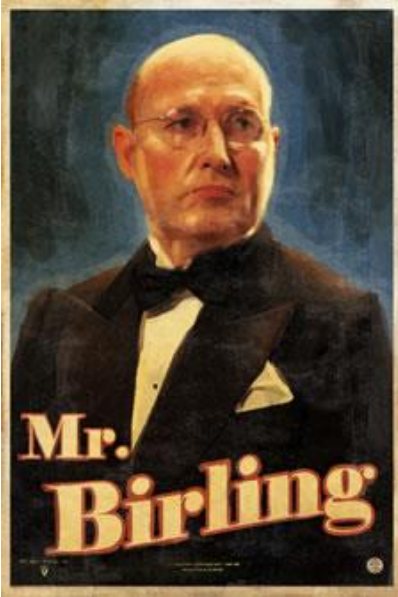


Mr Birling



Responsibility:

Stage directions:

“Arthur Birling is a heavy-looking, rather portentous man in his middle fifties with fairly easy manners but rather provincial in his speech.”

(explosively) (angrily) (sharply) (very sharply) (furious)

Quotes by him:

“Its one of the happiest nights of my life... your engagement to Shelia means a tremendous lot to me.”

“We may look forward to the time when Crofts and Birlings are no longer competing but are working together – for lower costs and higher prices.”

“Just because the miners came out on strike, there’s a lot of wild talk about possible labour trouble in the future. Don’t worry.”

“We employers are coming together to see that our interests – and the interests of Capital – are properly protected.”

“You’ll hear some people say that war is inevitable. And to that I say – fiddlesticks!”

“There’s a fair chance that I may find myself into the next honours list.”

“By the way some of these cranks talk and write now, you’d think everybody has to look after everybody else, as if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive – community and all that nonsense.”

“A man has to mind his own business and look after himself and his own – and –
We hear the sharp ring of a front door bell. Birling stops to listen.”

“As it happened more than eighteen months ago – nearly two years ago – obviously it has nothing to do with the wretched girl’s suicide.”

“I can’t accept any responsibility.”

“ If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody... it would be very awkward wouldn’t it?”

“It’s my duty to keep labour costs down.”

“If you don’t come down sharply on some of these people, they’d soon be asking for the earth.”

“Perhaps I ought to warn you that that [the Chief Constable is] and old friend of mine. We play golf together.”

“I don’t like your tone nor the way you’re handling this enquiry.”

“I’ve got to cover this up as soon as I can.”

“Why you hysterical young fool – get back – or I’ll – “

“I care. I was almost certain for a Knighthood in the next honours list.”

“There’s every excuse for what both your mother and I did.”

“There’ll be a public scandal... and who here will suffer for that more than I will?”

“(jovially) But the whole thing’s different now”

Mrs Birling



Responsibility:

Stage Directions:

"[Mrs Birling] is about fifty, a rather cold woman and her husband's social superior."

(grandly) (bitterly) (with sudden anger) (alarmed) (severely)

Quotes by Mrs Birling:

"I don't suppose for a moment that we can understand why the girl committed suicide."

"That - I consider - is a trifle impertinent Inspector."

"I realise that you have to conduct some sort of inquiry, but I must say that so far you seem to be conducting it in a rather peculiar and offensive manner."

"We are learning something tonight."

"I beg your pardon!"

"What business is it of yours?"

"It was simply a piece of gross impertinence"

"Naturally that was one of the things that prejudiced me against her case."

"I didn't like her manner"

"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."

"In spite of what's happened to the girl since, I consider I did my duty."

"I'll tell you what I told her. Go and look for the father of the child. It's his responsibility."

"It wasn't I who had her turned out of her employment – which probably began it all."

"In the circumstances I think I was justified."

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

"She said the father was only a youngster – silly and wild and drinking too much."

"You're quite wrong to suppose I shall regret what I did."

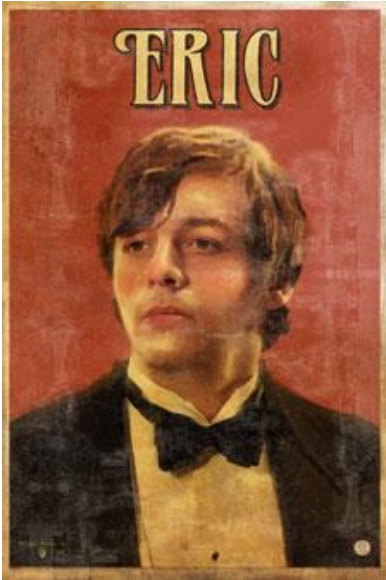
"But I accept no blame for it at all."

