

# dinnerfor1 / transcripts of videos

## the play / the committee / the interview / the trial

dinnerfor1 / the play

(addressing servant to the right)

**Oh!** ... by the way, I see from your book that on Thursday night eight bottles of champagne are entered as having been consumed.

**Why** is it that at a bachelor's establishment the servants invariably drink the champagne? I ask merely for information.

**Good heavens!** Is marriage so demoralising as that?

I don't know that I am much interested in your family life.

**No**, it is not a very interesting subject. You never think about it yourself?

**Very natural** I am sure. That will do, thank you.

(addressing audience, straight)

**His** views on marriage seem somewhat lax. Really, if the lower order don't set us a good example, what on earth is the use of them? They seem, as a class, to have absolutely no sense of moral responsibility.

(addressing friend, left)

**How** are you? What brings you to town?

I believe it is customary in good society to take some slight refreshment at five o' clock. Where have you been since last Thursday?

**What** on earth do you do there?

**And** who are the people that amuse you?

**Yes**, that is all very well; but I am afraid Aunt Augusta won't quite approve of your being here.

**My** dear fellow, the way you flirt with Gwendolen is perfectly disgraceful. It is almost as bad as the way Gwendolen flirts with you.

I thought you had come for pleasure? ... I call that business.

I really don't see anything romantic about proposing. It is very romantic to be in love. But there is nothing romantic about the final proposal. **Why**, one may be accepted. One usually is, I believe. Then the excitement is all over. The very essence of romance is uncertainty. If ever I get married, I shall certainly try to forget the fact.

**Please** don't touch the cucumber sandwiches. Have some bread and butter. The bread and butter is for Gwendolen. Gwendolen is devoted to bread and butter.

**Well**, my dear fellow, you need not eat as if you were going to eat it all. You behave as if you were married to her already. You are not married to her already, and I don't believe you ever will be.

In the first place girls don't marry the man they flirt with. Girls don't think that right.

It isn't. It's a great truth. It accounts for the extraordinary number of bachelors that one sees all over the place. In the second place. I don't give my consent.

**My** dear fellow, she is my cousin. And before I allow you to marry her, you will have to clear up the whole matter of Cecily.

**Besides**, your name is Ernest.

You have always told me it was Ernest. I have introduced you to everyone as Ernest. You answer to the name of Ernest. You are the most earnest-looking person I've ever seen in my life.

The truth is rarely pure and never simple. Modern life would be very tedious if it were either, and modern literature a complete impossibility!

That is nonsense.

Then your wife will. You don't seem to realise, that in married life three is company and two is none. That, my dear friend, is the theory that the corrupt French Drama has been propounding for the last fifty years. And the happy English home has proved in half the time.

For heaven's sake, I don't try to be cynical. It's perfectly easy to be cynical. But then it isn't easy to be anything nowadays. There's such a lot of beastly competition about.

(addressing servant, right)

**Good heavens!** Why are there no cucumber sandwiches? I ordered them specially.

(turning to the left, again)

I am greatly distressed that there are no more cucumber sandwiches.

**May** I dine with you today?

**Yes**, but you must be serious about it. I hate people who are not serious about meals. It is so shallow of them.

(addressing lover, right)

I am always smart! Am I not, my friend?

**Oh!** I hope I am not that. That would leave no room for developments, and I intend to develop in many directions.

**Pray** don't talk to me about the weather, my friend. Whenever people talk to me about the weather, I always feel quite certain that they mean something else. And that makes me nervous.

I thought so. And in fact, I am never wrong.

I would certainly advise you to do so.

**Yes**, I am quite well aware of the fact. And I often wish that in public, at any rate, you had been more demonstrative. For me you have always had an irresistible fascination. Even before I met you I was far from indifferent to you.

I knew I was destined to love you.

**Passionately!**

**My** ideal has always been to love someone of the name of Ernest.

**But** your name is Ernest?

**No**, there is very little music in that name, if any at all, indeed. It does not thrill. The only safe name is Ernest.

