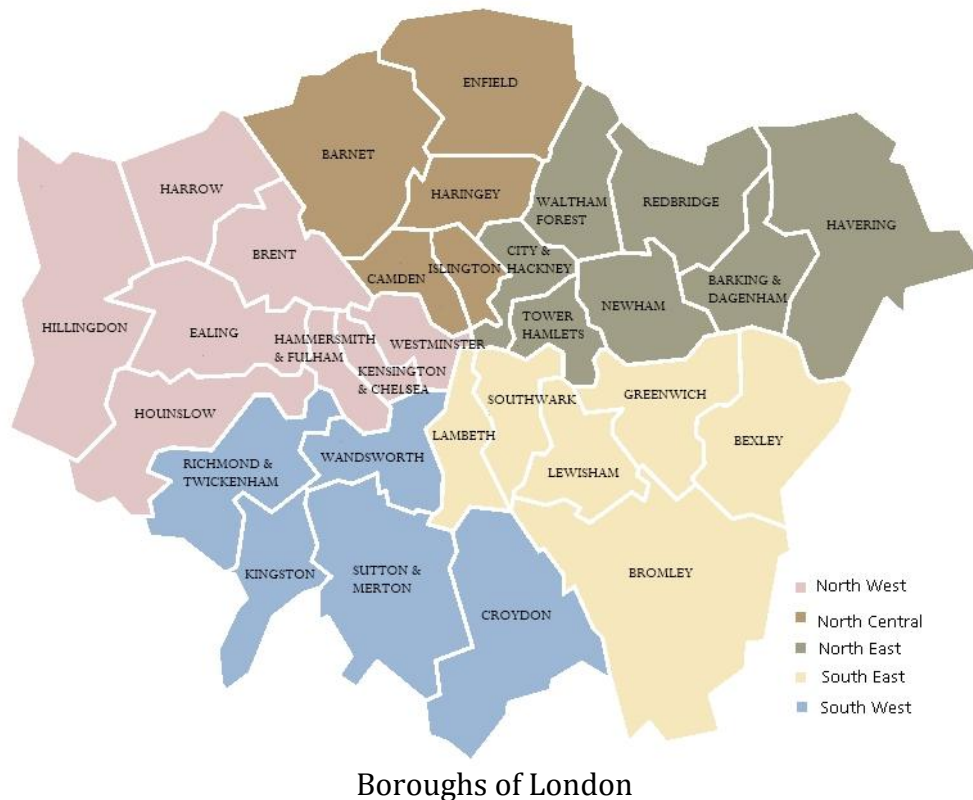


## ACT II

## P. 31

**South London:** South London is the southern part of London, England.



According to the 2011 official definition by the Boundary Commission for England, the area includes the London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton, and Wandsworth, which are southwest, and Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, and Southwark, which are southeast.

## P. 32

**Registry office:** also known as “register” office, it’s a place in the UK where births, deaths, and marriages are officially recorded and where you can get officially married without a religious ceremony. The US equivalent would be the clerk-recorder’s office, usually located in a county government building, where a justice of the peace or county deputy marriage commissioner will perform the marriage.

**“A man of few words when several spring to mind”:** an idiom heard in many cultures, a man of few words is someone, not necessarily a man, who speaks seldom and concisely, or not at all. A source is Proverbs 17: 27, which says, “He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.” Verse 27 goes on to explain, “Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.” The latter

is the source of a quote, “It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt,” that has been wrongly ascribed to all kinds of people, including Abraham Lincoln and Mark Twain.

Rick’s acknowledgement of his father’s garrulousness (“not a man of few words when several spring to mind”) is soundly endorsed by Susan.

### P. 33

**Odd-job man:** in the UK, a man who is skilled in various odd jobs and other small tasks; a handyman (US); a jack of all trades; a skilled worker whose job is to repair things; a maintenance man, repairman, and/or service man.

Odd-job men are hired out, either individually or through agencies.

In the old days, an odd-job man or handyman was called a tinker, a term at first for a traveling pot mender that grew to encompass someone who’d travel about doing household repair jobs.

**Lumpen:** the abbreviated version of what Susan is saying is that the name Tess is rather *déclassé* and pedestrian. Chances are she is associating the name with the title character in *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*, an 1891 Thomas Hardy novel. Tess comes from a peasant family and meets up with great misfortune that is related to her station in life and compounded by her gender. The name has enjoyed a revival in recent years, with Tess and Tessa becoming popular names. In 2013, for instance, Tess became the new number-one name for baby girls in the Netherlands.

