

- KIPPS No, I mean I'd *buy* one for you!
- UNCLE BERT (*Uncomfortable.*) Lemme think about it a bit fust.
- AUNT SUSAN That's right. After all, we don't want to leave in a hurry.
- KIPPS But you always said you hated your house.
- UNCLE BERT So we do, lad. So we do. But, like your aunt says, we couldn't leave it in a hurry.
- KIPPS How about some money, then? Let me do that for you at least.
- UNCLE BERT We couldn't take your money, Arthur.
- KIPPS I've got an idea. Do you still spend your spare time collecting rubbi— collecting interesting old things that are looking for a home?
- UNCLE BERT Funny you should say that. I've got a nice little tea chest . . .
- KIPPS There you are, then. Suppose I give you money to find knick knacks and such like for the villa . . .
- AUNT SUSAN You'd enjoy that, Bert. You know you would.
- KIPPS That's settled then. So here's twenty pounds to get started.
(There is a knock at the door. A young woman stands there.)
- AUNT SUSAN Here's Ann. Arthur, you remember Ann, Sid Pornick's sister, don't you?
- KIPPS 'Course I do. *(He stands, but then he looks and is almost struck dumb.)* Ann? Blimey, you've changed.
- ANN It's been a long time, Arthur.
- AUNT SUSAN I told her you was coming down and she said she'd drop by.
- ANN I can't stay long. I haven't had a whole day off in ages, so I ought to be with me Mum.

AUNT SUSAN Why don't you two go for a walk?

KIPPS I will if you will.

(They stroll out together.)

ANN I couldn't miss the chance of seeing you again.

KIPPS I can't get over you, Ann. I mean, I always thought of you as a girl and now you're a . . . well, a woman.

ANN Girls grow into women, Arthur.

KIPPS Even so . . . How long's it been? It must be years since I seen ya.

ANN I s'pose we was never down here on the same Sundays.

KIPPS I was hardly here at all. Working for Shalford's was like a chain gang without the laughs.

ANN I 'eard you weren't there no more.

KIPPS Did you 'ear why?

ANN I did. I'm ever so pleased for you, Arthur. I am truly.

KIPPS It's quite a turn up. Everything's changed. It's a relief in a way to come down here and find it's all the same.

ANN Is it, Arthur?

KIPPS And you here with me. Just like it used to be. D'you 'member how we used to play down by the seashore, at the old wreck?

Music No. 9: HALF A SIXPENCE – Part 2

ANN A bottle of pop and a penn'orth of sweets.

KIPPS And you'd let me 'old your hand.

ANN
REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN
OF NINE OR TEN I'D GUESS
AND YOU WOULD PLAY THIS PIRATE KING

KIPPS
AND PRETEND YOU WAS MY PRINCESS
WE'D PICNIC AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

ANN
AIN'T IT FUNNY WHAT YOU MISS
THEN WHEN YOU WENT AWAY YOU GAVE ME THIS . . .

'ARF A SIXPENCE
IS BETTER THAN 'ARF A PENNY
IS BETTER THAN 'ARF A FARTHING

BOTH
IS BETTER THAN NONE

ANN
IT'S A TOKEN OF

KIPPS
OUR ETERNAL LOVE

ANN
WHEN YOU'RE FAR AWAY
TOUCH IT EVERY DAY

KIPPS
TOUCH IT EVERY DAY

BOTH
AND THOUGH THAT 'ARF A SIXPENCE
CAN ONLY MEAN 'ARF A ROMANCE
REMEMBER THAT 'ARF A ROMANCE
IS BETTER THAN NONE
BUT WHEN I'M WITH YOU
ONE AND ONE MAKE TWO
AND LIKEWISE
TWO 'ARF SIXPENCES JOINED TOGETHER MAKE ONE

(KIPPS *chuckles.*)

KIPPS We were a pretty half-baked pair, weren't we?

ANN Were we?

KIPPS So, how's life in Folkestone?

ANN All right. I'm a parlourmaid now in a posh house.

KIPPS Well done, you. And have you found anyone special? Go on. 'Ave yer?

(She glances at him shyly.)

ANN Oh, yes. He's very special. But I've known him for quite a while.

KIPPS What's he like?

(KIPPS is quite unaware that ANN is talking about him.)

ANN He's a mixture, really. Wild and silly and full of dreams, but he's lovely inside. I haven't seen much of 'im lately and I've 'eard he's had a stroke of luck, so we'll have to see if it makes a difference . . .

KIPPS Well, he's a bit like me, then! Oh, look.

(He has found a length of rusty metal on the ground.)

I don't believe it! This was my sword in the old days! Do you remember?

ANN 'Course I do!

(ANN acts as if her hands were tied behind her back. Music starts again.)

KIPPS Let me untie you!

(He touches her wrist and she twists into his arms.)

ANN My gratitude knows no bounds, kind sir! Your wish is my command!

BOTH
BUT WHEN I'M WITH YOU
ONE AND ONE MAKE TWO
AND LIKEWISE TWO HALF SIXPENCES
JOINED TOGETHER MAKE . . .

(She is looking up into his face now. Will they kiss?)

ANN You never told me if you've got someone special in your life. You can't have been on your own all this time.

(He hesitates, looking in her eyes. Once more it seems that they might kiss, but then . . .)

KIPPS Cripes. Is it that late? I'd better go. I've got a train to catch. Will you be all right?

ANN 'Course. Don't worry about me.

KIPPS 'Bye Ann. I'm glad you're happy. Give my regards to your bloke, and don't let's leave it for another . . . seven years?

ANN No. Let's not . . . *(She watches him go.)* And it's been nearly eight years, Artie.

(But he is already hurrying away as the music begins. She follows him with her eyes, and then : . .)

He's got 'is life now, and why shouldn't he 'ave?

Music No. 10: LONG AGO

ANN We left it too long. I should've thought of that.

I WAS LONGING TO TELL YOU LONG AGO
 SO LONG AGO
 BUT HOW COULD I TELL YOU?
 I WAS HOPING TO FIND THAT LOVE WOULD GROW
 BUT NOW I KNOW
 THAT THAT WAS A DREAM
 IT WAS NOT TO BE
 IT WAS NOT TO BE
 GAMES WE USED TO PLAY
 THINGS WE USED TO SAY
 IT WAS NOT TO BE
 AND NOW MY HEAD SAYS I HAVE TO LET YOU GO
 MY HEART WON'T, THOUGH