

# Miss Marple Tinvestiga

(MURDER AT THE VICARAGE)

Play ta' Agatha Christie

Maqluba ghall-Malti minn Tonio Vassallo

## Cast of Characters

Rev. Leonard Clement (Vicar)  
Griselda (his wife)  
Dennis (his nephew)  
Mary (the maid)  
Ronald Hawes (the curate)  
Anne Protheroe (Colonel's husband)  
Lettice Protheroe (her step-daughter)  
Miss Marple  
Mrs. Price Ridley  
Lawrence Redding (an artist)  
Dr. John Haydock (family doctor)  
Inspector Slack  
Police Constable Jennings

The action of the play passes in the study of a vicarage in the country, at the present time.

## ACT 1

Scene 1 – A Tuesday in Summer. Afternoon.

Scene 2 – The following day. 6.45pm.

Scene 3 – Thursday morning.

## ACT 2

Scene 1 – The following Sunday. Late afternoon.

Scene 2 – An hour and a half later.

**Lights and Sounds – Murder at the Vicarage**

**Act 1**

**Page 3 - Opening Music – Edward Scissorhands – Lights bright outside**

**Page 4 – Telephone rings**

**Page 25/26 – Blackout – Pickup – Dull outside**

**Page 28 – Desk lamp switched off**

**Page 39/40 – Blackout – Pickup – Dull outside**

**Page 42 – Telephone rings**

**Page 65 – Closing Music – Criminal Minds**

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**Act 2**

**Page 66 – Opening Music – Suspiria – Dark outside**

**Page 66 – Church bells**

**Page 68 – Telephone rings**

**Page 89 – Bell from church till end of scene**

**Page 91 – Black out – Pickup – Dark outside**

**Page 92 – Organ Music – Hymn 1**

**Page 93 – Organ Music – Hymn 2**

**Page 96 – Thunder**

**Page 98 – Thunder**

**Page 100 – Thunder / Telephone rings / Desk lamp switched on**

### Synopsis of play

Colonel Protheroe is the most unpopular man in the village. Everyone has a motive for wishing him dead, although the most obvious suspects are Mrs Protheroe and her lover Lawrence Redding. Lawrence does indeed confess to the murder, but it is obviously a false confession, and he admits it was made to shield Anne Protheroe. Amidst the heightening tension fostered by anonymous letters and bogus telephone calls, moves the gentle figure of Miss Marple, whose old-maidish exterior conceals a very shrewd brain. She has the uncanny knack of knowing most people's secrets and it is she who is ultimately responsible for solving the mystery.

## ACT 1 – Scene 1

Scene – The study of the Vicarage in a country village. A Tuesday in Summer. Afternoon.

The study is a pleasant, light room, notwithstanding bookcases of heavy books and the fact that it is always untidy. French windows R.C. of the back wall lead across a veranda to the garden. A door L leads to the entrance hall and other parts of the house. The fireplace is R. The wall L. of the french windows is deeply recessed and lined with bookcases. The recess contains the Vicar's desk which is out of sight from the french windows. A swivel chair stands below the desk, which has a telephone on the R. end of it. A wastepaper basket stands R. of the desk. A tall bureau-bookcase stands below the door L. A large comfortable sofa with a chintz cover stands R.C. with a large easy chair to match it below the fireplace. A drinks cabinet with a table-lamp on it, stands againts the backwall R. of the french windows. There is a small rectangular table above the sofa. A gate-legged table stands C. with two small Regency chairs above it, a small Regency chair R. of it and a Regency elbow chair L. of it. A small tub armchair stands down L. There is a pedestal table with a large plant in a brass bowl on it, L. of the french windows. A tea-trolley stands L. of the pedestal table. Long curtains hang each side of the french windows and the floor is carpeted, with Persian rugs below the sofa and R. of the door L. Several oil paintings and pictures of college groups hang on the walls, and there is a pair of electric candle brackets above the mantelpiece. A rowing oar decorates the L. wall above the bookcase, on which stand several silver cups and ornaments. A bag of gold clubs, a hockey stick are propped in a corner. A wicker chair stands on the veranda and a hall-stand outside the door L. carries the Vicar's cassock and sash, the Vicar's raincoat and Hawes' cassock and sash. From the french windows a path runs around the Vicarage, leading R. to the church and Haydock's house, and L. to Miss Marple's house, the village and the Hall. The studio is across the garden to L.

When the curtain opens, it is a bright summer day and the french windows stand open. The gate-legged table is set for lunch. The Vicar, the Rev. Leonard Clement, is seated L. of the table. He is a charming, rather vague man in his later forties. He has just finished carving and serving the meat. Dennis, the Vicar's healthy, sixteen year old nephew, is seated above the table at the R. end. Ronald Hawes, the curate, is seated R. of the table. He is a place-faced, nervous young man with an unctuous manner, and given to stuttering. Griselda, the Vicar's pretty young wife, is seated above the table, L. of Dennis. Mary, the good-natured but untidy maid, stands above the L. corner of the table. She has a dish of greens in one hand and a dish of potatoes in the other. The four at the table have their heads bowed, and wait for the Vicar to say Grace. The proceedings are held up by a sneeze from Mary.

Vicar        Niringrazzjawk ghal dan l-ikel ...

Mary sneezes again.

Vicar        Niringrazzjawk ghal dan l-ikel li pprovdejtilna. Amen.

Mary thrusts the dish of potatoes under the Vicar's right elbow.

Mary        Patata. (She dumps the dish of potatoes on to the centre of the table) Id-dumplings qeghdin taht il-laham. (She moves to the up R. corner of the table)

Vicar        Grazzi Mary. (He serves Dennis with some dumplings)

Mary (dumping the dish of greens on the table in front of Hawes) Haxix. (To Hawes) Duqhom, tajbin ghalik.

Vicar        Dan il-laham daqxejn iebes, Griselda.

Dennis helps himself to potatoes. Hawes helps himself to greens, then passes them to Griselda. Mary moves slowly to the door L.

Griselda    Naf, ruhi, il-laham kollu hekk daz-zmien, imma ipprova ieklu. Ghandi hafna x'naghamel wara nofs-in-nhar u diga qeghdin tard.

Mary        Imma x'tistenna, jekk kulhadd jiekol fil-kmamar li mhux suppost.

She exits L. None of the lunch party makes more than a half-hearted attempt to eat the unappetizing food.

Griselda Nahseb li ahjar li kieku qed nieklu xi salad.

Hawes Na-nahseb li bl bl-istat tad-dinja kif inhi, *MRS* Clement, ghandna niringrazzjaw lil Alla ta l-ikel li ghandna quddiemna.

Griselda Ronnie, ilek hawnhekk sitt xhur, u ma jistax jkun li tibqa ssejjahli *MRS* Clement. Jiena Griselda. (She smiles at the Vicar) Imma veru, hija hasra xi kwalita' ta mara tad-dar hazina jien.

Vicar Forsi jekk tahseb izjed ahjar.

Griselda Hekk naghmel kultant. Imma nahseb li ikun aghar meta niprova nkun ahjar.

Dennis Hekk hu.

Griselda Issa bizzejjed int.

Mary enters L. She carries a dish of carrots, which she bangs down on to the table.

Mary Karrotti, imma mhux imsajjrin.

Dennis Il-marelli.

Mary exits L.

Griselda Il-karrotti nejjin tajbin ghal-vista.

The telephone rings. The Vicar rises, moves to the telephone, and lifts the receiver.

Griselda Skuzawni imma jiena mhux tajba biex niehu hsieb in-nies. Ahjar inhalli f'idejn Mary u jiena niddeciedi li nkun skomda u jkollna hafna ikel mhux tajjeb ghall-ikel.

Dennis Imma ahna dejjem ikollna ikel mhux tajjeb.

Vicar Sh! Sh! Ma nistax nisma kelma. (Into the telephone) Hello ... iva, Kurunell ... ghidli. Le, le, mhux se ninsiehom. Qed nghidlek li l-accounts se jkunu lesti ... iva ... sahha lilek ukoll. (He replaces the receiver)

Griselda Jaqaw dak kien ...

Vicar (moving to his chair L. of the table) Iva, il-habib taghna il-Kurunell Protheroe. Irid jara l-accounts tal-knisja. (He sits)

Dennis Ragel minfuh bih innifsu, dak li hu.

Vicar Dennis !

Griselda Ruhi. Ahna nafu li ghaliex il-Kurunell huwa sinjur il-knisja ghandha bzonna. Imma ma jahmel lil hadd u hadd ma jahmlu. U inti ma tahmlux lanqas. Kull meta jkun hawn hu, inti issir nervus.

Vicar Mhux veru.

Dennis Uh, il-kliem li smajtek tghid meta huwa jitlaq.

Griselda Hekk hu. U ghaliex beda jgerger dalghodu fil-villagg.

Vicar Minhabba l-lira ta Miss Hartnell.

Dennis Imma inti ma ghidtx li karta ta' nofs lira tefghet fil-platt ?

Vicar Iva hekk hu, imma hi tahlef li tefghet karta ta' lira.

Griselda Heqq, mhux tord tieghek, jekk inti tannunzja x'kienet l-akbar denominazzjoni li intefghet.

Vicar Iva imma ghal xi raguni in-nies ikunu jridu jafu.

Griselda Imma minghalija ma tantx tara tajjeb, hux ?

Vicar Iva hekk hu. U jiena spjegatilha li issa qed nikbru u m'ghadniex li konna.

Griselda Min jaf x'qalet mela eh ?

Vicar X'qalet ? Qalet li l-bicca xoghol tinten u tiskanta kif jiena ma nahsibix l-istess.

Dennis U marret dritt dritt ghand il-kurunell.

Hawes (putting down his knife and fork) Tahseb li l-kurunell se joqghod jaghti kaz xi haga daqshekk insinifikanti ?

Vicar Fil-fatt jiehu gost. L-ghaxqa tieghu jaghmel plejtu minn xi haga zghira. Fil-fatt staqsa biex jara l-kotba kollha halli jara jsibx xi zball.

Hawes X'inhu ?

Griselda U iva, b'xi haga jrid jifrah. Hadd mill-villagg ma jahmlu jew itih xi rigal fil-Milied.

Dennis Jew xi hadd ihejtlu xi par kalzetti ghal bil-lejl.

Hawes (rising) Hi x'wahda din !

Griselda Daqshekk hazin l-ikel Ronny ?

Hawes Le, le. Imma ma tantx ghandi guh. (He moves to the french windows) Ma tantx hija wahda mill-granet tajbin illum. (He turns) Jekk ma jimpurtax se nohrog sal-gn gnien ghal ftit hin. Sk skuzawni.

He exits quickly through the french windows.

Dennis Phew !

Griselda (really contrite) Jiddispjacini ... imma ma tantx jiekol.

Dennis Ma nistghagibx. Inti gejt imharrga fl-army biex tiekol dan kollu ... ahna le.

Griselda Len, peress li Ronny daqshekk delikat, tahseb li ahjar insibulu x'imkien fejn isajjru tajjeb ?

Vicar (vaguely) Nistghu. Imma jidher ghall qalbu hawn.

Dennis Mhux se jitlaq ... lanqas jekk imut bil-guh. Daqs kemm ihobbok Grisel.

Griselda Grazzi.



Vicar (putting down his knife and fork) Min jaf jekk il-Kurunell hux qed jissuspetta fija dwar id-dbabis fil-flus tal-knisja ?

Griselda Hadd mhu se jissuspetta fik, qalbi. Inti tassew onest li tista verament taghmillha ta' halliel prim.

Dennis X'inhu ! Iz-ziju Len, halliel ?

Griselda (to the Vicar) U meta gej il-Kurunell biex jipprova jaqbdek ?

Vicar Ghada fis-6.15 ta' filghaxija. U mhux se niehu gost zgur.

Griselda Thabbilx rasek. (With a grand gesture). Bhala gest sabih, insajjarlu fish cakes.

Vicar Eh, imbaghad jibda jghajjat, jitlalu u nibqghu fejn ahna.

Griselda Imma ghaliex irid ikun daqshekk antipatiku. Wahda minn dawn il-granet xi hadd se jitfgghu d-dinja l-ohra.

Mary enters L. and stands down L. of the Vicar.

Vicar Mhux xi haga sabiha, imma jkunu qeghdin jaghmlu d-dinja pjacir kbir.

Dennis Ah ! Isimghu mill-Vicar. Xi haga bhal din tibqa tissemma ghaliha.

Mary (nudging the Vicar) U ejja. Ipprova.

The Vicar obediently tries to eat again, but gives it up. Mary exits L.

Vicar X'se taghmel wara nofsinhar Griselda ?

Griselda (firmly) Id-dover tieghi.

Vicar (surprised) Ah ?

Griselda Se nipprezaw l-affarijiet tal-fiera. U bhas-soltu kollox ghali.

Vicar Min gej ?

**Griselda** Il-kumitat biss, Anne Protheroe, Mrs. Price Ridley, u dik il-mara terribli ta' Miss Marple.

**Vicar** Miss Marple mhux mara terribli.

**Griselda** Insomma ... taht dik il-qoxra angelika hemm l-aghar mara ta' dan il-villagg.

**Dennis** (putting down his knife and fork) U le. Mem-Sahib Price Ridley hija izjed terribli minn Marple. Xi darba inpattihiela ta' l-affarijiet li tghid fuq Lettice.

**Griselda** Mela x'inhi tghid ?

**Dennis** Hafna affarijiet.

The noise of clanging of tins, etc., is heard off through the french windows to left.

**Griselda** Nispera li ma tibqax taghmel dak l-istorbju kollu fil-gnien.

Mary enters left.

**Vicar** Iva, anki jien hekk nixtieq.

**Griselda** Kont nahseb li it-tlett soldi fis-siegha li qed thallas lil dawk it-tfal biex igerrxu lil-ghasafar minn fuq il-frott huwa hafna. Mary ghadna mhux lesti.

**Mary** Tajjeb, imma hemm Sandy Macpherson fis-2.15.

She exits left.

**Griselda** Tista ggibli xi haga mir-razzett wara nofsinhar ?

**Dennis** Jiddispjacini, imma mhux sejjer illum. Sejjer nilghab golf.

**Griselda** Ma Lettice ?

**Dennis** Iva, hekk hu.

**Griselda** Eh, kont qed nahseb ghaliex liebes pulit illum.

Dennis (looking at his watch) Il-marelli ! Diga tard. Jimporta jekk nitlaq issa ?

Vicar Le, mur, mur.

Griselda Ma tridx ftit pudina ?

Dennis (rising) Le grazzi Grisel. (He moves to the french windows) Id-dumplings kienu bizzejjed.

Griselda Iva Grisel. M'ghandekx rispettt ghal-zitek.

Dennis exits to left through the french windows. Griselda absent-mindedly picks up the note from beside Dennis's plate.

Vicar (rising) Wara kollox inti zitu ghax izzewwig lili. (He takes his pipe and tobacco pouch from his pocket) Tifel sew imma.

Griselda (laughing) Da zgur. Daqs kemm inhobbu.

Vicar (crossing to the fireplace) Qed niehu gost li intom it-tnejn taqblu. (He stands with his back to the fireplace and starts to fill his pipe) Is-subien kultant jafu jkunu daqxejn diffiċli.

Griselda Dennis tista kwazi ssejjahlu ragel issa. Pacenzja, se jkolli mmur jien ir-razzett. (She reads the message in the note)

The noise of the clanging of tins is heard off.

Griselda Milli jidher anki Miss Lettice tahseb li Dennis qed jikber.

Vicar X'ghandek hemm ?

Griselda (crumpling the note) Nota ghal Dennis ... Nahseb li waqatlu. Taf xejn li Lettice taghna qed nizviluppa f'wahda minn dawk in-nisa li tigri wara l-irgiel ?

Vicar Ghaliex qalbi, Lettice Protheroe hija daqxejn ta' tifla.

Griselda Hekk tahseb ? (She rises) Nahseb li hemm xi haga daqxejn stramba fil-familja Protheroe.

Vicar        Ruhi, irridu nippruvaw li nifhmu izjed lin-nies ta madwarna. Irridu kollu nahdmu flimkien. Skuzani qalbi, jaqaw qed inkun pompus izzejjed ?

Griselda    (moving to the Vicar) Le, inti tassew helu. Imma ma nahseb fl-irgiel kollha li stajt nizzewweg. Ma tiskantax li ghazilt lilek ?

Vicar        Iva, xi daqxejn.

Griselda    Taghtni dak is-sens ta' sahha. Inti dizapprova dak kollu li kont nahmel u madanakollu ma stajtx tirrezistini.

Vicar        Imma jien ma niddizapprovax dak li taghmel, Griselda.

Griselda    Da zgur li iva. Inti thossok skomdu hdejja u ntellahhomlok u madanakollu tadurani.

Vicar        Iva, nadurak. U xi nghidu ghalik ? Qatt jiddispjacik li zzewwigtagel kbir fl-eta' ?

Griselda    Ragel kbir ... x'tahseb ? (She kisses him) Imma inti ma jisthoqlokx li jkollok lili.

The Vicar moves above the table and resumes filling his pipe.

Griselda    Li kieku kelli ffit sens, kont ngieghlek tghir ghalija.

Mary enters left.

Griselda    Iva naf ! Lawrence Redding, da zgur. Nahseb li se jkolli storja ta' mhabba mieghu.

Vicar        Inti pprova. (He puts his pouch and pipe in his pocket, moves to his chair L. of the table and sits)

Griselda tears up the note and throws it into the fireplace.

Mary        (moving above the table) *Issa* lesti ?

Griselda    Iva Mary, grazzi. (She perches herself on the R. arm of the sofa)

Mary        (moving to the table and stacking the dirty plates) Hemm bizzejjed problemi fid-dar ta' Redding.

Griselda Eh ? X'inhuma ?

Mary In-nisa.

Griselda X'jigifieri ?

Mary (darkly) Nisa, ghidtlek. Omm is-sur Archer tahdem mieghu. Tghid li n-nisa dehlin u hergin. Dehlin u hergin fhimt.

Vicar U ejja Mary. Is-sur Redding huwa artist. Ipingi u hekk.

Mary, laden with plates, moves to the door L.

Mary Iva 'U hekk'. Sewwa qed tghid.

She exits left.

Vicar Ma tistax taghmel xi haga dwarha ? Ma tistax tharrigha ?

