

Mark I wish Nell (x to her) You would show me half the favor you bestow on that young cub

Nell That would be impossible I fear-you see Billy interests me greatly

Mark And I do not

Nell Decidedly you do not

Mark Wont you think you're very rude

Nell No-surely I may have the liberty of my own opinions my likes and dislikes concern no one but myself

Mark Yes they do-they concern me Nell

Nell How often have I asked you Mr. Thordon not to call me by my christian name

Mark And equally how often have I told you that I much prefer to do so

Nell Mr. Hamlin never presumes upon the fact of being my employer to insult me

Mark Insult you

Nell (Hotely) Yes-for you know how much I dislike it

Mark Psha-dont be abusive-most girls of your class would be flattered at being singled out for notice by a man in my position

Nell I dont believe it-I've had plenty of experience of girls who have to work for a living-and that they didnt grumble at but one thing they do resent and bitterly-any encroach upon their self respect or honest independence

Mark You take a very high and mighty tone my dear girl-but you must have common sense-you know (changes tone to tenderness) No one knows better than a woman-you know that I love you Nell-and that theres nothing on earth I wouldnt do for you. I've tried to put you out of my mind but its no good-I see your face-your eyes everywhere. You can make a saint or a devil of me. Oh I know that, an old story but its true wont you believe me

Nell Why will you persist in talking to me like this-I've told you so often that I dont care-never will care for you in that way-why wont you leave me alone

Mark Because I dont believe you-you are ~~only playing a part-women have such a propensity to lie you know~~ expecially when there is a purpose to serve

Nell Will you be good enough to leave me to my work you forget yourself

Mark No I do not-and I dont believe that this attitude of coldness is anything but a well devised plan. Do you try to tell me that any woman could be content to slave day by day for a mere pittance she could earn in a place like this

Nell I am ~~satisfied~~

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Mark

I choose to doubt it. Come Nell why keep me at arms length let me help you to the place and station you are so eminently fitted to adorn

Nell

In what way?

Mark

By taking you from here at once giving you ease luxury diamonds enjoyment -the thousand pleasures that love and money can command

Nell

It sounds very tempting

Mark

Think-thats the position I offer you

Nell

Yes (reflectively) I think I should like such a position

Mark

Wise woman

Nell

Yes I should like the position but not with you tacked on to it

Mark

What

Nell

You seem very hard to convince. They may be woman who can be bought but I'm not one of them

Mark

But you'll come to my terms yet-I've set my mind on having you Nell Faucett and I've never denied myself anything I wanted in all my life

Nell

(rises and goes L down stage) I refuse to listen to you-leave me to my work as or I'll go at once and complain to Mr. Hemlin

Mark

No-and you'll regret it

Nell

Stand out of my way

Mark

What-you defy me you-you-I'll (Enter Billy C)

Billy

Did you call miss?

Nell

I was just going to (L.C.)

Mark

Call (cooly) What on earth for. Miss Faucett and myself were discussing a little business (to Nell aside) be careful you cant afford to make me your enemy

Nell

(pause) Coward (returns slowly to seat)

Mark

There you see my lad-go where you're wanted

Billy

Aint he a hottie-I'd like to knock his block off (Exit C after seeing that Nell doesnt notice)

Mark

Now my dear girl theres got to be an understanding between us-I'm just about sick of your airs and graces show me a little more favor or your reign here will be very short-you would like to lose you situation would you-new billets are not so easily obtained-conciliate me or out you go-without a reference and without a character

Nell

So you threaten me now

Mark

~~Why not alle fair in love and war and remember its your own doing~~

Nell

Oh why am I so persecuted No no youre only trying to frighten me-even you could not be so unjust so inhuman

Mark (Bend to her) I mean to have you Nell-by fair means if possible-if not- Come dearest (with quick change) Isn't my love more to be desired than my hate (touches her)

Nell (jumps up wildly) No-thousand times no. Why your very touch ~~makes~~ me shudder-I'd sooner die a hundred deaths than be what you would wish me

Mark Beware

Nell Oh I dont care-a minute since I was frightened-but I'm myself now-and I tell you to do your worst

Mark (Fiercely) You want to be thrown out (point to door)

Nell I dont care-anything would be preferable to what you offer me-Heave me turned out if you will- Thrown on the merciless charity of a world that has no place for an unfortunate fellow creature-especially a woman-It wont be the first time that a poor girl who has had to work for her daily bread has been cast on the streets homeless, and beggared because she wouldnt listen to the shameless proposals of her rich employer

Mark You she devil I'll (catches her hand)

Nell Let me go

Mark I'll tame you-you

Nell Oh hel help

(Enter Jack R throws Mark R corner)

Jack (C) What does this mean

Mark Ask-the lady

Jack Will you explain Miss Faucett-Thordon I thought you had more decency than to molest a woman

Mark I'm very sorry-I confess I did my head-I suppose my dis-appointment was to blame

Jack Disappointment:

Mark Yes-you see charteris I had just asked Miss Faucett to honor me by becoming-my wife

Nell (startled) Your wife:

Mark Most certainly-and as men dont as a rule make that class of proposal-I suppose I took my rejection rather badly

Jack Rejection (looks at both)

Mark Yes-so the situation got a little strained you see- You wont mind if under the circumstances I return (x's L) Au revoir Miss Faucett (Jack R corner) Nell-I'm sorry (at L corner looks back slight pause aside) Wait (Exit L

Jack Miss Faucett there seems to be som ting I dont understand

Nell He didnt mean that-it was only his hypocrisy-his intention was not honorable-I know it my instinct would not mislead me. Oh he is a cruel bad wicked

Jack Whatever his failings may be I think at least Miss Faucett that Thordon is at least sincere in his regard for you

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Nell sincere

Jack perhaps its his manner that in unfortunate

Nell Manner-do you think that a man who professes to love a woman if he was really in earnest would-would threaten here

Jack Threaten-did he do that to you

Nell Oh I shoulant have said that but if you knew how terrible it is to be in the power of the man who pays you your weekly wage

Jack Why didnt you speak-appeal to my uncle-he is justice itself

Nell What would be the use-Mr Thordon is his partner-whose word would be most likely to be believed. Why even just now when he uttered that specious lie you believed him

Jack I didnt think it was a lie and besides I couldnt help pitying him in a sense

Nell (at machine) Oh its no use

Jack You know Miss Faucett its a terrible thing for a chap when hes in love and the girl will have none of him-suppose now you were in love

Nell (sharply) I couldnt suppose that

Jack I could

Nell Theres one thing certain. I could never care for that man if I lived for a hundred years

Jack I see- his case is pretty hopeless and yet hes the sort of chap most girls would fancy I should say

Nell He has hinted as much on several occasions

Jack The deuce he has

Nell Oh he doesnt believe with Gray that on their merits modest men are dumb

Jack Evidently not-do you like poetry Miss Faucett

Nell Some kinds

Jack Have you ever ready anything of Adam Lindsay Gordons

Nell No I'm afraid not (working quickly)

Jack Thats a pity-I'm sure you'd like him (noticing her haste) By jove you're working at double quick time to-day

Nell I've a lot to get th ough and to-day I've had a-let so many interruptions

Jack Thats one for me eh-well I dont intend to take the hint. Do you know it seems hard you should have to work while I'm loafing. Do you always have to grind like this day in and day out

Nell Yes I'm usually kep going

Jack It doesnt seem fair somehow-Your people, do they like your being here

Nell I have no people. My mother is dead and my father-well I'd rather not talk about him

Jack I see-I've wondered why girls leave home

Nell If you could see some homes-the answer would be very obvious- the grinding appalling poverty-the hunger starvation and misery if you could see what I have seen ther would be no question as to why girls leave home- but there I'm afraid I'm boring you

Jack Very far from it-you interest me awfully. I like to hear you talk

Nell Bo you

Jack Awfully and the funny part of it is-that usually I hate any sort of conversation, jabbering reminds of of a blackfellow

Nell Blackfellow

Jack Yes an aboriginal-we've lots of them over there (nod)

Nell Oh yes-youre an Australian arnt you

Jack Yes-Australian born and bred

Nell (Teasingly) And proud of it

Jack Sure-Why not- Its my homeland down there-under the dear old Southern Cross Bo you know I'd like to take you there

Nell (srily) Would you

Jack (misses her meaning) You dont know what living means till you've seen the blue of an Australian sky-slept out under the stars with only the broad conopy of the Heavens above you and your only company your staunch old watch dog the best and very often the only friend the bushman has,

Nell It must be very different to life in London

Jack Dfferent I should say so

Nell I suppose you like it a lot better than being here

Jack Well of course its an eye opener

Nell Are you going to stay long

Jack Well that all depends-I suppose I'll have to stop long enough to get the rough edges knocked off. Thats what the old man says

Nell (Laughs) That will take quite a long time wont it

Jack Here-come I say dont you start pulling my leg

Nell (looks surprised) Really--

Jack (confused) Oh hang it I mean you mustnt take a rise out of a chap because he a new chum

Nell I wouldnt dream of it

Jack I say Miss Faucett youre an awfully nice girl. You dont mind me telling you so you

Nell Youre very complimentary

Jack

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Jack No I'm not-they always call me Jack Blunt-I say what I mean and-look-here-I'd like to ask you a question-mind its rather personal so dont get mad will you

Nell I'll try not to

Jack thats right-I want you to be plain with-of course I know you are plain (obtusely)

Nell (sighs) Undoubtedly

Jack (seeing mistake) No no I didnt mean that-I mean qu te the opposite-I meant that I know you would be plain spoken. The fact is I'm rather anxious to know what sort of a man you would lose your head over

Nell Laughs) I hope I'll never lose my head over any man

Jack Oh you will someday-they all do

Nell I suppose every woman likes to think of love coming her way some day through it doesnt always bring happiness

Jack Oh yes it does

Nell I dont think so

Jack I'm sure

Nell Why-have you had experience

Jack I-oh no-but I've eard

Nell It isnt always wise to believe all you hear you know

Jack Why all the poet chaps write about love-and theres many a man died for the sake of thg woman he cared for

Nell It must be glorious to be loved like that

Jack (eagerly) I could love like that

Nell I should not have thought

Jack What couldnt you fancy me a lover

Nell Well you dont appear a very likely Romeo

Jack You dont know me. I can turn my hand to anything ever love-making if I like to try-I'm not 33 and I've made my pile

