

1

Dissolve to exterior of Bird Cage Café. At the end of the street, set at an angle, is a Chinese Theatre with a façade brilliantly lighted and decorated with all the Chinese gimcracks. Along the side of the street, splashes of light come from the narrow entrances of night clubs. Up towards the corner of the street is in shadow, save from the light coming from the entrance of the Bird Cage Café.

On the dissolve in the cabin, a crash of a gong introduces the Chinese music which is heard in the street, evidently coming from the theatre. It continues until taxis arrive at the entrance of the Bird Cage. Several Chinese beggars are hovering in the shadows until the Taxis arrive. Then they all scramble to its occupants, frantically begging for alms. The camera pans with the taxi as it pulls up at the Bird Cage.

Ogden, Harvey and Clark step out of the taxi. Ogden goes to pay the driver as the other two wait.

A blind Chinese coolie led by a small child, almost puts his face into Ogden -

3

Blind Coolie: Look Mister! I have no eyes! I cannot see! I am blind! Poor China boy hungry! No bed, no eyes, give a sixpence Mister!

Ogden: Wait a minute! Wait a minute!

Second Coolie: The Mister give a sixpence for glass of beer.

Third Coolie: Mr. Mister! Mr. Mister!

Ogden: Wait a minute, now. Keep your hands off!

Harvey: Hey! What's going on here?

(Ogden tosses coins to the pavement and all the coolies scramble for it.)

Ogden: Here! Give them this. He tosses other coins to Harvey who throws it

to the coolies

Another coolie tries to crowd out the blind boy.)

Coolie: Mr. Mister. Mr. Mister.

Ogden: Keep away now!

Blind Coolie: Look Mister! I have no eyes. I cannot see! I am blind!! Poor China boy hungry. No bed. No eyes. Give a sixpence, Mister.

Ogden: Here! Now beat it! He gives the blind coolie money which is snatched from him by the others. The blind coolie turns on them, cursing them in Chinese, but stops when Ogden reimburses him.

The coolies surround the three of them as they go towards the entrance of the café. But a [xxx] policeman scatters the beggars as Ogden, Harvey and Clark enter up the stairs of the Bird Cage Café.

Harvey: Well, thank you very much (turning to girl) You don't really want to dance, do you?

Just as you please.

Won't you sit down? Don't be alarmed at the solemnity of my friends. One's a professor and the other's a capitalist.

Where's the capitalist? (turning to the professor) You're a professor, eh? Well, what do you know.

1

Clark: Well, Harvey, here's your sinful pleasure.

Ogden: It appears to be all sin and no pleasure.

Harvey: There you go. The moment we come to these places you bring in your philosophy.

Ogden: You couldn't come to these places unless you had a philosophy.

Harvey: Well, we've come here to escape it.

Clark: Or, we come here because we haven't any.

2

Harvey: There's too much of it in the world anyway. It's creeds, cults and isms. That's why there's so much confusion. Leave philosophy in books and let nature take its course.

C: Nature's pretty cruel at times.

H: It's pretty nice to cows.

Yes, but we lead them to slaughter.

And our isms lead us to slaughter.

3

You seem to have all the answers, Harvey. What's the solution?

~~{xxx}~~

Life knows the solution and she'll only tell nature.

~~{xxx}~~

Harvey: However, away with this converse talk. Tonight we are going to enjoy ourselves. Now the solution to our immediate problems I can see four tables away.

What are you up to?

She's a cute little thing with a light in her eye.

Enough of that nonsense. We don't want any more at this table.

My dear fellow, in your present mood a woman is necessary. She'll either inspire your philosophy or make you forget it.

5

What are you talking about?

Merely this. That you should try and forget Reno. Try and forget yourself and have a good time.

O: with those poor wretched creatures? They're depressing.

Those creatures are ladies. Girls from good families, Russian aristocracy. I'll prove it to you. (turning to waiter). Waiter! Is it possible to know that young lady without insulting her?

6

Just invite her over to your table. She won't be insulted.

What did I tell you.

Or, you can buy a ticket and dance with her.

How much.

Fifty cents.

H: You see. If you were interested in human psychology, you would realize what an adventure I'm having for fifty cents.

O: Don't do that in a place like this.