Griselda Qalbi, tkunx iblah. Jekk inharrigha titlaqna. Hadd ma jridha kif inhi.

Lettice Protheroe enters through the french windows from L. She is aged seventeen, and slight. She likes to think herself ethereally vague. She wears a summer frock and a yellow beret. She wanders wispily into the room and looks around before seeing Griselda and the Vicar.

Lettice (at length) Ah mela inti.

Griselda (rising) Iva, ahna nghixu hawn.

Lettice Fejn hu Dennis ?

Griselda Ma Itqajtx mieghu ? Qal li kien se jmur jilghab golf mieghek.

Lettice Golf ... le ! Ma nahsibx.

Griselda Imma, Lettice, hu qal li inti staqsejtu.

Lettice (moving to Griselda) Imma dak kien il-Gimgha. Illum it-Tnejn.

Griselda Illum it-Tlieta.

**Lettice**      **It-Tlieta ! Hi mela allura insejt immur ghal-ikel ghand xi hadd ghat-tielet darba.**

**Griselda**      **Trid iccempillhom ?**

**Lettice**      **(moving above the table to L.C.) Le, m'hemmx ghalfejn. Insomma, xejn hlief problemi. Jekk nista noqghod bil-malja hdejn il-bahar, ghaliex ma jistghux ipinguni biha ?**

**Vicar**      **X'ghidt ?**

**Lettice**      **(leaning seductively over the Vicar's right shoulder) Tghidx kemm nidher sabiha fiha, sur Clement. Imbaghad hemm xi haga attraenti f'Lawrence. Tghidx kemm hu helu, hux ?**

**Griselda**      **Min ? Lawrence ? Iva, hekk hu nahseb.**

**Lettice**      **Il-papa' ma hallix lil Lawrence jaghmel pittura tieghi bil-malja. Imma ghaliex ma jhallinix ninzel fl-istudju tieghu biex ipittirni ?**

**Griselda**      **Ghaliex hekk qal.**

**Lettice**      **(moving up C.) Uff, xi dwejjaq. Kulhadd qed idejjaqni. Li kiekku ghandi l-flus, kiekku nitlaq.**

**Griselda**      **Imma inti ghandek flus.**

**Lettice**      **Imma mhux bizzejjed. Irrid nitlaq u mmur noqghod go Londra. Imma l-papa' ma jridx. Inti tghidlu lil Dennis, hux ?**

**She exits through the french windows to L.**

**Vicar**      **Alla jbierek ! U x'suppost nghidulu lil Dennis ?**

**Griselda**      **Ma ghandix ideja. (She moves to the french windows) Tidher li sejra lejn l-istudju ta' Lawrence. Nahseb li qed tfittxu. Dik it-tifla iffissatha fuq l-irgiel. (She moves above the table)**

**Vicar**      **Kultant nahseb li ma tantx kienet ideja tajba li krejnilu l-istudju lil Redding.**

**Griselda**      **Imma jrid ipitter x'imkien. Fid-dar tieghu m'hemmx dawl.**

Mary enters L. She carries a dish of rice pudding, which she places on the table.

Mary            Rice pudding ... u Miss Marple.

Griselda picks up the meat dish from the table and hands it to Mary. Miss Marple enters L. She is neat, and of uncertain years. She is, in fact, to look at, a typical maiden lady living on reduced means in the country. She carries a round wicker basket laden with parcels for the fete. The Vicar rises.

Marple        Ghaziz sur Vigarju. Jiddispjacini, ma kontx naf li ghadkom qed tieklu. (She places the basket of goods on the floor down L.)

Mary exits left.

Marple        U hawnhekk ukoll.

Griselda      Jiddispjacini imma l-kamra ta l-ikel hija mimlija affarijiet ghal bazaar.

Vicar        (Right of Miss Marple) Milli jidher ghandek selezjoni mhux hazin, Miss Marple.

Marple        Il-veru contribuzzjoni tieghi se jkunu l-pjanti li se jkolli fil-bicca tieghi. Imma naturalment se jkolli nhallihom mizruha sa l-ahhar mument.

Griselda      Naturalment. Poggi, poggi.

Marple        (crossing to the sofa and taking a good look at the table on the way) Grazzi, ghaziza Griselda. (She sits)

Griselda      Kemm minghalija li Mem-Sahib se tiehu hsieb il-gnien din is-sena. (She moves to L. of the sofa)

Marple        (looking at Griselda, sweetly) Imma ahna mhux dejjem niehdu lis-sinjura Price Ridley bis-serjeta'.

Griselda      Imma jiena hsibt li peress hija thobb il-gardinagg u ghandha gnien kbir ... u dak il-frott kollu.

Marple        Skuzawni, qed ninterrompilkom l-ikla.

Mary enters L. She carries a cream-jug.

**Griselda** Le, le. Din ir-rice pudding mhux se tittikel.

**Marple** Ghaziz Vigarju. Kont hadt wahda mis-souffles ta Nellie. Tiftakar, kultant kienet taghmillek xi wahda lilek ukoll.

Mary guffaws and exits L. Griselda wheels the trolley to the table, and during the following lines, piles crockery on to it.

**Marple** Imma dak l-istorbju kollu ghand is-sinjura Price Ridley malajr nehhili l-aptit. Kont qed nahseb jekk nistax niehu ftit zerriegha tal-wallflower minn tieghi ghal bicca li se niehu hsieb jien. Iva, nahseb li nista. Hija hasra li ghadu daqxejn iz-zmien ghal hafna miz-zerriegha. Kont qed nispera li din is-sena indahhlu xi hamsin lira.

**Griselda** Imma nahseb li nistghu naspiraw ghal hafna izjed.

**Marple** L-izjed li qatt ghamilna kien tnejn u tmenin lira, u dak kien fl-elf disa mija u erbgha u erbghin. Kenna l-airforce Amerikana hawnhekk. Kemm kienu helwin. Ghalmuni xi zewg affarijiet dwar in-natura umana li lanqas jien ma kont naf.

Griselda's face is a study.

**Marple** Qatt ma ltqajt ma nies daqshekk mohhom miftuh bhal tagghom. Fil-bazaar hadu dak kollu li kelli, biex jibghatuhom id-dar bhala souvenir. Imma, ovvjament, intom ma kontux hawn.

**Griselda** (collecting the knives and forks ; swallowing her laughter) Le. Kont x'imkien iehor il boghod u fl-elf disa mija erbgha u erbghin ma kontx nahseb li l-bazaars u l-qassisin kienu jezistu. (She grins affectionately at the Vicar)

**Marple** U l-vigarju taghna kien ghadu ghazeb u ahna konna qed nippruvaw naghmlulu hajtu facli. Ghandek tghid il-gwerra gabet hafna bidliet.

Mrs Price Ridley enters L. She is a lady who still wears the tussore suits left over from her days in India. She carries a basket of parcels for the fete. Griselda drops some cutlery with a clatter on to the trolley.

**Price** Salaam ! (She puts the basket on the bureau)

**Vicar** Ah. Is-sinjura Price Ridley.



Price Hemm xi dizgwid fid-dar ta' Protheroe, smajt.

Griselda Iva ?

Marple (softly) Il-Kurunell Protheroe kecca lis-sur Redding barra mid-dar. Kien qed ipitter lil Lettice liebsa il-malja tal-ghum.

Price (crossing to the chair down R.) Dejjem hsibt li kien hemm xi haga bejnithom it-tnejn. Dak Redding il-hin kollu jdur f' The Hall. (She sits) Hasra li dik it-tifla m'ghandix omm. Il-mara ta missierha mhux tajba bizzejjed.

Griselda (folding the tablecloth) Imma nahseb li Anne Protheroe taghmel mill-ahjar. (She puts the cloth on the trolley)

Price Il-bniet huma problema izjed mis-subien. Nirringrazzja 'l Alla li kellu subien. Veru li izjed spejjes imma ahjar hekk.

Vicar (sitting in the chair L. of the table) Jista jkun li hawn daqxejn ta romanticizmu fostna. Lettice hija tfajla grazzjuza u Redding huwa ragel gustuz.

Price Imma dak artist. Mitluq. Parigi ! Mudelli ! Nudismu.

Griselda wheels the trolley up C.

Griselda Se jpitter lili wkoll.

Marple Imma mhux bil-malja tal-ghum.

Griselda (moving to L. of the sofa) Jista jkun li ghar minn hekk.

Mrs. Price Ridley u Miss Marple exchange glances.

Marple Ghaziza Griselda.

Griselda Insomma, jiena niehu gost jekk Lawrence u Lettice jinghaqdu.

Marple Dik il-koppja partikolari le, u jiena zgur. Le, le. Persuna ohra nahseb. Lettice ma qalet xejn meta kienet hawn.

Griselda Inti rajtha diehla hawn, mela.

Marple        Kont qeghda naqla xi ward mejjet li kelli meta rajta taqsam il-gnien u tidhol mill-bieb.

Price        (laughing loudly) Ahjar li kont qed inhares lejn il-gnien minflok il-bieb ta' quddiem. Miss Marple tara dak kollu li hemm x'tara.

Marple        U tisma kollox. (To Mrs Price Ridley. Acidly) Dak l-ghajjat kollu u tahbit ta laned fil-gnien tieghek, per ezempju.

Price        Irrid nibza ghal-frott tieghi b'xi mod.

Marple        Tajt daqqa t'ghajn lejn l-frott li ghandek ilbierah. Mimlija dud. Mhux tajbin biex tigborhom.

Price        Tghidx hmerijiet !

Marple        Ghaliex ma thallix lil ghasafar igawduhom, ghaziza sinjura Price Ridley ?

Griselda crosses swiftly to the fireplace, takes the cigarette box from the mantelpiece and offers it hurriedly to Mrs Price Ridley.

Price        (angrily) Dawk ghadhom tajbin u l-ghasafar mhux se jgawduhom.

Griselda     Sigarett, sinjura Price Ridley ?

Mrs Price Ridley takes a cigarette.

Griselda     Miss Marple ?

Marple        Le, le. Jiena qatt ma npejjep.

Griselda replaces the box on the mantelpiece, picks up the matches, and lights Mrs. Price Ridley's cigarette.

Vicar        (trying to pour oil) Ghaliex ma tippruvax dak il-metodu gdid li qed juzaw gewwa Cromwell farm?

Marple        Iva, ghaliex le, sinjura Price Ridley ?

Griselda perches herself on the R. arm of the settee.

Vicar        Xi tip ta' habel mimli fuses li jispara l-blanks f'certi intervalli.  
U nahseb li tigik irhas ukoll.

Price        Ma nahsibx li hija irhas minn tlett soldi is-siegha.

Marple       Imma trid tiehu hsieb lilna wkoll.

Price        F'gieh Alla.

Marple       Ejja, ejja isa.

Price        Dan il-fuss kollu dwar ftit storbju. Kien imissek tghix go  
Karachi. Insomma, ara illejla se nahsad.

Hawes enters L. He stops dead on seeing the group. He carries a bundle of  
magazines.

Hawes        Sk-sk-skuzawni. Ma kont n-n-naf li hawn xi hadd ...

Vicar        Ma gara xejn Hawes. Ridtni ghal xi haga ?

Hawes        Le, sur Clement ... insomma ... ridt inkun naf f'ix-hin gej jarak  
il-Kurunell Pro-Protheroe.

Vicar        Ghada filghaxija fis-sitta u kwart. Ghaliex ? Ridt ...

Hawes        Le. Xejn, xejn, grazzi. Sejjer niehu l-magazines lit-tifel ta'  
Smithson. Ma gara xejn.

He turns and exits L.

Marple       Il-Kurunell Protheroe huwa ragel iebes u minghajr ebda  
skruplu.

Griselda     X'ghamel issa mela ?

Marple       Qed jhedded li jbiegh il-propjeta' tieghu kollha.

Griselda     Eh iva ?

Vicar        M'ghandekx ghalfejn tinkwieta, Miss Marple, kull ma hu huwa  
ajdut. Ili nisimghu ghal zmien twil.

**Marple** Imma din id-darba mhux ajdut, sur Vigarju. Il-Kurunell stess qalli. Dalghodu stess. Beda jidhaq f'wicci u qalli li ahjar ingawdi l-gnien sakemm nista.

**Vicar** Imma hadd m'ghandu d-dritt ikeccik mid-dar illum il-gurnata.

**Marple** Iva jistghu, jekk isibuli akkomodazzjoni ohra.

**Price** (laughing) Wisq probabli joffrulek xi dar min dawk prefabrikati.

**Marple** Inti tista tidhaq. Ghax inti d-dar hija tieghek. Jiena bil-kera qieghdha. Kull sigra u pjanta li hemm fil-gnien, jiena zrajthom. Illum il-gurnata inqisu tieghi. Hadd ma ghandu dritt jehoduli.

**Vicar** U mhux se johduhulek, Miss Marple.

**Griselda** (rising) Ma nahsibx li ghandna ghalfejn nistennew lil Anne Protheroe. Trid immorru fil-kamra tal-ikel u nlestu l-prezzijiet ?

**Miss Marple and Mrs. Price Ridley rise. Mary enters L. and moves u C. The Vicar rises, moves to the door L. and holds it open.**

**Price** (crossing to the bureau) Ghidt lil Jones biex jipprepara tnax il-kaxxa bid-dahlia u tnax il-kaxxa bil-wallflowers. (She picks up her basket).

**Marple** (crossing to L.) Il-fjuri tieghek huma daqxejn reqdin imma.

**Price** Mhux veru. Il-fjuri tieghi huma sbieh.

**Her voice dies away as she exits L. followed by Miss Marple. Griselda crosses to the door L.**

**Griselda** (grinning at the Vicar) Itlob ghalija ghaliex Mem-Sahib hija determinata li tiehu hsieb hi l-affarijiet li ghandhom x'jaqsmu mal-gnien.

**She exits L. The Vicar moves to his desk up L. and sits at it.**

**Mary** Dawk se jibqghu ghat-te ? (She drops the right leaf of the table)

**Vicar** Iva, hekk nahseb Mary.

Mary        Ma ghandniex bizzejjed kejkijiet jekk tibqa Mrs Price Ridley ukoll. (She drops the left leaf of the table) Sinjur, inti tafu lir-ragel tieghi ? (She moves the chair from the above the L. end of the table and puts it against the wall L. of the french windows.)

Vicar        Iva.

Mary        Tahseb li tista tghaddilu kelma tajba mal-Kurunell ?

Vicar        X'ghamel din id-darba Dick ?

Mary        Xejn. Imma il-Kurunell imqabbad mieghu. Qallu li se jitfgħu il-habs dalwaqt. Jghid li mhux qed jaqla l-ghixien tieghu b'mod onest. X'gharukaza.

Vicar        Insomma, niprova nagħmel li nista, imma jekk Dick ...

Mary        Ma jagħmel xejn hazin. Imma grazzi. (She moves to the bureau, picks up the bowl of flowers and transfers it to the table C. Confidentially) Napprezza hafna. (She moves the chair from above the R. end of the table and puts it against the wall above the fireplace. She looks off to L. out of the french windows) Ara min geġ. Is-sinjura Protheroe. U ara x'inhi liebsa. (She moves to the trolley and wheels it to the door L.) Li kieku nista nilbes hwejjeg bħal dawġ nitlaq il-barra min hawn qabel mal-Big Ben jilħaq idoqq darbtejn.

She exits L. with the trolley. Anne Protheroe enters through the french windows. She is an exceedingly attractive woman of about thirty-five, and beautifully dressed. The Vicar rises.

Anne        Skuzani li geġt minn hawn, sur Clement, imma izjed indum jekk indur mill-bieb ta' quddiem, u kont naf li diga tard.

Vicar        Ma jimpurtax. In-nisa qegħdin jagħmlu l-prezzijiet.

Anne        Dak mhux id-dipartiment tieghi. Jiena niehu hsieb biss l-ikel u x-xorb.

Vicar        F'dak il-kaz, għaliex ma tpoggix bilqegħda ? (He indicates the chair L. of the table)

Anne        (sitting L. of the table) Jiena propjament geġt għaliex il-mara tiegħek xtaqet daqxejn appogg għal meta tqassam in-nies u x'se jieħdu hsieb.

Vicar (moving to the fireplace) Nimmagina li xi haga hekk tigi miggielha waqt it-te', mhux hekk ? (He picks up the cigarette box from the mantelpiece)

Anne (looking around) Qatt ma dhalt hawn gew. Kamra tassew helwa.

Vicar Iva ? Iva nahseb li hekk hu. (He moves about the table)  
Sigarett ?

Anne Le, grazzi. Ma rajtx it-tifla ta' zewgi hux ?

The Vicar replaces the cigarette box on the mantelpiece.

Vicar Lettice ! Kienet hawn xi kwarta ilu. (He stands with his back to the fireplace)

Anne Ara veru mohhha hafif dik it-tifla. L-ewwel tistieden hamest irgiel lanqas biss nafhom imbaghad tisparixxi.

Vicar Kif inhu l-Kurunell ?

Anne (smiling) Telghulu sew minhabba dik l-imbierka xjatka.

Vicar Ix-xjatka ittellagghom anki lil qaddisin.

Anne (sighing) Imma barra minn hekk, ir-ragel tieghi hija persuna mill-ahjar.

Vicar Ma ghandix dubju.

Lawrence Redding enters through the french windows. He is a young man around thirty with great charm, though a hint of ruthlessness lies behind the charm.

Lawrence Nista nidhol ? Ah, sinjura Protheroe. Insellimlek. Xtaqt forsi nsejjah lis-sinjura Clement. Se tippozali, ghalhekk sir.

Vicar Ghaddi ghaddi Redding. Il-mara imhabbta bil-preparazzjoni tal-festin.

Lawrence (moving above the table) Ma tantx jiena fortunat bil-mudelli dan l-ahhar. Kollha qed jisparixxu.

Anne (laughing) Jiddispjacini dwar dik il-kommossjoni kollha fuq Lettice. Kollu tord tax-xjatka.

Lawrence (to the Vicar ; charmingly) Fuq dan il-famuz festin : kont qed nahseb forsi nista naghmel xi sketches biex jinbieghu.

Voices are heard off L.

Vicar (enthusiastically) Veru ? Din ideja tassew innovattiva.