Nell Pile

Jack Fortune

Nell Oh

Jack I've made my pile stewing up in the Northern Territory -Come over to the old country to get my eyes skinned as the Yank-ees say-looked up the incle to please the mater over home-and nothing would delight the same dear old lady than for me to take back after a little jaunt round-a sweet truehearted pure-minded English girl wife for a surprise for the darling old soul-how does that sound (X's to her during speech leans over her with his hands on hers)

(Enter Billy C comes down

Billy I say Miss (see them tiptoes exaggeratedly) back C) Oh blows the wind so-bless you my children-two company threes-one too many-Billy duck yet nut (Exit C)

Jack Well what do you say
Well You really mustnt-really mustnt speal like ths to me a
again-till-till(gets papers Jack goes L she is C)
Jack Till (questioningly) (going up C)
Well Till-you know me better (Exit R)
Jack (gazing after her) Isnt she lovely the best little wonan
in the world (down L)
(Enter Billy C)
Billy (looks round) Your taxi's at the door sir
Jack Well let it wait
Billy Very well sir-I'll tell the driver
Jack No praps I'd better go
Billy Hes been waiting a long time s r
Jack Well I was busy
Billy Yes I noticed that sir
Jack You noticed when
Billy When I came in just now
Jack I didnt see you
Billy No sir-you were too busy over ther (indicates machine)
Jack You young dog
Billy Beg pardon sir
Jack Shes an awfully jolly girl isnt she Billy
Billy (Warmly) She is sir
Jack (shakes Billys hand) Thank you Billy
Billy Right sir
Jack Best in the world Billy
Billy (gravely) Right sir
Jack Billy have you got a girl-sweetheart
Billy Bet yer life-a bonser
Jack well (gives tip) take this and buy her a box of gloves
Billy Thank you sir
Jack (Warmly) I say shes lovely
Billy But you havent seen her sir
Jack Seen her -whom
Billy My Mary Ann
Jack No-I was thinking of someone else
Billy Who sir

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Jack Who (looks at R Door) My girl (Exit C.D.)

Billy A quid for gloves-her the right sort (quotes) Billy shes lovely-who sir-my girl-yum yum (takes stage) Oh Mary Ann you've touched my heart Isn't she lovely my little tart (Exit C)

(Enter Jasper and Nell R)

Jasper Yes Miss Faucett-I certainly think you have helped me to a good selection. Lady Hinston will surely be pleased with a gift like this (touches case)

Nell Tis beautfil sir. Her ladyship is certainly fortunate

Jasper Her father has been such a profitable client of mine for so many years that my present had to be a suitable acknowledgement. There I'll place the case in the safe-and take them with me when I leave to-night

Nell Would it not have been better yo have had the firm send them

Jasper No I preferred to see them send my offering direct-there (closes safe and leave key hanging) I leave them in your charge

~~Nell You've forgotten your keys sir.~~

~~Jasper Bless me so I have. What should I do Miss Faucett if I hadn't you to find my keys every time I lose 'em I seem to be really getting worse (put keys in pocket)~~

(Enter Mark L.D.)

Mark Ah just a moment Healin. I want your signature

Jasper Certinly (sees it goes table R Mark hands document Jasper sits R Nell at machine L making corrections Jasper turns (he is C) looks at her she meets his glance and moves angrily Jasper pulls out keys while looking for his glasses and puts keys on table R where he is sitting Mark keeps looking at Nell)

Jasper Ah Liverpool Ladings (signs rises gives paper back to Mark) There (leaves keys on table)

Mark Thanks-I'll send this off (x's to door L turns and looks at Nell shrugs) Ah (Exits C)

Jasper Very good (Exit R)

Nell Now terribly uneasy I feel in that mans presence. I dont feel a bit like work to-day - I feel I'd like to sit and think and think of him oh dear (sighs resumes work)

(Door opens softly and Abe Faucett enters stealthily looks about half afraid - tries to see her face creeps down R of stage at last coughs pulls off cap very dissapated and disreputable Nell looks up sees him starts violently very pale)

Nell You

Abe (Cringingly) Yes-you didnt expect to see me did you

Nell Oh (drops head)

Abe You thought you'd covered yer tracks very well didnt ye. but I found ye see I've found yer (vindictively)

Nell Yes-you have found me as you always have done as you always will do I suppose

Abe You can bet your last stiver on that—you're a nice beauty you are a beautiful loving child you are left me-me your own father to starve or rot for all you cared

Nell My father—what have you ever done for me that I should respect that title—I've worked starved slaved for you all my life—and what have I ever received in return hard words harsh looks and even blows

Abe Well you shouldn't aggravate me

Nell Every position I've obtained I've lost through you—employers won't have men of your sort disgracing their premises and so—to get rid of you—I have had to go—oh it's too hard too hard

Abe That's right snivel—snivel—that'll do a lot of good—Look here I'm broke

Nell You always are

Abe Well we can't all be millionaires even if we deserve it

Nell How did you find me out

Abe By careful watching. Oh I knew I'd trip you up somewhere. You couldn't expect to escape altogether from the loving watchfulness of your poor old father

Nell You must go away from here

Abe Well that all depends

Nell On what

Abe Oh how much I'm paid to go otherwise I might be compelled to go to my dear daughters employers and ask for a little assistance to help a poor destitute old father on his way

Nell Haven't you shamed me enough

Abe You shouldn't have run away and deserted me

Nell I left you every penny I had in the world—you know that and came here and by the merest chance obtained this position. I tell you I was nearly starving

Abe You don't look much like it now

Nell Yes No because I've had a few weeks rest from your never ceasing demands

Abe Here don't try and ride the high horse my lady—I want money money understand and at once

Nell I haven't much here (looks in bag) Only a couple of shillings take that and come to my lodgings to-night—here is a card with the address quick I can hear someone coming—go go

Abe (Harshly) No—not without

Nell (Frantic) So do go father I'll find more to-night don't rob me of this last chance. Here (take brooch from neck) you can get five shillings on this—it all I have Oh go (gives brooch)

Abe (going) Remember to-night my dear daughter—or it'll be the worse for you (Exit C)

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Wall

(as he exits) And they ask why Girls leave Home

(Jasper from N.E.)

Jasper

Miss Faucett may I trouble you for a moment

Wall

Yes sir (Exit Jasper R) (looks at door) Oh has he gone
(Wall exits R enter Abe cautiously C)

Abe

No one here—a couple of bob and this thing (looks round)
I might pick up something likely around here (goes machine
Psha—nothing there—a safe—ah that's better—(tries door)
Locked I might have know it. Maybe theres something here
(searches grunts while doing so) Hullo keys, I wonder
(looks round goes to safe tries keys keeps looking round
fearfully) Ah (as key fits opens safe) Not much here—excep
Hullo whats this (finds jewel case) This looks likely
(opens) Phew—what a little find—sparklers—welcome little
stranger (take out jewels snaps case—puts it back locks
safe puts keys on table back to L.E. Mark—enters— they're
worth a n ce bob or two I'll swear Hullo (goes down in
front of machine L) Someone coming I'll be copped(listen)
Yes they're coming sure eno gh. I mustnt be caught here
with these—that'd be a ten years stretch. Theres no
time to put them back. What shall I do with them Ah (see
machine) This will do (Throws them amongst papers on
table L) Now to get out (Enter Mark C)

Mark

Hello . What are you doing here

Abe

Nothing sir (try to go)

mark

That wont wash—whats your business

Abe

That doesnt concern you

mark

Oh doesnt it—we'll soon see about that—understand my man
you dont leave this office till you give a better ex-
planation of your presence here

Abe

Who'll stop me

Mark

I will. Now are you going to answer my question

Abe

No

mark

Oh (going to ring bell) Then we'll send for a policeman
and see if he'll loosen your tongue

Abe

Dont do that sir—I was a bit hasty—the fact is I came to
see someone

mark

Indeed whom

Abe

Hesitates) Miss Faucett

mark

I dont believe it

Abe

Oh dont you then perhaps you'll believe me when I tell
you I'm her father

mark

(Incredulously) Her father

Abe

(aside) Curse my blabbing tongue I didnt mean to let
that slip

mark

Its incredible

Abe

Its the truth anyhow you can ask her—shes only in there
(points R)

Mark well if what you say is true you'd better get out

Abe Thank you sir (goes C) (aside) I wonder who he is- he's a measly lot anyhow (Exit C)

Mark Any truth in his story I wonder. It hardly seems possible. Father and daughter. What a contrast-This makes you nearer my reach than ever Nell Faucett I'm much mistaken (takes u sheet paper) How wonderfully neat her work is. Anything she touches even seems to have a fascination for me (find necklace) My God-Hemlins diamond necklace-how does it here (looks at door C) Of course-the tramp-I see it all-Has been at the safe (x's to safe) Its locked (sees keys) but here are Hemlins keys-it's plain he planted the jewels there intending to come back for them no doubt. Lucky I found them or she might have been accused (slowly) Might have been accused Why not-its my chance-Yes (z's puts necklet back in machine) Ah now for results (Hemlin and Nell enter she sits at table copying)

Jasper Ah you are right Miss Faucett. My keys are here I must have left them on the table when I signed that bill of lading for Mr. Thordon

Mark did you speak Hemlin

Jasper I was telling Miss Faucett that I must have left my keys here when I signed that bill for you a few minutes since

March (alarmed) Your keys did you leave them here

Jasper Yes a very imprudent thing to do considering that I left that necklet in the safe

Mark And its rather valuable isnt it Hemlin?

Jasper Valuable-I should say so. Havent you seen it Thordon?

