



Shrewsbury School

# SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

## SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2021

### DRAMA & THEATRE

(Time: 1 hour)

- Read the extract from *The Deep Blue Sea* by Terence Rattigan.
- Answer all of the following questions on lined paper.

***1950s. A shabby furnished flat in North London. Hester – a beautiful, thoughtful young woman – has tried to take an overdose. She was discovered in time by her neighbours, who have called her ex-husband, Sir William Collyer. Collyer has just arrived at her flat.***

COLLYER: Mrs Page?

*MRS ELTON looks at HESTER, who shakes her head. She crosses to the door.*

MRS ELTON: I'm sorry sir, you can't come in. Mrs Page is too ill to be bothered –

*COLLYER brushes her impatiently aside. He looks at HESTER. He is a handsome, distinguished and expensively dressed man about fifty.*

COLLYER: Tell her to go.

HESTER: It's all right, Mrs Elton. Thank you.

*MRS ELTON leaves.*

COLLYER: Are you all right?

HESTER: Quite all right.

COLLYER: What happened?

HESTER: How much did that boy tell you on the telephone?

COLLYER: Enough to spare you the necessity of lying to me.

HESTER: I must be careful what I say. Attempted suicide is a crime, isn't it?

COLLYER: Yes.

HESTER: And I'm speaking to a judge.

COLLYER: You're speaking to your husband.

HESTER: Shall we say temporary insanity?

COLLYER: Nonsense. You're as sane as I am.

HESTER: Perhaps I've changed since I left you, Bill. No – I'd better not say that. It might give you the opportunity to say I told you so.

COLLYER: Why didn't you let me know you were in London?

HESTER: The last time I saw you, you said you never wanted to hear from me again.

COLLYER: The last time I saw you, I didn't know what I was saying. How long have you been back from Canada?

HESTER: Oh, three or four months now. Freddie lost his job – I mean – he gave it up – and we neither of us like Ottawa very much, so –

COLLYER: Why didn't you answer my letter?

HESTER: I never got a letter.

COLLYER: Really? I addressed it to the aircraft firm in Ottawa and asked them to forward it.

HESTER: Oh. Well, we left in rather a hurry...what did you say in the letter, Bill?

COLLYER: Just that you could have your divorce if you still wanted it.

HESTER: Oh.

COLLYER: Of course, having not heard from you, I'm afraid I've taken no steps.

HESTER: I see.

COLLYER: Has he deserted you?

HESTER: No. He's playing golf at Sunningdale. He plays there a lot these days. I'm surprised you haven't run into him.

COLLYER: Is he being unfaithful to you?

HESTER: No.

COLLYER: He still loves you?

HESTER: As much as he did a year ago.

COLLYER: And you still love him?

HESTER: Yes, Bill. I still love him.

COLLYER: Is it money?

HESTER: No, it isn't money.

COLLYER: He's still got a job?

HESTER: Not as a test pilot. He gave that up some time ago. He's working in the City now.

COLLYER: In a job where they allow him to play golf on Mondays?

HESTER: Well – it's sort of freelance, you see –

COLLYER: What salary –

HESTER: You're on the wrong track, Bill. Yes, we do owe a month's rent, but money had nothing to do with it.

COLLYER: Then what –

HESTER: Oh, I don't know. A great tidal wave of illogical emotions.

COLLYER: Can you give a name to those emotions?

HESTER: I suppose so. Anger, hatred and shame – in about equal parts, I think.

COLLYER: Anger – at Page?

HESTER: Yes.

COLLYER: And hatred?

HESTER: Of myself. Shame at being alive.

COLLYER: I see.

HESTER: Do you?

COLLYER: No. I suppose not. Can I do anything to help?

HESTER: No, Bill. Nobody can.

*Pause. COLLYER notices a bracelet on her wrist.*

COLLYER: I'm glad you still wear it.

HESTER: What? Oh yes, of course. An anniversary present, wasn't it?

COLLYER: Our seventh.

HESTER: It was a good party we gave that night. *(Pause)* I read Sarah's new book. I didn't think it was as good as her last. Tell me, is David unbearably pompous now he's Solicitor-General?

COLLYER: He's not so bad.

HESTER: Is Alice still as beautiful as ever?

COLLYER: They miss you.

HESTER: I could always impress your high-powered friends when I had to. I only wish I were as good with Freddie's crowd.

COLLYER: Aren't you?

HESTER: Oh no. On pub crawls I'm a fish out of water.

COLLYER: Pub crawls?

HESTER: You needn't be shocked.

COLLYER: I'm not. Just...What were you angry with Page about?

HESTER: Oh, lots of things. Always the same things.

COLLYER: You said just now his feelings for you hadn't changed.

HESTER: They haven't. They couldn't, you see. Zero minus zero is still zero.

***End of Extract. Please turn over for questions.***

## **ANSWER ALL THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. As the actor playing Mrs Elton, explain how you would deliver the line, “I’m sorry sir, you can’t come in. Mrs Page is too ill to be bothered –” You should refer to tone and tempo. [2]
2. Give an example of a rehearsal technique you could use to explore the relationship between Hester and Collyer. [2]
3. As the actor playing Collyer, explain how you would use movement (posture, gesture, gait, facial expression) to show how he feels when Hester says that she loves another man. [4]
4. As the actor playing Hester explain how you would perform the section from “I’m glad you still wear it” to the end of the extract. You should refer to:
  - character motivation;
  - voice;
  - movement;
  - proxemics. [10]
5. What does the author suggest about the characters’ social class? [2]
6. Sketch and annotate a costume design for Hester. You should consider:
  - her age and character; and
  - the historical period. [10]

**30 marks**