Anne Oh Lawrence, kemm int gentili. Ix-xebbiet kollha tal-parrocča ikunu jridu jippuzawlek.

Lawrence U nzommu zewg xelini kull wiehed. Il-marelli ... isma xi storbju.

Vicar Nahseb li bhalissa (he listens) lesti mill-prezzijiet u qeghdin iqassmu n-nies.

Anne (rising) Mela ahjar immur nassisti lil mara kif weghdtha.

Lawrence moves to the door L. and opens it. Anne exits L. Lawrence closes the door.

Lawrence Nirringrazzja 'l Alla li ma rridtx inhabbat wicci ma dak il-kumitat.

Dr. Haydock enters through the french windows from R. He is an elderly man, dressed in tweed jacket and flannels. He carries several parcels.

Haydock Insellimlek padre. Ohti qaltli biex ingib dawn l-affarijiet u tiskuza ruha. Qed tibbottilja il-black currants u sviluppa xi krizi. (He drops two or three parcels) U x-xjafek, se nwaqqa kollox ghandi jkun.

Lawrence goes to the rescue.

Lawrence Halli kollox mal-art, dott.

Lawrence picks up the parcels and puts them on the drinks cabinet and chair up right.

Haydock     **Grazzi. Kulhadd jghabbini bl-affarijiet lili. (He turns to go) Eh bilhaqq, kwazi insejt. Hawes hawn qieghed ?**

Vicar         **Mar jara t-tifel ta' Smithson.**

Haydock     **(taking a small box out of his pocket) Ghandi xi pilloli godda ghal ugieh ta' ras. (He moves to the Vicar and hands him the box)**

Vicar         **Issa ntiehomlu. (He puts the box on the mantelpiece)**

Haydock     **Ghidlu biex jehodhom bil-galbu ghax qawwijin mhux hazin.**

Vicar         **Hawes mhux marid hux imma ?**

Haydock     **Propjament m'hemm xejn hazin fih. (He sits R. of the table) Imma ghandu dik li jghidulha Encephalitis Lethargica jew inkella sleeping sickness. Dak li kellu qabel ma gie hawn.**

Vicar         **Iva qalli. Imma issa m'ghaddilux kollox ?**

Lawrence takes a sketching pad and pencil from his pocket, moves to the armchair down left, sits, and starts to sketch Haydock.

Haydock     **Iva, hekk suppost u sakemm ma jkunx skuncertat ghandu jibqa b'sahhtu.**

Lawrence    **Is-sleeping sickness mhux dik il-marda li tista tbiddillek il-personalita' tieghek ?**

Haydock     **Iva kultant jista jkun.**

Vicar         **Imma m'hemm xejn hazin bil-personalita' ta' Hawes.**

Lawrence    **Da zgur li le. Hallih nervus u bla sabar.**

Haydock     **Il-mard u l-glandoli jistghu jkunu antipatici. Ha nghidlek Padre, nippreferi x-xoghol tieghi minn tieghek.**

Vicar         **U ghaliex qed tghid hekk ?**

Haydock     **Ghaliex inti, Len, inti ghandek x'taqsam mal-hazin u t-tajjeb, u jiena ... jiena kultant nistaqsi jekk dawn jezistux.**



Lawrence Hi x'wahda din ! Mhux sew titkellem hekk ma qassis.

Vicar Imma jekk ma jezistux, kif nistghu nibbazaw it-twemmin taghna u ta' kwalinkwe socjeta'.

Haydock U jekk nghidlek li dak li inti ssejjahlu hazin u tajjeb gej minn deficjenzi tal-glandoli ... wisq minn wahda u mhux bizzejjed minn ohra, u ghalhekk ikollok il-qattiel, il-halliel, u l-kriminali l-ohra.

Vicar Bit-teorija tieghek ahna inkunu qed nikkastigaw lil xi hadd minhabba l-glandoli u l-mard li ma jista jaghmel xejn dwarhom.

Haydock Ezattament. U hadd ma joqtol lil xi hadd ghax marid bit-tuberkolosi.

Lawrence Jew ghax jaghti rih lil xi haddiehor.

Vicar Imma zomm wahda, ragel marid mhux periklu ghas-socjeta'.

Haydock F'certu sens iva. Ghax jinfetta lin-nies.

Vicar (quietly) Qatt ma smajtek titkellem hekk, John.

Haydock (relaxing) Mhux soltu li nesprimi t-teoriji tieghi. Li gieghlitni nahseb hekk huwa l-fatt li rajt il-marda ta' Hawes mill-vicin. Kif tista tbiddillu l-personalita'. Mhux ghax bidlitilu tafux.

Voices are heard off.

Haydock Ahsbu x'vittma innocenti jkun.

Vicar (smiling) Imma ma gara xejn minn dan, fortunatement.

The voices now swell to a great volume. Griselda enters L., stands at the door, and beckons desperately to the Vicar.

Vicar (crossing to L.) Nahseb li ... ahjar immur biex nerga ngib daqxejn paci bejnithom. Mhux se ndum Redding.

Haydock (rising) Jiena se jkolli nhallikom.

Vicar (at the door L.) Mhux gej tghini, John ?

Haydock Da zgur li le. Jiena sejjer 'l hemm b'kemm niflah.

The Vicar exits L. Haydock moves to the french windows and exits through them to R. Lawrence rises, puts his pad and pencil in his pocket, wanders to the fireplace and helps himself to a cigarette from the box on the mantelpiece. As he lights it Lettice enters through the french windows, from L.

Lettice Ah, mela hawn qieghed, Lawrence ?

Lawrence Hello, Lettice.

Lettice Kont qed infittxek.

Lawrence Eh iva. U ghaliex ?

Lettice (moving down C.) Kont qed nahseb li mmur ic-cinema go Yenminster illejla. Trid tigi mieghi ?

Lawrence Eh ... le grazzi Lettice. Ghandi x'naghamel. (He sits on the sofa, picks up the magazine, and opens it.)

Lettice Film tajjeb. Hafna rgjel jixtiequ li johduni.

Lawrence Mela allura mur u staqsi wiehed minnhom biex jiehdok hu.

Lettice (perching herself on the L. arm of the sofa; with a great sigh) X'hasra hux ?

Lawrence Ghalxiex ?

Lettice Ahna.

Lawrence Ahna ?

Lettice Ahna missna nohorgu flimkien. Ghandna hafna affarijiet komuni. It-tnejn nafu x'irridu mill-hajja u t-tnejn nigru warajhom.

Lawrence (bored) Jista jkun dak li qed tghid, imma jiena mhux qed nigri warajk.

Lettice (rising) Mela, kull ma irrid nghid huwa li nahseb li ghaddejt wisq zmien gewwa The Hall. U jekk qed tigri wara Anne insieha ghax qed tahli z-zmien.

Lawrence rises and tries to speak.

**Lettice** Ma gara xejn. Hafna rgjel ippruvaw qablek. Imma inti ma tafx lil mart missieri daqsi. Mhi tajba ghal hadd hlief ghalih, u dan minhabba l-flus li ghandu.

**Lawrence** Issa ...

**Lettice** Bierda wisq. U f'kull sens. Anki jiena lanqas jirnexxieli nirrabbjaha.

**Lawrence** Inti tifla hazina. Kif tissaportik ? (He drops the magazine on to the sofa)

**Lettice** Certi nisa jaghmlu minn kollox ghal-flus.

**Lawrence** Itlaq il-barra.

**Lettice** (moving to him) Hadt ghalik jaqaw ?

**Lawrence** Ghidtlek itlaq il-barra. (He turns to the fireplace)

**Lettice** Kollox sew. (She moves up C.) Imma ftakar li mara rrabbjata hija mara perikoluza hafna.

She exits through the french windows to L. Voices are heard off L. Lawrence moves to L. of the french windows and stands with his back to the audience looking down at the plant. Mrs Price Ridley and Miss Marple enter down L. Lawrence swings round almost too quickly.

**Price** (crossing to the french windows ; to Lawrence) Ma niflahiex izjed din il-mara. Taf fuq kulhadd gol-villagg. Ma tixrobx, ma tpejjipx, ma tidghix ... qansha mill-kbar.

**Lawrence** X'ix-xjafek garalek ?

**Marple** (smiling sweetly) Ghaziza sinjura Price Ridley. Ghadha kif qablet, anzi insistit li niehu hsieb l-bicca tal-pjanti jiena, bhas-soltu. Mhux haga sabiha ?

**Price** Sabiha ! Ix-xebbiet ta' hamsin ghandu jintbaghtu go istitut.

Act 1 – Scene 2

Scene – The same. The following day. 6.45pm.

The gate-legged table has been removed. The tub armchair is now C. and the elbow chair stands down L. The small chairs from up R. and R. of the gate-legged table have also been removed.

When the Curtain opens, it is a dull evening, with rain pending. The french windows are open. Without the bright sunshine of the previous day, the recess is dark and gloomy save for the light of the desk-lamp which is switched on. But it is possible to see the body of an elderly man sprawled across the desk.

Vicar            (off L. calling) Mary, il-Kurunell Protheroe ghadu hawn ?

Mary            (off L. in the distance ; calling) Iva, qieghed fl-istudju.

The Vicar enters L.

Vicar            (as he enters) Jiddispjacini li hallejtek tistenna Kurunell ; imma kelli mmur ta' malajr ... (His voice trails off as he sees the body lying across the desk. He moves L. of it) Protheroe ! Protheroe ! (He puts his hand on the body's shoulder)

The body, disturbed, slumps suddenly, practically sliding off the desk.

He moves quickly to the door L. and calls off) Mary ! Mary !

Mary            (off ; calling) Kollox sew, gejjja.

Vicar            (looking back at the body ; urgently) Haffef ... ejja.

Dennis enters L. He wears bicycle clips on his trousers. The Vicar blocks his sight of the body.

Dennis            Gara xi haga Ziju Len ? Instmajt qiesu ...

Vicar            Dennis ! Kien hawn incident. Sejjah lit-tabib Haydock.

Dennis            (thrilled) Incident ?

Vicar            (sharply) Ghamel li ghidtlek. Igri.

**Dennis** (crossing to the french windows) Kollox sew.

He exits through the french windows to R. The Vicar moves to the french windows and looks out. Mary enters L. She gives a good impression of bustling.

**Vicar** (turning) Xi trid Mary ?

**Mary** Mhux inti sejjahtli. Kont qed nisma il ... (she sees the body)  
Ooooooh !

**Vicar** (moving C.; kindly) Kien hemm incident.

**Mary** (not taking her eyes off the body) Il-Kurunell ... mejjet ?

**Vicar** Ma ... ma nafx.

**Mary** (slowly getting her tongue) Ma smajt xejn. Deher tajjeb meta tlaqtu jiena. Bin-nervi bhas-soltu imma ...

**Vicar** Nahseb li ma hax gost li ma kontx hawn hux ?

**Mary** Iva. Imma qal li ma jimpurtax li jistenna.

**Vicar** (moving down C.) Kollox sew Mary. Issa mur ghax it-tabib gej minn mument ghall-iehor. (He moves to the fireplace)

**Mary** (pointing to the body) Kos. Sal-bierah stess kont qed tghid li ahjar li kieku mejjet.

She exits L. Haydock enters hurriedly through the french windows from R. He carries his bag, but is without his hat.

**Haydock** (breathlessly) X'gara Len ? Dennis lahaqni fit-trejqa. Qalli li inqala xi incident.

**Vicar** Il-Kurunell. Nahseb li mejjet. (He points to the body)

Haydock moves swiftly to L. of the desk, puts his bag on it, and examines the body rapidly.

**Vicar** Allura ? (He moves to R. of the desk)

Haydock Iva, mejjet.

Vicar Alla maghna.

Haydock Ilu mejjet xi ghoxrin jew tletin minuta, nista nghid. Id-demmm digha beda jaqghad.

Vicar Suwucidju ?

Haydock Da zgur li le. Ara, sparawlu in-naha ta' wara ta' rasu.

Vicar Iva. U ovvjament, m'hawnx pistola.

Haydock Ahjar ma mmissu xejn. Issa nempel lil Slack id-dar. Normalment dan il-hin hemm ikun. (He picks up the telephone receiver and dials) Niffrankaw ftit hin billi ma noqghodux nispegaw lil pulizija gewwa Yenminster.

Vicar (crossing to the fireplace) I-ispettur mhux se jiehu gost jigi hawn ... billi hu ateju.

Haydock (into the telephone) Spettur Slack ? ... Jiena Haydock. Tista jekk joghgbok tigi sad-dar tal-Vigarju issa stess ? ...Iva, importanti ... nahseb li omicidju. (He replaces the receiver and switches off the desk lamp.

Vicar Omicidju !

Haydock Iva hekk hu.

Vicar Iva, ma jistax ikun haga ohra.

Haydock moves to the armchair and sits.

Haydock Bicca xoghol kera. Issa min seta ... Da zgur, naf li ma kienx popolari.

Vicar Iva imma n-nies ma jinqatlux ghax mhumiex popolari.

Haydock Certi nies jigu maqtula ghar-ragunijiet strambi hafna. F'ix-xhin sibtu ?

**Vicar** Gejt tard għall-appuntament mieghu. Kien għas-sitta u kwart u jiena wasalt nofs siegħa tard. Meta gejt rajtu ... irrid nġhid ... kien hemm. Hemm xi haga kurjuza hafna izda.

**Haydock** Iva ?

**Vicar** Cempluli għall-gharrieda biex immur nara lix-xih Abbot gewwa Lower Farm. Meta wasalt kulhadd kien sorpriz bija. Abbott kien jinsab ahjar u l-mara tiegħu cahdett kategorament li cemplitli.

**Haydock** Jigifieri li xi hadd riedek barra minn hawn ?

**Vicar** Hekk jidher.

**Haydock** U l-mara tiegħek ?

**Vicar** Griselda marret Londra għal-gurnata. Normalment nhar ta' Erbgħa hekk tagħmel.

**Haydock** U Mary tkun fil-kcina n-naha l-ohra tad-dar ?

**Vicar** Iva. Mingħajr dubju, bir-radio mixgħul. (He turns away to the fireplace)

**Haydock** (after a slight pause) U ... Hawes ?

**Vicar** (turning to him) Dak il-hin ikun għall-meditazzjoni fil-knisja. Imma ma nafx ezattament.

**Haydock** U Dennis ?

**Vicar** Fir-razzett. Għadu kif gie lura.

**Haydock** Eh iva, qalli. Min kien jaf li Protheroe kien gejj hawn ?

**Vicar** Hafna nies. L-appuntament sar fit-triq tal-villagg ilbierah filgħodu. U taf kemm jgħajjat il-Kurunell. Dejjem jimmagina li kulhadd trux daqsu.

**Haydock** (rising) Il-villagg kollu kien jaf eh ? Imma insomma f'kaz bħal dan il-villagg dejjem ikun jaf. (He moves to L. of the desk) Protheroe eh ? Nahseb li kienet personali mhux xi halliel biex jisraqlu l-flus.

Vicar           Ma jidhirlix li kien igorr xi flus fuqu, u hawn ma tantx ikun hawn.

Hawes enters through the french windows, from R.

Hawes           (not seeing the body) Sur Cle-Clement, nista nissellef in-noti tieghek fuq il-hames kapitlu tar-Revelazzjoni ?

Haydock       (moving to L. of Hawes) Hawes. Fejn kont din l-ahhar nofs siegha ?

Hawes           (surprised) Fil-Kn-knisja, ghaliex ?

Haydock       Kien hemm xi hadd mieghek ? Xi hadd iehor ?

Hawes           (looking at the Vicar nervously) Is-sur Marshall kien hemm. (He suddenly sees the body and stares at it in horror) Ah ! Demm ! Demm ! Hemm id-demm ! X'gara ? Ghaliex ma taghmlux xi haga ? (He moves to L. of the desk) Mejjjet ?

Vicar           Iva.

Dennis enters through the french windows and stands just inside the room.

Hawes           Mela allura tezisti l-gustizzja fid-dinja wara kollox. U hekk sar mal-kurunell, gustizzja.

Haydock       (moving to Hawes) Ikkontrolla lilek innifsek guvnot. Inti taf li hazin tecita ruhek hekk.

Hawes           Inti tigbor dak li tahsad, qal il Mulej. Ha, ha, ha.

Haydock       Ejja u poggi bilqieghda.

He leads Hawes to the door L. and they exit.

Dennis         Ziju Len !

Vicar           (moving to him) Dennis ! X'inti taghmel hawn ?

Dennis         Nista nidhol, ghall-minuta biss ?

Vicar           Le ma tistax. Oqghod barra u thalli lil hadd jarak.



**Dennis**      **Kollox sew zi. Hawes ghandu skorfina nieqsa, hux ?**

**Vicar**        **Mur, mur.**

**Dennis exits through the french windows to L. The vicar eases below the sofa. Haydock enters L.**

**Haydock**    **(moving C) Bghatt lil Hawes fil-kamra tieghu. Gie hin hazin.**

**Vicar**        **Iva, kien xokk ghalih.**

**Mary enters left.**

**Mary**        **(announcing) Detektiv Spettur Slack.**

**Inspector Slack enters L. He is an energetic, small man with a tooth-brush moustache and eyes that snap ceaselessly. He wears plain clothes. Mary exits left.**

**Haydock**    **Hello spettur.**

**Spettur**    **(accusingly) Omidju ghand il-Vigarju eh ! (He glares at the Vicar as though he is the culprit) Ezatt sibtni. Kont ghadni kif wasalt id-dar. Kont il-Qorti il-gurnata kollha. (He moves to L. of the desk and looks at the body) Il-Kurunell. Tajba din.**

**Haydock**    **(moving to R. of the desk) Iva.**

**Spettur**    **(to the Vicar, ferociously) X'kien qed jaghmel hawn ?**

**Vicar**        **(moving up C.) Jistenna lili. Kont barra u wasalt tard ghall-appuntament.**

**Spettur**    **U fuq xiex kont se tarah ?**

**Vicar**        **Fuq affarijiet parrokkjali.**

**Spettur**    **Minn jaf kif kulhadd mess u caqlaq kollox hux ?**

**Haydock**    **Ma missejt xejn.**

**Vicar**        **U lanqas jien.**

**Spettur** Hemm xi hjiel tal-arma ?

**Haydock** Le. Jidher li huwa qtil premeditat.

**Spettur** U xi jgieghel tahseb hekk ?

**Haydock** Ghaliex il-Vigarju kellu telefonata li gieghlitu jitlaq mid-dar.

**The Inspector looks at the Vicar.**

**Vicar** Iva, kienu x'il-hamsa u nofs. Gejt mitlub immur minnufih ghand is-sur Abbot, go Lower Farm. Meta wasalt hemm qal li mhux veru cempilli.