Mark No-not yet

Jasper Then you must have a look at it. Its one of the (going and opening safe taking case out) finest I've seen. Miss Faucett made the selection for me-trust a woman for knowing a womans taste (opens case) Why its not here

Mark Not there

Jasper No the case is empty Heaven what does it mean

Mark Mean-why-that you have been robbed its most evident

Jasper Robbed-but by whom-there has been no one here

Mark That's true-stop (as if suddenly remembering) There has been someone here. When I came in just now-there was a man here-a most disreputable looking object-he seemed agitated-I remember perhaps he

Nell Oh no no (agitated)

Jasper Why what do you mean Miss Faucett (coldly) Do you know this man

Nell What shall I say-I-I- (falters)

Jasper Theres something in your manner I dont understand. I repeat do you know the man

Nell (aside) He couldnt have done it (aloud) Yes I know him

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Mark Dont distress yourself Miss Faucett theres nothing to worry about you couldnt possibly be suspected

Jasper I must know who and what this man is. Ring for the police we mustnt lose a moment

Mark (rings x's to L) Theres been somebody at your table Miss Faucett how disturbed everything is (stops suddenly) Ah

Jasper What is it?

Mark (Pause) Nothing (x's R)

Jasper I must see for myself (x's finds diamonds) great Heavens

Nell What is it

Jasper I'm afraid you know only too well Miss Faucett-the diamonds are here (holds them up)

Nell Oh no no

Jasper What have you to say Miss Faucett (pause) I am waiting for your explanation

Nell Oh dont look at me like that. You dont cant believe that I am guilty?

Jasper I am waiting for your explanation

Nell I-God help me-have none to give

Mark Hemlin-man-you dont mean to accuse this poor girl strong as the evidence is against her. Its monstrous unheard of

Jasper Miss Faucett- I am reluctantly obliged to come to but one conclusion

Nell I am innocent

Jasper I wish I could believe you so-but my confidence is shaken I shall take no action against you-but we must part

Nell You will discharge me

Jasper I must

Nell Oh no no dont dont turn me away-I am not guilty I swear it Oh dont send me away-give me another chance (he turns away) Oh I cant plead any more-oh is there no pity-no mercy in the world

Jasper I am very sorry deeply so but I cannot retain you in my employ I will make out a cheque for a months salary-in lieu of notice but you cannot remain in my office (Exit R)

Nell What is left for me now-a thief-branded with that awful name-which way can I go-where shall I turn

Mark Why to me-come Trust your future with me Nell and you'll never regret it. Give your life into my keeping the world will never dare hurl mud at you

Nell You-you would give me your name-one they call thief

Mark No I'll give my name to an innocent woman-Nell will you come

Nell (Whispers) Who not-theres nothing left. Yes I'll come leave me now

mark

We can catch the ~~high~~ boat to Paris

nell

Yes-yes-oh leave me

mark

(At C) I thought I'd win

CURTAIN

END OF ACT 1

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES CRS

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ACT 2 SCENE 1

STREET IN LONDON

(Billy heard singing off R. I. E. he is dressed extravagantly)

As I walk along on the Bouvelong
with my independent air
You can see the ladies srate (Enters)
And hear them all declare
And then they sigh and they they cry
At the man who took the eggs
Without the bacon.

(speaks) I say-and shant I knock em at all in Paree in
this rig. What would Mary Ann say if she saw me now. I
fancy that in these togs I'm just the shiny shilling-and
just the chap to do the killing. What ho me rorty pipp-
ins. Billy Barnes for the Boulevards and dont you forget
it (walks to R) (Enter Jack L.I.E.)

Jack Ah Billy-there you are-well what luck

Billy Bosca-your little detective (strikes attitude) has stru k
oil in other words-found a clue

Jack What is it (eagerly)

Billy Read that (gives torn telegram)

Jack Why its part of a telegram

Billy Exactly from Paris

Jack (reads) Apartments are requested Martel-Hotel Melsarte
Rue St. Avillon Paris-whats it mean

Billy Mean-plain enough tone. our friend Mr. Mark Thordon
is going there-this in an answer to a wire evidently

Jack But where did you get it

Billy In the waste paper basket my way of following up a clue

Jack I believe youre right Billy and of course-thats where she
is

Billy Sure as waters wet. Are you going to follow em sir?

Jack If I thought I should be in time to save her

Billy You will-you will

Jack The thought of that poor distracted girl n that mans
power well-it makes my fingers itch-Come we'll start at
once x R

Billy Right-ready and willing as Barkiss said

Jack Come then

Billy Sure (going) Do you know guvnor I always knew which way
the cat jumped

Jack Cat jumped

Billy I mean I knew you thought something of Miss Faucett thats
why I took that note of hers to you

jack

And when I read that poor little litiful good-bye to you
Billy I knew it was meant for me

Billy

Well n'w to get to work we'll find Mr. Mark Thordon
and I can picture his phizog when he sees you-he wont
want to do a bunk or climb a bean-stalk no-not arf

Jack

we'll start for Paris Billy as soon as you like-I must know
the best or the worst (Exit L.I.E.)

Billy

And as they says in the play lead on plum duff-or lose
your head. We'll find our Mark-Mark Thordon and then -
nuff sod (Exit L.I. E)

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ACT 2

SCENE 2

Hotel Delsarte set R. U. E. Table and chairs each side

(Martel enters from Hotel to begin)

Martel

So we will be hush to-day English patrons coming Well they pay even better than our own Parisians. La Belle Paris is so great a lure to so many-well if they want the pleasures of our gay capital they must pay for them-and if they want the comfort of the Hotel Delsarte yhey must also pay for them. How often they say to me Your prices are so high true I reply but the accommodation is so excellent (go up stage) Ah well I must go and attend to the emforts of my guests (Exit into Hotel)

(Enter Mark and Nell L.U. E)

Mark

Well Nell we are here at last. Poor little woman you look worn out but you are at your journeys end

Nell

It was my journeys end this morning-so I thought-but you have been hurrying me here and there and so much against my will

Mark

My dear girl-this is your first trip to Paris-surely I may be pardned for desiring to show you the sights Why every woman I ever heard of longs with the longing of her life to see Paris

Nell

~~Then I suppose I am the one exception-is this the place~~

Mark

Well no this isthe Hotel Delsar e

Nell

But why have you brought me here?

Mark

Well you see-the fact is-the ceremony cannot take place until to-morrow

Nell

(recoils) To-morrow

Mark

~~But of course that will make no difference~~

Nell

~~No difference~~

Mark

^{yes} You see it is late-after office hours-it would be impossible to do anything under the circumstances

Nell

But you have had all day to keep your word

Mark

My dear Nell you're surely not going to make a fuss. Whats the odds a few hours ~~one or less~~ will make no difference

Nell

It makes all the difference-to me

Mark

Surely you dont believe *that I intentionally-*

Nell

Dont trouble to make excuses. I know whats in your mind I've felt it all day-you've cheated me into coming here You've never inteded to make me your wife

Mark

(laugh uneasily) My dear girl dont be so brutal never intended

Nell

If you are a better man than I take you for you can easily right yourself Probe that I am wrong At least it will give me back my self-respect

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of course your wrong - Now

mark

~~Why what a foolish little woman you are - of course yours.~~
~~wrong - its only a matter of~~

(Enter Martel from Hotel)

Come inside

Martel

Ah sir glad to see you again

Mark

How dare do Martel cant leave the gay City for long you see
Nell Monsieur Martel our prospective host Monsieur Madame
Thordos - you have everything ready

Martel

The apartments are in readiness. Madame is tired

Mark

Yes it is her first trip to across the Channel - ah but
she will soon recover

Martel

Yes sir Paris is a splendid tonic. I will have the honor
of conducting yourself and Madam to the apartments

Nell

No no I will not enter that house

Martel

(surprised) Not enter

Mark

(significantly to Martel) Not for awhile - we will follow
in a few moments

Martel

Very well sir (goes stand at Hotel door looks back then e
exits)

Nell

How dare you introduce me as you did

Mark

Did you expect me to explain our exact position

Nell

That man believes me to be your wife

Mark

Exactly

Nell

And you expect me to enter that Hotel with you under such
conditions

Mark

Oh come - you're not going to be foolish surely - I confess
I promised a little more than you can seriously expect me
to fulfil but you were in such a state of nerves you know
and I had to pacify you - now come be reasonable consider -
its hardly fair to expect a man of my position to so irr-
evocably tie him self to such a thing as marriage. But I'll
do the right thing Nell - you shall have all that my wife
would have - money enjoyment pleasure luxury diamonds
everything

Nell

Except an honest name

Mark

An exploded sentiment

Nell

You've shown yourself in your true colors at last and
this is the result of my faith in you - this is how you
keep the promise made to me when I was in such dire
misery - you offer me this - What do you take me for?

Mark

Why a sensible woman who knows how to take whats come her
way realizes which side her bread is buttered

Nell

And you think I would fall into such a trap. Listen to
me - to think of myself as your wife was horrible almost un-
bearable - but to become what you would make me - a thing of
shame - a by-word amongst my own sex - afraid to look an honest
woman in the face. Why that would be a hundred times
worse. Keep your money your enjoyment your pleasures
your diamonds for those who want them and I'll keep - my
life clean

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Mark

Clean-you a common thief. I ~~consider that I'm taking a risk in sheltering you. How do I know you won't rob~~

Nell

You coward

Mark

Yes I am (looks at her) But you drive me to it with your cursed obstinacy (catches her hand) ~~Nell we've had enough of this recriminatory business surely. Forgive me for forgetting myself~~

Nell

Let me go please-I'm going away

Mark

Don't be a fool Nell Where can you go

Nell

Anywhere away from this shameful place

Mark

That you will never do-homeless and penniless what could you do in a strange city. *do you think I'd let you go*

Nell

~~That is my concern~~ *Excuse my hands*

Mark

No you here caged in my power ~~well Nell~~ and here you will stay

(Enter Jack L.U.E.)

Jack

No I don't think she will (bus)

Nell

Oh he here he here

Jack

I had a sort of notion Miss Faucett that you might want a little advice-when you had had a little time to reflect on your rather hasty flight-am I right

Mark

I fail to see what business this matter is of yours-it is purely between Nell and myself

Jack

Nell (little pause) are you married to this lady

Mark

Well no

Jack

Then under the circumstances I consider you are taking an unwarrantable advantage in making so free with her christian name I object

Mark

You object. What the devil has it to do with you. Miss Faucett left London under my protection

Jack

I am quite aware of that Mr. Thordon-fully aware of the fact that you lured an unsuspecting girl who was in terrible trouble to come with you most probably under some specific promise-you see I've met your sort before

Mark

I see you're very glib with your story-but I'd like to know what right you have to dog my footsteps

(Enter Billy L.U.E.)

