

EAST OF EDEN

Cal: He'll be here in a minute.

Abra: I've been fixing Aaron's lunch. I'll fix yours too if you like after this.

C: No thanks.

A: Would you be eating with her if I weren't here?

C: Who?

(Abra gestures)

C: No, I didn't ask her to come up here.

A: Girls follow you around, don't they?

C: Does she bother you?

A: She doesn't bother me. Who is she?

C: Never saw her before in my life.

A: I'll bet! You're really working at this lettuce business aren't you, Cal? Do you think it'll turn out alright? Your father will lose quite a lot of money if it doesn't, won't he?

C: About all he's got.

A: I like your father.

C: Do you?

A: I threw away about \$3000 once.

C: Heh?

A: When I was 13.

C: You threw it away?

A: It was a diamond ring worth about that. At least my father told me that's what he paid for it. I threw it in the river. Made dad terribly angry.

C: I reckon it would!

A: But I forgave him, and it's been alright ever since.

C: You forgave him? You forgave him cause you threw a ring of his worth \$3000 into the river? You forgave him?

A: That's right. You see I thought he didn't love me, and that made me feel awful. Girls love their fathers terribly.

C: Do they?

A: My mother died when I was 13 and dad got married again soon after that. Did you know that?

C: No, I didn't know that.

A: Are you interested in hearing about me? When dad got married again it made me sick. I just hated everybody. I used to sit and just glare at people and I wouldn't even answer when they spoke to me.

C: Why you telling me all this?

A: Because I want to. I was that way for months. I just hated everybody. Nobody in the world loved me. It was awful. And then I found this ring that dad gave my new mother so I took it and threw it in the river.

C: Good!

A: I thought you'd like that.

C: Did they ever find it?

A: Never! They tried.

C: What'd they do to you?

A: Well dad punished me, not badly I guess. But I felt he shouldn't have punished me at all. I felt he should have loved me more because I did it. But he didn't. Isn't it funny? I'm grown up now but I still understand kids better than I do grown ups.

C: You're not so grown up.

A: I'm very grown up.

C: That's a matter of opinion.

A: I'm very grown up! More so than dad, because I forgave him for not understanding. And the minute I forgave him in my mind, I felt better. Now we get along fine. We love each other. Not like we did when I was 13, but enough so we can live together til I get married. He's just my father now. Nothing to rave about. I still don't like her much, but then she's a woman. My that girl just hates me doesn't she? You'd better tell he I'm your brother's girl.

C: I don't have to explain anything to anybody.

A: I'll go now and leave the field to her. My, your hair's in a mess.

EAST OF EDEN (2)

Abra: Look I'm waiting for somebody.

Stranger: Yeah you're waiting for me.

A: No I'm not.

S: Why don't you let me take you for a nice ride on the ferris wheel?

A: Please, if you don't stop bothering me I'll have to call somebody.

Cal: Hi.

Abra: Hello, Cal.

C: What's the matter?

A: Well I was just trying to tell this gentleman that I was waiting for somebody.

Stranger: This is a lousy place to keep your girlfriend waiting for you kid.

Cal: Sir, it won't happen again.

S: Yeah, I hope not. There's a lot of lousy characters around here. Sorry miss. (to another girl) Here I am!

Abra: That's the first time that ever happened to me!

Cal: What are you doing out here?

A: I'm meeting Aaron. I thought I'd come out early and look around.

C: You've never been out here before?

A: Not at night, no.

C: What time are you gonna meet him?

A: Eight. I thought I'd try and cheer him up. He's been so depressed lately.

C: Yeah, I know it.

A: I'm so glad you happen to be here, Cal.

C: Eight, huh? Half an hour?

A: How are you Cal? We never see you around anymore.

C: I'm around.

A: I've been over to the house several times but you never seem to be there.

C: I never go home anymore.

A: Aaron says he hardly ever sees you. I feel awfully sorry for him

(taffy)

A: You're terrible! It's the first time that ever happened to me too! Wonder if we can see Aaron from here. I feel awfully sorry for him. He's right, you know, I mean it's awful, the war and people killing each other.

C: Why feel sorry for Aaron? Feel sorry for the people.

A: But it just seems to affect him so personally.

(three shots for a dime)

C: Well, I'll agree with that. He's right. And he's always right. And he has always been right. Now let's talk about something else. Eight o'clock? We've got a lot to see.

A: Will we be back in time for Aaron?

