

The following scene is from "Rose and Mr Morton". The film script has been written especially for "Learning Lines? A Practical Guide for Drama Students and Aspiring Actors" to illustrate a number of teaching points within the text. It is available here for use by readers and may be copied for the purposes detailed in the book. © Michael Murray 2013 All rights asserted. [www.spurwing-ebooks.com](http://www.spurwing-ebooks.com)

## Background

It is 1910. Mr Morton is a wealthy businessman in his mid-forties. He is a widower and lives in a large house in the country a few miles outside a small market town. He employs a housekeeper, a cook, a few servants and a chauffeur.

Mr Morton occasionally works at home in his study which also serves as his office.

## INT. MR MORTON'S STUDY - DAY

MR MORTON is seated behind his large and imposing desk, working.

There is a knock at the door.

MR MORTON

Come in!

ROSE enters. She is one of Mr Morton's servants and is a very attractive yet demure looking young woman of twenty four. Being a servant she would normally be in uniform but today is her day off and she is dressed in a stylish long dress and jacket.

MR MORTON

Ah. Rose.

(Pause)

You took your time.

ROSE

I'm sorry sir. I came as soon as I could.

MR MORTON

Come in and close the door.

ROSE closes the door and takes a step or two into the room.

MR MORTON

Sit down girl.

ROSE goes to sit in the chair which is by the wall near the door.

MR MORTON

Not there.

MORTON indicates the chair in front of his desk.

MR MORTON

Here.

ROSE sits in the chair at the front of the desk. She and Morton are now facing each other.

MR MORTON (cont)

I see you're not in uniform today. It must be your day off.

ROSE

Yes sir.

MR MORTON

Well, you're obviously looking forward to it.

ROSE

Yes sir, I am.

MR MORTON

I must say your Sunday best certainly suits you. You look very fetching.

ROSE

Thank you, sir.

MR MORTON

You don't mind me saying you look very fetching do you?

ROSE

No, sir, of course not.

(Pause)

MR MORTON

So, what do you normally do on your days off?

ROSE

Just go into town, sir.

MR MORTON

And what do you do there?

ROSE

I usually go shopping in Thursday Market. And sometimes I visit my great aunt.

MR MORTON

What do you go shopping for? Expensive outfits like that one?

ROSE

This isn't expensive, sir.

MR MORTON

Really? It looks it.

ROSE

I mean it didn't cost me anything. It was passed on to me by one of my relatives. They're quite well off.

MR MORTON

I see.

(Pause)

ROSE

Can I ask what you wanted to see me for, sir? Only the butcher's waiting to give me a lift into town.

MR MORTON

(smiles)

Well, we mustn't keep the butcher waiting, must we? I'll come straight to the point. For several weeks now small sums of money have gone missing from my cashbox. The one I keep in this drawer.

(He points to the drawer of the desk in front of him.)

Nothing very substantial. Half crowns. A few shillings. That's all. But nevertheless, deeply upsetting. I'm sure they've been stolen.

(Pause)

MR MORTON (cont)

Do you know anything about it?

ROSE

(surprised)

Me, sir? No, nothing.

MR MORTON

Are you sure?

ROSE

Yes. Quite sure. I don't know anything.

MR MORTON

I'd like to believe that Rose, only I can't.

ROSE

You don't think I took it, sir?

MR MORTON

You're the only servant who comes in here.

ROSE

That's not true. Lots of the servants come in here. Alice lays the fire every morning.

MR MORTON

Yes, she does. At six o'clock. But I never unlock my desk until after breakfast. Then you come in here to tidy up. Apart from Alice you're the only servant allowed in here.

ROSE

What about when it's my day off? Surely others come in here then?

MR MORTON

No other servant is ever left alone in here when my desk is unlocked. You know that very well. You're the only one who could have taken the money.

ROSE

But why would I? Knowing that I'd be the first one you'd suspect?

MR MORTON

That's why you stole small sums. You thought I wouldn't notice.

ROSE

I wouldn't steal from you sir! I swear I wouldn't!

MR MORTON

If you insist on denying it I'm afraid you leave me no choice but to call in the police.

ROSE

But I didn't do it!

MORTON gets up and comes round to Rose's side of the desk. He stands very close to her.

MR MORTON

Now we both know that's not true Rose. Why don't you simply admit that you took the money? It will be the best thing for you in the long run. I don't want to have to turn you over to the police. I don't want to see you go to gaol.

ROSE

But they can't send me to gaol sir. I'm innocent!

MR MORTON

I assure you Rose that if the police are called in you will certainly go to gaol.

ROSE starts to cry.

ROSE

(sobbing)

I never took no money!

MR MORTON places a hand on Rose's shoulder.

MR MORTON

Why don't you let me help you Rose?

(Pause)

MR MORTON

I don't have to contact the police you know.

ROSE

Oh! Please don't call the police in sir.

MR MORTON

Well, that depends.

ROSE

Depends?

MR MORTON

Yes. Depends on what you're prepared to do for me.

ROSE

I don't understand sir.

MR MORTON

Look, I'll be straight with you. If I promise not to call in the police I'd want you to be a lot nicer to me.

ROSE

But sir. I'm always polite.

MR MORTON

Come on, Rose. You're not that naive. You know exactly what I mean.

ROSE

You mean you want me to...?

MR MORTON

Yes, Rose.

MORTON ATTEMPTS TO KISS HER. ROSE STRUGGLES AND PUSHES HIM OFF. SHE JUMPS UP FROM HER SEAT.

ROSE

No! Never!

ROSE STARTS FOR THE DOOR. MORTON COMES AFTER HER.

MR MORTON

Rose!

ROSE stops and turns back to face Morton.

ROSE

No! I never took any of that money. You're only saying it because you want me to sleep with you. Well do your worst. Call in the police if you want and I'll tell them what you're up to. I don't care. I'm innocent. I know I'm innocent.

ROSE goes to leave.

MR MORTON

Wait!

ROSE stops and turns back to Morton

MR MORTON

Rose, I'm so sorry. Please, I beg you to accept my apologies. I believe you. I'm sure you're innocent. It was completely wrong of me to suggest what I did. It was a terrible thing to say to an innocent young woman. I don't know what came over me. All I can say is that I haven't been myself recently. The thing is, ever since my wife died I've been so lonely. In these past ten years I've never been with another woman. Then you came to work here and you're so beautiful. I suppose I stupidly began to entertain hopes that... Well, of course, that's ridiculous. Completely out of the question. Please, let's forget this ever happened. I made a dreadful mistake Rose and I'm sorry. Really sorry.

(Pause)

ROSE

You poor man.

ROSE takes a step towards Mr Morton.