

Mrs Birling

All right, Edna. I'll ring from the drawing room when we want coffee. Probably in about half an hour. (Act 1)

(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)

That – I consider – is a trifle impertinent, inspector. (Act 2)

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

Yes, I think it was simply a piece of gross impertinence – quite deliberate – and naturally that was one of the things that prejudiced me against her case. (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'll tell you what I told her. Go and look for the father of the child. It's his responsibility. (Act 2)

She was giving herself ridiculous airs. She was claiming elaborate fine feelings and scruples that were simply absurd in a girl in her position. (Act 2)

I didn't see any reason to believe that one story should be any truer than the other. Therefore, you're quite wrong to suppose I shall regret what I did. (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)

(shocked) Eric! You stole money? (Act 3)

Well, I must say his manner was quite extraordinary; so – so rude – and assertive – (Act 3)

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)

They're over-tired. In the morning they'll be as amused as we are. (Act 3)