It suits you perfectly. It's a divine name. It has music of its own. It has vibrations.

**Married**, my friend?

I adore you. But you haven't proposed to me yet. Nothing at all has been said at all about marriage. The subject has not even been touched on.

I think it would be an amiable opportunity. And to spare you any possible disappointment, I feel it only fair to tell you quite frankly beforehand that I am fully determined to accept you.

**Yes**. My friend, what do you have to say to me?

**Yes**, but you don't say it.

**Of** course I will, darling. How long you have been about it! I am afraid you have had very little experience in how to propose.

**Yes**, but men often propose for practice. I know my brother does. All my girl-friends tell me so. What wonderful blue eyes you have! They are quite, quite blue. I hope you will always look at me like that, especially when other people are present.

(addressing female friend, left)

**But** I don't like German. It isn't at all a becoming language. I know perfectly well that I look quite plain after my German lesson.

**What** a very sweet name! Something tells me that we are going to be very good friends. I like you already more then I can say. My first impressions of people are always right.

I may call you Cecily, may I not?

**And** you will call me Gwendolyn won't you?

Than that is all quite settled, is it not?

Perhaps this might be the opportunity for my mentioning who I am. You have never heard of papa, I suppose?

**Outside** the family circle, I am glad to say, papa is entirely unknown. I think that is quite as it should be. The home seems to me to be the proper sphere for a man. And certainly once a man begins to neglect his domestic duties he becomes painfully effeminate, does he not? And I don't like that. It makes men so very attractive. Mamma, whose views on education are remarkably strict has brought me up to be extremely short-sighted; it is part of her system; so do you mind my looking at you through my glasses?

You are here on a short visit, I suppose?

I am very fond of you; I have liked you ever since I met you! But I am bound to state that I cannot help expressing a wish you were – well, a little older than you seem to be – and not quite so very alluring in appearance.

To speak with perfect candour, my friend, I wish that you were fully forty-two, and more than usually plain for your age. Even men with the noblest possible character are extremely susceptible to the influence of the physical charms of others. Modern, no less than ancient history, supplies us with many most painful examples of what I refer to. If it were not so, indeed, history would be quite unreadable.

I beg your pardon?

**My** darling friend I think there must be some slight error.

It is certainly very curious, because he asked me to be his wife yesterday afternoon at 5.50. If you would care to verify the incident, please do so. I am so sorry, dear friend, if it is a disappointment to you, but I am afraid I have the prior claim.

(addressing audience, straight)

If the poor fellow has been entrapped into any foolish promise I shall consider it my duty to rescue him at once, and with a firm hand.

(turning left again)

**Do** you allude to me, Miss, as an entanglement? You are presumptuous. On an occasion of this kind I do believe it is more then a moral duty to speak one's mind. It becomes a pleasure.

I am glad to say that I have never seen a spade. It is obvious that our social spheres are widely different.

(speaking to servant, right)

**Yes** as usual.

(turning left again to female friend)

**Quite** a well-kept garden this is, Miss.

**Personally** I cannot understand how anyone manages to exist in the country, if anyone who is anyone does. The country always bores me to death.

(addressing audience, straight)

**Detestable** girl. But I require tea.

sigune hamann

(turning left again to female friend)

**No**, thank you. Sugar is not fashionable any more.

**Bread** and butter, please. Cake is rarely seen in the best houses nowadays.

You have filled my tea with lumps of sugar, and though I asked you most distinctly for bread and butter, you have given me cake. I am known for the gentleness of my nature, and the extraordinary sweetness of my disposition, but I warn you, Miss, you may go too far.

From the moment I saw you I distrusted you. I felt that you were false and deceitful. I am never deceived in such matters. My first impressions of people are invariably right.

(addressing male friend, straight)

**How** can you sit there and eat muffins when we are in this horrible trouble, I can't make it out. You seem to be perfectly heartless.

**Well**, I suppose that is no reason why you should eat them all in that greedy way.

I said it was perfectly heartless of you under the circumstances. That is a very different thing.

