

Mrs. Amelia Tilford

MRS. TILFORD. It is you I am thinking of. I am frightened for you. It was wrong of you to brazen it out here tonight; it would be criminally foolish of you to brazen it out in public. That can bring you nothing but pain. I am an old woman, Miss Dobie, and I have seen too many people act in pride and anger. In the end they punish themselves.

You came here demanding explanations. It was I who should have asked them from you. You attack me, you attack Mary. I've told you I didn't mean you any harm. I still don't. You claim that it isn't true; it may be natural that you should say that, but I *know* that it is true. No matter what you say, you know very well that I wouldn't have acted until I was sure. All I wanted was to get those children away. That has been done. There will be nothing else. And there won't be any talk about it or about you—I'll see to that. You have been in my house long enough. Get out.

Lily Mortar

LILY: (*Quickly, defensively to Martha*) Karen is quite right. Let bygones be bygones. Besides, I didn't refuse to come back — I was on tour. That's a moral obligation. I couldn't leave. And, I don't think it was nice to try to bring me back that way. I just don't think it was. For goodness sake, let's not go on this way — words, words, words! Anyway, it couldn't have done any good for all of us to get mixed up in that unpleasant notoriety. (*Martha reacts; LILY continues hastily and almost contritely*) But, now that you have explained it, why I do see it your way, and I'm sorry I didn't come back. I know what you have gone through, but the body and heart *do* recover, you know. If allowed to stay, I will stand shoulder to shoulder with you. (*No sign of forgiveness from Martha, LILY continues.*) I'll wait upstairs until train time. You'll be sorry, Martha, for what you said to me. Because you have a good heart, and I know you love me and are grateful to me. (*She sees Joe Cardin enter the room, ever the actress again*) Ahh, so it's you! Now I call that loyal. A lot of men wouldn't still be here. (*To Karen.*) You are a very lucky girl — (*Karen's look shuts her up and she exits quickly.*)