

Elyot Are you going to understand me, and manage me?

Sibyl I'm going to try to understand you.

Elyot Run me without my knowing it?

Sibyl (*withdrawing slightly*) I think you're being a little unkind.

Elyot No, I don't mean to be. I was only wondering.

Sibyl Well?

Elyot I was wondering what was going on inside your mind, what your plans are really?

Sibyl (*turning to him*) Plans; oh, Elli!

Elyot Apart from loving me and all that, you must have plans.

Sibyl I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about.

Elyot Perhaps it's subconscious then, age-old instincts working away deep down, mincing up little bits of experience for future use, watching me carefully like a little sharp-eyed, blonde kitten.

Sibyl How can you be so horrid.

Elyot I said kitten, not cat.

Sibyl Kittens grow into cats.

Elyot Let that be a warning to you. (*He looks out front*)

Sibyl (*moving to him and slipping her arm through his again*) What's the matter, darling, are you hungry?

Elyot Not a bit.

Sibyl You're very strange all of a sudden, and rather cruel. Just because I'm feminine. It doesn't mean that I'm crafty and calculating.

Elyot I didn't say you were either of those things.

Sibyl (*breaking L*) I hate these half-masculine women who go banging about.

Elyot I hate anybody who goes banging about.

Sibyl I should think you needed a little quiet womanliness after Amanda.

Elyot (*moving away R*) Why will you keep on talking about her?

Sibyl It's natural enough, isn't it?

Elyot (*sitting on the balustrade*) What do you want to find out?

Sibyl Why did you really let her divorce you?

Elyot She divorced me for cruelty, and flagrant infidelity. I spent a whole weekend at Brighton with a lady called Vera Williams. She had the nastiest looking hair brush I have ever seen.

Sibyl Mislplaced chivalry, I call it. Why didn't you divorce her?

Elyot It would not have been the action of a gentleman, whatever that may mean.

Sibyl I think she got off very lightly.

Elyot (*rising*) Once and for all will you stop talking about her.

Sibyl Yes, Elli dear.

Elyot (*facing out front*) I don't wish to see her again or hear her name mentioned.

Sibyl (*facing out front*) Very well, darling.

Elyot Is that understood?

Sibyl Yes, darling. (*She pauses*) Where did you spend your honeymoon?

Elyot St Moritz. Be quiet.

Sibyl I hate St Moritz.

Elyot So do I, bitterly.

Sibyl Was she good on skis?

Elyot (*turning to her*) Do you want to dine downstairs here, or at the Casino?

Sibyl (*crossing to him and putting her arms round his neck*) I love you, I love you, I love you.

Elyot (*completely unresponsive; moving up stage, holding her R hand*) Good, let's go in and dress.

Sibyl (*pulling him back*) Kiss me first.

Elyot kisses her

Elyot Casino?

Sibyl Yes. (*She collects her bag from the balustrade*) Are you a gambler?

You never told me.

Elyot Every now and then.

Sibyl (*taking his arm*) I shall come and sit just behind your chair and bring you luck.

Elyot That will be fatal.

*Sibyl exits into the suite followed by Elyot. There is a slight pause and then Victor Pryne enters from the L. suite. He is quite nice looking, about thirty or thirty-five. He is dressed in a light travelling suit. He takes three deep breaths, looks at the view, and then turns back to the window*

Victor (*calling*) Mandy!

Amanda (*inside*) What?

Victor Come outside, the view is wonderful.

Amanda I'm still damp from the bath. Wait a minute——

*Victor moves to the table L and knocks out his pipe. Presently Amanda comes out on to the terrace. She is quite exquisite with a gay face and a perfect figure. At the moment she is wearing a negligée. She comes C*

I shall catch pneumonia, that's what I shall catch.

Victor (*looking at her*) God!

Amanda I beg your pardon?

Victor You look wonderful. (*He takes her hands*)

Amanda Thank you, darling.

Victor Like a beautiful advertisement for something. (*He widens her arms*)

Amanda Nothing peculiar, I hope.

Victor I can hardly believe it's true. You and I, here alone together——

*Amanda puts her head on Victor's shoulder*

——married!

Amanda (*rubbing her face on his shoulder*) That stuff's very rough.

Victor Don't you like it?

Amanda A bit hearty, isn't it?

Victor Do you love me?