"He should be made an example of. If the girl's death is due to anybody, then it's due to him."

"He ought to be dealt with very severely"

"Eric, I can't believe it. There must be some mistake."

Eric Birling



Responsibility:

Stage directions:

“Eric is in his early twenties, not quite at ease, half-shy, half assertive.”

(rather noisily) (who is uneasy) (defiantly) (miserably) (sulkily)

Quotes:

“He could have kept her on instead of throwing her out.”

“Well I think it’s a damn shame.”

“You know don’t you?”

“Could I have a drink first?”

“I was a bit squiffy.”

“She told me she didn’t want to go in but that – well, I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty – and I threatened to make a row.”

“I didn’t even remember – that’s the hellish thing. Oh – my God!”

“I wasn’t in love with her or anything – but I liked her – she was pretty and a good sport.”

“She didn’t want me to marry her. Said I didn’t love her.”

“In a way she treated me – as if I were a kid. Though I was nearly as old as she was.”

“I insisted on giving her enough money to keep her going.”

To Mrs Birling. – “Then - you killed her... and the child she’d have had too – my child – your own Grandchild – you killed them both – damn you, damn you.”

(almost threatening her) – “You don’t understand anything. You never did. You never even tried.”

“I’m never likely to forget.”

“What does it matter now whether they give you a knighthood or not?”

“I’m ashamed of you as well. Yes both of you.”

“He was our police inspector all right.”

“I didn’t notice you standing up to him.”

“I do take some interest in it. I take too much, that’s my trouble.”

“You’re beginning to pretend that nothings really happened at all. And I can’t see it like that.”

“I did what I did. And mother did what she did. And the rest of you did what you did to her.”

“The money’s not the important thing. It’s what happened to the girl and what we did to her that matters.”

Sheila Birling



Responsibility:

Stage Directions:

"Sheila is a pretty girl in her early twenties, very pleased with life and rather excited."

(gaily, possessively) (Half seriously, half playful) (severely) (excited) (passionately)

Quotes:

"Don't be an ass Eric"

"(who has put on ring admiringly) I think its perfect. Now I really feel engaged."

"I can't help thinking about this girl –destroying herself so horribly – and I've been so happy tonight."

"But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people."

"You knew it was me all the time didn't you?"

"I went to the manager at Milwards and I told him that if they didn't get rid of that girl, I'd never go near the place again."

"Because I was in a furious temper."

"I caught sight of her smiling at the assistant."

"I'll never, never do it again to anybody."

"Of course he knows. And I hate to think how much he knows."

"I know I'm to blame – and I'm desperately sorry"

"You mustn't try to build up a kind of wall between us and that girl. If you do, then the inspector will just break it down. And it'll be all the worse when he does."

"But, Mother, do stop before it's too late."

"He's giving us the rope – so that we'll hang ourselves."

"And probably between us we killed her."

"You and I aren't the same people who sat down to dinner here."

"It means that we've no excuse now for putting on airs."

"The point is you don't seem to have learnt anything."

"It doesn't much matter who it was who made us confess."

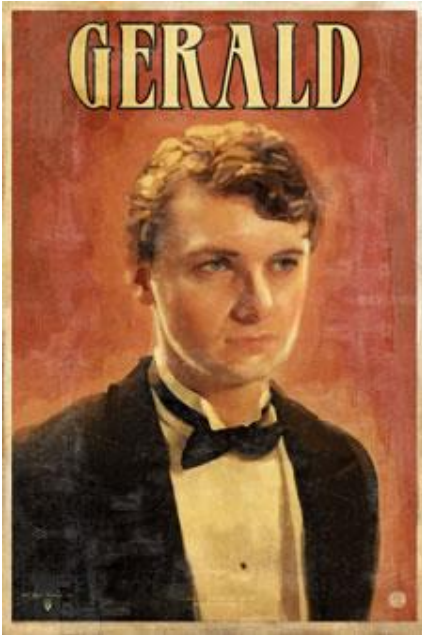
"There was something curious about him. He never seemed like an ordinary police inspector..."

"But that won't bring Eva Smith back to life."

"Everything we said had happened really had happened. If it didn't end tragically, then that's lucky for us. But it might have done."

"You're pretending everything's just as it was before!"

Gerald Croft



Responsibility:

Stage Directions:

Gerald Croft is an attractive chap about thirty, rather too manly to be a dandy but very much the easy well-bred young man-about-town.