Lumpen has many meanings. It is used as an adjective to designate dispossessed, often displaced people who have been cut off from the socioeconomic class with which they would ordinarily be identified.

Lumpen may also relate to the lumpenproletariat, which in Marxist theory is the amorphous urban social group below the proletariat, consisting of unskilled workers, vagrants, tramps, and criminals – the lowest of the proletariat. They are characterized by a lack of class-consciousness or awareness of their collective interest as an oppressed class. (This interestingly brings us back around to *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*.)

To coin the word “lumpenproletariat”, Marx was influenced by the German lump vagabond and lumpen rag (as in rag-wearing and ragtag), a group of disfranchised and uprooted individuals or groups, especially those who have lost status. In this application, to be lumpen is to be vulgar or common; plebeian and/or stupid or unthinking.

**Gauche:** to be gauche is to lack social grace and sensitivity and/or to be awkward, inept, crude and/or tactless.

Its first use was in 1751 in Chesterfield. It comes from the French “gauche,” or left, which comes from the Old French “gaucher”, meaning to trample, reel, or walk clumsily, which is from the Middle French “gauchir”, to turn aside or swerve.

#### P. 34

**Daughters of Beelzebub:** Beelzebub is the name for Satan in the *New Testament*, found in Matthew 10:25, Matthew 12:24 and Matthew 12:27, as well as Mark 3:22.

In the Torah, the Hebrew Bible, and the Old Testament, the gods of the Philistines, who were enemies of the Jews, were called Baal. The Philistines are said to have dominated the Israelites in the times of Samson and Eli, and even to have captured the Ark of the Covenant for a few years. Samson, a figure in the Hebrew and Christian bibles, killed many Philistines and had many skirmishes with them.

There was a noted sanctuary of Baal in the city of Ekron, one of the five cities of the famed Philistine pentapolis, located in southwestern Canaan. The Baal who was worshipped there was called Baal-Zebul, sometimes written as Baal-Zebub and mentioned in the book of Joshua and in 2 Kings 1 in the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. It is a well-known phenomenon in the history of religions that the gods of one nation become the devils of its neighbors and enemies. Baal-Zebub’s meaning became “the lord of flies” and then “the lord of dung,” or “the dung-god”. From it emerged “Beelzebub” as the name for the devil.

Daughters of Beelzebub would be daughters of Satan and presumably, bad seed. The worst seed of all, probably.

**Convent education and training:** a convent school is a day school or (usually) a boarding school for girls from the upper and middle classes where all the teachers are nuns. It shares the same campus as a convent, which is a residential community devoted to religious life under a superior.

A girl can get a convent education from preschool all the way through the end of high school.

From the earliest times it was customary in England for all children to be educated in convents. This came to an end at the Reformation. With the exception of the Convent at York, the only convent school that survived, English convent education had to start afresh in the nineteenth century.

Numerous convents opened in England during the latter half of the nineteenth century, producing correspondingly numerous convent schools, which still educate Protestant as well as Catholic girls today.

The schools provide a secular education, but the curriculum weighs heavily towards thorough religious and moral training.

A few of the schools receive state support, which places certain restrictions upon their methods of management. The rest are more independent and can therefore be considerably more selective about admission and refusal of pupils. These contribute to the reputation of convent schools as being exclusive, sheltered and strict – places where a young woman can be prepared to be a responsible, polished, and pure and proper member of society. (Not always how it turns out, though ...)

The designation of convent school points to the “us and them” themes in the play – the contrasts between lives of privilege and accomplishment with those having less. “Tess” may have a prosaic name, but she has the convent education and training that contributes to the stereotype of a convent girl as a well groomed, religious girl who is both snobby and wealthy, or at least maintains the appearance of wealth. A convent school girl can be generally expected to have a refined accent and manner of speech, and can often be found among the elite set.

#### P. 35

**Theory of life:** I don't think Rick is talking about the new thermodynamic theory of life that was published in August 2013 (<https://www.quantamagazine.org/20140122-a-new-physics-theory-of-life/>). Instead, I think he is speaking about lofty philosophical and spiritual theoretical views of life as opposed to the pragmatic or scientific.