You can't possibly ask me to go without having some dinner. It's absurd. I never go without my dinner. No one does, except vegetarians and people like that.

(addressing female friend, left)

**Let** us preserve a dignified silence.

The dignified silence seems to produce an unpleasant effect. But we will not be the first to speak.

addressing lover, right)

I have something very particular to ask you. Much depends on your reply.

That certainly seems a satisfactory explanation?

(to audience, straight)

**Does** it not?

(back to lover, right)

In matters of grave importance, style not sincerity is the vital thing. I don't believe you, but that does not affect the wonderful beauty of your answer.

I have the greatest doubts on the subject. But I intend to crush them. This is not the moment for German scepticism.

(addressing female friend, left)

The explanations appear to be quite satisfactory. There seems to me to be a stamp of truth upon it.

(back to lover, right)

**Darling** your voice alone inspires one with absolute credulity.

Your Christian name is still an insuperable barrier. That is all.

(addressing audience, straight)

**On** the contrary he has now realised for the first time in his life the vital importance of being earnest.

(back to lover, right)

**Yes**. I mean no.

Could we both not speak at the same time?

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**While** we were agreed on the potential threat in the future we were less agreed about the potential threat posed at the moment. That was the real concern, not so much what they have now but what they would have in the future. They were desperate for information. They were pushing hard for information that could be released. That was one that popped up and it was seized on and it is unfortunate that it was. That is why there is an argument, because they have picked up on it and once they have picked up on it you cannot pull back from it. I understand that is a record of a meeting that you had with her? Do you still agree with those comments?

That is very helpful. Can I just be clear on this: I understand that these notes refer to meetings that took place shortly before?

I may not have heard something you said? You did confirm you had a meeting and you talked with her?

You have neither met not talked to her since?

When have you talked to her on the telephone?

During May at all?

Did you infer in any way, shape or form that he might have misrepresented what you said.

You certainly never mentioned the 'C' word that he went on to explain in his column?

From you? You suggested it?

How did the 'C' word come to be mixed up with all of than? What lead you to say that?

Again I am finding it very difficult to hear. The fans have been turned off, could you do your very best to raise your voice, please.

**He** said in his article 'I asked him', the source, 'how this transformation happened. The answer was a single word.'

**He** says in his article that he met a source in a central London hotel that day. Did you meet him in a central London hotel?

Which hotel was that?

Did you begin your conversation by discussing the poor state of the Britain's railways?

The reason I ask is because he said 'We started off by moaning about the railways' and what I am trying to get to the bottom off is whether or not you are the source, the main source, or whether you were one of the three other minor sources which he has told us he had. I am really trying to get to the bottom of that. I just want to know, in your own opinion whether you believe that you were the main source.

Do you know who the main source is?

Any idea?

I want to be absolutely clear on this. You do not believe that you are the main source. That is someone else?

Just following on, he told us that he had four sources in that area and we are trying to find out whether you are the one or one of the other three?

So you did not know about it before you, like all of us, read it in the dossier?

You would not have known about it significantly in advance. You were never part of any discussions as to whether this should or should not be included?

So you made no comment about the veracity, you did not say it was exaggerated, embellished, probably over-egged?

Sorry I had no doubts?

Did you express any view about that document at all to him which you can share?

What are their names?

Yes.

I heard 'few', but who are the ones in yours mind's eye at this moment?

What are their names?

No, I am asking you now.

But it is a proper question. You are under an obligation to reply.

If you have met them there is nothing in itself sinister about meeting them, save in an unauthorised way.

Who are they?

You confirmed in response to questions that in your opinion you do not think that you were the central source?

I think we can safely say from what you have been saying that you were unaware of either of those two things?

Given that his source of the story has been proved to be correct, do you think it is fair to say that you could not have been the source? It is not just a question of your opinion, but you could not have been the source?

Given that there were two assertions which have been proved correct, which you did not know about, you clearly could not have been the source of those assertions.

So, therefore, you could not have been the central source?

Given what you have said today, why did you allow that statement to be made?

