

## *Eveline* – Characters

### **Eveline Hill**

Eveline is pondering over the past looking out of the window.  
She is “tired”.

“She [is] grown up”; “she was over nineteen”.

“She was going to go away like the others, to leave her home.”

“She had consented to go away, to leave her home.”

“She tried to weigh each side of the question.”

“She always gave her entire wages – seven shillings.”

There are “two young children who had been left to her charge”.

“It was hard work – a hard life.”



Detail from *La Blanchisseuse* (1884-1888) by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864-1901), Oil on canvas, 93×75 cm, Private collection.

“She felt her cheek pale and cold.”

“Her distress awoke a nausea in her body and she kept moving her lips in silent fervent prayer.”

“All the seas of the world tumbled about her heart.”

“She set her white face to him, passive, like a helpless animal.”

**Her brothers**

"Earnest, however, never played: he was too grown up."

"Earnest was dead and Harry, who was in the church decorating business, was nearly always down somewhere in the country."

**Her father**

He "used to hunt them in out of the field with his blackthorn stick".

"Her father was not so bad then."

Eveline "felt herself in danger of her father's violence".

Father has "begun to threaten her".

"He was usually fairly bad on Saturday night."

Eveline's "father had found out the affair and had forbidden her to have anything to say to [Frank]".

"One day [father] had quarrelled with Frank and after that she had to meet her lover secretly."

"Her father was becoming old lately."

"Sometimes he could be very nice."

**Her mother**

"Her mother was [still] alive" then.

Now she is "dead".

Her mother suffers from a mental illness before she dies ("final craziness").

**Miss Gavan**

She is in charge of the Stores.

She has "always had an edge on [Eveline]".

**Frank**

He is "very kind, manly, open-hearted".

Frank has "a home waiting for [Eveline]" in Buenos Ayres.

Frank and Eveline meet each other outside the Stores every evening.

"He took her to see *The Bohemian Girl*." (significance of the title?)

"He was awfully fond of music and sang a little."

He sings of the "lass that loves a sailor". (significance of the song?)

"He had tales of distant countries."

"He had started as a deck boy at a pound a month on a ship."

"He had fallen on his feet in Buenos Ayres, he said, and had come over to the old country just for a holiday."

Eveline's father calls Frank a sailor chap.

"He would drown her."