**Twelve-bore shotgun:** UK term for a twelve-gauge shotgun, which is a shotgun with a gauge corresponding to the diameter of a round bullet (or in some cases, pellet) of which twelve constitute a pound in weight.

The shot pellets from a lower-gauge shotgun like the twelve-bore will spread upon leaving the barrel. The power of the burning charge is divided among the pellets, which means that the energy of any one ball of shot is fairly low. Therefore, the typical use of this gauge of shotgun is against small and fast moving targets, often while in the air. This makes shotguns useful primarily for hunting birds and other small game.

In a hunting context, the spreading of the shot allows the user to point the shotgun close to the target, rather than having to aim precisely as in the case of a single projectile. The disadvantages of shot are limited range and limited penetration of the shot, which is why shotguns are used at short ranges, and typically against smaller targets.



Twelve-bore shotgun, open the way Tony is carrying it



Twelve-bore shotgun shown in its full length

### P. 38

**East is East. Never the twain shall meet. Jack Spratt could eat no fat:** these are all adages that Gerald is using to illustrate the impasse where he and Susan have arrived.

**East is East. Never the twain shall meet** is from “East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet”, a saying that is part of the refrain that opens and closes the poem, “The Ballad of East and West”. It was written by Rudyard Kipling and published in 1889. The full refrain is:

Oh, East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,  
Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great Judgment Seat;  
But there is neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth,  
When two strong men stand face to face, though they come from the ends of the earth!

Normally, only the first line is quoted, which suggests that the West, which is Europe and the Americas, and the East, which is Asia, have a cultural divide as vast and unbridgeable as their geographical divide. However, reading the full stanza provides an entirely different conclusion. It sounds more like Kipling is saying that despite the fact

that the East and West are on opposite ends of the world, in the final reckoning, nationality, race, and family background will not matter. Ultimately, if we are all equal in the sight of God, we should consider ourselves equal to one another. This premise is the foundation of our *Declaration of Independence*, which states that all men are created equal.

**Jack Spratt could eat no fat** comes from a nursery rhyme that entered the canon of English nursery rhymes when it was printed in *Mother Goose's Melody* around 1765. However, it may have been adopted for use with children much earlier. The whole of it is:

Jack Sprat could eat no fat.  
His wife could eat no lean.  
And so between them both, you see,  
They licked the platter clean.

The nursery rhyme derived from an English proverb that appeared in John Clarke's collection of sayings in 1639:

Jack will eat not fat, and Jull doth love no leane.  
Yet betwixt them both they lick the dishes cleane.

The name Jack Sprat came into use in the sixteenth century to describe people of small stature.

**Beg to differ:** because of the choice of the word “beg”, it’s a polite way of saying that you disagree with something that someone has said. “Beg to differ” is sometimes heard in discussions in which the parties hold opposing views, and is used to limit the potential for confrontation. It comes from “beg leave”, a phrase used to seek permission, and “beg pardon”, or ask for forgiveness. The phrase is gradually leaving the lexicon.

**Sarcasm is the greatest weapon of the smallest mind:** Gerald is paraphrasing an adage here, “Sarcasm is the lowest form of wit”, that has been ascribed to Oscar Wilde. The Sarcasm Society (there really is one!) contends that Wilde could not have said “something so dull and moralistic, even with the addition of the oft-dropped second half: ‘but the highest form of intelligence.’ The line clearly lacks the sparkling wit and worldliness typical of Wilde's best quips. More importantly, the quote is not found anywhere in Wilde's writings.”

The Sarcasm Society goes on to say that no plausible or verifiable source for the sarcasm quote exists, and that the line was actually altered and taken from another source, one they say is “easily verified and well-documented and actually condemns another form of humor: the pun.”

They cite Sigmund Freud's 1917 work *Wit and Its Relation to the Unconscious*, where he wrote, "[Puns] are generally counted as the lowest form of wit, perhaps because they are 'cheapest' and can be formed with the least effort."

The Sarcasm Society found the earliest known example of the pun quote in its exact form in the 1922 book *Heavens* by Louis Untermeyer, the 14th U.S. Poet Laureate: "No one disputes the definition: 'Punning is the lowest form of wit.' The axiom is universally applauded, quoted and upheld. The scorn of the pun is common in every civilized country."