EAST OF EDEN (3)

Abra: Who was that?

Cal: Who?

A: That girl!

C: I don't see nobody.

A: Well she was standing right... Girls follow you around, don't they? What are girls like that like?

C: Huh?

C: That's Castorville.

A: Everything looks so small from up here. Cal, does Aaron really love me? I seem to have sort of lost him. I mean, we're gonna be married someday, but if he does love me, he doesn't... I can't tell anymore. Cal, can I ask you something?

C: Yeah, go ahead.

A: Well these girls that you go around with, what are girls like that like? I mean, you don't really love them, do you? (he shakes head no) Well why do you go out with them? Is it because you're bad? You're not angry are you? Well why do you then? Cal...

C: Do you think I'm bad?

A: I don't know. I guess I don't know what's good and what's bad. I mean, Aaron is so good, and I'm not. Not good enough for Aaron anyway. I mean because sometimes when I'm with Aaron, well Aaron likes to talk about our being in love, and that's alright, but... Well these girls that you go out with, do they... Well maybe I don't know what love is exactly. I know love is good the way Aaron says, but it's more than that, it's got to be. I shouldn't talk to you this way, Cal, I shouldn't, but don't know who else to talk to, and sometimes I think I'm really bad. Sometimes I don't know what to think.

C: Well, Aaron'll knock that out of you.

A: Will he?

C: He's got to.

A: The way I figure it out, Aaron never having had a mother, well, he's made her everything good that he can think of and that's what he thinks I am, and that's who he's in love with, but that's not me at all. I'm not a bit like that, not a bit. I don't want to make you think I'm really bad, but...Look at that star. It must be a planet it's so bright. I'll bet that girls waiting for you down there somewhere.

C: Well, she can just wait.

A: She was pretty. You've been awful nice, Cal, taking care of me.

(kiss)

A: I love Aaron, I do, really I do! I do, I do, I do!

EAST OF EDEN (4)

Cal: Abra!

Abra: What?

C: Hey-

A: Who is it?

C: Cal.

A: Cal?

C: Yeah.

A: What on earth are you doing here?

C: I wanna see you.

A: Can I put something on? Cal?

C: I gotta tell you something. Can you keep a secret?

A: Yes. What is it, what's the matter? You look terrible.

C: I got it.

A: What?

C: Remember the money? Dad lost? In the lettuce business? I got it.

A: You mean you earned it all back?

C: I've got every cent.

A: Well that's wonderful, Cal.

C: You got any time off tomorrow from the hospital?

A: I get an hour at lunch time, why?

C: Thursday's dad's birthday. And I'm gonna get a party for him. And I want you and me...you and Aaron and me to be there. And I'm gonna give him my money just like it was a birthday present. You can come and help me get some junk and we could decorate the house.

A: Sure.

C: And we'll get balloons and kid stuff, birthday stuff...

A: We can go to the 5 and 10.

C: ...kid stuff... Will you do it?

A: I'd like to.

C: I'm sort of... sort of... Why did I hit Aaron? Why did I hit him so hard? Will you help me? Will you? Will you really help me?

A: I'll help you Cal.

EAST OF EDEN (5)

Abra: Is your father coming?

Cal: Yeah.

A: Now Cal don't get nervous.

C: I think it looks beautiful! Don't you? I love the way it looks. It looks festive.

A: Yes it does.

A: You think it looks festive? Do you think this is childish?

A: No, not a bit. The room looks lovely, your father's gonna love it.

C: How's the turkey?

A: It's a good turkey?

C: It smells ready.

A: It'll be ready.

C: Aaron didn't get him anything huh?

A: He told me he had something.

C: What?

A: Well he didn't tell me what it was.

C: It won't stack up against mine though, will it.

A: No!

C: You want to see mine?

A: I'd like to.

C: I've got it wrapped up.

A: Well show it to me.

C: You wanna see it?

A: Yes!

C: Okay.

A: It's pretty.

C: You like that?

A: Mm, hmm.

C: You think it's pretty?

A: Cal, don't drink any more wine.

C: Did Aaron tell you what the present was?

A: No.

C: You sure?

A: Honestly he didn't. Cal, I'd tell you if he did, honestly I would. Look, now everything's gonna go off fine. Here.

C: Oh the brooms! We'll let him come in here and let the house speak for itself. We'll just act like it's any other old day, okay?

A: Wait, Cal! Cal... Cal... You look wonderful.

C: Thanks.