

14th Feb

An Inspector Calls

QUOTES

"Hang on, I had work to do" Ge

"don't make one, then" Er

"we work together" Bi

"is it the one you wanted me to have?" Sh

"I believe you're right" Ge

"this nonsense of war will be forgotten about"

"are the others going to be told this as well?" Er

"a knighthood, of course" Bi

"We don't want a scandal"

"I know most of the Brumley Police men, quite well"

EVENTS

ACT ONE: Dinner at Birlings, to celebrate engagement of Sheila and Gerald. Mr Birling makes a speech, at first congratulating them but quickly switches to business talk. Everyone has a drink and the scene switches to Mr Birling and Gerald, who are talking and having another drink. Then we see Eric and Sybil in a private discussion: Eric is being told not to drink too much. Meanwhile, Gerald and Birling are discussing Mr Birlings chances at a knighthood. **more intense music** begins playing as we see the inspector approach the house. The **lighting has become bright and harsh**. Edna enters to tell Birling an inspector has arrived. Goole enters the dining room and has a formal manner, perhaps moreso than Mr Birling would like.

THEMES AND TECHNIQUES

Foreshadowing - we find out later about Gerald's summer. **Hints at the fact Eric doesn't have a good bond with his dad.**

Capitalism: two lines into the engagement speech, Mr B mentions business.

Shows Sheila is a typical Edwardian woman: she does what Gerald says.

Audience knows that Gerald leans more towards Mr B's beliefs/ideas.

Dramatic irony: gets audience to understand Mr B is in the wrong - he can't be trusted.

Shows Eric is presented as less mature and has a drinking problem.

Yet again, Mr B talks about himself on the engagement dinner night.

Foreboding, and shows his care for his reputation.

Makes his mark by declaring his status.

"I don't see why you would come here" Bi

"I can't be expected to remember all of their names"

"I should say, this is Gerald Croft"

"I'm afraid your celebration is going to have to wait" Go

"If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we've ever had anything to do with, that would be an awkward thing"

"she had too much to say"

"seems very unfair to me" Er

"isn't it better to ask for the earth than to take it" Go

"I think you've had too much to drink" Bi

"Nothing you need to worry about" Ge

"I wish you hadn't told me" Sh

"these girls aren't cheap labour, they're people"

"when was this?"

"a nasty mess, somebody's made of it" Go

ACT ONE CONTINUED:

Goole informs Mr Birling that a girl has committed suicide. We find out her name - Eva Smith - and Birling claims not to remember this name. Goole shows Birling a photo of Eva. Eric and Gerald attempt to look, and Goole pulls back the photo. We find out Birling dismissed Eva. Birling attempts to send Goole away for his inconvenient timing, but Goole shows no sign of leaving as he removes his coat. Goole questions Birling which is when we find out Eva was a hard worker, but was sacked for wanting a pay-rise. The conversation is on the verge of an argument as Mr Birling doesn't like the fact that Goole is questioning how he runs his business, and Eric chimes in with a statement which doesn't support his father's argument.

Sheila enters and hears the news. She reacts the most sincerely out of them all. However, she then claims she was happy until now, so she wishes they hadn't told her. We then find out Mr Birling is not the only one being questioned. Goole announces that Eva changed her name ~~from Eva to Sheila~~ - she had no work for months, parents dead so no home to go back to, no money, living in lodgings but then found a job at Milwards - to which Sheila replies they go there a lot. The intense music starts again when Goole says the reason she was sacked was because of a customer. There's a distinct change in tone and facial expression in Sheila. Goole shows her the photo. She gasps and leaves the room. Birling follows and Eric also leaves. Gerald and Goole have an intense conversation.

Already, Birling shows lack of interest/concern.

He doesn't seem to think of Eva as a real person, just a female worker.

He again tries to emphasize his important connections. Goole isn't intimidated and shows a much more socialist viewpoint.

Responsibility: Mr B shows the capitalist perspective - he doesn't care what happens to others if it doesn't directly link to him.

Hint at socialist side of Eric: Inspector insists Eva done nothing wrong.

The moment Eric says that his father should be more giving, Birling blames it on alcohol - suggesting he thinks it's insane to have socialist view.

Sheila is quite sheltered from any unpleasant situation. Immaturity / selfishness.

Socialist view: Sheila knows something. Socialism view: not Eva's fault.