They conclude that, "punners substituted one word for another – since that's all they know how to do – and tried to give the altered 'sarcasm' form of the quote an aura of cleverness and historic credibility by attributing it to Oscar Wilde."

Rather sarcastic of the Sarcasm Society, but I'm on board with them.

#### P. 41

**Our man on the spot:** If one is on the spot, they are at the actual place where something is happening. This phrase is often used in the UK to introduce a journalist who is reporting from the scene of a place of breaking news. In the US, it would be "our man on the scene", or more commonly, "our reporter on the scene". Gerald would be qualified to address demonic possession as his practice places him in that purview.

**Bugger all:** As Bill's dialogue explains on the next page where he says, "absolutely empty", "bugger-all" is little or nothing at all. Buggery is sodomy, and like the f-word in the US, provides an array of expressions to the people of the UK, which are not polite, are offensive to some, but are undeniable effective. One can also say "bugger all" as one would say "sod all" or "fuck all".

**Bank Holiday:** Bank Holidays in the UK are public holidays that have been recognized since 1871. The name Bank Holiday comes from the time when banks were closed and no trading could take place.

There are currently a total of eight permanent bank and public holidays in England, Wales and Scotland and 10 in Northern Ireland. Included are Christmas Day and Good Friday, which in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are not specified by law as bank holidays but have become customary holidays because of common observance.

Bank Holidays in England are New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Early May Bank Holiday, Spring Bank Holiday, Summer Bank Holiday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

**Going off my head:** In the UK, going off one's head is a colloquialism for going crazy.

**P. 43**

**Valve of a pressure cooker:** Pressure-cooking is the process of cooking food by using water or other cooking liquid in a sealed vessel, which is known as a pressure cooker. Pressure cookers cook food more quickly than conventional cooking methods.

Food and liquid are placed inside the pressure cooker, and the lid is closed and locked. The pressure cooker is placed over a heat source and the liquid is brought to a boil. The trapped steam increases the internal pressure and temperature. After a set amount of time is, the pressure is slowly released through a valve so that the vessel can be safely opened. This valve is what Bill is referring to. If someone were to put their thumb over it, they would be severely burned.

Pressure cookers are still used in home and restaurant kitchens, but microwaves and convection ovens provide more current options for quick cooking.



Pressure cooker with a valve on the top

**P. 44**

**A near thing:** in the UK, a near thing is something bad that almost happened.

**P. 53**

**Bugger off:** another variation on buggery, to tell someone to bugger off is to tell him or her to leave in the manner of telling him or her to fuck off.

**P. 54**

**You'll catch your deather:** Tony is telling Susan she may catch her death of cold by standing outside in the rain. He is using "deather" in the way Susan's imaginary family used "champers" as a shorter, more flippant, posh way of saying champagne, To catch your death of cold means to catch a very bad cold because you are not wearing warm or dry clothes in inclement weather.



Throughout the years, medical researchers have tried to prove whether or not there's a relationship between getting cold and wet and contracting illness. Don't tell your grandmother, but there doesn't seem to be a link. You can read how it's been disproved here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/04/science/you-ll-catch-your-death-an-old-wives-tale-well.html?pagewanted=1>

**P. 56**

**Tenner:** a ten-pound note

**Each way:** Bill is asking Andy if he'd like to place a bet on each of the opposing sides.

**Coming under orders:** In a horse race, once the flag is raised, the field is then under starter's orders. Under normal circumstances, no horse is then allowed to be withdrawn from the race. In Susan's runaway fantasy, Lucy is no longer a bride getting married, but a runner in a bridal race. Tony and Andy now seem to be to be some sort of race stewards.

**P. 57**

**Shooting rights:** the right to kill game on a property, even if you don't own it. The right can be negotiated by the buyer and seller as a term of the sale of the property. Shooting rights are sometimes called sporting rights.

**Caspian Sea:** The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed inland body of water on Earth by area. It has a surface area of 143,200 square miles and a volume of 18,800 cubic miles. It's known variously as the world's largest lake or a full-fledged sea. It is in an endorheic basin, which means that it has no outflows, and is located between Europe and Asia. It is bounded to the northeast by Kazakhstan, to the northwest by Russia, to the west by Azerbaijan, to the south by Iran, and to the southeast by Turkmenistan. The Caspian Sea lies to the east of the Caucasus Mountains and to the west of the vast steppe of Central Asia. Its northern part, the Caspian Depression, is one of the lowest points on earth.

