

## An Inspector Calls

SHELIA:

I'd gone in to try something on. It was an idea of my own - mother had been against it, and so had the assistant - but I insisted. As soon as I tried it on, I knew they'd been right. It just didn't suit me at all. I looked silly in the thing. Well, this girl had brought the dress up from the workroom, and when the assistant - Miss Francis - had asked her something about it, this girl, to show us what she meant, had held the dress up, as if she was wearing it. And it just suited her. She was the right type for it, just as I was the wrong type. She was a very pretty girl too - with big dark eyes - and that didn't make it any better.

Well, when I tried the thing on and looked at myself and I knew that it was all wrong, I caught sight of this girl smiling at Miss Francis - as if to say 'doesn't she look awful?'. And I was furious. I was very rude to both of them, and then I went to the manager and told him that this girl had been very impertinent...and...and...{she almost breaks down but controls herself} How could I know what would happen afterwards?

If she'd been some miserable plain creature, I don't suppose I'd have done it. But she was very pretty and looked as if she could take care of herself. I couldn't be sorry for her.

{Angrily} Oh shut up, Eric. I know, I know. It's the only time I've ever done anything like that, and I'll never do it again to anybody. I've noticed them giving me a sort of look sometimes at Milwards - i noticed it this afternoon - and I suppose some of them remember. I feel now I can never go there again. Oh - why did this have to happen?