

HELEN            You don't have to go on Thursday, you know. It's not compulsory.

KIPPS            Don't worry. I'll go. I wouldn't want to let you down.

HELEN            No, but –

MRS WALS.      Helen!

*(Music resumes. With a blushing smile, HELEN hurries after her mother.)*

HELEN            I hope you and James aren't plotting something.

MRS WALS.      Of course not! But I would remind you that our place in the world is not what it has been, and *not what it should be*.

*(HELEN and MRS WALSINGHAM exit.)*

**Music No. 8a: NEW ROMNEY**

**SCENE EIGHT**

*New Romney. Day.*

*KIPPS is with his uncle and aunt.*

AUNT SUSAN      Where are you living, Arthur? Are you still in that rented villa?

KIPPS            Until I find the right place to buy. I wanted to stay in the part of Folkestone I know best.

UNCLE BERT      That's not very adventurous.

KIPPS            What about you? I was thinking you might like a cottage, with climbing roses round the door and the sun shinin' in, and a view of the sea.

AUNT SUSAN      That does sound lovely, Arthur.

KIPPS            What do you think, Uncle Bert?

UNCLE BERT      It sounds cracking. O'course, I'd have to sell me stock . . .

- 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