The ancient inhabitants of its coast thought the Caspian Sea was an ocean, probably because of its saltiness and seeming boundlessness. It has a salinity of approximately 1.2%, which is about a third of the salinity of most seawater.



Caspian Sea from orbit

**She's lying third at the moment. But she's nicely positioned. Not letting herself get boxed in:** This is terminology used in races. "Lying third" means the racer is in third place. "Nicely positioned" means the racer has placed herself in a position that will keep her from being "boxed in" by other racers, which will hold her back from advancing in the race. Getting boxed-in would mean she'd have a racer in front of her, behind her and on her sides. When that happens, the racer is forced to shift her speed to fit the racers who are boxing her in, or risk falling. It can be extremely difficult to get out and make a move. If it's possible, the racer is better off being in lanes two or three – closer to but still outside of the inside track – until the field strings out and she can find a way to get into the inside lane. Running wide outside of the racers who are boxing her in can expend too much time and energy, partly because the lanes that are more outside cover more ground until the race goes into its final laps.

**Bombazine:** Bombazine is a fabric originally made of silk or silk and wool, and now also made of cotton and wool or of wool alone. Quality bombazine is made with a silk warp and a worsted weft. It is twilled or corded and used for dress-material. Black bombazine was once used largely for mourning wear, but the material had gone out of fashion by the beginning of the 20th century.

The word is derived from the obsolete French bombasin, applied originally to silk but afterwards to tree-silk or cotton. Bombazine is said to have been made in England in Elizabeth I's reign, and early in the 19th century it was largely made at Norwich.



Maid in a black bombazine with cap and apron

**P. 58**

**Furlong:** A furlong is a measure of distance in UK imperial units and US customary units equal to one-eighth of a mile, which is equivalent to 660 feet, 220 yards, 40 rods, or 10 chains. Using the internationally accepted conversion ratio that one inch equals exactly 25.4 millimeters, one furlong is 201.168 meters.

**P. 59**

**Glasses:** binoculars

**“I was a bit concerned at the five furlong marker when you still hadn’t made a break. But I understood your tactics. I mean, the thing about having a fast finish is to use it, isn’t it?:** Andy is talking to Lucy about her performance in the race. “Making a break” means using full power to break away from the pack of racers towards the finish line. He was concerned because he felt that she would do it at the five-furlong marker, but understood that her tactic was to save it for right before the end of the race, which is risky, because it requires impeccable timing. He acknowledges that she used her “fast finish,” a tactic that she has used successfully in the past.

**“I think it beats somewhere like Ascot into a top hat”:** I couldn’t find an idiom that used the words “beating into a top hat”. However, a version of the top hat is collapsible and might provide an explanation for what Bill is saying. On May 5, 1812, a London hatter called Thomas Francis Dollman patented a design for “an elastic round hat” supported by ribs and springs. His patent was described as:

An elastic round hat, which may be made of beaver, silk, or other materials. The top of the crown and about half an inch from the top as well as the brim

and about an inch, the crown from the bottom are stiffened in the ordinary manner. The rest of the hat is left entirely without stiffening, and is kept in shape by ribs of any suitable material fastened horizontally to the inside of the crown, and by an elastic steel spring from three to four inches long and nearly half an in. wide sewed on each side of the crown in the inside in an upright position. Then packed up for travelling, the double ribbon fastened under the band is to be pulled over the top of the crown to keep it in a small compass.



The Chapeau Claque collapsible top hat

Dollman's patent expired in 1825, and around 1840, Antoine Gibus's design for a spring-loaded collapsible top hat proved so popular that hats made to it became known as gibus. They were also often called opera hats due to the common practice of storing them in their flattened state under one's seat at the opera. The characteristic snapping sound heard upon opening a gibus suggested a third name, the chapeau claque, "claque" being the French word for "slap".

My guess is that Bill is making a play on words with Ascot – the racecourse, not the cravat – the denizens of which are famously adorned in formal dress, with the men in topcoats, tails and top hats. Likely, they employ the slap against the knee that transforms a flat disk into a top hat.

“Beat” could also be referring to the part of the process of making a top hat, where a material like beaver has to be beaten flat in order to shape it into a hat.