

NOTE: There are internal cuts in this scene for audition purposes. Please refer to this edited scene rather than the full script.

SIBYL

(Laughing at her own incompetence) How badly I acted tonight, Dorian!

DORIAN

Horribly. It was dreadful. Are you ill?

SIBYL

Dorian, I thought you'd have understood. But you understand now, don't you?

DORIAN

Understand what?

SIBYL

Why I was so bad tonight. Why I shall never act well again.

DORIAN

When you are ill you shouldn't act. You make yourself ridiculous. My friends were bored. I was bored.

SIBYL

Dorian, before I knew you, acting was the one reality of my life. It was only in the theatre that I lived. The common people who acted with me seemed to me to be godlike. The painted scenes were my world. I knew nothing but shadows, and I thought them real. Then you came, my beautiful love, and you taught me what reality really is. Tonight, for the first time, I saw through the hollowness, the sham, the silliness of the empty pageant in which I had always played. I became conscious that Romeo was hideous, and old, and painted, that the moonlight in the orchard was false, that the scenery was vulgar, and that the words I had to speak were unreal, were not what I wanted to say. You had brought me something of which art is but a reflection. You had made me understand what love really is. My Prince Charming, you are more to me than art can ever be.

DORIAN

(Coldly) You have killed my love. I loved you because you realized the dreams of great poets and gave shape and substance to the shadows of art. You have thrown it all away. (DORIAN becomes vicious) You are shallow and stupid. How little you can know of love, if you say it mars your art. Without your art you are nothing. I would have made you famous. The world would have worshipped you, and you would have borne my name. What are you now? A third-rate actress with a pretty face.

SIBYL

You're not serious, Dorian? You're acting.

DORIAN

Acting. I leave that to you. You do it so well. *(She reaches to touch him.)* Don't touch me.

*DORIAN begins to leave.*

SIBYL

Dorian, don't leave me! I am sorry I didn't act well. I was thinking of you all the time. But I will work so hard, and try to improve. It came so suddenly across me, my love for you. I think I should never have known it if you had not kissed me - if we had not kissed each other. Kiss me again, my love. Don't go away from me, I couldn't bear it. Don't leave me, don't leave me...

DORIAN

I am going. I don't wish to be unkind, but I can't see you again.

*DORIAN exits, leaving SIBYL alone.*