

FLO Oh, yes. I s'pose I was wondering what's around the corner for me.

BUGGINS Would you ever let me take you round that corner, Flo?

*(She looks at him, surprised. He smiles.)*

FLO I thought you'd never ask!

SCENE NINETEEN

*The basement kitchen at Lady Punnet's house. Night.*

*KIPPS is talking through a glass, basement door.*

KIPPS Let me in, Ann. I keep sayin' I been a fool but let me in!

ANN I don't think I ought to.

KIPPS Please! I'll climb on the roof and come down the chimney if that's what it takes.

ANN Go on, then. But yer not to stay.

*(She opens the door and KIPPS comes in.)*

KIPPS I've lost me money.

ANN What?

KIPPS It's all gone. Kaput. I gave it to a thief and he'd been speckylating. I've been played the hanky panky jackass with everything I've got.

ANN Well, that wasn't very clever.

KIPPS I thought you'd be pleased.

ANN Why would I be pleased? I'm not against money. I like money. There's nothing wrong with being comfortable.

KIPPS That's not what you said last time.

ANN It wasn't the money, Artie. It was the way it changed you. That's what I didn't like. You'd lost touch with who you are.

- KIPPS I know who I am now, right enough. So, will you?
- ANN Will I what?
- KIPPS Marry me.
- ANN And you've broken with her, 'ave you?
- KIPPS Nearly.
- ANN "Nearly"? What does that mean?
- KIPPS I wanted to cancel the wedding but she made me delay it.
- ANN Well, I'm sorry, Artie, but I'm not coming near you 'til she knows the truth. And that's flat.
- KIPPS Oh. Well, if you're sure . . .
- ANN I'm afraid I am.
- KIPPS Even though I don't love her? Not like I love you.
- ANN Even so.
- (With a sigh, his shoulders sag a little and he turns to go.)*
- KIPPS I s'pose there's nothing for it but the pier, then.
- ANN Wait!
- (He looks back and she runs into his arms.)*
- I'll do it. I will marry you, Artie! 'Course I will.
- KIPPS Thank you, God.
- (They kiss. At last. He draws back.)*
- ANN But you must tell 'er. Go round there first thing tomorrow. She mustn't learn it from anyone else.
- KIPPS Ann . . . you know Sid and Mary are going to have their wedding bash at the Hope & Anchor?