(Smiling) (produces a ring case) (giving the case to her)(amused)

Quotes:

"I've told you – I was awfully busy at the works all that time."

"I drink to you – and hope I can make you as happy as you deserve to be."

"sounds a bit fishy to me"

"unless Eric's been up to something. And that would be very awkward wouldn't it?"

"All right, I knew her. Let's leave it at that."

"It was all over and done with, last summer. I hadn't set eyes on the girl for at least six months. I don't come into this suicide business."

"For God's sake – don't say anything to the inspector."

"It's bound to be unpleasant and disturbing."

"You've been through it, and now you want to see someone else put through it."

"The Palace music hall... is a favourite haunt of women of the town."

"I noticed a girl who looked quite different. She was very pretty."

"Sorry – I – well, I've suddenly realized – taken it in properly – that she's dead –"

"The girl... gave me a glance that was nothing less than a cry for help."

"I insisted on Daisy moving into those rooms and I made her take some money to keep her going there."

"I became at once the most the most important person in her life."

"I didn't feel about her as she felt about me."

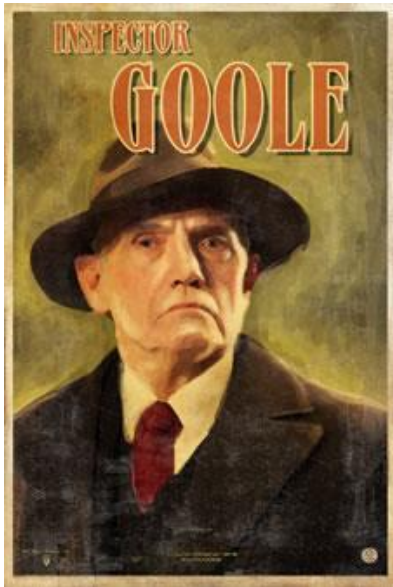
"You know, it wasn't disgusting."

"Daisy knew it was coming to an end. So I broke it off definitely... she was – very gallant – about it."

"She told me she'd been happier than she'd ever been before – but that she knew it couldn't last."

"I'm rather more – upset – by this than I appear to be."

Inspector Goole



Directions:

The Inspector need not be a big man but he creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness. He is a man in his fifties, dressed in a plain darkish suit of the period. He speaks carefully, weightily, and has a disconcerting habit of looking hard at the person he addresses before actually speaking.

(cutting through, massively) (coolly, looking hard at him) (gravely) (dryly) (impressively) (harshly) (sharply) (very sternly)

Quotes:

"She'd swallowed a lot of strong disinfectant. Burnt her inside out, of course."

"She was in great

"But you can't. It's too late. She's dead."

"I'm not going until I know all that happened."

"You think young women ought to be protected against unpleasant and disturbing things?"

"A girl died tonight. A pretty, lively sort of girl, who never did anybody any harm. But she died in misery and agony – hating life."

"We have to share something. If there's nothing else, we have to share our guilt."

"He must wait his turn."

"Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as privileges."

"I think that you did something terribly wrong – and that you're going to spend the rest of your life regretting it."

"She'd been turned out and turned down too many times. This was the end."

"I'm losing all patience with you people. *What did she say?*"

"You'll be able to divide the responsibility between you when I've gone."

"Each of you helped to kill her, remember that. Never forget it."

"Used her at the end of a stupid drunken evening, as if she was an animal, a thing, not a person."

"One Eva Smith has gone – but there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths left with us."

"Their lives, their hopes and fears, their suffering and chance of happiness, all intertwined with our lives."

"We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other."

"If men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish."

agony... Suicide of course."

"This young woman, Eva Smith, was a bit out of the ordinary."

"One person and one line of inquiry at a time."

"What happened then may have determined what happened to her afterwards... a chain of events."

"Why did you refuse?"

"It's my duty to ask questions."

"It's better to ask for the earth than to take it."

"I don't play golf."

"The girl's dead though."

"There's a lot of young women living that sort of existence in every city and big town in this country."

"It would do us all a bit of good if sometimes we tried to put ourselves in the place of these young women counting their pennies in their dingy little back bedrooms."

"That's more or less what I was thinking earlier tonight, when I was in the Infirmary looking at what was left of Eva Smith. A nice little promising life there, I thought, and a nasty mess somebody's made of it."

"All in good time."

"If you're easy with me, I'm easy with you."

"You're partly to blame, just as your father is."

"You might be said to have been jealous of her."

"You used the power you had... to punish the girl."