Did you know that they were going to say that?

Did you tell them that it was an incorrect statement?

I share your analysis. I do not see how you could have been the central source. Why did you not complain that this was an inaccurate statement they were making?

You reached the conclusion that you were not the source?

You have just concurred with me that you could not have been the source.

In that they do not know of the source and it was knowingly said by you.

Do you think possibly they knowingly got it wrong?

I have to say that there seems to be an inconsistency between your two statements? Would you agree that there is an inconsistency?

There are many people that think that you were the source of that quote. What is your reaction to that suggestion?

You deny that those are your words?

So you did not make it yourself?

Why did you go along with it? You were being exploited, were you not?

You had been before them to rubbish him and his source, quite clearly?

If I may say so, I think you have behaved in very honourable and proper manner in the circumstances you describe. That does not get away from the key issue, which is why did you feel it was incumbent upon you to go along with the request that clearly had been made to you to be thrown to the wolves.

I am grateful. The feeling I have, and you might be able to help me with this, was that there was no serious attempt to find out his source.

Did they come knocking at your door or that of your colleagues, to your knowledge at all, to discover that?

Any special advisers?

Any special advisers?

Do you know of any other inquiries that have gone on within the department to seek out the source - to clarify in addition to you or instead of you or apart from you? None whatsoever?

I reckon you are chaff; you have been thrown up to divert our probing. Have you ever felt like a fall-guy? You have been set up, have you not?

But you feel that?

I am sorry, you accept ...?

Just for the record, can you tell me whether you named or otherwise identified him or did you say anything that he might reasonably have interpreted as you identifying him?

How do you explain the reason for the delay between the letter you wrote and the release of the statement throwing you to the wolves?

Did you get any impression at all that your statement was delayed in order to ensure that it went out only after our report was published?

Did you feel at the time that you did do anything untoward, that you were breaching the confidence that is expected of you within your job?

Is it that the first, because it was the first time that you've done something that was so clearly unauthorised, or because it's the first time it's been a problem? And, just the last point, are you surprised at the public reactions or was it that the statement made with your agreement?

So you weren't surprised, okay.

So if you might have said that it was there for impact, you can't be firmer than that as to whether you did or did not say that it was there for impact?

As supposed to being factually correct?

So if that was a statement that was made for impact was it a statement that you think should not have been there?

But you did feel that it was unwise for it to be there?

Did you think that when you were speaking to him that you gave the impression that you felt that it was unwise for it to have been there.

So when he said 'why was it there?' what did you say, if you can remember?

What question?

Yes, standing back a bit and giving a view based on your experience and knowledge of that subject.

And you think that precisely what's there will stand the test of time?

Were you in breach of normal practice in doing what you did?

But you weren't aware at the time that you were in breach of normal practice?

And you didn't report back to any colleagues on the fact of your conversation and what had been said.

When you went to meet at the Charing Cross Hotel, did you enter the discussion with an agenda of your own, you've mentioned that you were anxious to learn what you could from him, but did you also go to meet him with a view to conveying any particular points to him.

So did you feel justified in talking to him as you did at the time?

Do you still feel comfortable about the fact that you did so?

And you regard him as a reliable witness, you've derived information from him, are you satisfied as to the quality, reliability of what you learned from him?

And do you know how to take good advantage of these contacts?

But you wouldn't describe it a 'sexy'?

But 'sexier' is it a word you would use?

Is it a word that you did use?

But you might have done?

What were the expectations that you had for married life?

How aware were you of the significance of what had happened to you?

What do you mean?

Did your relationship go beyond a close friendship?

Were you unfaithful?

How would you describe your life now? You do live very much on your own, don't you?

What do you mean by that?

How did you handle the transition to being the most photographed, the most talked-about, woman in the world?

It's been suggested that you were left largely to cope with your new status on your own. Do you feel that was your experience?

Were you overwhelmed by the pressure from people initially?

At this early stage, would you say that you were happily married?

When you say 'she's on the other side', what do you mean?

So they were expressing a preference even then for you rather than your husband?

