

- FLO                    Oh, yes. I s'pose I was wondering what's around the corner for me.
- BUGGINS              Would you ever let me take you round that corner, Flo?
- (She looks at him, surprised. He smiles.)*
- FLO                    I thought you'd never ask!

SCENE NINETEEN

*The basement kitchen at Lady Punnet's house. Night.*

*KIPPS is talking through a glass, basement door.*

- KIPPS                Let me in, Ann. I keep sayin' I been a fool but let me in!
- ANN                    I don't think I ought to.
- KIPPS                Please! I'll climb on the roof and come down the chimney if that's what it takes.
- ANN                    Go on, then. But yer not to stay.
- (She opens the door and KIPPS comes in.)*
- KIPPS                I've lost me money.
- ANN                    What?
- KIPPS                It's all gone. Kaput. I gave it to a thief and he'd been speckylating. I've been played the hanky panky jackass with everything I've got.
- ANN                    Well, that wasn't very clever.
- KIPPS                I thought you'd be pleased.
- ANN                    Why would I be pleased? I'm not against money. I like money. There's nothing wrong with being comfortable.
- KIPPS                That's not what you said last time.
- ANN                    It wasn't the money, Artie. It was the way it changed you. That's what I didn't like. You'd lost touch with who you are.

- KIPPS I know who I am now, right enough. So, will you?
- ANN Will I what?
- KIPPS Marry me.
- ANN And you've broken with her, 'ave you?
- KIPPS Nearly.
- ANN "Nearly"? What does that mean?
- KIPPS I wanted to cancel the wedding but she made me delay it.
- ANN Well, I'm sorry, Artie, but I'm not coming near you 'til she knows the truth. And that's flat.
- KIPPS Oh. Well, if you're sure . . .
- ANN I'm afraid I am.
- KIPPS Even though I don't love her? Not like I love you.
- ANN Even so.
- (With a sigh, his shoulders sag a little and he turns to go.)*
- KIPPS I s'pose there's nothing for it but the pier, then.
- ANN Wait!
- (He looks back and she runs into his arms.)*
- I'll do it. I will marry you, Artie! 'Course I will.
- KIPPS Thank you, God.
- (They kiss. At last. He draws back.)*
- ANN But you must tell 'er. Go round there first thing tomorrow. She mustn't learn it from anyone else.
- KIPPS Ann . . . you know Sid and Mary are going to have their wedding bash at the Hope & Anchor?

ANN                   What about it?

KIPPS                 What do you say we beat them to it?

ANN                   I'd like that, Artie. I don't want to wait. I've waited long enough already.

**Music No. 20: LONG AGO – Reprise**

KIPPS  
I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS LONG AGO  
SO LONG AGO

ANN (*Teasing.*)  
SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING

KIPPS  
I'M SO FOOLISH I DIDN'T SEE IT THOUGH  
BUT NOW I KNOW  
YOU WERE ALWAYS THE ONE  
SOMEWHERE ON THE WAY  
I WAS LED ASTRAY  
HOW WAS I SO BLIND?

ANN  
LOVE IS HARD TO FIND  
BUT NOW YOU'RE HERE TO STAY

BOTH  
SO NOW TOGETHER WE'LL LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW  
I LOVE YOU SO

KIPPS  
AT LAST OUR STARS ALIGN

ANN  
NOW THAT YOU ARE MINE

BOTH  
JUST AS YOU WERE MINE LONG AGO