H: My dear fellow, be tolerant. When you're in Rome, roam.

7

(Camera following Harvey to Paulette's table.)

Excuse me, may I have the pleasure of the next dance?

I'm sorry. This one is taken. The next?

(She gets up and the camera discovers there is another man waiting to dance with her. Harvey ignominiously walks back to the table.)

(Ogden and Clark are laughing)

Well, Harvey. What's the psychology of that adventure?

Evidently, a local boy makes good. ~~{xxx}~~

8

The [xxx] and Paulette come over to the table.

I beg your pardon, won't you dance with the lady? I can wait.

Harvey: Thank you very much, but we are going shortly.

~~[xxx]~~

I beg of you to accept. It would please the lady very much.

1

Oh, you never can tell. You'd be surprised what interests the girls.

I know, but he's a zoologist.

A zoologist! Gee. I'm scared. Well, you've come to the right place.

What did I tell you?

What did you tell him?

That you're very amusing.

That depends on the company I'm in.

How old are you?

I beg your pardon. Will you introduce

2

Harvey: Well this is Petra [Paulette].

(Ogden and Clark together): How do you do?

Sit down Petra. Don't be alarmed at the solemnity of my two friends. One's a professor and the other's a capitalist.

Where's the capitalist?

The one with the stony stare.

So, you're a professor, er, well, what do you know?

I regret nothing very interesting.

3

me to your friend.

Professor Clark of the Zoological Society of New York.

How do you do? I'm twenty-one.

(A waiter comes to the table. Ogden turns to him enquiringly.

Harvey: What does he want?

~~{xxx}~~

4

P: You see, in a place like this, when you invite a lady to your table, a waiter comes up. Then you're supposed to ask her what she'll have to drink and she's supposed to order champagne and you pay for it. It's an old Chinese custom.

Story Notes

Harvey left the cocktail lounge where he and Harvey? Had their night cap and after having danced with two attractive, very young, don't-know-what-they-want type of women, Ogden felt complacent and somewhat gratified. ~~xxx~~ As he made his way to the cabin, without effort he had made an easy conquest over the hearts of those women upstairs and tonight the thought of it engendered in him a masculine superiority and a contempt for the whole female species. He gave the secret rap on the door and felt the lock released quietly. On the other side of it

entering the room and was surprised to find it empty. Looking around, he exclaimed irritably, "Where are you?" and as P peeked cautiously from the other bedroom, he remarked,
"Oh, there you are."

Notes

She locks the door of Ogden's lounge cabin in order that she will sleep on the sofa in there and that he may sleep in his own bed.

Notes

During the voyage, Harvey persuades P to come up on deck. He has assured her that it is perfectly safe, because he has contrived a scheme which will assure her not being detected.

Harvey has made friends with one of the ladies on the boat, but the first night out of Shanghai, the lady is taken sick and has to retire.

Notes

I'm going now.

Harvey marries her so as to get her into America. They are married by the captain.

This is done to avoid immigration problems and because Ogden's divorce is not final.

Ogden tells the captain not to tell anyone of the marriage.

Notes

But the captain tells everyone. They are pointed out by the passengers. They are given a party and afterwards they retire, being escorted to their cabin by friends. Later P is seen creeping to Ogden's cabin to sleep by herself in the sitting room.

Notes

It's a funny world then.

Plots for the opening

Chinese girls are singing a plaintive melody while the white Russians are sitting at the tables.

One man, a Portuguese, is insisting on making love to a young Russian girl.

~~{xxx}~~

Notes

The Portuguese proprietor however tells her she must go.

In the alcove, he tries to assault her, but she screams and slaps his face. She hits him. [xxx] he calls for the police and has her arrested for stealing his purse.

The police take her away and she leaves screaming. P tries to interfere, but Ogden and Harvey intervene. She would also have been led away.

Back at the table, she tells her story of the abuse of the white Russians to Ogden

Shanghai Café Notes

Couldn't you take us somewhere more [xxx]

We want to enjoy ourselves

We want to enjoy ourselves

Don't you know any place where we can have a little fun?
You know, something like the Emergency Hospital where we
can whoop it up a bit.

The Emergency Hospital? You'll find that very depressing.

Shanghai Café Notes

~~[xxx]~~

I think we'd better be going.

