

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

AUDITION SPEECHES *PERKS*

PERKS

Hallo, old woman. Here's a pretty little set out. Good old girl! But what's this pram doing here? And what's all these bundles? And where did you get the sweet stuff? Given by the folk in the village? I don't care! I won't stand for it. I tell you straight. I don't care, not if it was an angel sent from heaven. We've got on all right all these years and no favours asked. I'm not going to begin these sort of charity goings-on at my time of life, so don't you think so, Nell. Come out, come you and tell me what you mean by it. Telling the neighbours we can't make ends meet. Well, now you've disgraced us in front of the whole neighbourhood you can just take the whole bag of tricks back. Much obliged, I'm sure. I don't doubt you meant it kind, but I'd rather not be acquainted with you any longer, if it's all the same to you. **(Pause)** Stop! I take back everything I said. Nell, put on the kettle.. I'd like to invite you to tea. It seems to me on reflection, that it's not so much what you do, as what you mean. And may the garland of friendship be ever green.