

Stage Door
George S Kaufman and Edna Ferber

Terry, an aspiring actress, is talking to her roommate about her aspirations for the future.

TERRY:

We closed. Four performances and we closed... We just got to the theatre tonight and there it was on the call board. 'To the members of the Blue Grotto Company: You are hereby advised that the engagement of the Blue Grotto will terminate after tonight's performance. Signed, Milton H Schwepper, for Berger productions, Incorporated.'

Just like that. We stood there for a minute and read it. Then we sort of got together in the dressings rooms and talked about it in whispers, the way you do at a funeral. And then we all put on our make-up and gave the best damned performances we'd ever given...Yes, it was awfully jolly!....Oh, my screen test? Oh, I'm not counting on that. They might take Jean. She's got that camera face.

Oh how do you know who's an actress, and who isn't! You're an actress if you're acting. Without a job and those lines to say, an actress is just an ordinary person, trying not to look as scared as she feels. What is there about it anyway? Why do we all keep trying?...

Kaye, I'm frightened. For the first time, I'm frightened. It's three years now. The first year didn't matter so much. I was so young. Nobody was ever as young as I was. I thought, they just don't know. But I'll get a good start and show them. I didn't mind anything in those days. Not having any money, or quite enough food; and a pair of silk stockings always a major investment. I didn't mind because I felt sure that that wonderful part was going to come along. But it hasn't. And suppose it doesn't next year? Suppose it never comes?