

Sheila: He went into the drawing room, to tell mother what was happening here. Eric, take the inspector along to the drawing-room.

*// As Eric moves, the inspector looks from Sheila to Gerald, then goes out with Eric.//*

Well, Gerald?

Gerald: (*trying to smile*) Well what, Sheila?

Sheila: How did you come to know this girl – Eva Smith?

Gerald: I didn't.

Sheila: Daisy renton then – it's the same thing.

Gerald: Why should I have to know her?

Sheila: Oh don't be stupid. We haven't much time. You gave yourself away as soon as he mentioned her other name.

Gerald: All right. I knew her. Let's leave it at that.

Sheila: We can't leave it at that.

Gerald: (*approaching her*) Now listen, darling--

Sheila: no, that's no use. You not only knew her but you knew her very well. Otherwise, you wouldn't look so guilty about it. When did you first get to know her?

*// he does not reply//*

Was it after she left milwards? When she changed her name, as he said, and began to lead a different sort of life? Were you seeing her last spring and summer, during that time you hardly came near me and said you were so busy? Were you?

*// he does not reply but looks at her.//*

Yes, of course you were.

Gerald: I'm sorry, Sheila. But it was all over and done with, last summer. I hadn't set eyes on the girl for at least six months. I don't come into this suicide business.

Sheila: I thought I didn't half an hour ago.

Gerald: You don't. Neither of us does. So – for god's sake – don't say anything to the

inspector.

Sheila: About you and this girl?

Gerald: Yes. We can keep it from him.

Sheila: (*laughs rather hysterically*) why – you fool – he knows. Of course he knows. And I hate to think how much he knows that we don't know yet. You'll see. You'll see.

*// she looks at him almost in triumph. He looks crushed. The doors slowly opens and the inspector appears, looking steadily and searchingly at them.//*

Inspector: Well?

END OF ACT ONE

### **Act two**

*// At rise, scene and situation are exactly as they were at end of act one. The Inspector remains at the door for a few moments looking at Sheila and Gerald. Then he comes forward, leaving door open behind him.//*

Inspector: (*To Gerald*) Well?

Sheila: (*with hysterical laugh, to Gerald*) You see? What did I tell you?

Inspector What did you tell him?

Gerald (*with an effort*) inspector, I think miss birling ought to be excused any more of this questioning. She'd nothing more to tell you. She's had a long exciting and tiring day – we were celebrating our engagement, you know – and now she's obviously had about as much as she can stand. You heard her.

Sheila: He means that I'm getting hysterical now.

Inspector: And are you?

Sheila: probably.

Inspector: well, I don't want to keep you here. I've no more questions to ask you.

Sheila: no, but you haven't finished asking questions – have you?

Inspector: No.

Sheila: (*to gerald*) You see? (*to inspector.*) then I'm staying.