But were you flattered by the attention particularly?

At this early stage in your marriage, what role did you see for yourself? Did you have an idea of the role that you might like to fulfill?

Had they given any thoughts to the role that you might have?

So you very much created the role that you would pursue for yourself really? Was that what you did?

It wasn't long after the wedding before you became pregnant. What was your reaction when you learnt that the child was a boy?

Had you always wanted to have a family?

How did the rest of the Family react when they learnt that the child that you were to have was going to be a boy?

Was this completely out of character for you?

So what treatment did you actually receive?

When you say all of the different roles that had come your way, what do you mean?

What was the family's reaction to your post-natal depression?

What effect did the depression have on your marriage?

Are you saying that that label stuck within your marriage?

It was suggested that around this time things became so difficult that you actually started to injure yourself.

What did you actually do?

What was your husband's reaction to this, when you began to injure yourself in this way?

Did he understand what was behind the physical act of hurting yourself, do you think?

Were you able to admit that you were in fact unwell, or did you feel compelled simply to carry on performing?

But did you feel that you had to maintain the public image?

The depression was resolved, as you say, but it was subsequently reported that you suffered bulimia. Is that true?

How often would you do that on a daily basis?

Instead of looking behind the symptom for the cause.

What was the cause?

Do you mean between the two of you?

And so you subjected yourself to this phase of bingeing and vomiting?

Did you seek help from any other members of the family?

What was said?

How long did this bulimia go on for?

Two years, three years?

It was at around this time that you began to experience difficulties in your marriage, is that true?

What effect did the interest in you have on your marriage?

So it wasn't at your request that you did that on your own?

It was suggested that you and your husband had very different outlooks, very different interests. Would you agree with that?

He is described as a great thinker, a man with a tremendous range of interests. What did he think of your interests?

Explain what you mean when you say that.

When you say, when you say you were never given any credit, what do you mean?

How did you cope with that?

Some people would find that difficult to believe, that you were left so much to cope on your own, and the description you give suggests that your relationship with your husband was not very good even at that early stage.

Around 1986, he says that your husband renewed his relationship with her. Were you aware of that?

What evidence did you have that their relationship was continuing even though you were married?

Is that all?

From staff?

What effect did that have on you?

And with a husband who was having a relationship with somebody else?

You really thought that?

How did you know it?

In the practical sense, how did it become difficult?

Do you think he really thought that?

So you were isolated?

Do you think she was a factor in the breakdown of your marriage?

You're effectively living separate lives, yet in public there's this appearance of this happily married couple. How was this regarded by the family?

Do you think it was accepted that one could live effectively two lives - one in private and one in public?

So in a sense you coped with this, these two lives?

Some people would find that difficult to reconcile.

Did you ever personally assist him with the writing of his book?

Did you allow your friends, your close friends, to speak to him?

Why?

How would a book change that?

What effect do you think the book had on your husband and your family?

Can you understand why?

What effect did the book have on your relationship?

What happened after the book was published?

So what happened?

By the December of that year, as you say, you'd agreed to a legal separation. What were your feelings at the time?

It was not your idea?

What happened next?

Did you tell your children that you were going to separate?

What effect do you think the announcement had on them?

Once the separation had occurred, moving to 1993, what happened during that period?

Who was asking those questions?

The household?

And they began to see you as a problem?

How did that show itself?

So despite the fact that your interest was always to continue with your duties, you found that your duties were being held from you?

Who was behind that change?

What was your reaction when news broke of allegedly a telephone conversation between you and him having been recorded?

Did you have the alleged telephone conversation?

On that tape, he expresses his affection for you. Was that transcript accurate?

Have you any idea how that conversation came to be published in the national press?

What do you think the purpose was behind it?

There were also a series of telephone calls that were allegedly made by you?

Had you made any of those calls at all?

Once, twice, three times?

Do you really believe that a campaign was being waged against you?

Why?

Can't we pack her off to somewhere quietly rather than campaign against her?

