

28
1-2-21

Hope, Evelyn, + Billy

ACT ONE
Scene 2

ON THE SHIP'S DECK. NIGHT.
HOPE and EVELYN are present.

HOPE
Isn't it lovely?

EVELYN
Ummmmmmmm...

HOPE
Look at the ocean in the moonlight.

EVELYN
Ummmmmmmm...

HOPE
Isn't it beautiful?

EVELYN
Ummmmmmmm ... a bit overdone, I should say ...

HOPE
And the moon is overdone too, I suppose?

EVELYN
No, it's all right for what it is; but I have never shared the general enthusiasm for the moon.

HOPE
Evelyn, here we are on the deck of a ship, in the moonlight. Doesn't that mean anything to you?

EVELYN
(Tries to kiss HER, but can't make it)
Sorry, old deah, but until I get my sea-legs, I'm afraid I just can't rise to it. All the Oakleighs are bad sailors ...

BILLY
(Entering)
Hello there! I hope I'm intruding ...

EVELYN
Not a bit. As a matter of fact, we were just about to call it a night.

BILLY

I'd call it a night. As far as I can see, there's only one thing wrong with it ...

(Looks at EVELYN)

EVELYN

Yes, I was just saying; there's a bit of a roll ... I don't like being tossed about.

BILLY

We'll be all right once we get past the Narrows. That's the roughest place on the coast.

EVELYN

How soon do we get there?

BILLY

You'll know it when we do. Oh! Oh! Feel that roll! It's starting.

EVELYN

Well, I think I shall go down and prepare myself for death ... and you Hope ...

HOPE

Well, I ...

BILLY

It's getting worse. Oh, oh, there it goes ...

EVELYN

Oh, and here I goooo ... toodle-oo ...
(HE exits)

HOPE

(Laughing)

Was that fair?

BILLY

Fair? I find you standing in the moonlight with him. I didn't shoot him. I didn't push him overboard. I think I was more than fair.

HOPE

Look, Billy, you've got to stop this. We met one night. One single night. At a party. We danced, we had a little too much wine. We took a little spin around the park.

BILLY

A little spin! You call twelve hours in the back of a taxi a little spin?

HOPE

Nine hours.

30
1-2-23

BILLY

Twelve ... nine with you and three more before I borrowed enough to pay off the thug that was driving.

HOPE

Well, I spent three hours trying to explain to Mother, and you weren't much help.

BILLY

I was very nice to your mother.

HOPE

Nice? Telling her you were George Bernard Shaw?

BILLY

Well, I wanted her to know you were in safe hands.

HOPE

Well, she wasn't amused. You'd better stay out of her way on this trip, Billy. She hasn't forgotten or forgiven you for that night.

BILLY

I see you've forgotten. What's this nonsense about a fiancee?

HOPE

It isn't nonsense, Billy. Sir Evelyn and I have been engaged for a long time ... except for nine hours one night...

BILLY

Hmmmm ...

HOPE

Well, twelve.

BILLY

Well as far as I'm concerned, it's off again, and this sea-going hack is a big improvement over that taxi cab. Even the moon's doing better by us.

HOPE

It's getting late, Billy. I'd better call it a night.

~~END~~ ~~177 "IT'S DELOVELY"~~

~~(Music starts)~~

~~BILLY~~

~~Not yet, please ... just five minutes ... just a "quick spin" around the deck ...~~

~~HOPE~~

~~I remember what happened the last time we took a quick spin.~~