**Spettur** U l-lehen kien ta' mara jew ragel ?

**Vicar** Hsibt li kien ta' mara, is-sinjura Abbot. Imma jista jkun lehen irqiq ta' ragel.

**Spettur** H'm. (To Haydock) Hemm xi ideja dwar it-tip ta' pistola ?

**Haydock** Ma nistax nghid fiz-zgur sakemm naqalghu l-balla. Imma nahseb li kienet pistola zghira, xi Mauser.

**Spettur** (To Haydock) U kemm kien ilu mejjet meta ezaminajtu.

**Haydock** (Hesitatingly) Nahseb li xi nofs siegha.

**Spettur** Mela, halli nara. Ghaliex kien bilqieghda hawn. (He glances over the desk) Forsi ried ...din x'inhi ? (He picks up a piece of paper from the desk and reads it) 'Ghaziez Clement, ma nistax nistenna izjed ...' u tieqaf hemm. (He looks up) Fuqha hawn miktub is-sitta u ghoxrin minuta. Kemm kien ilu mejjet dott ?

**Haydock** Jiena ghidt xi nofs siegha, imma ...

**Spettur** (looking at his watch) Bhalissa ghadhom kif daqqu s-sebgha. Inti cempiltli xi hamsa jew sitt minuti ilu. Ghamilhom minn hamsa sa sebgha minuti. Skoprew il-qtil xi sebgha neqsin kwart. Nassumi li baghtu ghalik mill-ewwel ?

**Haydock** Iva.

The Vicar nods.

Spettur Mela ejja naghmlu li ezaminajt il-kadavru ...kwazi ezatt. Hija cara hafna. Pogga biex jikteb in-nota u l-qattiel dahal bil-mod u sparalu hekk kif kien qed jikteb.

As he speaks, Miss Marple enters quietly through the french windows from L. The others do not see her. She carries a basket.

Marple (moving to L. of the sofa) Nista nidhol sinjuri ?

Vicar (turning, shocked) Miss Marple.

Spettur U nista nistaqsik x'inti taghmel hawn, sinjura ?

Marple (holding up the basket) Gibt raspberry flan lil-Vigarju. Ghada shuna. (She puts the basket on the table, above the settee) Gbart ir-raspberries dalghodu stess.

Spettur Se jkolli nistaqsik ...

Marple (pointing to the body) Miskin il-Kurunell. Hija hasra. Ma kienx ragel mahbub, anzi kien hawn min jobghodu imma biex jinqatel hekk vjolenti. U proprju sparawlu hawn fid-dar tal-Vigarju. Miskin il-Vigarju.

Spettur (pouncing) Kif taf li sparawlu ?

Marple Tghajjatx spettur, jekk joghgbok. Kumbinazzjoni smajtek tghid kif kont diehla. (She waves towards the french windows)

Spettur Din hija gharukaza. Issa nissigilla l-kamra minnufih. Fejn kont din l-ahhar nofs siegha ?

Marple Kont qed insaqqi l-gnien. Tista tistaqsi lil Nellie li hemm mieghi. (She smiles smugly at knowing the correct procedure) Ma tantx kellna xita dan l-ahhar, hux hekk dott ?

Haydock picks up his bag and moves to the door left.

Haydock Ma tantx tajt kaz, Miss Marple. Ma nifhimx f'dawn l-affarijiet. Imma, bhalissa t-twelid huwa izjed importanti mill-mewt. It-tewmin tas-sinjura Goodwin ghandhom jaslu minn mument ghall-iehor. Cempluli jekk ikollkom bzonna.

He exits L. The inspector lifts the telephone receiver and dials.

Spettur (into the telephone) Hello, Yenminster ? ... Ghaddini mas-surgent tal-ghassa ... Thompson ? ... Slack hawn ... Ibghatli fotografu u zewg pulizija ghand il-Vigarju ta' St. Mary Mead. (He replaces the receiver)

While the inspector speaks, Miss Marple looks eagerly around the room.

Spettur (to Miss Marple) Waqt li kont qed issaqqi, rajt lil xi hadd jidhol jew johrog minn hawn f'xi s-sitta u ghoxrin ?

Vicar Spettur, f'dawn ic-cirkostanzi tahseb li huwa xieraq li tistaqsi dawn il-mistoqsijiet lil Miss Marple ?

Marple (to the Vicar) Uh le ma jimpurtax. (To the inspector) Jiena dejjem sibt li s-sess feminili jgib ruhu ahjar f'sitwazzjonijiet bhal dawn, ghalkemm normalment wara nispicaw biex ihossna hazin. Jekk joghgbok spettur, kompli. (She moves to R. of the desk)

Mary enters L. and hovers at the door.

Spettur Grazzi. Dejjem jekk ma jimpurtax, Miss Marple.

Marple Issa fuq dik in-nota spettur ...

Mary (to the Vicar) Pssst ! Pssst !

Spettur (to Mary) Tista tghidli x'qed tipprova taghmel ?

Mary Hsibt li ahjar nghid lil-Vigarju li hemm l-ghalliema tal-iskola ta nhar ta' Hadd fil-kurutur.

Vicar Eh iva, kont insejthom. (He eases to L. of the sofa) Ghidilhom li jiddispjacini hafna imma illum ma nistax narahom.

Marple Spettur ... hemm xi haga ...

Spettur (moving to R. of Mary, ignoring Marple) Inti jismek Mary Jenkins, hux hekk ?

Mary Iva hekk hu, imissek tafni bizzatej jed issa.

Spettur Inti ilqajt lil Kurunell meta gie hawn hux ?

Mary Iva.

Spettur Wara li dhalt fil-kcina, smajt xi hoss jew xi haga ?

Mary Ma smajt xejn. U kieku stess ma rridtx nisma xejn, ghax kont qed nistenna lil Geraldo fis-sitta u kwart.

Spettur U madanakollu kien hemm sparatura li qatlet lil Kurunell.

Mary (doggedly) Ma smajt l-ebda sparatura. Kieku kien hemm sparatura kont nismaghha.

Spettur Imma ...

Mary Naf naf. Bilfors li kien hemm ghax il-Kurunell instab mejjet ... imma hekk hu. Jiena ma smajt xejn.

Spettur F'ix-hin wasal il-Kurunell ?

Mary Fis-sitta.

Spettur Kif taf ? Harist lejn l-arlogg ?

Mary Le. Smajt l-arlogg tal-knisja jdoqq hekk kif ftahtlu l-bieb. U meta dahal qalli li gie ftit kmieni ghall-appuntament imma kien se jistenna.

Spettur U ma smajt xejn ?

Mary Se tibqa tistaqsini l-istess mistoqsijiet ? Ghidtlek li ma smajt xejn.

She exits L. Griselda enters through the french windows. She wears a summer hat and coat. She carries several parcels.

Griselda (moving below the sofa) Hello qalbi, x'wahda din x'gurnata kelli. (She puts the parcels on the sofa) Xtrajt dak kollu li rajt ... (She breaks off and looks towards the Inspector) X'gara ?

The Vicar takes Griselda firmly by the arm, prevents her looking at the desk and takes her down right.

Vicar Kien hemm tragedja.

Griselda X'gara ?

Vicar Ejja poggi bilqeghda. Nahseb li tinsab ghajjiena. Toqghodx tinkwieta.

Marple (moving to R. of the Inspector) Spettur ... jiena ...

Dennis enters through the french windows and stands just inside the room.

Spettur (again ignoring Marple) Mort Londra, sinjura Clement ?

In turning to the Inspector, Griselda sees Dennis.

Griselda (hushed) Iva, ghaliex ?

Miss Marple eases up L.C.

Spettur U gejt lura ma tal-hamsa u hamsa ?

Dennis (moving C.) Imma spettur ...

Griselda (quickly) Iva da zgur. (She catches Dennis's eye)

Spettur Tajjeb. Jekk ma jimpurtax thallina wahedna ... (To Dennis)  
Anki inti jekk joghgbok, jekk ikolli bzonnok nibghat ghalik.

Lawrence enters through the french windows.

Lawrence Insellmilkom.

Spettur X'ghandek bzonn sur Redding ?

Lawrence Spettur Slack. Diga bdejt tinvestiga eh ? (He moves to R. of the Inspector) L-idejn tal-ligi diga bdiet tahdem.

Spettur Fejn kont din l-ahhar siegha, sur Redding ?

Dennis eases up centre.

Lawrence Ma nahsibx li hemm bzonn nghidlek.

Spettur Jiena nahseb li hemm bzonn. Mela jekk joghgbok tista tghidli ?

Lawrence Nghidlek fejn kont din l-ahhar siegha ? Imma ...

Spettur Iva, jekk joghgbok, sur Redding.

Griselda sits in the easy chair down R.

Lawrence Kollox sew la qed tinsisti. Mela, minn x'is-sitta sas-sitta u ghoxrin kont qed nitkellem mal-Hendersons, jista jkun li jixtru xi tpingija minn tieghi. Gentili hafna ...

Spettur Iva, iva imbaghad ?

Lawrence Imbaghad gejt mill-villagg mill-passagg u qsamt minn hawn barra u mort l-istudju.

Spettur U gejt vicin it-tieqa ?

Lawrence Le.

Spettur Zgur ?

Lawrence Iva.

Marple (moving to R. of the Inspector) Iva, hekk hu spettur, rajtu jiena stess.

Spettur Iva, iva, u x'hin tlaqt mill-istudju ?

Lawrence F'xi hin bejn is-sitta u nofs u sebgha neqsin ghoxrin. Imxejt mill-moghdija li tghaddi hdejn il-gnien ta' Miss Marple.

Spettur U ltqajt ma xi hadd ?

Lawrence Le.

Spettur U ma dhaltx hawn meta tlaqt mill-istudju ?

Lawrence Le, bqajt sejjer dritt fil-villagg.

Spettur Zgur ?

Lawrence Staqsi lil Miss Marple.

Marple Iva, spettur, hekk hu. Imma, spettur ...

Lawrence Miss Marple tara kollox.

Spettur Iva, iva. Imbaghad ?

Lawrence Imbaghad ?

Spettur Iva, imbaghad.

Lawrence Imma zgur li taf x'ghamilt wara.

Spettur Li kieku naf ma kontx se nistaqsik.

Lawrence (looking at the Vicar) Mela allura m'ghidtluk ?

Spettur X'ma qallix ?

Lawrence (moving to the french windows) Mela ma qallekx. Kemm jiena stupidu. Mela allura l-uniku xhud huwa l-Vigarju. Le ma kienx ghalih ... (He turns, pulls out a revolver from his pocket and keeps it nonchalantly trained on the group)

Spettur Min fejn gibtu dak ?

Lawrence Dak tieghi. Dan huwa Mauser 32 millimeter. Mela allura l-Vigarju ma qallekx li kont hierreg minn hawn hekk kif hu kien diehel. X'is-sebgha neqsin kwart kienu hux ?

Spettur Rajtu sur Clement ?

Vicar Insomma, iva, imma ...

Spettur (moving to Lawrence) Tini dik il-pistola.

Lawrence (slightly nasty) Tuzax dak it-ton mieghi. Din il-pistola mimlija ... hlief ghal-balla li ntuzat.

Griselda Ah !

Lawrence (to the Inspector) Ieqfu hemm. (To Griselda) Iva, ghaziza Griselda, jiena qtiltu. Ha dak li haqqu u ma jiddispjacinix. U kont nehlisha hafif li kieku ma kienx ghal-zewgek. Xorti hazina, mhux hekk ?



**Spettur** Irrid navzak li dak kollu li tghid jista jittiehed u jintuza kontrik bhala evidenza fil-Qorti.

**Lawrence** Iva, spettur ! Tinstama qisek xi thriller. Ha, tinsabu kollha kemm intkom imbazza. Qtil wiehed huwa bizzejjed ghalissa. (He tosses the revolver to the Inspector)

**The Inspector catches the revolver as the CURTAIN closes.**

### Act 1 - Scene 3

Scene – The same. Thursday morning.

The body and the desk have been removed. A low coffee table is set L.C.

When the CURTAIN opens, Lettice is by the fireplace. She moves below the sofa, then to the table above it. She is looking for something. The Vicar enters L. He carries a pile of unopened letters.

Vicar            Hello Lettice. X'inti taghmel hawn ?

Lettice          Mort mixja.

Vicar            (moving up L.C.) Hsibt li ma ridtx tigi hawnhekk. (He carries the small chair from L. of the french windows and places it at the desk)

Lettice          Ghaliex le ? Minhabba missieri jaqaw. Ghaliex ghandi ninkwieta. Ma tantx kont ingibu. Stramba, imma ...

Vicar            X'inhi stramba ? (He sits at the desk and starts to open the letters)

Lettice          Qatt ma hsibt li xi hadd seta joqtlu. Hafna nies riedu jaghmlu hekk, m'ghandix dubju. (She perches herself on the L. arm of the sofa) Anki jien ridt, kemm il-darba.

Dennis enters through the french windows.

Vicar            (sharply) Lettice !

Lettice          (with a wealth of meaning in her voice) Hello Dennis. Jaqaw insejt il-hniezer u l-baqar illum ?

Dennis          Insomma, ma tantx stajt ...

The Vicar is engrossed in his letters.

Lettice          Miskin is-sur Clement. Nahseb li kienet surpriza kera ghalik li sibt lil missieri hekk. Ovjament, jiena ma kontx naf qabel ma ghadda hafna hin.

Vicar            Mela lilek ma qalulekx mill-ewwel ?

**Lettice**      **Kont barra. (She gives a side glance at Dennis) Ma niftakarx f'ix-xhin dhalt id-dar. Mhux frustranti meta taghmel appuntament u ma jzommuhx ?**

**Dennis gets more and more uncomfortable as Lettice continues to crack at him with double meanings.**

**Vicar**      **(not really listening) Hafna.**

**Lettice**      **Ghalhekk mort nara film go Yenminster wahdi ... biex nizvoga.**

**Vicar**      **(not understanding at all) Iva, fhimt.**

**Lettice**      **Se tiehu wara nofs-in-nhar franka ukoll, Dennis ?**

**Dennis**      **(stuttering) I-v-a. Da z-z-gur. Ma nafx ...**

**Lettice**      **(cutting in) Ghadni kif iltqajt mal-ispettur issa. Staqsini fejn kont ilbierah filghaxija. Jekk kellix xi appuntament ma xi hadd.**

**Vicar**      **F'kaz bhal dan ikunu jridu jafu fejn kien kulhadd.**

**Lettice**      **(rising and moving to the easy chair down R.) Insomma, jiena gejt hawn biex nara jekk rajtux xi beret ... beret zghira safra. Nahseb li hallejtha hawn ftit granet ilu.**

**Vicar**      **Jiena ma rajthiex. Inti rajtha Dennis ?**

**Dennis**      **Le.**

**Vicar**      **Imma jekk kienet hawn zgur hadha l-ispettur.**

**Lettice**      **Ghaliex l-ispettur ?**

**Dennis**      **Ghaliex gabar hafna affarijiet minn hawn.**

**Lettice**      **Xi dwejjaq ta' nies. (She looks under the cushion on the easy chair)**

**Vicar**      **Imma x'ghandek bzonn beret safra issa ?**

**Lettice** Trid tghid minhabba l-luttu jaqaw ? (She looks under the sofa cushions) Mhux problema. Nahseb li idea antikwata ghall-ahhar. (She moves to the french windows) Nahseb minhabba fija u l-malja tal-ghawm. Haga tassew stupida. Kieku missieri kien jaf qabel ma ghamel dik ix-xenata kollha. Issa wisq probabli se jaghlquh lil Lawrence hux ?

She exits through the french windows to L. Dennis watches her go.

**Dennis** (at the french windows ; with grudging admiration) X'wahda din ! Dik kif giet hawnhekk, propju fl-istess kamra li ... Ma tibza minn xejn. Ghandha kuragg li hafna tfajliet bhala m'ghandhomx. Ma tantx tidher li habblet rasha fuq li gara lil missierha.

**Vicar** Le. Tifla stramba tassew.

Dennis exits through the French windows to L. The telephone rings. The Vicar picks up the receiver.

**Vicar** Hello ... Iva, jien hu .... Ah, Mrs. Price Ridley .... Le, ma nafx fejn qieghed. Ippruvajt l-ghassa tal-pulizija? ... Ippruvajt ... Forsi jigi hawn. Imma miniex zgur. X'inqala? ... Ah, jiddispjacini. Kieku jien ma ninkwetax. (He replaces the receiver). Jahasra.

Dennis enters through the French windows.

**Dennis** (moving to left of the Vicar)  
Zi, sibz zewg settijiet ta passi fejn hem mil-ward. Zghar, ukoll. Mhux kbar li jistghu ikunu ta' Lawrence. Tahseb li l-ispettur ikun irid jaf.

**Vicar** Nahseb li iva.

Griselda enters left. She stands for a moment and reads a postcard that she has in her hand, then picks up the workbasket from the bureau, crosses to the sofa, sits and starts to darn.

**Dennis** Il-veru fortuna li jitwettaq omicidju fl-ufficcju tieghek stess. Skuzi zi. U Protheroe fuq kollox. Dak li kulhadd kien jobghodu.

**Vicar** Dennis !

**Dennis** Imma intom smajtu lil xi hadd jghid li jiddispjacih li miet?

**Griselda** Ma narax ghaliex li minn tant nies Lawrence ghandu jaghmel xi haga bhal dik. X'raguni hemm ghaliha?

**Dennis** (Leaning on the chair C) Nahseb li kellu daqxejn ta motiv, ghandi nifhem.

**Griselda** X'inhu, Lettice! Din redikolagni. Jekk stess kulhadd kellu motiv. Anne biex turet il-flus. Miss Marple biex izzomm id-dar taghha. U Mr. Archer biex ma jmurx il-habs ....

**Dennis** (Chuckling) U uncle Len biex jehles mill-warden tal-knisja.

**Griselda** Kollox sew, xi tghid ghal Lettice tieghek? Trid flus u liberta' izjed milli ghandha permess li jkollha bhalissa.

