

He is also very unsure, he utters phrases such as “I suppose” a lot of the time, but this could also suggest he is apprehensive as to where these questions are leading, and perhaps aware that he has indeed done something immoral or wrong.

Eric and Gerald are both keen to see the photo of the girl and to know why Mr B is being questioned and how on earth he is involved in the suicide of the girl, but both are denied access to the picture. This frustrates Gerald greatly, and he protests but Eric seems calm about this and only asks the inspector curiously and calmly “and this goes for me as well too I suppose” and “when was this father”, Eric seems to be mildly curious about the case and wants to find out more but in a good natured and constructive manner.

Sheila's reaction

Sheila in the beginning of her questioning is understanding and does not ask questions and simply sympathises with the girl's misfortune and thinks her father was very cruel to her. – “but they're not cheap labour, they're people.” Sheila is also extremely co-operative by saying things like “yes of course” and “yes I expect it would”.

Once the inspector begins to reveal Sheila's role in Eva Smith's death however, Sheila becomes very distressed by asking things like “when was this.” She becomes curious and agitated. She is also effected much worse than Mr B when she realises that the reason why the girl committed suicide was partly her fault, but also accepts it much quicker than Mr B who struggles and tries to deny any part in it and defend himself. Sheila appears to have a much bigger conscience, and says “so I'm nearly responsible.” And the stage directions instruct that she say this “miserably”.

Gerald at the end of act 1

It comes out that after showing signs of shock at the mention of the name “Daisy Renton” that Gerald knew Eva Smith as well. But the fact that he was agitated and went to “give himself a drink” was noticed by his fiancée Sheila.

After questioning from Sheila, who worked most of it out herself, it seems that the summer Gerald maintained he was too busy with work to see Sheila; he was actually having an affair with “Daisy Renton” whom turned out to be the same person as “Eva Smith.”

Sheila alone also realises that everyone had something to do with the death of the girl, including Gerald, and so it is beginning to look like the affair with Daisy Renton could have also caused her death in some way. Gerald is seen to be unfaithful here, and the way that it looks as though these actions resulted in Daisy's death, making the audience of the play feel hostile towards him in particular.

Act 2