

**Music No. 20a: NEVER KNOW A GOOD DAY AGAIN****SCENE TWENTY**

*The Walsingham House. Day.*

MRS WALSINGHAM *is in a state of weeping collapse. HELEN, dressed in black, is more reserved.*

MRS WALS. I keep hoping it's a dream! That we'll wake any moment and the nightmare will be over!

HELEN Well, it won't.

MRS WALS. If it were your late father, then I could believe it! But not James! Not willingly! He may have made a mistake –

HELEN What is the point of this, Mama? James is a thief. Papa was a fool but James is worse. He'll go to prison for a long time and we're ruined. Let's face it!

*(This reduces MRS WALSINGHAM to more sobbing as the bell goes.)*

MRS WALS. Why doesn't the girl answer the door?

HELEN Because she's gone . . .

*(She opens the door. KIPPS is standing there.)*

Hello, Arthur. Come in.

*(He walks into the room and sees MRS WALSINGHAM.)*

KIPPS Good day, Mrs Walsingham.

MRS WALS. I shall never know a good day again!

HELEN I'm glad you're here because I can say how sorry I am. It's my fault. I led you into the whole thing.

KIPPS I'm a grown man. And you tried to stop me signing the papers. So it's my fault, not yours.

- HELEN I knew it wasn't quite right. I never thought it would be as bad as this but I knew it wasn't right. You must get a solicitor to see if anything can be saved.
- KIPPS I will but it's not why I've come.  
*(He hesitates slightly, which she observes.)*
- HELEN You don't need to tell me we're not getting married.
- KIPPS It's got nothing to do with the money. I've met someone – well, I've met her again. It's the maid I knew when I was a boy.
- HELEN I said there was something between you.
- KIPPS Yes, but there wasn't. Then. It's jest that she knows me and I know her and we're . . . comfortable together. I s'pose that's it.
- HELEN And you weren't comfortable with me.
- KIPPS I adored you, Helen. Truly. And I admired you. I still do. I should thank you, really.
- HELEN Whatever for?
- KIPPS Because you were the one who made me believe in myself again, and I need that, 'specially after losing the money.
- HELEN If it's true, then I'm glad.
- KIPPS What's next for you?
- HELEN We'll stay here for the trial and then it might be best to move away. I could be a governess, perhaps. Or a teacher, anyway.
- KIPPS You're a good teacher.

**Music No. 20b: BELIEVE IN YOURSELF – Reprise**

- MRS WALS. I want to lie down, Helen. My head is beating like a drum.
- HELEN I'll take you, Mama.