**Dennis** (Slightly on the defensive) Nahseb li dik mhux fair ....

**Griselda** Jiddispjacini. Ma kienx l-intenzjoni tieghi li tinstema hekk. Ma nista nifhem xejn. Nahseb li ghandi ugiegh ta ras.

**Vicar** Wiehed jifimha din.

**Dennis** (Crossing to the door L) X'lejla din. Il-pulizija hawn il-lejl kollu, karozzi gejjin u sejrjn ....

**Griselda** Uh Dennis ! Jekk joghgbok.

**Dennis** (Turning at the door) Sorry, Grisel. Trid ingiblek xi tazza te jew xi haga ohra?

**Griselda** (Smiling at him) Iva jekk joghgbok. Tahseb li tista tkellem lil Mary?

**Dennis** Da zgur. Meta inkellimha jien dik tisma.

**Dennis** exits left.

**Griselda** (Drily) Ma nafx.

**Dennis** (Off : calling) Mary !

**Griselda** Taf li ghadni ma nistax nemminha.

**Vicar** Ghax grat ta' malajr.

**Griselda** Stramba imma kif ... il-Kurunel jigi biex jara, f'burdata hazina bhas-soltu, bhal ma ghamel kemm il-darba, imma din id-darba ...

**Vicar** Din id-darba ma jitlaqx u jhallini rrabbjat u urtat, eh ?

**Griselda** Le, huwa mejjet. U dan kollu nhar ta' Hamis bhall-ohrajn, normali hlief ...

**Vicar** Hlief ...

**Griselda** ... li Lawrence dahal f'nassa. Hemm bzonn li jmut, ukoll.

**Vicar** Ghidt forsi nimxija sar-razzett. Forsi nistghu ngibu xi bajd. Trid tigi mieghi?

**Griselda** Qalbi, inti tahseb li mixja sar-razzett hija l-kura ta kull marda.

**Vicar** Ir-raba tista tfejjaq hafna mard.

**Griselda** (Rising and moving centre) Kien imissek sirt bidwi.

**Vicar** (Rising and moving to left of Griselda) Forsi. Imma bhalissa irrid nikkoncentra principalment fuq il-parrocca. Kelli telefonati minn kwazi kull xwejha tal-villagg u kwazi kollha fi stat ta xokk. Forsi ahna u gejjin nghaddu ghand xi tnejn minnhom.

He takes her in his arms and is about to kiss her as Miss Marple enters through the french windows.

**Marple** Nista nidhol?

**Griselda** Goodmorning Miss Marple. Nispera li lbierah ma kienx xi xokk qawwi ghalik?

**Marple** Ah ! Il-generazzjoni tieghi jfilhu xokkijiet bhal dawn. Il-kaloriji, taf inti.

Mary enters left.

**Mary** Hawn it-tabib.

Haydock enters left. Mary exits left.

Haydock (To the Vicar) Goodmorning. Skuzani imma xtaqt nara lil l-ispettur. U meta cempilt l-ghassa qaluli li kien gej hawn.

Marple L-ispettur gej hawn? Tajjeb.

Hawes enters left. He looks around at everyone nervously.

Griselda (Crossing to Hawes) Ronny ! Inti imqareb. Mary qalet li ma hadtx breakfast.

Hawes Hadt t-taz-za kafe'. Zgur li hadt.

Marple Tidher inkwetat Mr. Hawes. Min jaf ghaliex? L-omicidju issa m'ghadux misteru. Il-qattiel arrestawh.

Hawes X-xi trid tghid biha?

Marple Xejn. Imma issa kulhadd jista jerga jorqod bil-kwiet. Ghalkemm nahseb li ma tantx irqadt dal-lejl, Mr. Hawes.

Griselda Le, Ronny? Jiddispjacini.

Marple Kellu d-dawl mixghul il-lejl kollu. Mhux tajjeb ghal xi hadd zghir bhalu .... Mhux tajjeb.

Haydock (Moving to the desk chair) Ah, ma nafx, Miss Marple. Kont inhobb naqra il-lejl kollu meta kont zghir. (He turns the chair to face down right and sits)

Hawes Kont qed new-newden fuq il-kurunell. Ghal wiehed midneb bhalu jitlaq hekk ... minghajr kliem ... minghajr l-ahhar xewqa. (He pauses) Dik in-nota, Mr. Clement? Ma qalet xejn interessanti hux?

Vicar Xejn, ibni. (He moves to the fireplace and picks up his pipe from the mantelpiece) Qalet biss li ma setax jistenna izjed.

Marple Dik, fl-opinjoni tieghi, hija stramba hafna.

Hawes (In a high-pitched voice) Stramba! Stramba! Da zgur li stramba! Ah ... skuzawni ... skuzawni. Ahfruli.

He turns and exits hurriedly left.

Haydock Jiddispjacini imma dak ragel marid.

Marple Iz-zaghzagh illum kollha sigrieti u sensitivi hafna.

Griselda Ghax jiddejqu minn jispijja fuqhom.

She turns and exits left.

Vicar Din il-bicca xoghol ghamlitha nervuza izzejjed.

Marple (Moving to the armchair centre) Nifhem. Din il-bicca xoghol anki lili dejjket, fil-fatt ghamlitni nervusa wkoll. (She sits) Hemm xi affarijiet li nixtieq nghid lil l-ispettur. Tajjeb li gej hawn, imma min jaf ghaliex gej hux?

The Vicar turns to the mantelpiece and fills his pipe from the tobacco jar.

Haydock Mhux biex jivverifika xi dettalji.

Marple Hekk nahseb. Taf li jiena daqxejn surpriza kif Lawrence Redding stqarr li kien il-qattiel.

Haydock Ghaliex?

Marple Le, mhux qed nghid li jien surpriza li qatel imma surpriza kif stqarr li hu l-qattiel. Kont nahseb li kien ihabbat lil pulizija daqxejn ohra qabel ma jistqarr.

Vicar Imma l-fatt li baqa diehel go fija fuq l-ghadba tal-bieb ghamilha impossibli li jista jahrab.

Haydock (Chaffing Miss Marple) U li kieku ma stqarrx il-qtil, ahna konna inkunu suspettati kollha.

Marple Mhux *kollha*. Imma kif taf int, Dott, l-imgieba tal-bniedem huwa l-passatemp favorit tieghi.

Vicar F'dan il-villagg hemm hafna x'wiehed jistudja.

Marple Ezattament. L-imgieba tal-bniedem huwa suggett affaxxinanti. Wiehed jiehu problema, zghira kemm hi zghira, bhal per eżempju ix-shrimps li tant tat gost lil Griselda, jew l-umbrella tar-ragel tal-haxix, forsi hadd ma



jaghti kasa, sakemm wiehed jahdem fuq l-hsieb li tal-haxix qieghed ikun imqareb mal-mara tal-ispizjar ....

Griselda enters left. She carries a bowl of roses, which she sets on the coffee table left centre.

Vicar        Li sfortunatament hija veru.

Marple       Hija haga sabiha li wiehed ikollu ragun.

Vicar        Normalment inti dejjem ikollok ragun. (He lights his pipe)

Marple       U le ma nahsibx li hu hekk. Tkun ecitanti li kieku tista ssolvi xi misteru bl-istess mod.

Haydock     Ah ! Imma dan omicidju.

Marple       (Unperturbed) Wara kollox, Dott, in-nemel imexxu il-kolonja taghhom bl-istess principju li Stalin imexxi lir-Russja.

Griselda     (Moving to left of Miss Marple) Iva, imma Lawrence stqarr kollox u m'hemm xejn x'tista taghmel. Inkella tibda tassumi li Len veru baghbas il-flus tal-knisja.

Marple       (After a gulp) Le qalbi ma tarax. Kieku nibda nassumi li xi hadd ..... xi haga kompletament differenti.

Mary whisks open the door left.

Mary        Gie dak il-genju ta' pulizija.

The inspector enters left. As always, he wears plain clothes.

Inspector    Goodmorning.

Mary turns to go.

Inspector    Hawn fejn sejra?

Mary        Min ... jien?

Inspector    Allura inti zgura li ma smajtx l-isparatura ilbierah filghaxija?

Mary L-isparatura li qatlitu? Da zgur li zgura. Li kieku smajtha kont nigi hawn biex nara min kien.

Inspector Ma kienx hemm xi sparatura ohra hux?

Mary (Blankly) Sparatura ohra?

Inspector Iva.

The Vicar perches himself on the left arm of the easy chair down right.

Mary Issa li qed nahseb, iva kien hemm. Mhux xi hafna, wahda fis-sigar li smajt. Imma insomma hemmhekk dejjem b'xi sparatura.

Inspector U x'hin kien dan?

Mary Inti iffissat fuq il-hin ta.

Inspector Ejja ejja. X'hin kien?

Mary Ma nistax nghid fiz-zgur. Imma sew wara l-hin tat-te. Dak zgur.

Inspector Ejja ruhi, ma tistax tkun izjed preciza?

Mary 'Ruhi'? Inti daqxejn impertinenti. (She looks at the others). Le ma nistax. Ghandi x-xoghol tieghi x'naghmel. Bejn haga u ohra ma tantx inkun naf x'hin ikun sar.

Inspector Imma tista tghidli jekk smajtx l-isparatura wara li gie l-kurunell?

Mary Iva, wara kien. Xi ghoxrin jew tletin minuta wara, mhux izjed, ghaliex Geraldo kien qed idoqq. U issa dak kollox, ghaliex ghandi serduq fil-forn.

Inspector Kollox sew, tista tmur.

Mary U r-rih mhux tajjed ghal-forn illum.

She exits left. Griselda moves to the sofa and sits.

Griselda Serduq? (To the Vicar) Ma kontx naf li ghandna serduq illum.

**Marple** Mary kellha ragun spettur. Smajt sparatura ffit qabel is-sitta u nofs imma ma deheritx li kienet vicin.

**Inspector** (Doggedly) Imma insomma, kien hawn sparatura hawn gew u xi hadd zgur semaghha.

**Marple** Spettur, nixtieq ...

**Inspector** (Moving to left of Haydock) Irnexxielek taqla l-bullet dott?

**Haydock** (Rising) Iva, hawn hi, spettur. (He takes a bullet from his pocket and hands it to the inspector)

**Inspector** (Examining the bullet) Point 32 eh?

**Haydock** Iva, giet sparata minn Mauser. Inhalli d-dettalji teknici ghall-inkjesta. Kull ma trid tkun taf nahseb li l-mewt kienet immedjata. Iblah ... ghaliex ghamilha? (He moves above the sofa)

**Marple** Spettur ...

**Inspector** (Moving to Marple) Ghidli, Miss Marple, xi trid?

**Mrs Price Ridley enters abruptly left.**

**Marple** Spettur ...

**The Vicar rises.**

**Price (To the Inspector)** Ah, hemm qieghed ! Fl-ahhar.

**Inspector** Kelli messagg minghandek li ridt tkellimni.

**Price** Ninsisti li jsir xi haga fuq dak li qed jigri. Gharukaza kbira ghalija. Gharukaza u gharukaza. Gewwa l-Indja anki l-pulizija semplici li ghandhom ....

**Vicar** Mrs. Price Ridley, tpoggi?

**Inspector** Iva, omicidju huwa gharukaza kbira. Ghandek xi idejat dwaru? Il-mottiv per ezempju?

Price (Crossing to the sofa) Mottiv? Dak xogholok. Ghalfejn inhallsu t-taxxi?

Inspector Qed naghmlu dak kollu li hu possibli, Mrs. Price Ridley.

Price Ir-ragel li hemm l-ghassa lanqas biss kien sema biha qabel ma ghidtlu jien. (She sits left of Griselda on the sofa).

Griselda, right of Mrs Price Ridley, continues darning socks.

Inspector X'inhu !

Vicar Ha nispjega. Mrs Price Ridley kellha telefonata anonima.

Inspector Ah, fhimtek. Konna qed nitkellmu fuq zewg affarijiet differenti.

Price (Angrily) Zewg affarijiet differenti ! Gharukaza! Dawn l-affarijiet ma jmisshomx isiru u intom ghandkom id-dover li taraw li ma jigrux. Jiena gejt insultata fuq il-linja tieghi stess. Minn mindu spiccat il-gwerra il-morali spickaw. Hadd ma jimpurtah min dan l-Imperu kbir. U dwar il-hwejjeg ....

Marple Imma il-bdil fil-moda qatt ma inkwetat Mrs. Price Ridley.

Price La din is-suit kienet tajba ghal Karachi ...

Inspector (Interrupting) X'gara ezattament, Mrs. Ridley?

Price Ismi huwa *Price* Ridley. Xi hadd cempilli.

Inspector Meta?

Price Ilbierah filghaxija ... xi 6.25. Xi hadd kellimni pastaz u arroganti.

Inspector X'qalulek ezatt?

Price Nirrifjuta li nghidlek.

Vicar (Quietly) Kliem hazin.

Inspector Ah, allura uzaw kliem oxxen? (He takes a note-book and pencil from his pocket)

Price Da zgur.

Haydock Stajt tifhem x'qalu?

Price Da zgur. Il-persuna kienet abuziva hafna.

Haydock Abusiva? Kienet vuci ta ragel jew mara?

Price Kien xi hadd degenerat.

Inspector (Moving to left of the sofa; impatiently) Mrs. Price Ridley – *X'qalulek?* Ma nistax nghinek jekk ....

Price (Taking a deep breath) 'Inti mara hazina u xiha mill-aghar. Imma issa izzejjed. Scotland Yard huma warajk biex jaghmlulek libel. The Inspector makes notes.

Vicar Ovvjament, kont mahsud ghall-ahhar.

Price 'Jekk ma zommx halqek maghluq, se jigrilek xi haga kera u se jiddispjacik hafna'. Jiena ghajjat lura u ghidtlu 'Min ix-xjafek inti?'. U l-vuci qaltli 'Mahomet, u se npattihielek'. Imbaghad dahqet. Dahqet. Tant kont irrabjata li kont fuq ix-xwiek, u nghidlek il-verita inhsadt meta smajt l-isparatura u qbizt mis-siggu.

Inspector (Pouncing) Fejn?

Price Fejn? Fid-drawing room kont, ovvjament.

Inspector Le, l-isparatura li smajt ...

Price Fl-istat li kont, hassejtha qisa bomba, u Clara kellha iggibli whisky biex nikkalma.

Inspector Le! Le! *Fejn kienet l-isparatura?*

Price L-isparatura? Qalb is-sigar, ovvjament.

Inspector Zgur?

Price Da zgur li jiena zgura. Fejn tridhom jisparaw jekk mhux qalb is-sigar?

Inspector     **Grazzi. U x'hin kien?**

Price           **U nahseb ffit qabel is-sitta u nofs.**

Inspector     **(Giving up) Kollox sew. Issa ninvestigaw l-incident.**

Price           **(Snorting) Incident!**

Vicar           **Tinkwetax Mrs Price Ridley. L-ispettur se jinvestiga l-kaz.**

Price           **(Rising and looking sternly at the Vicar) Dan l-ahhar graw hafna affarijiet strambi f'dan il-villagg. Il-Kurunell Protheroe kien se jara x'inh u jigri u araw xi gralu. (She crosses to the door left and turns) Wisq probabli jien imiss. (She exits angrily left).**

Inspector     **(Moving left) Phew! Dan kollu biex qartilna li semghet sparatura ffit qabel is-sitta u nofs.**

Marple         **(Smugly) Imma dan il-fatt jghidilna li illargat minn hdejn it-tieqa u ma setghetx tara l-bieb principali ta' hawnhekk fil-hin tal-omicidju.**

Inspector     **Eh? Iva, hekk hu. Ghandek ragun.**

Marple         **U spettur ....**

Inspector     **(To the Vicar) Hemm xi affarijiet li ma nistax nifhem. Se ninterroga lil Mr. Redding ghal darb'ohra .... Issa.**

Vicar           **(Starlted) Issa !**

Inspector     **Bil-permess tieghek, sir, gibt lil Mr. Redding mieghi. Ghandna bzonn nistaqsuh xi mistoqsijiet hawnhekk stess. Ma tantx ahna sodisfatti bl-istatement tieghu. Hu lest li jghinna. (He opens the door left and calls) Jennings, ghid lil Mr. Redding jidhol.**

Jennings      **(Off; calling) Iva, sir.**

Griselda      **Hawn gew ?**

Inspector     **Jekk ma jimpurtax, Mrs. Clement. (He moves up centre)**

Griselda      **Nahseb li xogholkom tridu taghmluh hux?**

**Inspector**     **Grazzi. Mhux se jkolli bzonnkom, Miss Clement u Miss Marple.**

**Marple**        **(Rising) Da zgur, spettur. Inti taf. Nahseb li ghandek lil xi hadd li jivverifika dak li qal Mr. Redding u jaf fejn kien bejn is-sitta u s-sebgha tal-bierah filghaxija? Eh ?**

**Inspector**     **(Swallowing) Insejt ghal mument, Miss Marple, li kont qed isaqqi l-gnien. Forsi tista jekk joghgbok tibqa daqxejn hawn.**

**Marple**        **Mela le, spettur. Mela le. Fejn hemm bzonn jiena lest li nghin.**

**Inspector**     **Grazzi hafna. (He moves to left of Miss Marple)**

**Marple**        **M'hemmx imniex, spettur. (She sits in the armchair centre)**

**Lawrence, escorted by Police Constable Jennings, enters left and moves to left of the Inspector. Jennings stands by the door left.**

**Griselda**     **(Rising and crossing to right of Lawrence, impulsively) Ah, Lawrence, jiena ....**

**Inspector**     **Jekk ma jimpurtax, Madam. (He moves to the door left and opens it)**

**Griselda**     **(Moving in to Lawrence and putting a hand on his arm) Jiddispjacini.**

**She crosses to the door left and exits.**

**Inspector**     **(Moving to left of Lawrence) Mela, Mr. Redding.**

**Lawrence**     **Dan huwa l-metodu Franciz hux? Terga tirrevedi l-fatti kollha fuq il-post tad-delitt. Komplì.**

**Inspector**     **Inti ghidt li kellek xi tghid mal-Kurunell Protheroe, tlift mohhok u sparajtlu?**

**Lawrence**     **Iva.**

**Haydock perches himself on the left arm of the sofa.**

**Inspector**     **Fejn kien meta dhalt fil-kamra?**

Lawrence Bilqieghda hdejn l-iskrivanija.