Billy

Excuse me sir but this is where I come in. I'm the little doggie as did the dogging Mr. Thordon-and now the little doggins found the fox-the little doggins going to wag his tail-see

Mark

You'll pay for this

Billy

Yes I've got my small change ready

Mark

You impertinent

Jack

That's enough Mr. Thordon. Miss Faucett I gather from the little I overheard that you are not over burdened with a desire for more of this gentleman's company

Nell No no
 Jack Then under the circumstances
 Billy Get out
 Mark Hum-perhaps its as well-they tell us discretion is the better part of valor so au revoir ((goes up to L.U.E.) But remember all-we'll meet again
 Billy Aint he a pet-I'll see him off the premises (Exit L.U.E.)
 Jack I-I hope you wont think I've gone too far
 Nell No-you are too good-I-I fell ashmed-I dont deserve
 Jack Now dont start blaming yourself-I nderstand everything
 Nell H_w did you know
 Jack Billy came directly he got your note-he said-to ask my advice but I think reality
 Nell Yes
 Jack To let me know (pause) and somehow I had fancy that you wanted me to know
 Nell I must have been mad but the-the- accusation seemed so awful-and it was a way out
 Jack Yes thats just what occurred to Billy and me and that is why we follows you
 Nell Oh I am so ashamed
 Jack Oh come I wouldnt worry theres no particular harm done-we all make mis takes you know
 Nell But you dont know-the worst
 Jack Oh dont I (straighten up) Well fire away lets hear it
 Nell I left with him-as his promised wife-but I found out here a few minutes since-that it was a pretence on his part-he never intended to give me his name
 Jack The h und-Billy thought asmuch-well never mind him we'll drop him altogether. I've got something I want to say for myself. Do you remember my asking you once what sort of a chap you could care for
 Nell Yes
 Jack Well am I the sort
 Nell You ask me that in the face of what I have done
 Jack Yes I ask that and whats more I want an answer
 Nell I'I cant anwer you now
 Jack Well I may as well take it for granted. You do like me a bit dont you-come now no shennaniking out with it
 Nell Well-yes--
 Jack Ah then we'll get married right away
 Nell Married

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Jack

Yes-I'm not taking any chances-I didnt find out how much I cared for my girl until I thought another man had her now I've got a chance I'm not going to lose her. so to-morrow my girl will be-my wife (Embrace)

(Enter Billy)

Billy

Oh to think I'm out of it. Oh Mary Ann Mary Ann where are you (throws arms round chest)

CLOSE IN

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES CRS

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ACT 2

SCENE 3

STREET IN PARIS

(Enter Mary Ann L. to open)

MARY

Well to think of me being in gay Paris as they call it Well though of course dear old London first I must say Paris is a good second-and the dresses here-oh they do do things here though what with these tight skirts and nothing much else to speak of on-one does feel as if they ought to look the other way sometimes. I often wonders what Billy thinks of these french dolls hes away on business for masty. Be back to-night to take me to a grand fancy dress ball and carnival at the Cafe du Carnival at the Cafe du Forgs meat or some such name. I got a letter from him this morning here it is (finds letter reads) "My ownest own-your Billy is coming back to his one and only Mary Ann. This place is crook after Paris and I longs for the Society of my one and only one. Dont forget the fancy dress ball" (speaks) as if I should (reads again) "And look forward to our coming meeting Trusting my ownest that you have been as true to me as I have been to myself Yours for ever and after Billy" "P.S. Be sure and wear something that will show off your figure-they say these French dinahs have such mar-vel-licious shapes-I dont see it and I've looked at a few" (speaks) hes looked at a few hes told me he never even glanced at a woman since we were engaged Oh the little traitor the hypocrite hes given himself dead away and (reads again) "Ive looked at a few" yes its here right enough (change tone) "I see shop windows" Oh he means the dummies Oh the darling the dear true angel. I knew my Billy was alright (going R.I.E. bumps against Abe who is entering) Oh I beg your pardon

Abe

(rudely) so you should cant you see where youre going

Mary

Cant you (raises voice)

Abe

None of your lip

MARY

Nice manners you've got I must say

Abe

Whats my manners to do with you (x's L.I.E.)

MARY

Nothing thank goodness

Abe

Then keep a civil tongue in your head

MARY

I'm certain to at your bidding-you indeed-pay you better to wash your face (going R. I. E.)

Abe

You're a perky miss and no mistake

MARY

And you're a (turn look at him hard) Why where have I seen you before

Abe

Praps it was in the house of Lords-or getting into my motor at Trafalgar Square

MARY

I've got it youre the man that came to old Hemlins office and asked a lot of questions about Miss Faucett

Abe

You've got a good memory

MARY

I remember you because you made such a mess of my clean steps with your dirty old boots

Abe

Did I (grins) Well I'm on that same partys track again-shes got to shell out-oh I've found out all about her and if she wants me to keep my mouth shut

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Mary

Your mouth shut-what about

Abe

Thats my business

Mary

Yes-Well if you've got any nasty idea of worrying my mistress

Abe

Your mistress

Mary

Yes- she sent for me-paid all my expenses over here if you want to know-and I've lived with her ever since shes been married - 4 months ago

Abe

Married is she married

Mary

You can bet your life she is and Mr. Charteris thats her husband fairly worships the ground she walks on-so if you come hanging round you'll get a bad time

Abe

Thats remains to be seen-now listen to me when you see the lady Mrs---

MARY

Mrs. Charteris

Abe

Alright Mrs. Charteris tell her you saw her father

Mary

Her father-you

Abe

Exactly-her father we cant you see the extra-ordinary re-semblance

Mary

No I cant I cant see a scrap and I dont believe you

Abe

Ask the lady my dear she'll soon tell you whether Abel Faucett is her father or not

Mary

Poor missus. I've often wondered she had something on her mind now I know

Abe

I look upon it as a bit of good fortune meeting you-you for I want to take a message to my daughter

Mary

I'll do nothing of the kind

Abe

Oh yes you will

Mary

Oh no I'll not pooh I like your cheek giving me orders

Abe

Well of course if you want to save your mistress trouble

Mary

What do you mean?

Abe

You see I havent seen my dear child for some time. I've been away the last two months-for the good of my health but now I'm out-I mean back again-I'm going to pay her a call and you can tell her so and tell her I expect a little packet (touches pocket) and if I dont get it the consequences may not be too pleasant

Mary

And you think you can get me to take a message like that-no on your life

Abe

Oh you wont do it

Mary

No I wouldnt bemean myself-if you are the poor girls father all I can say is I'm sorry for her-and as for your message why do your dirty work yourself. (Exit R.I.E.)

Abe

Oh I can do that fast enough my pet miss-but I mustnt lose sight of her-I'll find out where Nell is-and trust me to put the screw on my sweet daughter and I may even see my

Abe

dearly beloved rich son-in-law (Exit R.I.E.)

(Enter Billy dressed as a gendarme)

Billy

I'm dressed for the ball-I've just been and hired this turn out. I wonder how Mary Ann will like it on-I couldn't help popping it on just to see how it looked- I wonder if anyone will spot me

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ACT 2

SCENE 4

Handsome interior entrances G. R. and L.

(Jack discovered R Nell at Window C)

Jack Nell
Nell Yes (not moving)
Jack Nell
Nell (turning) Well
Jack Anything interesting out there
Nell Not very
Jack What were you thinking of
Nell Would you very much like to know
Jack I should-come here and tell me
Nell I'm afraid (comes to him) of making you even more con-
ceited that you are
Jack Well chance it and tell me
Nell I was thinking that I am q to the happiest woman in all
this great big world
Jack Really
Nell Really (lays face on his head)
Jack Nell you're an awful brick
Nell (laughs) why because I'm happy
Jack No because-oh because you are
Nell Thats a logical answer
Jack What have we got to bother about logic for?
Nell I thoughtmen .oved logic
Jack I know something I love better or I should say someone
Jack Jack you spoil me
Jack Thats impossible
Nell I wonder Jack if theres another man in the whole universe
like you
Jack (jokingly) No chance
Nell What a splendid time we've had-I think dear you've taken
me everywhere-all over the continent and now
Jack we're located in Paris the greatest city in the world
Wouldnt you have preferred London?
Nell No-I feel that I never want to see London againthe very
mention of the name seems to bring back all the shame and
humiliation of that night
Jack Forget it old lady

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Nell I always try to-but thoughts will crop up sometimes you know

Jack Like tares in the wheat eh?

Nell Shall we go to Australia soon Jack?

Jack As soon as the uncles business matters are fixed up
This illness of his makes my help in his affairs an
absolute necessity-but as soon as he can take his place
again-well be off girlie-to the Sunny South

Nell I am longing to go

Jack Talking of that Nell-I've had a letter-who do you think
from

Nell I cant guess

Jack Mark Thordon

Nell Thordon

Jack Why Nell-how startled you look

Nell Why does he write to you

Jack Well you see he is still the old mans partner-the dis-
solution never came off-and as things are at present
we will be compelled to meet-by the bye-the letter is
for you

Nell For me:

Jack Under cover of my name-read it-and judge for yourself
(takes letter from his pocket and gives it to her she reads)

Nell "Dear Mrs. Charteris-Feeling that little as I deserve
any clemency at your hands -you may with the lapse of time
find some forgiveness for me-In the heart of a woman
there is generally some pity no matter how deeply the
sinner may have erred. That my writing to you at
all is a presumption-I am only too bitterly aware
but my deep heartfelt desire is to regain your esteem
must be my excuse. ~~My regret for what is past will be
life long believe me. I am sensible of how much I
am asking-but~~ my one hope is that the hour may come
when I may have the priceless boon of your forgiveness
and friendship Yours remorsefully Mark Thordon"
I want to be able to look your husband in the face-not as
the cad he knew me-but as one who regrets the past
and would give his right hand to atone (looks up
speaks) I can hardly realize it X

Jack He seems earnest enough What do you think Nell?