By the end of 1993 you had suffered persistent difficulties with the press - these phone conversations were made public - and you decided to withdraw from public life. Why did you do that?

It wasn't very long before you did come back, of course.

Who was the enemy?

But you really believe that it was out of jealousy that they wanted to undermine you?

What was your reaction to your husband's disclosure that he had in fact committed adultery?

In what sense?

How did you handle this with the children?

What effect do you think it had on him?

Looking back now, do you feel at all responsible for the difficulties in your marriage?

But you do bear some of the responsibility?

He claimed to have had a very close relationship with you, from about 1989 I think. What was the nature of your relationship?

Does that mean that you feel that for the rest of your life you'll have to be on your own?

How do you feel about the way the press behaves towards you?

Some people would say that in the early years of your marriage you were partly responsible for encouraging the press interest - you danced with people like Wayne Sleep, you seemed to enjoy it, you had a very good and warm relationship.

Do you feel any responsibility for the way the press have behaved towards you?

But here, are you isolated?

What role do you see for yourself in the future?

You say you feel that your future is as some form of ambassador. At whose behest is that? On what grounds do you feel that you have the right to think of yourself as an ambassador.

Do you think that the British people are happy with you in your role?

Do you think you can?

Up until you came into this family, they seemed to enjoy an unquestioned position at the heart of British life. Do you feel that you're at all to blame for the fact that survival of the monarchy is now a question that people are asking?

When you say indifferent, what do you mean?

Do you think the monarchy needs to adapt and to change in order to survive?

What are you doing to try and effect some kind of change?

What are you hoping that that experience for your children - what impact that experience will have on your children?

What kind of monarchy do you anticipate?

There's a lot of discussion at the moment about how matters between yourself and him will be resolved. There's even the suggestion of a divorce between you. What are your thoughts about that?

If he wished a divorce to go through, would you accept that?

Would it be your wish to divorce?

Why? Wouldn't that resolve matters?

It would provide the clarity that you talk about, it would resolve matters as far as the public are concerned perhaps?

Do you think you will ever be Queen?

Why do you think that?

Do you think that because of the way you behave that's precluded you effectively from becoming Queen?

You mean within the household?

Why do they see you as a threat?

Do you think he will ever be King?

But you would know him better than most people. Do you think he would wish to be King?

Do you think it would make more sense in the light of the marital difficulties that the position passed directly to your son?

Would it be your wish that when he comes of age that he were to succeed the Queen rather than the current Prince?

Why have you decided to give this interview now? Why have you decided to speak at this time?

And so you feel that by speaking out in this way you'll be able to reassure the people?

Some people might think - some people might interpret this as you simply taking the opportunity to get your own back on your husband.

Your Royal Highness, thank you.

Did you make his acquaintance at this time?

Did he ask for anything?

Was anything said about a sonnet?

On his return were you lunching together at the cafe royal when his father came in?

Shortly after that meeting did you become aware that he was making suggestions with regard to your character and behaviour?

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I shall have this room cleared if I hear the slightest disturbance again.

When was it you heard the first statement affecting your character?

Is there any truth in any of these accusations?

—

You stated that your age was over 39. I think you are over 40. What age is he?

One boy calls his love "true Love" and the other boy calls his love "Shame".

Did you ever think that made any improper suggestion?

You are of opinion I believe that there is no such thing as an immoral book?

Do you think the story blasphemous?

Answer the question. Did you or did you not think the story blasphemous?

Am I right in saying that you do not consider the effect of creating morality or immorality?

Listen. Here is one of the phrases you contributed: "Wickedness is a myth invented by good people to account for the curious attractiveness of others." You think that true?

"Religions die when they are proved to be true." Is that true?

"If one tells the truth one is sure sooner or later to be found out?"

Is it good for the young? Is it good for the young?

Whether moral or immoral?

"Pleasure is the only thing one should live for?"

"The truth ceases to be true when more than one person believes in it?"

"The condition of perfection is idleness; the aim of perfection is youth?"

Do you think that is humorous?