Inspector U qam meta inti dhalt?

Lawrence Iva.

Inspector Meta instab mejjet kien bilqieghda.

Lawrence Rega pogga bilqieghda meta ra .... min kien.

Inspector Ah. Forsi tista tghidli ezattament x'gara.

Lawrence Nipp-rova. Dhalt minn dan il-bieb. Il-Kurunell ...wara li qam ... u ...rega pogga bilqieghda ...

Inspector Qam u pogga eh? U fejn kont inti?

Lawrence Heq, kont hemm. Imbaghad beda jargumenta mieghi.

Inspector Jargumenta ... fuq xiex?

Lawrence Ghax ... kien iffastidjat fuq hafna affarijiet. Imma l-izjed, ovvjament, ghax kont qed inpingi lit-tifla tieghu libsa malja tal-ghum.

Inspector Kollox sew, argumentajtu, imbaghad?

Lawrence Imbaghad beda jinsulentani ... u f'daqqa wahda tlift rasi ... u sparajtlu.

Inspector Kont qed targumenta mieghu, u f'daqqa wahda tlift rasek, mort warajh u sparajtlu fuq in-naha ta wara ta rasu.

Lawrence Le! Iva. Le.

Inspector U s-silencer? Fejn hu s-silencer?

Lawrence (Bewildered) Is-silencer?

Inspector Iva. Ma instama l-ebda sparatura, allura bilfors li uzajt silencer.

Lawrence Le. Ma uzajttx silencer.



**Inspector** Il-barrel tal-arma kienet imnaqqxa biex tiehu silencer.

**Lawrence** Gibt l-arma mill-Germanja ... kienu kollha imnaqqxa biex jiehd u silencer ... Alla tieghi, x'ghandu x'jaqsam issa ... ma uzajtx silencer.

**Inspector** Kollox sew, niehu l-kelma tieghek. Imma l-istorja, Mr. Redding, tal-argument li kellek ma tantx titwemmen. Jiena nahseb li ma kienx hemm l-ebda argument, dhalt inkiss inkiss mill-bieb ta' quddiem u sparajtlu f'it minuti qabel ma wasal il-Vicar.

**Haydock** (Rising and moving down centre) X'jigifieri, 'ftit minuti'? Impossibli! Il-Kurunell kien mejjet hafna izjed minn hekk.

**Inspector** Imma inti ghidt li l-kalkoli kien approssimattivi.

**Haydock** Nofs siegħa, hamsa u ghoxrin minuta, imma mhux inqas. F'it minuti! Kieku gismu kien ikun għadu shun meta wasalt jien.

**Inspector** Imma jekk Redding qed jghid li hu sparalu fis-6.45 ...

**Haydock** Mela Redding qed jigdeb! Is-6.30 huwa l-izjed tard li setgħa jisparalu. Anki d-demm kien beda jaqgħad. (He moves above the sofa)

Anne Protheroe enters through the french windows. She is white and strained. She wears a tight-fitting dress.

**Vicar** Mrs Protheroe!

**Lawrence** Anne!

**Haydock** Mrs Protheroe! X'inti ...?

**Anne** (Moving to left of Miss Marple) Gejt biex inkellem lill-ispettur. Cempilt l-ghassa, spettur, u qaluli li ...inti hawn. Irrid nghidlek ...(She breaks off)

**Inspector** Jekk għandha x'taqsam mad-delitt, forsi ahjar li ...

**Anne** (Interrupting) Le, le, trid tismani issa. U jekk jogħgħbok tippruvax twaqqafni. Irrid nghidlek li jien qtilt lil zewgi.

**Lawrence** (Between Anne and the Inspector) Mhux veru!

Anne Iva veru.

Lawrence Waqqafha .. dik mignuna ...

Anne Jiddispjacini li qbadt u ghidtha. Imma jien ili nobghodu ghal hafna zmien. Naf li kollha kemm intom kellkom raguni ghaliex tobghoduh imma hadt minnkom ma jafu daqsi. Kien ragel hazin ... ghamilli hajti infern. U jiena qtiltu.

Lawrence Din mignuna. Temmnuhiex. Qed tigdeb sfaccatament.

Anne Nahseb li issa se tarrestani hux?

Inspector Mrs Protheroe, Lawrence Redding diga stqarr li qatlu hu lil zewgek.

Anne Iva, naf. U naf ghaliex.

Lawrence Anne, jekk joghgbok ...

Inspector Ghaliex ghandu jistqarr ghal xi haga li ma ghamilx?

Anne Ghaliex ...

Lawrence Anne ...!

Anne ... ghaliex ihobbni.

Miss Marple nods her head with the satisfaction of having a suspicion confirmed.

Marple Hekk hu.

Anne Forsi hassu responsabli. Kienet xi haga tassew kuragguza imma stupida.

Inspector Kif kien jaf li inti qtiltu? Ghidtlu inti?

Anne Iva ... jien ghidtlu.

Lawrence Gidba. Qatt ma qaltli.

Anne (To the inspector) Mhux qed tinduna li ghadu qed jipprova jaqbez ghalija?

Inspector Jekk joghgbok, Mr. Redding, halliha f'idejja.

Lawrence turns and moves up centre.

Anne Issa li stqarrejt kollox, tista jekk joghgbok tehodni minn hawn?

Inspector Min fejn gibt l-arma?

Anne L-arma? Hadtha mid-dar ta' Lawrence.

Inspector U meta hadtha?

Anne Xi gimgha ilu.

Inspector U gibtha hawn mieghek?

Anne Iva.

Miss Marple coughs.

Anne Kont naf li ir-ragel tieghi kien hawn. Kont naf bl-appuntament li kellu mal-Vicar.

Inspector X'hin gejt hawn?

Anne Xi ffit wara s-sitta ... u kwart ... u ghoxrin, xi haga hekk.

Inspector U inti hadt l-arma ta' Lawrence Redding mid-dar tieghu bl-intenzjoni li toqtol lil zewgek?

Anne Le ... jien ...

Inspector Mela ghaliex Mrs Protheroe?

Anne Originarjament, ridtu ghalija. Jien inhobbu lil Lawrence.

Vicar Taf li ma nistax nemmina din ...

Anne (Turning to the Vicar) Ma tistax temmen li mara kalma bhali, dejjem taf x'inhni taghmel, dejjem taf xi tghid, hi wara kollox tad-demmm u l-

laham ukoll? Imma issa bizzejjed. Hija imbarazzanti hafna li ghandi nghid dan kollu quddiemkom.

Inspector Jigifieri qed tghid li hadt l-arma biex tuza ghalik, imma imbaghad gibta hawn mieghek?

Lawrence (Moving down left of the sofa; abruptly) Spettur, din hija redikola. Qalet li hadet l-arma tieghi il-gimgha l-ohra. Mhux veru. L-arma kienet hemm jumejn ilu ... staqsi lil Mrs Archer. Staqsi lil min trid.

Inspector Tista jekk joghgbok toqghod kwiet. Mrs Protheroe, inti qed tghid li bl-intenzjoni li toqtol lil zewgek gejt hawn bl-arma?

Anne Iva. Zewgi qalli li ma hemm xejn li se jgieghlu jaghtini d-divorzju. Jien kont naf li mhux se jibdel l-ideja. Ghamel xenata shiha ... kien insolenti hafna ... u jiena rrabjajt hafna. Ilbierah filghaxija gejt mil-moghdija ghal gol gnien u min gol biebs. Ma smajt xejn u harist gewwa. Rajt lil zewgi ...

Inspector Ma rakx?

Anne Le.

Inspector Allura ?

Anne U jiena ... jiena qtiltu.

Inspector Sewwa. Imbaghad?

Anne Imbaghad? Imbaghad tlaqt 'l hemm.

Inspector U ghidt lil Mr. Redding x'kont ghamilt?

Anne Iva.

Inspector U rak xi hadt diehla jew hierga mill-gnien?

Anne Le, ma nahsibx.

Miss Marple coughs.

Anne (She gives a quick glance at Miss Marple) Eh iva, Miss Marple, ovvjament. Tkellimnt maghha meta kienet qed issaqqi l-gnien.

**Marple**      **Jekk ma jimpurtax ...?**

**Inspector**    **Mrs Protheroe, inti qed tghid li wara li rajt lil Miss Marple inti gejt hdejn dan il-bieb, harist gewwa, rajt lil zewgek, u sparajtlu bl-arma li gibt mieghek.**

**Anne**        **Iva.**

**Marple**      **(Rising; unable to contain herself any longer) Imma ma jistax ikun hekk ruhi. Ma kellekx armi fuqek meta waqaft tkellimni. Ma kellek l-ebda handbag jew basket, u l-libsa ... kumbinazzjoni l-istess wahda li ghandek fuqek issa ... hija daqxejn issikkata mieghek, jekk tippermettli nghidlek u ma tista tahbi xejn.**

**Anne**        **Ovvjament li kelli l-arma mieghi.**

**Marple**      **(Quietly) Ruhi qalbi, ma jmissekx tghid dawn il-gideb kollha.**

**Anne**        **Se toqghod tati kaz lil din? X'taf dwar dan kollu kieku stess.**

**Marple**      **Naf ezattament x'kont qed taghmel bejn is-sitta u hafna wara s-sitta u nofs.**

**Inspector**    **Eh?**

**Marple**      **Kont qed insaqqi l-gnien.**

**Anne suddenly sways.**

**Anne**        **(Faintly) Nista npoggi? Qed inhossni ...**

**Inspector**    **(Quickly) Dr. Haydock! (He leads Anne to the chair down left)**

**Haydock moves to the cabinet up right, pours out a glass of water and moves to left of Anne. Anne sits in the chair down left. Lawrence makes a move towards Anne.**

**Inspector**    **(To Lawrence) Zomm lura minnha. Oqghod hemm. (He moves left centre) Mela, Miss Marple.**

**Lawrence perches himself on the left arm of the sofa. Jennings eases quietly up centre and stands with an eye on Lawrence. Haydock attends to Anne.**

**Marple** Mill-hamsa 'l quddiem jiena kont fil-gnien u minn hemm wiehed jista jara kollox.

**Inspector** Inti rajta lil Mrs Protheroe?

**Marple** Iva, da zgur.

Anne sips some water, then Haydock places the glass on the bureau.

**Inspector** U ghaliex m'ghidtlieq dan kollu qabel?

**Marple** Ili nipprova nghidlek, spettur. Imma intom l-irgel tant intom dominanti li hija impossibli biex idahhal kelma.

**Inspector** Ghidli mela, ghidli.

**Marple** Mrs Protheroe giet hdejn il-gnien tieghi u ammirat il-fjuri li ghandi, speċjalment dawq li ghandhom hafna kuluri.

**Inspector** U x'hin kien?

**Marple** X'is-sitta u kwart. Kont qed insegwieha minn mindu telqet mill-villagg. Qaltli li gejjja hawn biex tiltaqa mar-ragel taghha biex imorru mixja flimkien. Meta telqet minn hdejja marret fil-gnien mill-gradha ta wara.

**Inspector** U giet hawn gew?

Anne turns and looks at Marple.

**Marple** Iva. Rajtha iddur il-kantuniera. U zgur li kull ma ghamlet huwa li tat daqqa t'ghajn gewwa ghax malajr harget 'l barra. (French Windows) U zgur li il-Kurunell ma kienx hemm ghax kieku ma kenitx tidhol u tohrog. Imbaghad qasmet il-moghdija u marret fl-istudju ta' Mr. Redding.

**Inspector** U dak il-hin ma smajt l-ebda sparatura?

**Marple** Le, lanqas hjiel ta' sparatura.

**Anne** Imma, spettur, *dak il-hin* jien sparajtlu.

**Lawrence** (Rising) Spettur !

**Inspector** Tistghu tisktu intom it-tnejn? (To Miss Marple) Mrs Protheroe dahlet fl-istudju?

**Marple** Iva. Imbaghad Mr. Redding gie mill-villagg min gos-sqaq. Meta wasal fuq in-naha ta' wara ta' hawnhekk, waqaf u hares sewwa madwaru.

**Inspector** Allura kif ma rakx lilel, Miss Marple?

**Marple** Ghax dak il-hin kont kokka. Rajt greenfly fuq il-fjuri tieghi. Inkwetajt mhux hazin ....

**Inspector** Iva, iva da zgur. Imbaghad?

**Marple** Ghadda minn gol-gradha u dahal fl-istudju.

**Inspector** U ma giex hdejn dan il-bieb? (French Windows)

**Marple** Le. Baqa sejjer dritt gewwa l-istudju. Mrs Protheroe harget fil-bieb biex tilqghu u dahhlu t-tnejn gewwa.

**Anne** Imma ...

**Marple** Ftit wara smajt l-isparatura li qisa giet minn go qalb is-sigar.

**Inspector** Minuta, minuta. Halli nara ffit. Jigifieri fil-hin li instemat l-unika sparatura li kien hemm, Mrs Protheroe and Lawrence kienu t-tnejn fl-istudju.

**Marple** Ili nipprova nghidilek ghal hafna hin, spettur.

**Inspector** (Crossing to the Vicar) U nissaponi li hemm bieb wiehed biss ghall-istudju hux hekk?

**Vicar** Iva. U t-tieqa ma tinfetahx. U lanqas l-iskylight.

**Inspector** (Turning to Miss Marple) Kemm damu go l-istudju?

**Marple** Xi kwarta. Imbaghad imxew flimkien lura l-villagg.

**Inspector** Sewwa. U meta ghaddew minn hdejk ma nahsibx li rajt x'kienet l-espressjoni fuq wicchom?

Marple Iva, fil-fatt innutajt. Kienu t-tnejn ferhanin hafna.

Inspector Mhux inkwetati?

Marple Le, le, anzi l-oppost.

Anne (Rising; to the Inspector) Inti se toqghod tisma mara xwejha ... li tara lil kulhadd minn mili 'l boghod mill-mishut gnien taghha? Qed nghidlek li jien qtiltu lil zewgi.

Inspector Mrs Protheroe, qed tigdeb. Meta r-ragel tieghek instab mejjet, kien bilqieghda hdejn dik l-iskrivanija. U dik l-iskrivanija ma tidhirx minn barra l-bieb (French Windows). U inti ghidt li ma dhaltx gewwa.

Anne (Dazed) Le, imma ...

Inspector Inti ghidt li kellek arma fuqek. Imma ma kellekx.

Anne Insomma, jien ...

Inspector Jiena nahseb li inti qed taghthi lil dan ir-ragel. Imma ma hemmx ghalfejn ghaliex Lawrence Redding qal li qatel lil zewgek fis-6.45. Doctor Haydock qalli li huwa prattikament impossibli ... U l-evidenza sa issa turi li qabel dan il-hin Mr. Redding ma kienx vicin ta hawn. Milli jidher qieghed jaghthi lilek.

Anne (Moving to Lawrence and starting to break down) Li kieku taf mil-liema infern kont ghaddejja. Nippreferi immut milli nara xi haga tigri lilek. Uh qalbi! (She collapses in Lawrence's arms in floods of hysterical tears).

Lawrence Jiddispjacini, imma x'ridtni nahseb? Spettur, ma tahsibx li Mrs Protheroe tista tmur issa?

Inspector Iva.

Lawrence leads Anne towards the door left.

Inspector Ma ghidtlekx tista tmur Mr. Redding.

Haydock and Anne exit left. Miss Marple moves to the chair down left, turns it, and busily sits with her back to the audience, facing Lawrence.



**Inspector** Issa, ma hemmx ghalfejn tilghaba tal-eroj. Forsi tista tghidli x'gara verament. Ghalfejn gejt hawn f'xi sebgha neqsin hamsa?

The Vicar sits in the easy chair down right. The Inspector moves to left of the sofa.

**Lawrence** (Moving centre) Kollox sew, spettur, ma hemmx ghalfejn nigdeb izjed. Iltqajt ma Anne fl-istudju ghaliex iddecidejt nghidilha li kont se nitlaq minn hawn. Ma rajtix sewwa ghaliha li nibqa. Il-Kurunell mhux se jaghtiha d-divorzju. Sellimna lil xulxin. Imbaghad imxejt maghha mill-isqaq sal-villagg, u wara li tlaqta hassejt li ghandi nkellem lil xi hadd li jifhimni, allura gejt lura hawn mill-bieb ta quddiem, li kien miftuh, biex inkellem lil Vicar. Dhalt fl-istudju. (He pauses) Il-Kurunell kien bilqieghda hdejn l-iskrivanija. Mort fuqu u ... missejtu. Kien mejjet. Harist l-isfel u rajt arma mal-art. Gbartha, kienet tieghi.

**Vicar** U inti hsibt li Mrs Protheroe qatlitu.

**Lawrence** Iva. Dejjem kellha kontrol assolut fuq l-emozzjonijiet taghha imma meta bdejna ninhabbu imbidel kollox u bdiet taghmel affarijiet tassew mhux tas-soltu. Spettur, ma nahsibx li qatt habbet ta' veru. Naf li qed ninstama mignun. Imma ma waqafix biex nahseb, poggejt l-arma fil-but u ghaddejt minn gos-sala biex nevita lil Miss Marple, imma iltqajt mal-Vicar fuq it-targa ta barra. Niftakar li sibflu xi skuza ...

**Inspector** Minn izjed kien jaf li ghandek arma?

**Lawrence** Hafna nies.

**Inspector** Meta rajtha l-ahhar.

**Lawrence** Jumejn jew tlett ijiem ilu.

**Inspector** Fejn kont izzommha?

**Lawrence** Uh, ma xi affarijiet ohra fuq l-ixkafef tal-kotba.

**Inspector** Trid tghid li hallejtha tigri?

**Lawrence** Ma tantx kont nahseb fuqha. Kienet hemm u daqshekk.

**Inspector** Issakkar meta tohrog?

Lawrence Da zgur li le. Ma ghandi xejn ta valur x'tisraq.

Inspector Jigifieri li kulhadd mill-villagg seta jiehu l-arma.

Lawrence Hekk nahseb, spettur.

Inspector Meta gejт hawn, innutajt nota fuq il-blotter, u li kienet mohbija parzjalment mill-kadavru?