Nell I dont know-they say a chameleon can change its spots
I cant recognise Mark Thordon changing in the same way

Jack Well we w nt be too hard Nell-hes living here too-so
if we have to meet him

Nell Let the dead past bury its past

Jack Thats my own Nell-after all sweetheart we've got the
laugh-havent we

Nell Yes (Jack embraces her (Enter Billy sees them ducks off

Jack Darling

Nell Jack I'm sorry your uncle is so ill in spite of everything

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Jack well lets hope he'll soon pull round-now I think I'll go outside and have five minutes with my cigar (take out cigar case)

Nell Let me light it for you (gets box)

Jack You're spoiling me Nell

Nell There (strikes light)

Jack Thanks dear (goes up C)

Nell Will you be long?

Jack (teases) Oh half an hour

Nell Oh

Jack Over the allowance?

Nell It'll seem rather protracted

Jack Ha ha- well we'll say ten minutes

Nell Thats better

Jack Nell-do you know I believe I'm a unique sort of husband for the nineteenth century

Nell How is that?

I'm in I'm in love with my wife

Nell I'm glad

Jack So you should be-here come and salute your better half before he goes on the balcony (Nell goes to him enter Billy L. Poor)

Billy Oh they're at it again

Jack Hullo Billy caught me spooning with my wife

Billy Well thats better than spooning somebody elses sir

Jack I believe you my boy

Billy Will you want the car to-night sir

Jack Well-what do you say Nell?

Nell I dont want to go (laughs)

Jack Thats settiss it-we wont go You see Billy we are due at a bridge party

Billy I know sir

Jack Billy is there anything you dont know

Billy (grins) Not much sir

Jack By jove you're right You can tell the chauffeur to put the car up for the night

Billy Very good sir (Exit L)

Jack Now Nell I'll have that smoke (Exit C)

Nell How a man does love his smoke

(Enter Mary Ann P. I. P.)

Mary Oh ma'am here here

Nell Who?

Mary The old man

Nell My-my father

Mary Yes and in such a dreadful state cant hardly stand and he swears
he wont go till e sees you

Nell Oh I cant see him t -night-My husband will be ba k in a
little while-hes gone out on the balcony for a smoke-he
would miss me-perhaps, come donw stairs-oh what shall I do

Mary If you'd take my advice ma'am you'd tell Mr. Charteris
all about the old man-I'm sure it wouldnt make any differ-
ence to his caring for you you cant help your fathers
fauls

Nell I cant I suppose I'm a coward but I'm too ashamed to let
him know what sort of a father I have got only get him
away to-night on any pretext and I'll tell my husband
all-here is some money give him that and a note-yes yes
I'll write-perhaps that will satisfy him (writes R)
"Why do you seek me to-night you know he is here-are you
anxious to risk an exposure. You take a cruel advantage
of the love I once bore you-go to-night and I'll find an
opportunity to see you ere long. If he once learnt
the truth-he would turn from me in contem t and loathing
Nell" There give him that and the money Now go-
theres a good girl I promise him anything if he will
only leave me this one more night in peace

Mary I'll do my best-praps the money will keep him quiet
but if you'll take excuse me saying so I think the best
plan would be to tell master and let him deal with the
old sponge (Exit R. I. E)

Nell I wish I could tell Jack but I cant I cant (Enter Billy)

Billy Telegram for he guvnor ma'am

Nell I wonder what it can be (calls) Jack Jack (Jack enters)

Jack What is it?

Billy Wire for you sir

Jack Wire for me-whats the trouble (opens looks) Thordon

Nell Thordon

Jack (reads) Just received urgent message your uncle had re-
lause-no hope calling for you-urgently needed (speaks)
Poor old chap-Nell I must go at once

Nell Yes dear of course

Jack Fortunately the car is ready. Billy get it brought round
and throw a few things in my suit case (looks at watch)
I can catch the ten thirty over

Billy Very good sir (Exit L)

Jack You dont mind Nell

Nell No dear-poor old man I only hope you will be in time

Jack I hope so too-It would be terrible for him to go under
with not a soul with him-Good-bye my wife (embrace)
till we meet again (rushes off L hurriedly)

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well Good-bye-I think (looking after him) of all words in the English language that is the saddest and most desolate (Enter Mary Ann R)

Mary Ma'am

Nell Mary-My father
Hes fast asleep. He wakened up and I gave him the note and the money and some beer and then he began grumbling and I gave him more and he drank it all up and now hes gone

Nell Gone

Mary Yes

well Are you sure?

Mary Positive I saw him going down through the laurels

Nell I m glad. I couldnt see him to-night

Mary Ma'am what a god send if we never saw him again

Nell It seems wicked Mary to say it but I'm afraid its the truth-now that I'm alone I may as well take this off make myself comfortable and have a good read Tell Billy to see to the fastnings to-night (Exit R Door)

Mary Now that she alone. Why wheres the master (Enter BillyL)

Billy (Looks L.) Well hes off-that car of his will travel to-night (see Mary) Oh its you

Mary Yes it is me-nothing strange about that is there

Billy Oh no-nothing at all-I was only thinking what a pleasant surprise

Mary Oh you're always full of smoochy talk

Billy Mary Ann-you hurt me Mary Ann Elizabeth you torment me Mary Ann Elizabeth Anastasia McGuffin you annoy me (x's to R melodramatically raises voice)

Mary If you go on raising your voicelike that they'll think theres a fire

Billy So there is a fire right here in my heart (slaps both hands over right side then quickly changes over right side as Mary sniggers) You ought to laugh-you havent got a heart anyhow

Mary Indeed-havent I

Billy No all you've got is a gizzard

Mary Well of all the impudence-take that (slaps his face)

Billy Thank you-for nothing. My word Mary Ann you've got a nasty right

Mary Well you should have less cheek

Billy I shall have less cheek considerably less after you've gone with it-by the way you're going on I wonder I've got any cheek left

Mary Well its your own fault

Billy Why-come now-why

Mary You stand there and ask me why what about last night

Billy Last night

Mary I know one thing-I'll never go to a fancy dress ball with you again

Billy Dont worry ducky you'll never be asked

Mary No because you're too mean

Billy Thank you

Mary Why you dont know how to behave yourself Fancy taking a girl to a dance and then wanting to fight every man in the room

Billy (grins) Did I?

Mary Of course you did

Billy (aside) I must have been full (mock-seriously) Darling I dont think I was-well

Mary Conclidering the number of refreshments you took I wonder you ever got well

Billy Now dont pile it on I'm sorry but you see it was the foreign liquor

Mary Thats no excuse. What right had you to drink at all

Billy Just to be jolly-you must put the spirits down to keep the spirits up-see

Mary No I dont-I only know you made an awful show of me You wouldnt let me have a single dance-every fellow tha came up and asked me you politely told you'd knock his block off whatever that meant

Billy Did I (grins) I must have been very bad

Mary You were-awful

Billy Ah well it wont happen again

Mary I should hope it wouldnt Now I must go- Mrs will want me-she said you were to look to the fastnings

Billy Well I must go-duty calls Farewell Mary

Mary Oh good-bye silly

Billy Thatsright snub me-slight me-spurn me I go to the silent solitude of my lonely kitchen

Mary Billy-you're an awful idiot but (come c to him)

Billy But (expe ctantly returns)

Mary (suddenly) Good-night dear (throws arms around him kisses him) There

Billy Encore

Mary No. You dont deserve that Now its time I went to bed Good-night. Good-night (Exit R.I.F.)

Billy Good-night-aint she alright. Now to have a look round lock up for the night (Exit L)

(Enter Nell)

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Nell

Its no use trying to sleep. I wonder how far on his way Jack is now. I'll try and read in here-somehow I dont feel half as interested in this book as I did last night (sits reads) (listens) What was that-I could almost be sure I heard a footstep (listen) No I must be mistaken (go ng) Who could be there-on the balcony I wish now I had kept Mary Ann here. Why how foolish of me to be so nervous-Its no use my calling the others are all down stairs. Oh (starts) There is someone down stairs I must see I must (goes g) (opens curtains discloses Mark she recoils) You here you

Mark

Dont be alarmed Mrs. Charteris. *It is only me* I have just ~~thrown~~ a man down the steps that lead from the balcony (

Nell

But how came, you here?

Mark

I wished to see you husband to save him a journey to-night a second wire has reached me from London Hemlin has succumbed

Nell

Poor old man - Jack will be too late

Mark

Then Charterishes started?

Nell

Yes by Motor some time since your coming in here I dont understand.

Mark

As soon as I received the second wire I came here desirous of saving Charteris a sudden journey-coming through your ~~par~~ laurel path-I noticed a man creeping along the balcony I feared you were alone so I came and collared him but in the darkness he got away

Nell

You dont know who it was?

Mark

No-through perhaps this note which he left in my hand somehow when we grappled might be a clue - *do you know*

Nell

anythin of it
No why should I

Mark

~~Yes~~ Yes my ~~mattered~~ your name I think (watching her) Of course you know nothing of it (gives note)

Nell

(read aside) My letter to my father (aloud no-I know nothing of it. *why should I.*

Mark

(takes letter from her) No of course not (aside) I thought so

Nell

I thank you for the service you have rendered me-but it is not necessary for you to remain longer-its late and

Mark

I understand (going) You had my letter

Nell

Yes my husband gave it to me

Mark

And you are willing to let by-gones be by-gones

Nell

Yes-yes-please go

Mark

And suppose I dont choose to go. I came in all good faith to-night to find a lover outside your window-if one-why not another-the sight of you has revived the love that has never died. What is to prevent you taking you in my arms feeling your heart beating against mine By God Nell I love you more than ever

Nell

Keep off

Mark

No

Nell Keep off I say (bus going doors he intercepts her)

Mark You're alone with me at last (catches her she screams he puts hand over her mouth she struggles and faints) She's fainted (lays her down) Now you're helpless enough my pretty Nell (kneels by her side looks into her face kisses her) What is there in you that drives me mad-mad (noise off) What's that (rushes to O (Charteris's voice-by heaven hes returned am I to be balked. By Heaven I have it (struck by idea takes off coat collar tie vest having first locked door) (Jack comes door L tries to open)

Jack (off) Nel Nell

Mark (softly) Call on

Jack (off) Nell open the door-its only me Jack-I missed the boat Nell I say (shakes finally bursts door in rushes in sees Nell lying on couch Marj standing O back to her) My God-what does this mean? You you-here-speak before I go mad

