

**EMILY.** A well-bred woman doesn't like her secretary to appear flashy. It looks, you know, as though you were trying to attract the attention of the opposite sex.

**VERA.** And would you say I do attract them?

**EMILY.** That's beside the point. A girl who deliberately sets out to get the attention of men won't be likely to keep her job long.

**VERA.** (*Laughing.*) Ah! Surely that depends on who she's working for?

**EMILY.** Really, Miss Claythorne!

**VERA.** Aren't you being a little unkind?

**EMILY.** (*Spitefully.*) Young people nowadays behave in the most disgusting fashion.

**VERA.** Disgusting?

**EMILY.** (*Fanatically.*) Yes. Low-backed evening dresses. Lying half naked on beaches. All this so-called sunbathing. An excuse for immodest conduct, nothing more. Familiarity! Christian names – drinking cocktails! And look at the young men nowadays. Decadent! Look at that young Marston. What good is he? And that Captain Lombard!

**VERA.** What do you object to in Captain Lombard? I should say he was a man who'd led a very varied and interesting life.

**EMILY.** The man's an adventurer. All this younger generation is no good – no good at all.

**VERA.** You don't like youth – I see.

**EMILY.** (*Sharply.*) What do you mean?

**VERA.** I was just remarking that you don't like young people.

**EMILY.** And is there any reason why I should, pray?

**VERA.** Oh, no – (*Pauses.*) but it seems to me that you must miss an awful lot.

**EMILY.** You're very impertinent.

**VERA.** I'm sorry, but that's just what I think.