Lawrence Le.

Inspector Madanakollu kien hemm wahda. U xi hadd zied il-hin 6.20 wara li l-Kurunell gie maqtul.

Marple Zied?

Inspector Iva diga stabilixxejna li l-hin 6.20 gie mizjud izjed tard.

Lawrence Imma 6.20 huwa l-hin meta Anne kienet hawnhekk. Alla tieghi! Xi hadd ra, u wisq probabli kien hawn meta giet hi. Xi hadd li jobghodha.

Marple Xi hadd li kien qed jipprova jwahhal fiha.

There is a pause. Haydock enters left.

Haydock Ah, Redding. Nahseb li ahjar tmur hdejn Mrs Protheroe issa. Qed tistaqsi ghalik.

Lawrence Grazzi. Jimporta spettur?

Inspector (Disgruntled) Iva nahseb. Ma nahsibx li hemm izjed skop ghaliex tibqa hawn. Imma titlaqx mill-villagg.

Lawrence (His old charm coming back) Le da zgur ... grazzi.

He smiles at Miss Marple and exits left.

Inspector Kollox sew Jennings. Stennini fil-karozza.

Jennings exits through the french windows. The Vicar rises.

Marple (Rising and moving centre) Sinjuri, ninsab inkwetata hafna.

Vicar            }  
Haydock        } (Together) Inkwetata?

Haydock moves to left of Miss Marple.

Inspector    *Inti* inkwetata.

Marple        Iva, ghaziz spettur, inkwetata. Din hija differenti mill-kaz tal-umbrella jew tal-huta. Din hija perikoluza hafna, ghaliex kif qed naraha jien, sinjuri, dan huwa qattiel bla hniena u huwa t-tip li jerga joqtol ... (She sits in the armchair centre) ... u jerga joqtol.

CURTAIN  
END OF ACT 1

ACT 2 – Scene 1

Scene – The same. The following Sunday. Late afternoon.

A small tea table has been placed left of the sofa, but is not yet laid. The armchair from down left now stands above the coffee table.

When the CURTAIN opens, Hawes is asleep on the sofa. From time to time he restlessly turns his head. Griselda, in a state of extreme agitation, paces between the french windows and the fireplace. Church bells, pealing for evensong, can be heard softly on occasion. After a few moments, the Vicar enters left. He is also upset. He crosses to Griselda at the french windows.

Vicar            Darling. Tawni l-messagg tieghek. X'gara? (He moves above the sofa and sees Hawes) Jaqaw Hawes?

Griselda        (Moving down centre) Le, le. Hawes ok. Sikwit tmur ghajnu bih dan l-ahhar.

Vicar            Imma wiccu ...

Griselda        Le, hija hafna aghar minn hekk.

Vicar            (Moving to Griselda) Aghar ? Sirt taf b'xi haga?

Griselda        Sirt naf xi haga?

Vicar            Fuq il-qtil.

Griselda        Eh, il-qtil! Le, aghar minn hekk.

Vicar            Alla tieghi! Ghidli. Poggi bilqeghda. Ibqa kalma issa, qalbi.  
X'gara?

Griselda        (Sitting in the armchair centre) X'tahseb?

Vicar            Ghidli.

Griselda        (Gulping) Mary!

Vicar            (Moving to left of Griselda) Mary?

Griselda        Iva, ghax ...

Vicar Iva ghidli f'gieh Alla ...

Griselda (Tragically) Ghax ...

Vicar Ejja ...

Griselda Se titlaq!

Vicar (Brightening) Ah! Dak kollox? Jiena hsibt li se tghidli li qatlet hi lil Kurunell. (He moves to the desk and sits)

Griselda Dak kollox! (She rises) Ah, Len, inti ma jimpurtakx. (She moves to left of the Vicar)

Vicar Imma, qalbi, Mary, wara kollox hi daqxejn .... Lura.

Griselda U ejja ruhi qalbi! (With acute self-pity) Mhux se nsibu lil xi hadd iehor. Irrid naghmel l-ikel jien issa. U ma tafx x'jigifieri.

Vicar Sfortunatament naf, qalbi imma ma nahsibx li huwa aghar minn ta Mary. Minn gieghla titlaq minn hawn biex tmur ghandu se jkun dizappuntat hafna.

Griselda Imma ghalhekk ninsab inkwetata. Hadd ma jridha. Hi se titlaq ghax iddejjqet.

Vicar Ghax iddejjqet?

Griselda Iva, ghaliex Lettice Protheroe qalet li ma tfarfarx tajjeb.

Vicar Veru, imma dik mhux bicca xoghol ta' Lettice.

Griselda Da zgur li le. Ghalhekk hija tragika l-bicca xoghol.

Vicar Qalbi ... trid ... li inkellimha jien lil Mary?

Griselda (Smiling adorably) Len! Inti anglu. Int u int biss tista tipperswadiha tibqa.

Vicar (Already regretting it) Kollox sew ...issa nkellimha.

Griselda Qalb ta qalbi, zewgi hanini. (She kisses him) Issa l-ahjar hin ghax jien irrid ninzel sal-villagg u nibghata hawn.

Vicar X'inhu, issa?

Griselda (Moving to the door left) Iva, issa.

She exits left. The telephone rings. The Vicar lifts the receiver, Hawes wakes up. He brushes his hand in front of his eyes as though he sees double.

Vicar (Into the telephone) Hello ... Iva, jien hu ... Le mhux hawn surgent ... kollox sew. M'hemmx xi hjiel dwar xi arrest hux ? ...

Hawes rises and moves to the french windows.

Vicar Le hux. Grazzi surgent. Sahha. (He replaces the receiver, rises and moves to left of Hawes) Kollox sew, Hawes?

Hawes Iva, grazzi. Ku-ll ma ridt hu ftit arja friska biex nahseb ftit.

He exits through the french windows. The Vicar moves to the fireplace. Mary enters left. She wears an apron over her Sunday clothes.

Vicar (Turning) Ah Mary ! Eh, il-wara nofsinhar it-tajjeb.

Mary (Moving centre) Hello.

Vicar Il-mara qaltli li tixtieq titlaqna.

Mary Iva.

Vicar Allura ...

Mary Hemm certi affarijiet li tfajla mhux lesta li tissaporti.

Vicar Tista tkun izjed specifika, Mary?

Mary Eh? (She moves above the armchair centre)

Vicar Ghidli daqxejn, x'qed jinkwetak?

Mary Nghidlek mela le. (Letting forth) Certi nies jigu jhufu meta ma nkunx hawn jien u jindahlu izzejjed. X'inhu affari taghha kemm il-darba jien infarfar? Jekk inti u s-sinjura ma tgergrux ghalija bizzejjed.

Vicar Da zgur, imma ...

Mary Jien ninsab imhawwda. Reporters gejjin u sejrjn. Tal-gazzetti fuq it-telefon, u jien ma nistax nisma r-radju. U t-tip ta mistoqsijiet li qed jaghmluli. Qatt ma hdimt go post fejn sar omicidju ... lanqas meta kont go fabbrica ... imbaghad ghadu lanqas biss midfun u dik tigi hawn u tghidli kif suppost innaddaf. Tal-biki.

Vicar Miss Protheroe kienet hawn?

Mary Iva qed nghidlek. Sibtha hawnhekk meta gejt lura minn hdejn omm ir-ragel ghax hadtilha ftit affarijiet.

Vicar U x'riedet?

Mary (Moving to the Vicar, imitating Lettuce) Giet tfittex il-beret l-isfar qalet. 'Ma rajt l-ebda beret', ghidtilha jien, 'Ah, nahseb li mhux se tarah ghax ma tantx iddum tnaddaf f'kamra', qaltli.

Vicar A'hem !

Mary U imbaghad ... messhet b'subajha il-mantelpiece u harset lejh. Bhal li kiekku illum kelli cans noqghod innehhi l-affarijiet biex infarfar. Il-pulizija fethu l-bieb ilbierah filghaxija. U regghu ghalquh minhabba li kulhadd beda jitqarr li kien il-qattiel meta fil-fatt ma kienx.

Vicar U naturalment ma kellekx hafna hin.

Mary Allura ghidtilha ... kont irrabjata. 'Jekk il-Vicar u s-sinjura huma sodisfatti, ghalha bizzejjed'. U hi qalet, 'Imma inti zgur minn dan?'

Vicar Fhimtek.

Mary 'Imma inti zgur minn dan'! Kulhadd inhoss ukoll ta. Nahdem u nirsisti biex inzomm hawnhekk nadif ghalikom.

Vicar M'ghandix dubju Mary. Allura ...

Mary Imma bilfors li semghet xi haga minghand xi hadd. U jekk jien mhux qed naghmel xogholi sew .... (She turns and moves down centre)

Vicar (Interrupting) Ma tahsibx li hadt ghalik ghal xejn? Ha nghidlek Mary, il-mara jiddispjaciha hafna jekk nitilfuk.

Mary (Turning) Imma jien ma ghandi xejn kontra s-sinjura, u lanqas kontrik ovvjament.

Vicar        **Grazzi.** Allura ma tahsibx li qed tkun daqxejn maghla fid-decizjoni tieghek? Ejja isa.

Mary        (Sniffing) **Insomma, jien daqxejn imhawwda illum ... dawk il-mistoqsijiet kollha ...**

Vicar        **Mela nista nghid li kollox sew hux? Se tibqa?**

Mary        (Moving left centre, sniffing) **Insomma ...**

Vicar        **Jekk joghgbok, Mary.**

Mary        **Insomma, ma rridx li s-sinjura tkun dispjacuta. Hi gentili hafna u ghandha bzonn l-ghajnuna ... taf x'irrid nghid hux sinjur?**

Vicar        **Iva, iva. Naf xi trid tghid. Mela allura kollox sew.**

Mary        **Inti taf kif iddawwar il-fehma ta haddiehor. (She moves to the door left)**

**Miss Marple enters through the french windows. She carries a basket of raspberries.**

**Mary exits left.**

Vicar        **Daqxejn ta' krizi domestika.**

Marple      **Fhimtek. Ah, Vicar, x'gurnata din. (She moves to the coffee table) Gibt ftit frawli ghal mara tieghek ... kbar u ma fihomx dud. (She puts the basket on the coffee table)**

Vicar        **Inti gentili hafna.**

Marple      **Grazzi.**

Vicar        **Tpoggi?**

Marple      **Grazzi. (She moves to the sofa and sits) Kif inhi Griselda? Kemm tidher kalma. Sar qtil hawn propju gewwa darha u hi lanqas biss ma tidher daqxejn nervuza.**

Vicar        **Griselda qatt ma thalli affarijiet hziena bhal dawn ihassbuha izjed milli support. Issa li Anne u Lawrence huma hielsa, ma tridx toqghod tinkwieta.**



**Marple** (Nodding) Iva hekk hu .... Taf xejn li l-izjed li qed tinkwetani hija l-ittra li kiteb il-kurunell.

**Vicar** Veru? Ghaliex? (He sits in the easy chair down right)

**Marple** Jekk Mrs. Protheroe giet fit-tieqa u hasbet li l-kamra hija vojta, u nahseb li hekk ghamlet, ghax kieku qatt ma kienet se tissogra tmur tiltaqa ma Mr. Redding go l-istudju .... Insomma allura bilfors li l-kurunell kien diga bilqeghda hdejn l-iskrivanija.

**Vicar** Eh, iva, da zgur.

**Marple** Mela allura ghaliex, wara li qallek li se jistennik, pogga bilqeghda biex jikteb ittra li fiha qallek li ma setax jistenna?

**Vicar** Ghaliex? Ghandek ragun. Jew forsi rega bdilu.

**Marple** Sakemm ma kienx qed jikteb ittra kompletament differenti.

Mary enters left, followed by the Inspector. The Vicar rises. Mary exits left.

**Inspector** Kif inti, Vicar? (He moves centre), Ah, Good afternoon Miss Marple.

**Marple** Good afternoon, spettur. Ghandek xi ahbar?

**Inspector** (Snappily) Ahbar? Xi trid tghid biha?

**Marple** Jahasra spettur. Ma tantx hallik kalm dan il-kaz, hija ovvja.

**Inspector** (Snorting) Il-mara tieghek hawn qeghda, Mr. Clement?

**Vicar** (Surprised) Il-mara? Jiddispjacini li le, imma dalwaqt tkun hawn. Nista nghinek jien? Poggi jekk joghgbok.

Lawrence enters by the french windows.

**Inspector** Grazi. (He sits in the armchair centre)

**Lawrence** Nista nidhol?

**Vicar** Iva. (He perches himself on the left arm of the easy chair down right) Ma rajnik xejn dawn l-ahhar jiem.

Lawrence moves down left centre.

Marple Mr. Reddings kien qieghed jaghmel mixjit twal fil-bosk. Iltqajt mieghu darba wara nofs-in-nhar hdejn Jessops Copse.

Lawrence (Smiling charmingly) U Miss Marple qaltli affarijiet affaxxinanti hafna dwar il-mushrooms. Allura, Spettur ... ghadek il-bahar? Milli jidher huwa delitt ippjanat sew. Hjiel ta xejn.

Inspector Dalwaqt ... dalwaqt. Illum jew ghada il-qattiel dejjem jaghmel xi zelqa.

Lawrence Ma nistax ninsa li l-qattiel seta kien fid-dar tieghi, u fil-fatt ha xi drink mieghi.

Vicar Mhux bilfors. Nahseb li l-villagg kollu kien jaf li inti ghandek arma.

Lawrence U ghaliex kellhom ikunu jafu?

Vicar In-nies ta villagg jafu kollox. Wisq probabli anki x'shaving foam tuza jghidulek.

Lawrence U min jghidilhom dawn l-affarijiet?

Vicar (Smiling) Min jaf?

Marple Ix-xwejha Mrs. Archer li tnaddaflek per ezempju. Ma jmissekx thalli dik l-arma tigri 'l hawn u 'l hemm.

Lawrence (Moving to left of the sofa) U ejja, Miss Marple (He perches himself on the left arm of the sofa) Fejn kont naf li xi hadd kien se jissellfu biex joqtol lil Kurunell?

Marple Xorta nghid li kont traskurat. U l-inqas li tista taghmel hu li tghin lil l-ispettur biex issib min issellfu. (To the Inspector) Miskin Spettur, huwa minnu li se jibghatu xi hadd minn Scotland Yard biex ikompli l-investigazzjoni minflok.

Inspector (Giving her a look) Tista tghidli minn fejn iggib l-informazzjoni?

**Marple** Ghandi l-ispji tieghi. Mela veru. Jiddispjacini imma nahseb li ma tirreflettix tajjed fuqek. Qeghdin jghaggluk wisq u mhux qed ituk cans taghmel l-istharrig tieghek. Kulhadd huwa bla pacenzja illum il-gurnata.

**Inspector** Ezatt ... jekk ikolli izjed zmien ...

**Marple** Ma jimpurtax, Spettur. Baqalna illum.

**Lawrence** Dan huwa omicidju, u izjed ma jsir xi haga malajr izjed ahjar.

**Marple** Ma nahsibx li qed titkellem sew. Kull min kellu xi motiv kollha ghandhom provi li ma kienx vicin ta hawn fil-hin tal-qtil, u inti tirrovina l-ftit evidenza ta fingerprints li ghandna billi taqbad l-arma. Tch! Iva, nahseb li mhux qed titkellem sew.

**Lawrence** Jiddispjacini. Ninsab anzjus izjed minn haddiehor biex innaddafha. Inhoss is-suspett jigri warajja kull fejn immur.

**Vicar** Da zgur li le.

**Lawrence** Imma iva ta father, sakemm jinqabad il-qattiel kulhadd se jibqa jahseb li kont jien.

**Inspector** L-evidenza tat-tabib ghamlitha cara hafna.

**Lawrence** Imma n-nies ma jimpurtahomx mill-evidenza, speċjalment dik medika. Misskom tistaqsu lil kulhadd ghal darba darbtejn tlieta u jekk il-qattiel joqghod x'imkien hawn irid ikollu nervi verament sodi biex ma jcedix l-armi.

Hawes enters through the french windows and crosses to the door left.

**Inspector** Good afternoon, Mr. Hawes.

**Hawes** (Stopping left of the Inspector) Ah, Spettur, Marshall is-sagrstan qalli li staqsejtu xi mistoqsijiet.

**Inspector** Iva, Mr. Hawes. Kont qed nivverifika dak li ghidt int li ma tlaqtx mill-knisja qabel is-seba dakinhar tad-delitt.

**Hawes** Imma Marshall qal li tlaqtx?

**Inspector** Le. Imma qal li tela sal-kampnar biex jara jekk wiehed mill-hbula tal-qniepen kienx gie imsewwi. Dan kien fis-6.15pm.

**Hawes** (Getting worked up) Imma jien ... jien iltqajt mieghu meta tlaqt fis-7pm. Qed jigdeb jekk jghid li ma raniex.

**Inspector** Imma hu rak. Kien diga nizel sa dak il-hin. Imma hu kien fuq il-kampnar ghal xi ghaxar minuti.

**Hawes** X'jigifieri? Xi trid tghid biha?

**Vicar** Issa ikkalma Hawes. L-ispettur qed jaghmel xogholu.

**Hawes** Xogholu! Xogholu huwa jsib il-qattiel mhux jipprova idahhal nies innocenti f'nases.

**Lawrence** (Good-naturedly) U ejja tkun ecitat issa Ronny. Jekk l-ispettur qed jipprova jghid li tlaqt mill-knisja, gejt hawn, sparajt lil-Kurunell u mort lura ... nahseb li ikun qed jghid hmerija kbira ghax Miss Marple kienet tarak kiek, mhux hekk Miss Marple?

**Hawes** Iva, iva da zgur. Xogholu. Issa fhimt. Imma ... min seta jaghmel xi ha-ga daq-shekk ke-kerha? Ried ikollu motiv qawwi biex jaghmilha.

**Inspector** Dak li qed nippruvaw insibu.

**Hawes** Eh? Iva, da zgur. Il-Kurunell kellu l-ghedewwa. Kellu reputazjoni li kien kattiv meta kien jiehu xi decizjoni fil-qorti.