Mark I hav nothing to say

Jack You hound-out of my say (catches Mark throws him down R.C. pulls Nell up she recovers) Speak what does this mean speak before I cho e the life out of you

Nell Jack Jack-what are you saying (sees Mark) Oh I remember Jack-Back-thank God you've returned-oh send that man away

Jack (throws her to L.C.) I want no lies no hypocrisy so I see now the reason of your canting letter-your wining hypocrisy-I see why that wire was sent to me to-night to get me out of the way whilst you met your lover-

Nell No Jack believe me

Jack Believe you never again on the face of this earth-do you take me for a blatant fool-you hypocrite

Nell No no he forced his way in that window-said he threw a man from the balcony-I was frightened and fainted. O Jack my husband listen. I swear do not turn from me

Mark Nell why wear the mask any longer-the games blown let him do his worst

Jack So you triumph at last

Nell No no dont believe it hes lying lying Oh What shall I do

Mark Read that (gives letter to Jack)

Jack (reads letter Nell wrote for Abe) So its true-you false jade you wrecker of an honest mans life-you whom I believed in-whom I would have trusted with my soul-you traitress-but I've finished with you-you'll delude me no more with your lying words your shameless tricks. I've done with you out of my life. I'll never willingly look upon your face again. You've tricked me gooled me to the top of my bent but you'll fool me no more-take your hands off me you delilah take your handsoff me I say or I'll kill you (throws her down) Lay there and grovel in the mire from which you sprung-you wanton-outcast thief (rushes off L)

Nell Jack Come back come back-oh my head my head-Oh if I could only die-Oh God what will become of me

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mark

You shall be my care—at last I win. There's no one
between us now no one to keep you from my arms at last

(Enter Billy)

Billy

(Except me

CURTAIN

END OF ACT 2.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES CRS A1336/2

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ACT 3

SCENE 1

Shabby old room Table and common chairs very poor looking

Mrs. Rollings discovered mending very poor coat C)

Mrs. R.

Well I dont think I can do any more to that-Oh dear what is is to be hard up-Oh how I wish I was rich- What a lot of poor folks I could help. If I could only come into a lot of money that would I do with it. Thats soon told-you wouldnt find me building big libraries and grand institutions for them as dont want em. No not for me. I'd put good wholesome good into the poor little starving stomachs around here and some good comfortable warm clothes on their shivering backs but oh dear whats the good of me talking-me with two or three miserable rooms for letting-to tenants mostly as is worse off than myself (noise L) Whats that-oh its only the old man (Enter Abe s ber and different in manner shewing that a great change for the better has taken place he is very poorly dressed - manner subdued) Good morning Mr. Faucett

Abe

(quiet y) Good orning (look round) Wheres Nell?

Mrs. R.

Come to the hospital with aby

Abe

Poor girl-poor girl (sits other side of table)

Mrs. R.

Are you tired Mr. Faucett

Abe

Tired-What would make me tired-holding a horses head running to open a door in the hope of getting a copper Thats about the only kind of work a man can get nowadays

Mrs. R.

Its very hard

Abe

Its not for myself I care Mrs. Rollins (leans over table) I dont deserve any better I've been a bad lot a dam bad lot (strikes table)

Mrs. R.

Oh (startled)

Abe

Yes and I deserve everything thats coming to me-bit its my girl that troubles me-she doesnt deserve to be dragged down-when I see how she suffers and what a brace face she keeps it seems to tear the very heart out of me (drops head on table) How is the child to-day

Mrs. R.

Very very low - I'm afraid

Abe

Do you-think-she'll lose it

Mrs. R.

I dont like to say. While theres life theres always hope you know

Abe

Ah-thats poor comfort-not but what I cant help thinking sometimes-that wraps the poor wee lass would be better out of the it all.

Mrs. R.

I'm afraid it would break Mrs. Charteris's heart

Abe

Ha-thats broken laready Shee never been the same since she was parted from her husband

Mrs R.

Yes I can quite understand that

Abe

Its always been a sort of puzzle to me at the time it happened I wasnt in a condition to know much about it I told you I was a bad lot (makes as tho' to thump table she shrinks he drops his hand to his knee)

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Abe and I was—a beast sure enough—Oh I've pulled up since that night, let the drink alone—but at the time I speak of I was a slave to it

Mrs. R. How many are the same

Abe I suppose she Nell has never told you any particulars

Mrs. R. No only that there was some terrible trouble between her and her husband and they parted

Abe Parted—he left her to starve curse him—Went off to Australia but if ever I lay eyes on him I'll know the reason why if I swing for it

Mrs. R. Ah well lets hope for the best things may come right some day

Abe Someday. Yes when shes rotting in her grave

Mrs. R. Mr. Faucett you really mustnt talk so wildly you frighten me you know I will do all in my power to help you

Abe I know that and I thank you from the bottom of my heart but you are poor yourself almost as bad as we are—its a bitter shame to have to take help from you

Mrs. R. What nonsense—you must get work soon

Abe Sometimes I doubt it—I've tried had early and late but no one seems to want my services. I suppose I look too low down for em. Oh its a hard world to the poor (table bus)

Mrs. R. Now dont go off—things must be better soon. Listen theres someone coming—its your daughter

(Enter Nell very very white and ill very shabbily dressed carrying baby)

Abe Back at last my girl (seats her in his chair) you look dead beat

Nell I'm afraid I am a bit dad its rather a long walk to the hospital

Abe Shall I take the child

Nell No—I'd rd her keep her dead shes not heavy

Mrs. R. Heavy—why of course she wouldnt be—I think shes the tiniest little thing I've ever seen

Nell (sighs) Yes shes very small Did you have any luck dad

Abe No Nell—there were fully fifty after the billet. I managed to get a few words with the manager and pleased very hard but he said it was no use—they must have a younger m I wonder what they think the old ones are to do. I'm as fit to work as any young man but they wont believe it—I wonder if they think the young ones are the only people who've got mouths or ever got cold or starve

Nell Never mind dad dear

Abe (remorseful) But I shouldnt talk like this to you my girl I had chances once and like the fool ay and worse that I was I threw them away—and now now when I would give my right hand to help my lass I am powerless—powerless (breaks down)

Nell

You mustnt dad-no you mustnt. You were wrong once but you've repented and think how good-what a co fot youve been to me since-since that night

Abe

When you came rushing out of your home like some poor crazed thing-and stumbled over me as I lay outside your gates

Mrs. R.

Shall I go (raises)

Abe

No stay-theres nothing you cant hear-from that night when my child fled to me-a drunken shambling brute and clung to me for protection a new man woke in me a new life opened before me and Able Faucett-the able Faucett of the past-was dead-dead for ever

Nell

Amen to that

Mrs. R.

Now my dear I'll go and make you a cup of tea. I'm afraid we're out of sugar but we can manage for once cant we

Nell

Thank you Mrs. Rollins

Abe

None for me than you I'm going out

Nell

(alarmed) Where father

Abe

Oh dont be alarmed my girl there may be a chance for me somewhere-I'm going to have another try-dont you worry I'll be back before long (aside) The sight of her white half-starved face is driving me mad-If I could only find him (Exit L.2.E.)

Nell

I wonder where he's gone

Mrs. R.

Oh he'll be alright-dont you fret dear-tell me dear what did they say at the hospital about baby

Nell

They said that if I-I-cant nourish her better I shall lose her-nourish her better. Mrs. Rollins you have been such a good kind friend that I can tell you-I must speak to someone of my heart will break what can I do I darent tell my father-he is well nigh desperate now

Mrs. R.

My dear-I dont want to pry into your affairs but it seems to me plain speaking is best. Dont you think that if your husband knew-he at least would not let you starve

Nell

My husband- he is far enough away-but even were he here I could not ask him I would sooner (whisper) die

Mrs. R.

Well of course my dear you know best but I wish for you sake and the babys that I was a rich woman-never mind it cant last-give me the little one-now try and rest awhile while I get you a cup of tea (Exit R. 2. E.)

Nell

Rest-I often wonder if I shall ever rest-until the end Oh my little one if it were not that I should be so lonely so desolate I could almost wish that you were where pain and sorrow is no more (looks at her) How white and still she looks my little one Oh! Oh! Jack my husband if you knew-surely you would find some pity (Mark enters R. 2. E.) You here you

Mark

Yes I've had rather a long search but I've found you Oh I've always been a little hurt at the way you disappointed me you-remember more especially as I failed to find you but to-night I caught sight of that disreputable object you call father tracked him here and there you are

Nell

You have dared

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Mark

Why not-since it was through me your husband cast you off why have you hidden yourself? surely my love was better than this

Nell

Your life-you have ruined my life-blasted every hope of happiness. Whose lies-cruel as death have parted me from all I held most dear in the world. Go from my sight you are not fit to love ✓

Mark

I know I have wronged you

Nell

Wronged me.

Mark

But I can atone

Nell

How

Mark

By taking you from this hovel by giving you back all you have lost confort-home-money and ~~leade~~ ✓ M

Nell

You come to me here in my darkest hour to try and tempt me with your money. Hav you forgotten the wrongs you have done me-wrongs that are written in letters of blood upon my brain-your money-Listen to me Mark Thordon-to the words of a desperate woman half maddened by want and misery with a dying babe in her arms aye dying-they tried to hide it from me at the hospital thismorning but I know I know

Mark

Nell

Nell

If my life and the life of my child were in your hands and one word from you could save us I'd sooner rest with my little one under the waters of the river yonder than accept even that favor at your hands *up stage*

Mark

Youre mad

Nell

Yes I am mad mad with hunger-mad with want mad with misery and its all your doing-your doing- Oh yes I've sunk low enough God knows but not low enough Mark Thordon to accept your Judas money

Mark

Be careful

Nell

Its men like you who tempt women to the brink of Hell and then laugh as they topple over

Mark

~~Oh you're not sane~~

Nell

~~Why should you complain-you who have made me what I am to-day-go leave this place~~

Mark

Well since you are so insistant I will oblige you. Even with your sweet self as a lure a protracted stay in such quarters isnt eminently desirable ✓ C

Nell

Why don't you go
~~Are you not satisfied with your work-Why do you still persecute me~~

Mark

Because I still care. Funny isnt it-poor wretch that you are-you still appeal to me-and believe me-you'll come to my terms yet (going up R) (aside) I'll give her one moreweek of this (look round) Faugh its nough to give one a fever (Exit R)

Nell

Hes gone-should I have taken his money for my childs sake no a hundred time no and yet what am I to do I've nothing left-nothing Theres only one resource to beg. I've kept from it but theres no help-surely amongst the many that throng the streets there will be one willing to help me God grant I may find one such to-night (Close in)

ACT 3

SCENE 2

STREET IN LONDON

(Enter Abe R. I. E.)

