

1

O: Your eyes have a strange light in them. I don't think you as gay as you would have people think. Your eyes reveal your true self. You are not as gay as you would like others to believe you are.

What kind of a party is this? What sort of a man are you?

What sort of a girl are you?

Do you want me to be frank?

Your eyes have a strange light in them. You are not as gay as you would like people to believe you are.

We all want people to believe we are different to what we know.

What do you want me to believe you are?

Oh, someone that's honest, that means to do the right thing.

2

Well, I'm pretty hard-hearted, I should say. I like money and clothes. I'm very ambitious. I want a career, just to use as a weapon.

Against whom do you want to use this weapon?

Against the world, I suppose.

Did you ever think that you are a very timid person?

3

Have you ever been in love?

No. I've been too busy thinking about myself.

Do you like men?

I liked my father, but other men have just been dancing tickets.

No. I suppose I'm really very selfish. I just love myself.

Do you think you're honest?

A woman can't afford to be honest with men. I try to be honest with myself, but in my game, you cannot be.

4

be honest with other people. If you did, you wouldn't stay long on the job.

How far does your honesty go with other men?

Oh, in lying to them and telling them they are attractive and amusing. Preferring to be interested in what they do and what they stand for.

But surely you find some virtue in the opposite sex.

Oh, yes, if virtue means much.

5

But the majority of men are not aware of their virtue, the very qualities that men are proud of, women usually laugh at. I suppose it is because men have different values to woman. That's why they are at cross currents all the time.

Do you think I have any virtues?

I know you were going to ask me that—yes.

Do you think I know what they are?

6

P: No.

I knew you were going to say that. But you might be surprised. I might know more about myself than you think.

Tell me one of your virtues.

I haven't any.

Oh, you're not as interesting as all that. I'm afraid you have virtues.

I am honest, kind and sentimental.

7

P (laughing): ~~xxx~~ You are far from being honest. Honesty and kindness don't go together. If you were honest, I wouldn't be here. I'd be in irons now.

Well, I mean I'm sincere.

Sincerity. I don't think any of us have that.

You'll pardon me, but I think your estimates of people

8

are a little immature. ~~xxx~~ If you had had the good fortune to have lived in, I might say, an ordinary, normal environment, you would realize that there are honest and sincere people in the world.

There are two kinds of men: honest and sincere. Those that are dead and those that haven't been born yet.

9

Of course, if you're going to be facetious.

I'm not facetious! Sincerely belongs to passion, but the moment you reason, you accept conditions and deal with them as best as you can, whether they are sincere or not.

My dear child, that's mere sophistry when you know a little more of life, you'll get over that youthful cynism.

10

P: And accept the optimism of old age.

~~[xxx]~~

Odgen: Oh, nonsense. Absolute foolishness.

I'm sorry, I'm wrong. The men are always right.

There, there. We won't loose our temper.

11

I haven't lost mine.

The great trouble with you is that you have acquired too much bookish knowledge.

Well, we won't get personal about it.

I'm not getting personal. I'm just trying to explain.

I appreciate your trying.

You see, I could accuse you of becoming personal.

12

If you haven't done so already.

I have done nothing of the kind but you've accused me of being insincere and dishonest.

I did not say you were dishonest or insincere. I said you were not sincere or honest.

Isn't that the same thing?

No. It is not the same thing, but I could accuse you of being vain and bigoted.

13

and spoilt.

I don't think it is necessary to discuss any further what you think.

It may do you a great deal of good to learn what other people think.

That the trouble with rich men like you, you don't only hear enough of what other people think.

Well you are not here for that.

14

P: It is not my desire to be here at all. Unfortunately, I can't help myself. But if you know what I thought, you-

(There's a knock at the door and P turns quickly on her heels and disappears into the bedroom. Ogden follows to see that she is safely hidden in the cupboard before answering this knock. Then he goes to the door.)

P. [xxx]: Sorry to interrupt you.

15

you sir. ~~xxx~~ We've come to replace the globes in the bedroom.

Oh, all right. Go ahead. It won't take long, will it?

Only a moment, sir.

(All exit into the bedroom. The man starts to open the cupboard door)

Ogden: What do you want there?

16

We have the globes there, sir.

Just a moment. I want you to look at this bathroom. There's a short circuit in the door somewhere dangerous. I got an awful shock from it the other morning. Now when I close the bathroom door, you can step out into the other room.

What other room?

I'll show you.

17

O: Now the bathroom door is closed. You see now when I open it, I sometimes get a shock. Wait I'll show you. You stay in there a moment and when I tell you to open the door, you open it.

(Ogden steps into the bedroom and sees that P has gone from the cupboard.

O: Now open the door.

(Man comes from bathroom looking quite bewildered)

O: Well, did you get

18

O: a shock?

No sir.

O: That's singular. Well, don't bother.

(The man goes to the cupboard and fixes the lamp. The he is about to go into the sitting room but O stops him.

I left my spanner in there sir.

O: Don't bother. I'll get it for you. (calling) Oh, Hudson, give me that spanner on the table, will you?

19

O: That's it?

Thank you sir.

(And the man leaves bewildered and with a suspicion that O is a little cracked. Then exits.)

(Ogden goes into the sitting room. Both Ogden and Paulette strive to assume an air of suffering and austerity.)

Ogden: For your own safety, be as careful as possible if anyone should knock at the door.

20

and don't answer under any circumstances unless they give the secret rap.

I'm awfully sorry I lost my temper. I promise never to offend you again.

It's quite all right. An apology is not necessary.

Fade

Og—Your apologies under these circumstances are incongruous, presumptuous and insincere.

P: Not at all. I like you. I think you're very kind.

Og: After what's happened?

P: In your place, I'd feel the same way.

You are quite impersonal about it all.

It's only using common sense.

If I'd have turned you over to the authorities, would you have blackmailed me?

Yes.

Would you have been justified?

Notes

You are like a silk worm, you spin a web of self love and hide in it.

You rich men are like silkworms. You spin a web of gold around your soul and ?? it.

Bring my dinner here, do you mind?

Not at all.

How do you amuse yourself all day?

Dreaming, dreaming, dreaming.

To people who are tired, yes. They only spoil other people's fun.

According to you, I should kill myself.

You're only tired of not playing.

I'm tired of the playground, as you call it.

You haven't played in it. You've let others play for you.

What do you mean?

I mean you get the others to amuse you, instead of amusing yourself.

Falling in love won't cure any problems? That's too easy.

But it might start new ones. Pardon me. I don't wish to be rude but what are your problems?

You're one of them.

I'm sorry.

Well, you asked for it.

And I got it. I won't ask again.

We eat, drink and love and bemoan the fact art is ??,
nothing goes into nothing. That stuff is easy.

4

smaller. This one is for you. Do you mind standing up? I want to measure it on you.

(H stands while P measures him. Enter O.)

And what do you dream about?

Oh, lot's of silly things that will never come true.

No, but the more you dream, the more you hope and hope keeps you going.

You're quite a philosopher.

You'd have to be pent up in this cabin all day.