

# DORIAN & LORD HENRY — SIDE I

- DORIAN: (to LORD HENRY) Night after night I have gone to see her play. I have seen her in every age and in every costume. She is everything to me in life. I think—I think I am in love. Why didn't you tell me that the only thing worth loving is an actress?
- LORD HENRY: Because I have loved so many of them.
- DORIAN: Oh, yes, I'm sure they were horrid people with dyed hair and painted faces.
- LORD HENRY: Don't run down dyed hair and painted faces. There is an extraordinary charm in them sometimes.
- DORIAN: Perhaps I should not have told you about Sibyl.
- LORD HENRY: Oh come now, don't be annoyed. Tell me more about her.
- DORIAN: She lives with her brother Jimmy, and her mother, a faded tired woman who played Lady Capulet in a sort of magenta dressing wrap on the first night, and looks as if she had seen better days.
- LORD HENRY: I know that look. It depresses me.
- DORIAN: Her boss-agent there tried to tell me her tragic history, but I told him it didn't interest me.
- LORD HENRY: You were quite right to. There is always something infinitely mean about other people's tragedies.
- DORIAN: Sibyl is the only thing I care about. Every night of my life I go to see her act, and every night she is more marvelous.
- LORD HENRY: I suppose that is why you never dine with me anymore. You can dine tonight, can't you?
- DORIAN: (shaking his head) Tonight she is Imogen, and tomorrow night she will be Juliet.
- LORD HENRY: When is she Sibyl Vane?
- DORIAN: Never. That's the beauty of it. She's never the same girl twice.
- LORD HENRY: Then I congratulate you. Nothing more incorrigible than getting to know the real woman inside.
- DORIAN: She is all the great heroines of the world in one. She is more than an individual. I love her. I want to make Romeo jealous. I want the dead lovers of the world to hear our laughter and grow sad. My life was a sunless garden until I met Sybil, and now the flowers are all in bloom.
- LORD HENRY: (laughing) Listen to you! How different you are now from the coy, innocent boy I met in Basil Hallward's studio. So what do you propose to do next?
- DORIAN: I want you and Basil to come with me to see her act.
- LORD HENRY: Well, what night shall we go?
- DORIAN: Tonight! She plays Juliet tonight.
- LORD HENRY: See you tonight, my friend.
- DORIAN: Yes, the suspense is terrible. I hope it will last.