Abe

No hope there. I'll get down to the docks a poor devil gave me the name of the firm which is advertising Ah (takes paper from pocket) here it is-no this is the wrong side of the paper (about to turn same round when sees par) Whats this (reads) Passengers from Australia include Mr. Jack Charteris of Sandburn Station Victoria (looks up) He here I'll find him-I'll find him if I have to walk to London and learn the truth at last-at last. I'll learn why she fled like a poor hunted thing that night and has never mentioned him since Yes Mr. Carteris I'll find you and then you'll answer to me for what you've done to my gal (Exit L)

Billy

(off R) Come along Mary Ann Elizabeth dont have behind

Mary

(off) Oh its very well to say come along-but suppose you cant come along

Billy

(Enter R. I. E. with baby n long cloths) I'm a father Thank heaven it wasnt twins. I wonder if I look happy We've just been chucked out of a theatre me and Mary and all on account of this. There we were in the fourth row of the gallery-everything went O.K. till the heroine screamed. Lord she did open the safety valve too-then this this chipped in and there was a regular duet and this kid won. Talk about a steam whistle Whos pinchin him some yelled Take the pin out of him shouts another Try a pitch plaster screams a voice behind us And then Mary Ann got to em and it was a lively five minutes I promise you and it was all your doing-yours yours (to child) I could knock your little block off-bless you little heart look at him grinning all over his little dial-you little rascal a nice thing you've done and a nice tempers your mothers in But where is your mother

(Enter Mary R. I. E. carries shawl feeding bottle and basket her hat is all awry and she looks generally dishevelled)

Mary

You may well say theres you mother-a nice time I've had You didnt care what became of me You ought to clear off and me not even know which way youd gone

Billy

My dear what was the good of arguing

Mary

And do you or anybody else think I'm going to stand by and hear my own child

Billy

Our child

Mary

Our child? ((very strong))

Billy

Yes half of its mine

Mary

Hear my child called a squeaker (Billy grins) Yes a squeaker

Billy

(Apologetically) Well he did open his mouth didnt he

Mary

Well why shouldnt he-mouths were made to open

Billy

Yes and to shut-at times

Mary

What do you mean by that. I dont want any back handed insinuation

Billy

My dear Mary Ann

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Mary No nor I dont want any soft soap either
 Billy (desperate) Well what do you want
 Mary I want my child
 Billy Take your child
 Mary Of course I hav nt got enough to carry have I?
 Billy (aside) Oh this is a bit too thick I'll break out soonmay!
 Mary Shut up
 Billy Youre a lady-I dont think
 Mary My troubles what you think. To clear off and leave me Its a wonder I wasnt murdered
 Billy It was a bit of a pity you wasnt-wasnt it?
 Mary You brute and thats what I get for upholding your child
 Billy It strikes me I'm upholding the child. You're doing a lot of nag. Whats the matter with you?
 Mary Why did you leave me?
 Billy I thought you'd get pinched
 Mary And you'd leave me to get pin-pin -pinched and never say a word
 Billy Well you can say enough for twenty. What did you want to stop and-take the baby Mary Ann
 Mary Thats the matter?
 Billy Ask him (gives baby)
 Mary Come to mother-did its unfeeling father shake the life out of mamma darling (quick change) Billy look at him
 Billy Coochee coochee Look at the little beggar-Mary Ann hes winking at me
 Mary Dont be silly
 Billy But he is I say
 Mary No thats only the wind
 Billy Well I'm blowed
 Mary Billy
 Billy Yes
 Mary We havent decided on his name yet
 Billy You mean you havent
 Mary Why what are you talking about
 Billy I decided long ago but you wouldnt have it
 Mary I should think not whoever heard of such a name as Peter
 Billy Its a good name
 Mary Yes good or nothing

Billy I simply wont stand for Clarence
Mary Its a beautfil name
Billy Go on-why dont you call him after me
Mary What William-not on your life
Billy Why not
Mary William sounds like a nanny goat
Billy My dear-nanny goats are not called William
Mary I dont believe the poor darling will ever be named
Billy Oh yes he will
Mary What do you mean
Billy Lets call him Max
Mary Call him Max yes that nice Max
Billy Yes and if we ever have another
Mary Billy
Billy Well you never know what might happen
Mary Silly
Billy And if we do hav another we'll call him Cligax (Exit L.I.E)

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SCENE 3

Embankment Scene - snow falling

Enter Policeman L.U.F.E

Police

Phew its a fresser and no mistake. My fingers are like lumps of lead. I pity any poor devils if the embankment is their only home to-night. Hullo whos that over there-looks like a drunk I'd better have a look (Exit R. U. E.) (Enter Mark L.2.E.)

Mark

What a night and what an obstinate devil that woman is but I've never been beaten by a woman so far-and I fancy judging from the look of things I'll have her yet (Exit R.I.E.)

(Enter Policeman R.U.E.)

Police

Well that drunks lucky to get off scott free Gee whillikins what a night (~~Exit R.U.E.~~)

(Enter Nell L.U.E.)

Nell

I cant muster up courage to speak to anyone-supposethey give me in charge-oh this cold is awful-my baby how still she lies-Oh how tired I am but I must keep moving I must

(Enter Policeman L.I.E.)

Police

Hullo-here whats the matter you ought to be at home in bed whats that you've got there

Nell

(delirious) Hush-you mustnt wake her-she can only open her eyes in the sunlight-when the summer comes we're all going to the sea and back in the golden sand. Oh she'll soon be out of this unrest-she'll be sleeping-hus sleeping sleeping (Exit R.I.E.)

Polis

Well thats queer-strikes me that poor creatures off her head (looks afterher) I wonder who she is one of the unfortunates I suppose. Poor devils how they suffer (Exit L.2.E.)

(Enter Jack and Phillip R. U. E.)

Phillip

So you're paying us a visit again Monsieur

Jack

Yes-tho' I'm elined to kick myself for my folly

Phillip

Monsieur has never heard

Jack

Not one word. You know the whole story Monsieur I told you at the time. It nearly crushed me-but I cant understand and this you say the money has never been touched

Phillip

No-we have never found her

Jack

Then she must be in want-tho' she is what se is I cant bear to think of that

Phillip

Do you think she is in want

Jack

I know the character of the man who took her from me. For awhile she would be a petted toy to be carressed and courted but as soon as he grew tired of his toy-he would cast her off to starve or worse with as little compunction as he would blow a speck of dust from his coat sleeve

Phillip

It is strange that we have never found her

Jack

I suppose she has let Paris

Phillip

It seems the only solution

Jack It seems hard to realize that women can be so fair
seeming and yet so false

Phillip The wound has not healed Monsieur

Jack No-I'm afraid it never will

Phillip Ah time will-it always does bring consolation. But come
Monsieur-we must not miss the Opera-you must hear Melba
in Bohema she is magnifique (going R. I. E.) stons) Ah my
cigar is out (Jack strikes they are C) Ah merci Monsieur

(Enter Nell R. I. E.)

Nell (Whispers) My head is better now I must I must (Phillip
kisses her then Jack as he passes)

Nell (Feebly) Help-charity only a (turns away Jack fumbles in
his pocket feels coin gives it her not noticing her)

Nell Ah thank you-thank you (looks at him they see each other
clearly) Jack'

Jack You (picture) So-we meet again

Nell Jack

Jack Dont try any of your tricks. Do you remember our last
merry meeting. A wonton Trairess now a beggar-a fitting
end-you want charity take it (throws handful of coins at
her and exits R. I. E.)

Nell Am I mad-that was Jack-but hes gone-gone. Oh my head-my
baby do you know-can you feel your mothers heart breaking
(looks at child) My child-its cold cold dead dead (screams
and falls C) (Enter Mark L.U.E.)

Mark I'll swear I heard a scream Whats this a woman lying in
the snow (raises her) My God its Nell and whats this a
child- his child curse him-why its dead-dead-she (feels
heart) has only fainted I'll call a cab and take her to
my rooms-but the child it would only be in the way-who
wants a dead brat. It seems quiet enough (looks around
and at embankment) Why not (picks up baby and looking at
around finally throws child over embankment-also throws
a white scarf or handkerchief he is wearing with it) now
to call a cab (Exit R.U.E.)

(Enter Abe L.I.E.)

Abe I'm taken on thank God I'll be the best news my poor
Nell (sees figure) Why whats this-a woman in the snow
here missus you cant lie here you know-God its my lass my
Nell

(Enter Policeman)

Police Here whats the trouble

Abe Give me a hand man this is my lass my child. Nell my girl
speak to your old dad-oh shes fainted from fasting and
hunger *co to hunger*

Police Here (brings out flask) give her a drop of this

Abe (gives Nell drink and raises her) There she coming to
Nell look up lass-dont you know your old father

(Enter Mark with Cabman R.U.E.)

Mark We'll have to lift. Why whats this

Abe None of your business

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Mark I'll trouble you to let that woman alone

Abe What have you to do with this woman?

Mark I-I am a friend and I intend to take her to a place of safety

Abe On whose authority

Mark The authority of the woman herself-she ~~old~~ ^{needed} my *protection*

Nell Dad dad

Abe Oh that's better eh

Nell Yes I'm better-I-wheres baby my child where is it hwere is it

Police Do you know anything about a child

Mark Me-no-of course not

Police Why I remember now-this woman had a baby in her arms-I saw her myself and noticed too she seemed very queer

Mark Can she have destroyed it

Abe What do you mean?

