

DRUMMLE Audition piece

P 46/47

(Enter ESTELLA and the company. Dance music plays.
The Richmond Ball. The Richmond Subscription Ball.
A dance. ESTELLA dances with BENTLEY DRUMMLE. PIP suffers.)

Drummler I drink to the lady. To Estella of Richmond. To a peerless beauty.
Pip Who are you to drink to Estella?
Drummler Who are you to object?
Estella Oh, Pip. Don't sulk. Meet my new friend. Mr Bentley Drummler of Gloucestershire.
Drummler Bentley Drummler Esquire. One day I'll be a duke.
Estella Aren't I honoured?
Pip No. Not in the least!
Drummler Nice pile I have. In Gloucestershire. Four hundred and twenty rooms. Two thousand acres.
Jolly decent hunting. Damn good shooting. Extremely good fishing. And tomorrow I dine
with the lady.
Pip That cannot be true.
Drummler Ask her, old chap. Go on. Ask her. Or don't you dare to?
Pip Is what this... gentleman tells me true?
Estella Oh, but it is, Pip.
Pip Are you to dine with him?
Estella Oh, yes, Pip. We have already dined. Dined on several occasions.
Drummler Several delightful occasions.
Estella We might even become engaged.
Pip Impossible! How can you bear him?
Drummler Don't lose your temper, old chap. You've lost so much already.