The Inspector

They might. But after all it's better to ask for the earth than to take it. (Act 1)

(dryly) I don't play golf. (Act 1)

(slowly) Are you sure you don't know? (He looks at Gerald, then at Eric, then at Sheila.) (Act 1)

A nice little promising life there, I thought, and a nasty mess somebody's made of it. (Act 1)

(harshly) Yes, but you can't. It's too late. She's dead. (Act 1)

You think young women ought to be protected against unpleasant and disturbing things? (Act 2)

(sternly to them both) You see, we have to share something. If there's nothing else, we'll have to share our guilt. (Act 2)

(cutting in, with authority) he must wait his turn. (Act 2)

(massively) Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as privileges. (Act 2)

(very deliberately) I think you did something terribly wrong – and that you're going to spend the rest of your life regretting it. (Act 2)

(As Birling tries to protest, turns on him.) Don't stammer and yammer at me again, man (Act 2)

Each of you helped to kill her. Remember that. Never forget it. (He looks from one to the other of them carefully.) But then I don't think you ever will. (Act 3)

One Eva Smith has gone – but there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us

We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other. (Act 3)

Time will soon come when, if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish. Good night. (Act 3)

Sheila

“I’m sorry, Daddy.” She looks attentive, as they all do. (Act 1)

But these girls aren’t cheap labour- they’re people. (Act 1)

But she was very pretty and looked as if she could take care of herself. I couldn't be sorry for her. (Act 1)

(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. (Act 1)

We all started like that – so confident, so pleased with ourselves until he began asking us questions. (Act 2)

I'm not a child, don't forget. I've a right to know. (Act 2)

(rather wildly, with laugh) No, he's giving us the rope – so that we'll hang ourselves. (Act 2)

(flaring up) It’s you two who are being childish – trying not to face the facts. (Act 3)

(bitterly) I suppose we're all nice people now.(Act 3)

(tensely) I want to get out of this. It frightens me the way you talk. (Act 3)

You began to learn something. And now you've stopped. You're ready to go on in the same old way. (Act 3)

Mrs Birling

(reproachfully) Arthur, you're not supposed to say such things- (Act 1)

What an expression, Sheila! Really the things you girls pick up these days! (Act 1)

Please don't contradict me like that. And in any case I don't suppose for a moment that we can understand why the girl committed suicide. Girls of that class—(Act 2)

(with dignity) Yes. We've done a great deal of useful work in helping deserving cases. (Act 2)

If you think you can bring any pressure to bear upon me, Inspector, you're quite mistaken. Unlike the other three, I did nothing I'm ashamed of or that won't bear investigation. (Act 2)

I'm sorry she should have come to such a horrible end. But I accept no blame for it at all. (Act 2)

If, as she said, he didn't belong to her class, and was some drunken young idler, then that's all the more reason why he shouldn't escape. He should be made an example of. If the girl's death is due to anybody, then it's due to him. (Act 2)

Really, from the way you children talk, you might be wanting to help him instead of us. Now just be quiet so that your father can decide what we ought to do. (Looks expectantly at Birling.) (Act 3)

Birling

Perhaps we may look forward to the time when Crofts and Birlings are no longer competing but are working together – for lower costs and higher prices. (Act 1)

As a hard-headed business man, who has to take risks and know what he's about – I say, you can ignore all this silly pessimistic talk (Act 1)

I gather there's a very good chance of a knighthood – so long as we behave ourselves, don't get into the police court or start a scandal – eh?(Act 1)

you'd think everybody has to look after everybody else, as if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive – community and all that nonsense. (Act 1)

Still, I can't accept any responsibility. If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we'd had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn't it? (Act 1)

Rubbish! If you don't come down sharply on some of these people, they'd soon be asking for the earth. (Act 1)

(angrily) Inspector, I've told you before, I don't like the tone nor the way you're handling this inquiry.(act 2)

You must give me a list of those accounts. I've got to cover this up as soon as I can. (act 3)

(angrily) [...]There'll be a public scandal. (act 3)

(angrily) Drop that. There's every excuse for what both your mother and I did (Act 3)

That fellow obviously didn't like us. He was prejudiced from the start. Probably a socialist (Act 3)

(triumphantly) [...] The whole story's just a lot of moonshine. Nothing but an elaborate sell! (Act 3)

(jovially) But the whole thing's different now. Come, come, you can see that, can't you? (Imitating Inspector in his final speech.) You all helped to kill her. (pointing at Sheila and Eric, and laughing.)and I wish you could have seen the look on your faces when he said that. (Act 3)

(pointing to Eric and Sheila) Now look at the pair of them – the famous younger generation who know it all. And they can't even take a joke- (Act 3)

Gerald

(laughs) You seem to be a nice well-behaved family – (Act 1)

(lightly) Sure to be. Unless Eric's been up to something. (nodding confidentially to Birling.) and that would be awkward, wouldn't it? (Act 1)

(showing annoyance) Any particular reason why I shouldn't see this girl's photograph, inspector? (Act 1)

Getting a bit heavy-handed, aren't you, inspector? (Act 1)

So – for god's sake – don't say anything to the inspector. (Act 1)

It's a favourite haunt of women of the town-- (Act 2)

(distressed)sorry – I – well, I've suddenly realized – taken it in properly – that's she's dead (Act 2)

(hesitatingly) it's hard to say. I didn't feel about her as she felt about me. (Act 2)

(he waits a moment, then in a low, troubled tone.) she told me she'd been happier than she'd ever been before – but that she knew it couldn't last (Act 2)

Everything's all right now, Sheila. (Holds up the ring.) What about this ring? (Act 3)

Eric

I don't know – really. Suddenly I felt I just had to laugh. (Act 1)

(rather noisily) All the best! She's got a nasty temper sometimes – but she's not bad really. Good old Sheila! (Act 1)

I left'em talking about clothes again. You'd think a girl had never any clothes before she gets married. Women are potty about 'em. (Act 1)

Why shouldn't they try for higher wages? (Act 1)

(bitterly) You haven't made it any easier for me, have you, mother? (Act 2)

Yes. I wasn't in love with her or anything – but I liked her – she was pretty and a good sport-- No. she didn't want me to marry her. Said I didn't love her – and all that. In a way, she treated me – as if I were a kid. Though I was nearly as old as she was. (Act 2)

(nearly at breaking point) Then – you killed her. She came to you to protect me – and you turned her away – yes, and you killed her – and the child she'd have had too (Act 2)

(unhappily) My God – I'm not likely to forget. (Act 2)

Well, I don't blame you. But don't forget I'm ashamed of you as well – yes both of you. (Act 3)

(bursting out) What's the use of talking about behaving sensibly. You're beginning to pretend now that nothing's really happened at all. And I can't see it like that. This girl's still dead, isn't she? Nobody's brought her to life, have they? (Act 3)

The money's not the important thing. It's what happened to the girl and what we all did to her that matters. (Act 3)