This is in your introduction: "There is no such thing as a moral or immoral book. Books are well written or badly written." That expresses your view?

Then a well-written book putting forward perverted moral views may be a good book?

A perverted novel may be a good book?

Do you mean to say that that passage describes the natural feeling of one man towards another?

A beautiful person?

May I take it that you, as an artist, have never known the feeling described here?

So far as you are concerned you have no experience as to it being a natural feeling?

Let us go over it phrase by phrase. "I quite admit that I adored you madly." What do you say to that? Have you ever adored a young man madly?

Never mind about that. Let us keep down to the level we are at now.

Than you never had that feeling?

Well, I hope I make myself very plain before I have done. "I was jealous of everyone to whom you spoke." Have you ever been jealous of a young man?

"I wanted to have you all to myself." "I wanted to have you all to myself." "Have you ever had that feeling?"

A man never corrupts a youth?

Nothing could corrupt him?

You don't think that flattering a young man, making love to him, in fact, would be likely to corrupt him?

Apart from art? Apart from art?

Why?

I can suggest, for the sake of your reputation, that there is nothing wonderful in these "red rose-leaf lips of yours."?

"Your slim gilt soul walks between passion and poetry?" "Is that a beautiful phrase?"

I do not profess to be an artist; and when I hear you give evidence, I am glad I am not ...

Here is another letter which I believe you wrote to him.

Will you read it?

Then I will.

How long had you known him?

—

Who was he?

Had you a private room at the Florence?

I suggest that you first had immoral relations with him and then

gave him money?

Did you consider that he had come to levy blackmail?

And the way you faced it was by giving him £15 to go to America?

I suggest that you gave him £30. Did you give him £5 more next day?

Did he call you "Oscar"?

What did you call him?

Didn't you call him "Alf"?

Did you not think it a curious thing that a man with whom you are on such intimate terms should try to blackmail you?

Then you began to explain to the blackmailer what a loss your beautiful manuscript was?

Then the way you show your contempt is by paying ten shillings?

Were you staying at the Albemarle Hotel about 26 February?

Did you become fond of their office boy?

What age was he?

Was that for the purpose of having an intellectual treat?

On that occasion did you have a room leading into a bedroom?

Did you give him whiskeys and sodas?

Did you ever give him money?

Did you think this young man of 18 was a proper and natural companion for you?

Did you become intimate with another young lad in Worthing?

He sold newspapers at the kiosk on the pier?

What was he?

How old was he?

How did you make his acquaintance?

Was his conversation literary?

Were you fond of this boy?

Did you take the lad to Brighton?

And provide him with a suit of blue serge?

You dressed this Newsboy up to take him to Brighton?

In order that he might look more like an equal?

You told me yesterday that you were also intimate with him?

You used to go to tea parties there?

Did he always open the door to you?

There was rather elaborate furniture in the room, was there not?

Is it true that he never admitted daylight into them?

Did you ever see the rooms lighted otherwise than by gas or candles whether by day or night?

Did you ever see the curtains drawn back in the sitting-room?

Can you recall any specific time at which daylight entered the room?

Were the rooms strongly perfumed?

Did you ever meet him there?

How old was he?

Is he your friend still?

Did you know that he had a lady's costume - a lady's fancy dress?

Did you ever see him with one on?

Is he a literary man?

Was he an artist?

Did you get him to arrange dinners at which you could meet young men?

But you have dined with young men?

Now, did you know that he was notorious for introducing young men to older men?

How many has he introduced to you?

Among these five did he introduce you to him?

Did you become friendly with him?

Did you know that he was a gentleman's servant out of employment?

But if he were you would have still become friendly with him?

How old was he?

Never mind about a census. Tell me how old he was?

Was he intellectual? Was he an educated man?

Did you know that one was a gentleman's valet, and the other a groom?

What enjoyment was it to you to entertain grooms and coachmen?

You did the honours to the valet and the groom?

In a private room of course?

Did you give them an intellectual treat?

During the dinner did you become more intimate with him than the others?

You had wine?

Was there plenty of champagne?

