

## PLAY ON!

11

*(They ad-lib apologetic mumbles, but put scripts down.)*

**SMITTY.** *(Offstage.)* Should I come in?

**GERRY.** *(Moves back and sits in front row, on:)* As soon as I give the signal. All right, everybody – top of Act Three... *Curtain!*

**VIOLET.** “Ah, Lord Dudley, you give the most charming parties – !”

*(And curtain starts to descend; GERRY leaps up.)*

**GERRY.** *Louise!*

**LOUISE.** *(Off. While curtain continues to close.)* What?

**GERRY.** Leave the damn curtain alone!

**LOUISE.** *(Offstage.)* But you said –

**GERRY.** That was for the *players!* We’re *starting* the act, not *ending* it!

*(Curtain pauses wherever it is, and starts reopening.)*

**LOUISE.** *(Offstage.)* I was only doing my job!

*(PLAYERS ad-lib mumbles as curtain comes full open.)*

**GERRY.** That’s fine! Now leave it *alone*, Louise, okay?

**LOUISE.** *(Offstage.)* Fine by me!

START →

**GERRY.** *(Sinks into seat again.)* Okay, everybody, from the top again!

**VIOLET.** *(After a pause.)* Now?!

**GERRY.** Yes! Now!

**VIOLET.** *(A bit flustered.)* “Ah, Lord Dudley, you give the most charming parties in the whole of England!”

**HENRY.** “You are too kind, Diana. A pity Sir Percival could not be here.”

**POLLY.** “Do you know – I’m *worried* about Percival! He’s never accepted an invitation to one of our parties and then not shown up – at least, not without sending word.”