Mark This that as I came here I saw someone toss something that looked like a bundle over the parapet yonder

Abe My God

Nell What are they saying

Police Yes that's about it in a fit of delirium she murdered her child

Nell Oh no no

Police It's a very common case-Miss you'll have to come with me

Nell Oh no-father save me

Abe You dont mean that you cant-she my lass pure and good as gold-say you dont mean this cruel thing

Police I'm very sorry but it seems murder has been done and I must arrest this woman

Nell ~~Oh father~~

Mark Stop-cant we arrange this matter-this woman is an old friend of mine I will answer for her-I will give any bond for her appearance to-morrow

Police Well of ~~course~~ *you see*

Mark Quick how much (Enter Jack)

Jack Stop-of there is any bond necessary for this woman-I will pay

Mark You

Jack Yes I

Police Indeed what are you to that woman

Jack Her husband

CURTAIN END OF ACT 3

ACT 4

SCENE 1

Inspectors office

Phillip Abe Policeman Jack and Mark (seated) di covered and Mrs. Hollins

Phillip at table L of stage Jack behind Phillip Mark sits down L Abe and Mrs. Hollins up R) (Policeman O)

Phillip

How is the woman now?

Police

She appears to be recovering a bit sir

Phillip

Is she well enough to be brought in

Police

I hardly think so sir shall I enquire?

Phillip

No end the woman her friend who is with her -we'll see what she has to say

Police

Very well sir (Exit O)

Jack

You will not be too hard (Mark who is seated down R looks at Jack satirically and gives a "Hum" and turns away)

Phillip

can you still find in your heart any interest in this woman?

Jack

I know I ought to have no feeling no thought of anything save the wrong she has done me but after all she is a woman (Mark turns again same bus) (Jack looks angrily at Mark Phillip touches Jack remonstratingly)

Abe

Thank God you have some shred of decency left some parkle of pity. I tell you all again it is madness to accuse my poor girl of this crime-she is innocent. Wont you believe what I say-she is innocent

Phillip

I hope such may be the case-for the womans own sake-but the crime of infanticide has become too common of late an it is quite time that an example be made

Mark

~~A very estimable sentiment~~

Abe

Oh the law must have an example must it-and to do it you must torture a helpless deserted woman whom in your heart I believe you know to be innocent

Phillip

I am sorry you but pleading no assentions can alter the fact that a crime has been committed. It is our duty to see into the matter. I hope you will recognise the fact No u due severity or coercion is intended as you shall see by this preliminary investigation

Abe

I-I beg pardon but the thought of her being being (breaks down) Oh I cant bear to think of it

(Enter Policeman with Mary O)

Police

The witness is here

Mary

(standing defiantly) Yes I am here (glare at Police) what am I wanted for)

Phillip

I merely wished to ascertain whether the accused woman is well enough to be questioned

Mary

No she aint shes real ill-and who wouldnt be. I know if I was accused of doing away with my Max I'd have hysterics all the time and most likely scratch your eyes out and serve you right

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Phillip We dont want to hear anything that savours of impertinence
All we want is a direct answer-is the accused woman sensible

Mary (sullenly) Yes

Phillip Capable of answering the necessary questions?

Mary I suppose so

Phillip Then bring her in (Exit Policeman C Mary follows looks defiantly at all as she goes out C)

Abe My lass (groans) My lass

Phillip This is one of the most painful experiences I have ever had
(Enter Policeman C and Nell half supported by Mary)

Policeman The woman is here sir

Abe (softly) My girl My girl dont give way

Nell I wont dad I (catches Jack eyes both start look hard at each other)

Jack (under his breath) My God-how changed

Phillip You appear ill

Nell I-I have not been well (sways) (Jack gives chair from L she sits Jack goes back to L)

Phillip I am sorry for your distress and tho' the law must be observed this inquiry as be as brief as possible. You are aware that the charge preferred against you is infanticide in other words the murder of your child

Nell Oh no no My baby my baby (ricks herself to and fro)

Phillip from the evidence I have here (refers to papers on table it appears you were observed by various persons on the night in question with a child in your arms. Some time after you were found in a fainting condition without the child-you were questioned as to its whereabouts but could not apparently give a coherent answer

Abe She was mazed-half dazed poor lass

Phillip Then information was given that you had been seen throwing some object from the embankment to the waters below

Abe Its a lie a cruel lie

Phillip Now Madam do you plead guilty or not guilty

Nell Not-not guilty

Phillip Then what defence can you offer-you declare your innocence but that is not enough-you must prove it

Mary Possibly this matter could be adjourned for a few days to give the accused time to recover her strength I would go bail

Jack Havent you dont enough wrong-but you must bring this charge against her-the woman you should shield with your last breath. Its is monstrous shameful you accuse the wretched creature you have betrayed you-the father of her dead child

well (suddenly) No no you are wrong wrong-that man is nothing-never has been to me but my bitter cruel enemy The father of my child stands there-my husband. Let me speak I must or my brain will crack

Phillip This is most irregular

Able Let her speak man-for Gods sake let her speak

well Perhaps over the grave of our dead child my husband you will listen and with Gods mercy believe me-I have never wronged you-never-I have always loved you-more than life itself. The night you cast me off

Jack Its useless to refer to that

Nell No it is not useless for you must be convinced . You knew I loved you then I ask you could any woman the worst in the world play such a part. That man forced himself into our rooms with a story of having frightened a man whom he suspected of being a thief from the balcony that was true enough-the man-the supposed thief was my father

Abe I ~~begin to see~~

Jack Your father

Nell I knew by the letter that that man had the letter that convicted me in your eyes. I had concealed from you the fact that my father was living because

Abe ~~Go on girl~~-because I was a blot a reproach upon any decent human being. I'll tell you my part of it anyhow I found out my daughter was married and I started to bleed her-ob yes I was a beast then-I know it well enough since and the poor girl was afraid and more than ashamed to let you know the disgrace that was tacked on to her. That night you speak of I was on the balcony. Nell had sent me money and begged me to go away. That girl there (mentions Mary Ann) knows I am speaking the truth

Mary Indeed I do for it was me that took the message and the money to you

Jack But the letter

Abe I'm going to that-I was mad with drink and obstinacy and refused to go, so the girl got my daughter to write me tell me that she couldn't see me that night as you were there-she told me often, as she told me in the letter that if you once learnt who I was you would turn from her in contempt and loathing

Jack Great Heavens can this be true

Mary It is sir for I was standing by when Mrs. Charteris wrote the letter and I remember those very words

Mark I congratulate you upon your very convenient memory

Abe Cant you see sir how youve wronged my girl

Jack I hardly dare believe

Nell Jack-how could you doubt me-I-I loved you so

Jack Yes-I do do believe at last God forgive me for my blindness Nell my wife forgive me forgive (she bows head) You cant why should you I dont deserve it

Nell (holds out arms) Jack

Jack (x's quickly) My wife (embrace)

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Phillip I: (coughs) I'm afraid I must remind you

Jack Give me one minute. Think what this means this is my wife-the woman who is more to me than all the world Give me but a moment

Mark One would hardly think this was a Court of Justice

Phillip This is not a Court of Justice merely a preliminary investigation

Mark (sighs) Oh that sort of thing the usual procedure in even a preliminary investigation

Phillip Whatever the procedure may be kindly understand sir that it's my affair and mine only

Mark But that woman is here to answer a certain charge (rises)

Jack You

Well Rush

Phillip Mrs. Charteris are you sufficiently recovered to answer several questions

Well I think so

Phillip Then try and remember what happened before you fainted in the snow

Well I have tried so hard but I cannot. I only remember looking into the white face of my baby that -that her troubles were ended-I pressed her little fingers and they were cold-cold as ice and I knew my little one was dead then then I remember no more When I came to it was to find this dear friend (means Mary) with her arms round me and her dear familiar face looking into mine

Mary And how I wish my dear we had only found you before

Phillip You don't think Mrs. Charteris that you could in a moment of frenzy consequent upon the discovery of your child's unhappy condition have rushed to the embankment and thrown the body over

Well Oh no a thousand times no

Phillip I am sorry. ~~I have never in all my life had a more singular duty~~ but I must go on

Mark Certainly you must surely we've had enough of this maudlin exhibition

Phillip you Mr. Thordon assert that you saw someone throw what appeared to be a bundle of some kind into the water you assert this positively

Mark I do (slowly)

Jack You bound

Phillip ~~Stop harsh words want elucidate this mystery. You believe this woman was the person you saw~~

Mark I do. I am sorry if my evidence is unpalatable-it is of no consequence to me either way-but in the interests of justice I merely state what I saw nothing more

Well Then Heaven have mercy on me for you are swearing my life away

Phillip Then I am afraid you will have to stand your trial for the murder of your child. The mysterious disappearance must be explained

Mark It is explained. There's no doubt that the body was thrown into the river and by that woman (Enter Billy C)

Billy Try again Thordon

Mark What do you mean

Billy This—the body was thrown into the river sure enough but not by that lady

Mark By who then

Billy By who—by you (picture)

Mark You're mad

Billy Oh no I'm not (to Phillip) I've brought some news sir. The body of the poor little child has been found—you know they were draggin the river sir

Mark Well what does that prove

Billy Why that you threw the child

Mark I

Billy Yes you—for caught on to the child's clothing was a large white silk handkerchief with the name Mark Thordon plainly stamped on the corner

Mary ~~Well if that isn't the hand of providence itself — Oh my dear I'm so glad~~

Mark (To Phillip) You're not going to be taken in by this trumped up story—this far-fetched concoction

Phillip Silence Yes (reads paper) You are quite correct it is a concoction but you are the guilty one Mrs Charteris I am glad to say you are a free woman (Mark is sneaking off Billy sees and stops him)

Billy No you dont

Mark damn you

Billy Fancy you saying a thing like that What shall I do with him sir

Mark You wont dare detain me

Phillip Oh yes we will arrest that man

Mark Oh what charge

Phillip Perjury to begin with others to follow take him away (as Police do so he sneers at Jack)

Jack I could almost wish that the law had not got its grip on you—that I might deal out to you just one intillation of the punishment you deserve

Mark Probably you do but you wont get the chance So you've beaten me after all Nell. Well you're the first woman that's ever done so To Mrs Charteris I wish you luck with your dear wife

Phillip Take him away

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mark

I will beat you all get (Exit with Police C)

Jack

Thank God—you had your father Nell (shakes hands with Abe)
We'll begin life all over again my wife

Nell

My husband

Mary

My Billy

Billy

My Mary Ann

CURTAIN

END OF PIECE.

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