Now, after dinner, did you say, referring to him in the presence of the these others "This is the boy for me"?

And did you ask him, "Will you come with me"?

Did any of these men who visited you at the Savoy have whiskies and sodas and iced champagne?

Did you drink champagne yourself?

Never mind your doctor's orders, sir?

Did improprieties take place there?

What was there in common between this young man and yourself?

Do I understand that even a young boy you might pick up in the street would be a pleasing companion?

You would talk to a street Arab?

When did you last see him?

You know that they were charged with felonious practices?

That when they were arrested they were in company with several men in women's clothing?

Did you not think it a somewhat serious thing that they, your great friends, had been arrested in a police raid?

When did you first meet him?

How long had you known him then?

After lunch did you suggest that he should have his hair curled?

You dined with him?

Gave him an excellent dinner?

Did you give him plenty of wine at dinner?

Did you consider him respectable?

Did any improprieties ever take place between you and him?

—

Was the evidence you gave absolutely and in all respects true?

Is there any truth in any of the allegations made against you in the evidence in this case?

You are acquainted with this publication?

Contributors to the journal are friends of yours.

The poems in question were somewhat peculiar?

You said you had read his poems?

You describe them as beautiful poems?

Listen, I shall only keep you a very short time.

I understand that that was a poem by him.

Your view, is that the "shame" mentioned here is that shame which is a sense of modesty?

You can, perhaps, understand that such verses as these would not be acceptable to the reader with an ordinary balanced mind?

Was that poem explained to you?

There is no question as to what it means?

Is it not clear that the love described relates to natural love and unnatural love.

What is the "love that dare not speak its name"?

If there is the slightest manifestation of feeling I shall have this room cleared. There must be complete silence preserved.

Then there is no reason why it should be called "Shame"?

You were staying at the Savoy hotel with him at the beginning of March?

I understand you to say that the evidence given in this case by the witnesses called to support the prosecution is absolutely untrue? Entirely untrue?

I wish to call to your attention the style of your correspondence to him?

You are fortunate or shall I say shameless? - I refer to passages in

two letter in particular.

In letter number one you use the expression: "Your slim gilt soul", and you refer to his "red rose-leaf lips".

The second letter contains the words, "You are the divine thing I want", and describes his letter as "delightful red and yellow wine to me." Do you think that an ordinarily constituted human being would address such expressions to a younger man?

It is agreeable to be able to agree with you

In reference to the incidence alleged against you at the Savoy hotel, are you prepared to contradict the hotel servants?

There is no possibility of a mistake? There was no woman with you?

You knew that while the council for his father was addressing the jury, the case was interrupted, a verdict of "Not Guilty" was agreed to, and the jury found that the justification was proved and the libel published for the public benefit?

But you knew it?

Did you see no impropriety in kissing a boy?

What part of his evidence is untrue?

Who introduced you to him?

And these witnesses have, you say, lied throughout?

You exalt youth as a kind of god?

Do you prefer puppies to dogs and kittens to cats?

These youths were much inferior to you in station?

Who introduced you to him?

Why did you go to his rooms?

You saw nothing peculiar or suggestive in the arrangement of his rooms?

Did you notice that no one could see in through the windows?

He burnt incense, did he not?

Did it strike you that this place was at all peculiar?

Not the sort of street you would usually visit in? You had no other friends there?

Rather a rough neighbourhood?

What did you go there for?

You never suspected the relations that might exist between him and his young friends?

I may take it that you see no reason why the police should keep observation at Little College Street?

You made handsome presents to all these young fellows?

Rather an expensive habit if indulged in indiscriminately, isn't it?

With regard to your friendship towards the persons I have mentioned, may I take it, that it was, as you describe, a deep affection of an elder man for a younger?

#### Publication of transcripts

**DINNERFOR1, SIGUNE HAMANN, four channel video installation,**

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**THE VERBUND COLLECTION, Vienna / Austria**

**sources: archive of the artist ©VG Bild-Kunst 2005**

**www.dinnerfor1.com**

