

## Side – Changed Utterly Chicago May /Constance

CHICAGO MAY: *(bowing)* Chicago May, Queen of Crooks! I earned the title of “Chicago May” legitimately having been trained to be a crook in that great city. I left my home in Dublin when I was 13, robbing the money box in my father’s room to pay for my passage to the US. I was big for my age so no-one suspected I was that young. I married at 14 – he was a robber, highwayman, general all round crook, but no man could treat a woman better. He was always kind, tender and considerate. But I was widowed at 15. That’s when I went for training to the Chicago High School of Crime. And a thorough training it was indeed. I was there for 4 years and I owe all my success against law and order to the grounding I got in that school.

*She and Constance start to scrub the floor. She shows Constance an easier way to do it*

MAY: I have never suffered from qualms of conscience. I have had no regrets – except when I get caught.

CONSTANCE: The only thing that prison does for people, as far as I can see, is to teach them to use bad language and to steal. I was so hungry yesterday I stole a raw turnip and ate it.

MAY: I am convinced that prison will never reform me. My only reaction, especially under an unjust sentence, is to want to be revenged on society.

CONSTANCE: The wardresses often take pleasure in throwing dirt on the floor that I’ve just scrubbed.  
*(grinning)* There is a certain community of hatred that gives one mutual interests and the mutual sport of combining to pinch onions, dripping, or rags. It keeps one going.

MAY: She is the grandest woman I ever met. No kind of hardship ever fazes her.

CONSTANCE: Remember no one has it in their power to make me unhappy.