You no like it here?

We can have more fun in an Emergency Hospital.

1

~~[xxx]~~

You're happy, you know where you're going and you're on your way.

You can be just as happy. You're in the same boat.
No, no. I'm going nowhere.

Just as far as I'm going.

Yes, but

2

I'm tired of the journey.

You're tired of getting nowhere. You must charter a course.

You're very sweet.

I wish you wouldn't drink so much.

And if I remain sober, what will I do?

Oh, lots of things. Life is wonderful, but we can't expect it to amuse and keep us happy all the time. We must do our part and amuse life once in a while.

3

~~[xxx]~~

I don't quite know what you mean.

I mean that we are always seeking to be amused, instead of amusing ourselves.

How do you amuse yourself?

Do you mean here?

Yes.

Oh, knit some, dream and exercise.

What do you knit?

~~{xxx}~~

Quarrelling is a world full of self-indulgence.

Words distort our ideas or leave them flat.

The application of words to express our feelings is like painting over the trunk of a tree to accentuate its naturalness.

H: Do you know O, you'd be a much happier man if you were to loosen up once in a while. Now, last night in Shanghai, you really came to life.

O: I don't want to hear nay more about it.

C: From Harvey's account, it must have been very exciting.

Bah, nothing but a cheap ?? experience. It's a wonder we escaped with our lives!

I feel very sorry for those girls.

College days together.

Nice [xxx] stuff start now

Notes

A [xxx] boy finds out that P is hiding in O's cabin, but he makes up the room pretending she is not there. After he has finished, he goes into the lounge room and tidies up. After he has finished, he peeks through the key hole and sees P. He knows she's been there all along. He leaves fruit in the room for her. One day after he has cleaned up, he raps on the cupboard door and whispers, "All right, miss."

Steward reports to Purser of P in cabin of O. Purser goes there, but finds her gone, because she has gone to Clark's cabin and who does not know him. From this complication, such can be enacted Clark not knowing P is in his room.

Now don't spoil my illusions. There is a Santa Claus. Not only that, it will be a good thing for Ogden and get him away from himself.

I should imagine he's had enough of women. You talk just like a professor. No man ever gets enough of women. We're gluttons for punishment. What he needs is diversion, something to make him forget.

Oh, I'm [xxx], you Mr. O. Will never see such beautiful girls. Your friend here has made quite the hit with them.

You better watch your step H.

Oh, no. Everything is all right, Mr. O. I will see that nothing happens like that with me. Oh, no, you are my friends.

Where are we going?

You want to get back to [xxx]

Sure. We left the girls.

How do you do?

My friend has been telling me a great deal about you, Mr. O.

(aside): You'll pardon me. Harvey! Who is he?

Mike. Oh, he's OK. He's the official confidential guide of Shanghai. Police badge and everything. Mike's okay. He's going to show us the town, right?

by the hand. "That's all right; have a good time.

~~[xxx]~~

Ogden looked foolish with embarrassment. He fumbles and bumps into the waiter as he makes his departure from the dining room.

In the lobby, he meets Harvey who has acquired a friend ashore he introduces to Ogden as Portuguese Mike. He has also acquired a full drink. Ogden enquires from his friend where he met Mike.

"Never you mind," he replies. "I've been busy."

While you've been away collecting data, my friend knows every joint in the town.

Is he all right?

Mike! I should say so. Everyone knows Mike. He's the official confidential guide of the town. Got a police badge and everything.

Your friend Mr. Harvey and myself have found out we have many common friends together.

You've much in common together.

In common together

In common together.

O: Say, where have you been?

Oh, we have had a wonderful time reminiscing, you know.

H: Yeah, he can reminisce, as he calls it, more than anyone I ever knew.

M: We have been all over the town, the American Bar, the Idle Dream, the [xxx] to see the white Russians. There are beautiful girls there for you.

H: That's where we are going. That's the most interesting joint around here.

O: Come, let's hurry out of here.

Oh, you'd be surprised. I'm willing to leave.

What did I tell you?

What have you been telling him?

That you are a pretty cute kid and a lot of fun.

That depends on the company I'm in.

You are very bright. How old are you?

I beg your pardon. Will you introduce me to your friend?

This is Mr. Fellows.

How do you do? I'm twenty.