Amanda Of course, that's why I'm here.

Victor More than you loved . . .

Amanda (*breaking R*) Now then, none of that.

Victor No, but do you love me more than you loved Elyot?

Amanda I don't remember, it's such a long time ago. (*She sits in the chair by the tubs*)

Victor Not so very long.

Amanda (*flinging out her arms*) All my life ago.

Victor I'd like to break his damned neck. (*He moves up to the windows*)

Amanda (*laughing*) Why?

Victor For making you unhappy. (*He turns to her*)

Amanda It was mutual.

Victor Rubbish! It was all his fault, you know it was.

Amanda Yes, it was, now I come to think about it.

Victor Swine! (*He comes down stage*)

Amanda Don't be so vehement, darling.

Victor I'll never treat you like that.

Amanda That's right.

Victor I love you too much.

Amanda So did he.

Victor Fine sort of love that is. He struck you once, didn't he?

Amanda More than once.

Victor Where?

Amanda Several places.

Victor (*moving slightly up stage*) What a cad.

Amanda I struck him too. Once I broke four gramophone records over his head. It was very satisfying.

Victor (*coming down stage again*) You must have been driven to distraction.

Amanda Yes, I was, but don't let's talk about it, please. After all, it's a dreary subject for our honeymoon night. (*She holds out her hand*)

Victor He didn't know when he was well off. (*He moves to her and takes her hand*)

Amanda Look at the lights of that yacht reflected in the water. I wonder whose it is.

Victor We must bathe tomorrow.

Amanda Yes. I want to get a nice sunburn.

Victor (*reproachfully*) Mandy!

Amanda Why, what's the matter?

Victor I hate sunburnt women.

Amanda Why?

Victor It's somehow, well, unsuitable.

Amanda It's awfully suitable to me, darling.

Victor Of course if you really want to. (*He moves behind her chair*)

Amanda I'm absolutely determined. I've got masses of lovely oil to rub all over myself.

Victor Your skin is so beautiful as it is. (*He kisses her neck*)

Amanda Wait and see. When I'm done a nice crisp brown, you'll fall in love with me all over again.

Victor (*moving to c*) I couldn't love you more than I do now.

Amanda Oh, dear. I did so hope our honeymoon was going to be progressive.

Victor Where did you spend the last one?

Amanda (*warningly*) Victor.

Victor I want to know.

Amanda St Moritz. It was very attractive.

Victor I hate St Moritz.

Amanda So do I.

Victor Did he start quarrelling with you right away?

Amanda Within the first few days. I put it down to the high altitudes.

Victor (*moving to her*) And you loved him?

Amanda Yes, Victor.

Victor (*putting a hand on her shoulder*) You poor child.

Amanda (*rising and crossing above the chair L*) You must try not to be pompous, dear. (*She turns away*)

Victor (*hurt*) Mandy!

Amanda I don't believe I'm a bit like what you think I am.

Victor How do you mean?

Amanda I was never a poor child.

Victor Figure of speech, dear, that's all.

Amanda I suffered a good deal, and had my heart broken. But it wasn't an innocent girlish heart. It was jagged with sophistication. I've always been sophisticated, far too knowing. That caused many of my rows with Elyot. I irritated him because he knew I could see through him.

Victor (*moving to her*) I don't mind how much you see through me.

Amanda Sweet. (*She kisses him*)

Victor (*his cheek against hers*) I'm going to make you happy.

Amanda Are you?

Victor Just by looking after you, and seeing that you're all right, you know.

Amanda (*detaching herself; a trifle wistfully*) No, I don't know.

Victor I think you love me quite differently from the way you loved Elyot.

Amanda (*coming down to the balustrade*) Do stop harping on Elyot.

Victor It's true, though, isn't it?

Amanda I love you much more calmly, if that's what you mean.

Victor More lastingly?

Amanda (*sitting on the balustrade*) I expect so. (*She holds out her L hand*)

Victor (*taking her hand and sitting on the balustrade on her R*) Do you remember when I first met you?

Amanda Yes. Distinctly.

Victor At Marion Vale's party.

Amanda Yes.

Victor Wasn't it wonderful?

Amanda Not really, dear. It was only redeemed from the completely commonplace by the fact of my having hiccoughs.

Amanda Love at first sight.

Victor Where did you first meet Elyot?