

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

*SIBYL VANE and her mother, MRS. VANE,
are preparing to go on stage.*

SIBYL

Mother, I am so happy, and you must be happy, too!

MRS. VANE

I am only happy, Sibyl, when I see you act. You must not think of anything but your acting. Mr. Isaacs has been very good to us, and we owe him money.

SIBYL

Money, mother? Love is more than money.

MRS. VANE

Mr. Isaacs has advanced us fifty pounds to pay off our debts, and to get a proper uniform for James. You must not forget that, Sibyl. Fifty pounds is a very large sum. Mr. Isaacs has been most considerate.

SIBYL

He is not a gentleman, mother, and I hate the way he talks to me.

MRS. VANE

I don't know how we could manage without him.

SIBYL

We don't want him any more, mother. Prince Charming rules life for us now. I love him.

MRS. VANE

My child, you are far too young to think of falling in love. Besides, what do you know of this young man? You don't even know his name. And really, when your brother is sailing away to Australia, and I have so much to think of, I must say that you should have shown more consideration. However, as I said before, if he is rich...

SIBYL

Ah, Mother, Mother, let me be happy.

*JAMES, enters the dressing room dressed
in a sailor's uniform. SIBYL exits to change
into her costume.*

JAMES

(Calling after her) Don't be too long dressing. Mother, are my things ready?

MRS. VANE

Quite ready. I hope you will be contented, James, with your sea-faring life. You might have entered a solicitor's office. Solicitors are a very respectable class.

JAMES

I hate offices and I hate clerks. But I should like to make some money to take you and Sibyl off the stage. All I say is watch over Sibyl, don't let her come to any harm.

MRS. VANE

Of course I watch over her.

JAMES

I hear a gentleman comes every night to the theatre and comes back to talk to her. Is that right?

MRS. VANE

You are speaking about things you don't understand, James. In the profession we are accustomed to receive a great deal of attention. I myself used to receive many bouquets at one time. That was when acting was really understood. As for Sibyl, the young man in question is a perfect gentleman. He is always most polite to me. Besides, he has the appearance of being rich, and the flowers he sends are lovely.

JAMES

You don't know his name, though.

MRS. VANE

No, he has not yet revealed his real name. I think it's quite romantic of him.

JAMES

Watch over Sibyl, mother.

MRS. VANE

Of course, if this gentleman *is* wealthy, there is no reason why she should not contract an alliance with him. It might be a most brilliant marriage for Sibyl. His good looks are really quite remarkable; everybody notices them.