**Vicar** (Trying to break it up) Iva veru forsi, imma

**Hawes** (Interrupting) Ma tiftakarx, sir, dakinhar stess li inqatel kien qed jghidlek li gie mhedded min Archer?

**Vicar** Issa li qed nahseb, iva hekk hu.

**Inspector** Ma ghidtliex fuq dawn it-theddid.

**Vicar** Qatt ma hsibt fuqhom.

**Inspector** Tahseb li l-Kurunell kien jaf xi haga dwar Archer?

**Hawes** (Interrupting) Il-Kurunell kien jaf li Archer kien ragel li ma tistax tafdah.

**Vicar** Kulhadd jaf li hekk hu sfortunatament.

**Hawes** Forsi il-Kurunell qabdu fil-fatt u fuq hekk ried ikellmek.

**Vicar** Imma dak mhux affari tieghi.

**Lawrence** Nahseb li kiek u kien hekk, il-Kurunell kien isemmieha jew kien jikteb dwarha.

**Hawes** Forsi hekk kien se jaghmel.

**Inspector** Xi trid tghid biha?

**Hawes** Forsi il-Kurunell kien se jikteb u Archer sar jaf.

**Inspector** Trid tghid li l-Kurunell kien qed jikteb ittra dwar dan meta gie maqtul?

**Hawes** Iva ... Le, insomma, da zgur, ma kienx hux imma?

**Inspector** Siehbi Hawes, dak huwa precizament x'nixtieq inkun naf.

**Hawes** Im-ma inti taf.

**Inspector** Le, le. L-ittra li il-Kurunell suppost kien qed jikteb kienet falza.

*Miss Marple catches the Vicar's eye.*

**Hawes** Jigifieri ... ?

**Inspector** Jigifieri l-Kurunell qatt ma kiteb dik l-ittra.

**Hawes** Allura, x'gara mill-ittra originali?

**Inspector** Jekk jirnexxielna insibu dik l-ittra jkollna idea tajba min hu l-qattiel.

**Hawes** Iva, da zgur.

**Lawrence** Donnok li l-qatt il-musmar fuq rasu Ronny.

**Hawes** Imma jien ma .... ma naf xejn ... jien ...

**Lawrence** Da zgur li le ... coincidenza biss.

Hawes (Looking at his watch) Sar il-hin .... Se jkolli mmur.

Inspector Kollox sew Mr. Hawes. Mur, mur.

Hawes exits left.

Marple Miskin, kemm jecita ruhu malajr.

Inspector H'mmm! (He looks after Hawes)

Lawrence (Rising) Jidher daqxejn konfus hux? (He moves to left centre)  
Min jaf ghaliex ...?

Vicar Nissoponi li xi hadd tkellem ma dak li jbiegh il-hut hux? Jekk il-qattiel harab mill-bieb ta' quddiem, hemm cans li hu rah.

Inspector Iva kellimtu. Ma ra lil hadd. Ovvjament, jekk kien fil-fatt dak Archer li qatlu, ma kienx se jikxfu zgur ghax dawk kugini.

Marple Imma Mr. Archer ghandu alibi tajba hafna, Spettur.

Inspector Naf, naf ! Imma jien naf kif jimxu ma xulxin dawn in-nies tal-villagg. Jghinu lil xulxin b'kwalunkwe mod. (He laughs and rises) Mela, Mr. Clement, nerga nigi biex inkellem ll mara, se mmur inkellem daqxejn lit-tabib.

Lawrence Jien sejjer ukoll. Ridt nistaqsi lil Hawes ghal ktieb li ssellef meta kien ghandi l-gimgha l-ohra, imma ma jimpurtax, nerga nigi izjed tard. Nista nghidlek kelma, Spettur?

Lawrence and the Inspector exit left. The Vicar rises and moves centre.

Marple (Cheerfully) Hm. Allura l-Kurunell kien qed jikteb xi haga differenti. Min jaf x'kienet ....

Vicar Xi haga fuq il-qattiel, bla dubju.

Marple (Rising) Ghaziz Vicar, kieku issibli dik l-ittra li kien qed jikteb il-Kurunell, il-veru ittra imma. (She moves towards the french windows)

Vicar (Smiling) Naghmel mill-ahjar.

Miss Marple absent-mindedly feels the soil in the plant on the stand.

**Marple** (Right of the plant) Ah, grazzi, Vicar. Bhal ma konna naghmlu fil-passat, nigbdu habel wiehed. Tch! Tch! Din il-pjanta ma tantx hija kuntenta. Suppost issaqqieha kuljum. Mary tiehu hsiebha?

**Vicar** (Moving to the left of the plant) Iva, bhal ma taghmel ghal affarijiet ohra.

**Marple** Hi daqxejn goffa hux?

**Vicar** Iva hekk hu, imma ma tantx ssib ahjar illum il-gurnata. Stramba daqxejn imma illum tatna n-notice.

**Marple** Veru? Kont minghalija li kienet kuntenta hawn.

**Vicar** Anki jien hekk kont nahseb, imma Lettice Protheroe irrabjata hafna.

**Marple** Dik it-tifla imfissda wisq. (She is on her way out when she stops) Hi bilhaqq ! (She turns) Kemm jien stupida.

**Vicar** Skuzi?

**Marple** Ah? Xejn. Idea biss.

**Dennis and Griselda enter left.**

**Vicar** Tista tghidli x'inh?

**Marple** Mhux ghalissa Vicar, irrid immur id-dar u nahseb ftit fuqha.

**Griselda** Ah hello, Miss Marple.

**Marple** Ghaziza Griselda, gejt sa hawn bi ftit berries ghalik.

**Griselda** Ah, grazzi, gentili hafna ... mela sejra ... oqghod ftit hawn u hu daqxejn te maghna.

**Marple** Le grazzi, qalbi. Hadt tazza xi nofs siegha ilu.

**Griselda** Ah ... kollox sew mela. Allora kif sejra l-agenzija privata tad-detectives? Hemm xi hjiel jew?

**Marple** (To the Vicar) Ghaziza Griselda, kemm thobb ticcajta hux? Bhalissa qeghdha naqqad hafna affarijiet flimkien.

**Dennis** Il-marelli. Thallix lill-ispettur ikun jaf ghax aqta kemm ikun irrabjat.

**Marple** Ah, l-ispettur u jien nahdmu fuq linji differenti. Hu jfittex il-hjiel mill-fatti filwaqt li jien infittixhom fin-nies. Good afternoon.

She exits through the french windows to left. The Vicar sits at the desk.

**Griselda** (Moving to the french windows and looking off left) Din Miss Marple thobb tindahal hafna. Mela ejja Len, ghidli l-ahbar hazina.

**Vicar** L-ahbar hazin? Fuq xiex?

Dennis moves to the sofa and sits.

**Griselda** Fuq Mary, ovvjament.

**Vicar** Ah, se tibqa.

**Griselda** Ah, Len, din ahbar verament tajba. Kemm inti intelligenti.

**Vicar** Hekk nahseb jien ukoll ... sejjitli sinjur darbtejn.

**Griselda** U ejja ! Ghaliex kienet irrabjata?

**Vicar** Fuq il-bierette ta Lettice.

Mary enters left. She carries a tray of tea.

**Griselda** (Seeing Mary) Eh ... Il-Brownriggs se jwahhlu xi hadid mat-twieqi tagghom.

**Dennis** Iva u se jaghmlu xi nases fil-gnien. (He rises and moves to the fireplace)

Mary crosses to the table left of the sofa, and puts the tray on it.

**Vicar** Il-marelli.

**Mary** It-tabib gej hawn. (She moves the table a little below the sofa)



**Griselda** (Moving to the sofa) Ghidlu jidhol, jekk joghgbok Mary.

**Mary** Tibzax, issa jidhol wahdu. Dan l-ahhar qed inhalli l-bieb miftuh. (She arranges a cushion for Griselda). Hekk ahjar? (She grins indulgently)

**Griselda** (Sitting on the sofa) Iva grazzi, Mary.

Mary crosses to the door left. Haydock enters left.

**Haydock** Ah kif inti Mary?

**Mary** Hello dott. (She exits)

**Griselda** Tazza te', dott? (She starts to pour out the tea)

**Haydock** Dak li ghandi bzonn bhalissa. (He moves to the sofa) Allura, siehbi, staqsewk xi mistoqsijiet il-pulizija? (He sits right of Griselda on the sofa)

**Dennis** Le sa issa.

**Haydock** L-ispettur kien qed jghidli li it-telefonata fejn qal li huwa Abbott giet minn North Lodge.

Griselda gives Haydock a cup of tea. Dennis moves to the left of the sofa.

**Vicar** Veru? Dak mhux vojta?

Griselda gives Dennis a cup of tea for the Vicar.

**Griselda** Iva, tghidx kemm huma traskurati, u kulhadd jista jidhol gewwa u jcempel minghajr hadd ma jinduna.

Dennis moves up left and gives the cup of tea to the Vicar.

**Vicar** Xi hadd, oovjament, li kien jaf li l-Lodge hija vojta.

**Griselda** Fi kliem iehor, xi hadd li joqghod fil-villagg.

Dennis moves to the table, picks up the plate of sandwiches and a small plate, and takes them to the Vicar.

Haydock Ghandhom ukoll informazzjoni fuq it-telefonata li tant irrabjat lil Mrs. Price Ridley.

Griselda (Almost dropping a cup) Le!

Dennis (Horried) Veru?

The Vicar takes the small plate and a sandwich.

Haydock It-telefonata saret minn post li hadd ma kien jistenna. Mid-dar ta Lawrence Redding.

Dennis replaces the plate of sandwiches on the table.

Vicar X'wahda din! Imma ma kienx hemm. Kien fl-istudju ma Anne.

Haydock Ezattament. Misterjuza hafna. Li kieku ma kienx hemm l-omicidju kieku tista tghid li kienet cajta. It-telefonata ta' Price Ridley, irrid nghid.

Griselda gives a cup of tea to Dennis, who crosses to the easy chair, down right and sits.

Vicar (Rising and moving down centre with his cup and saucer in his hand) John, jekk inti ghandek suspett, u jekk inti taf li certu persuna huwa l-qattiel, tikxfu?

Haydock (After a pause) Ghaliex qed tistaqsini, Padre?

Vicar Ah, xejn partikolari. Peress li kulhadd qed jahseb fuq dan l-omicidju, kont qed nahseb xi thoss meta tkun tissospetta f'xi hadd.

Haydock Kieku jien naghmel id-dover tieghi. Hekk nispera almenu.

Vicar (Quietly) Il-kwistjoni hija, bit-teoriji tieghek, fejn huma id-doveri tieghek?

Haydock Din hija xi haga li tigi lil hafna nies f'hajjithom u kulhadd irid jiddeciedi hu.

Vicar Imma ... allura ... ma tafx. (He moves to the desk and sits)

Haydock Ma nafx.

Mary enters abruptly left.

Mary            Rega gie dan.

The inspector enters left.

Inspector      Grazzi, sabiha.

Mary            (Giving the Inspector a look) Kien hemm ragel darba f'dan il-villagg, kien jorbot spaga ma kull sigra li jara. Kont nahseb li hu bahnan. Imma le ... hawn min hu bahnan izjed. (She exits left).

Inspector      Ma thobbhomx l-pulizija is-seftura taghkom. Nispera mhux qed niskomodakom imma l-ewwel meta kont hawn f'it ilu insejt xi haga. (He moves centre) Xi hadd minnkom tarfuh dan? (He pulls Lettice's yellow beret out of his pocket)

There is dead silence. The Vicar rises. The Inspector's eye goes from one to the other, till it rests on Dennis.

Dennis          (Reluctantly) Jidher qisu l-beret ta' Lettice.

Vicar            (Moving down left centre) Nirringrazzja 'l Alla li sibtuha fl-ahhar.

Griselda        (Guiltily) Fejn sibtuha, Spettur?

Inspector      Ghand Mrs. Archer. F'daqqa wahda hasbet li setghet tkun importanti. (He crosses to Dennis) L-ghada tal-omicidju, sabitu fid-dar ta' Lawrence Redding.

Dennis          Imma ghaliex m'ghandux ikun hemm?

Inspector      L-ebda raguni ovvjament. Imma irrid nivverifika ... niskopri liema gurnata kienet bih u jekk kienet fid-dar ta' Mr. Redding dakinhar tal-omicidju .... Ghaliex.

Haydock        (Rising and moving to right of the Inspector) Dik il-problema b'omicidju ... kull xorta ta' affarijiet ... johorgu.

Inspector      Ghandek ragun, dott.

**Haydock** L-iskandli li qeghdin johorgu f'dan il-villagg kwiet, min minu sar l-omicidju. (To the Vicar) Nista nuza l-iskrivanija tieghek? (He puts his cup on the tray, crosses to the desk, and takes some papers from his pocket).

**Griselda** (To the Inspector) Trid tazza te? Naf li daqxejn tard. Imma l-hinjiet tal-ikel hawn huma daqxejn strambi.

Haydock sits at the desk and studies his papers.

**Inspector** (Moving right of Griselda) Le, grazzi, Mrs. Clement. Ridt nistaqsik xi ftit mistoqsijiet.

**Griselda** Lili? (Lightly) Fajjar, Spettur, jien lesta. (She puts her cup on the tray)

**Inspector** Il-wara nofsinhar tal-gurnata tal-omicidju, into mort Londra, hux hekk?

**Griselda** Hekk hu.

**Inspector** Xi train ghidt li qbadt biex gejta lura?

**Griselda** Train? Tal-hamsa u hamsa, ovvjament.

**Inspector** U inti zgur?

**Griselda** Iva, iva. Dejjem lilha naqbad.

**Inspector** Mrs. Clement, it-train tal-hamsa u hamsa, nhar l-Erbgħa telqet tard minhabba xi hsarat u waslet hawn sew wara is-seba u nofs.

**Griselda** Mela allura gejta lura ftit tard.

**Inspector** Eh le, inti wasalt f'dan l-istudju ftit wara is-seba.

**Griselda** Iva? Mela allura nahseb li qbadt it-train ta' qabel. Imma ma niftakarx naghmel hekk. Inti zgur?

**Vicar** Iva da zgur, Griselda. Dakinhar konna konxji hafna fuq il-hin.

**Griselda** Da zgur, kemm jien stupida. Qbadt dik tal-erbgha u nofs.

**Inspector** Imma allura, kien imissek wasalt kmieni d-dar.

- Griselda**      **Kmieni? Imma, ma qbadt il-bus mill-istazzjon. Imxejtha sa hawnhekk.**
- Vicar**          **Imxejtha?**
- Griselda**      **Iva, qalbi, minn gol-bosk. Kelli ... kelli bzonn ftit arja friska.**
- Inspector**    **U rak xi hadd?**
- Griselda**      **Zgur li rawni hafna nies. Imma ghaliex hija daqshekk importanti?**
- Haydock**      **(Lightly) L-ispettur qed jipprova jistabilixxi l-alibi tieghek, Griselda.**
- Griselda**      **Alibi! Ah, trid tghid il-Kurunell? Imma jien ma wasaltx hawn qabel ma kontu kollha hawn.**
- Vicar**          **U dak li jrid ikun jaf l-ispettur, qalbi.**
- Griselda**      **Imma ... allura ... jien qtilt il-Kurunell? Imma din redikola.**
- Inspector**    **Rak xi hadd miexja lura lejn id-dar?**
- Griselda**      **Ha nahseb ...**
- Dennis**        **(Rising, suddenly) Jien rajtha ... kienet ...**
- Griselda**      **(Quickly) Ah iva, da zgur. Dennis ... iltqajna ... hdejn il-medda tal-fjuri ...**
- Inspector**    **Il-medda tal-fjuri? Imma ma ghandha x'taqsam xejn mat-triq li taghti ghal hawn.**
- Griselda**      **(Lightly) Allura? Daqxejn itwal imma isbah.**
- Inspector**    **U fejn iltqajtu ezatt?**
- Dennis**        **Eh, fejn ...**
- Griselda**      **(Quickly) Ah, hdejn il-willows.**
- Inspector**    **Imma il-guvni wasal qablek id-dar.**

Dennis Ghax jien kont bir-rota. U bqajt sejjer.

Inspector (To Griselda) Hekk hu?

Griselda Iva, iva, da zgur.

Inspector Fil-futur, Mrs. Clement, jekk joghgbok kun preciza fil-fatti tieghek.

Griselda Iva, Spettur.

Inspector Grazzi. Jien sejjer issa. (He moves to the french windows)  
Nista nghaddi min hawn?

Vicar Da zgur.

Dennis stands by the fireplace, looking very worried.

Haydock (Rising) Sejjer ukoll jien, stennini Spettur. Grazzi tat-te, Griselda.

The Inspector and Haydock exit through the french windows. The Vicar moves to the desk and sits.

Griselda (Rising) Issa nistghu nkomplu t-te fil-paci. (She collects the Vicar's empty cup from the desk) Fejn hu Ronny?

Mary enters excitedly left. Griselda moves to the table.

Mary Isma.

Vicar Allura, xi trid Mary?

Mary Hsibt f'xi haga.

Vicar Ghandha x'taqsam mal-omicidju?

Griselda pours a cup of tea for the Vicar.

Mary Iva.

There is a pause.

Vicar Allura, x'inhni?

- Mary            Dakinhar filghaxija kont qed infittex lil Len.
- Griselda        (Looking enquiringly at the Vicar) Len?
- Mary            (Giggling) Ah, mhux Len il-Vicar. Len, it-tifel li jbiegh il-hut.
- Griselda gives the cup of tea to the Vicar, returns to the sofa, sits and drinks her tea.
- Mary            Insomma jahseb li huwa ragel ghax ghandu sbatax il-sena. Jahseb li jista jiccajta maghna t-tfajliet. U kien tard ukoll ... sew wara is-sitta.
- Griselda        Komplu Mary.
- Mary            Komplu? Eh iva. Insomma ... kif kont qed hdejn il-bieb ta wara ghall affarijiet tieghi ... smajt ...
- Griselda        Xi smajt?
- Mary            Ghatisa.
- Vicar            Xi smajt?
- Mary            Xi hadd jaghtas, u tghiduliex li smajt hazin.
- Vicar            Ma tarax, Mary.
- Mary            Ghaliex is-smiegh huwa l-ahjar haga li ghandi.
- Griselda        Imma ghaliex ma kellekx tisma ghatisa, Mary?
- Mary            (Patiently) Smajt lil xi hadd jaghtas mid-direzzjoni tal-gnien, min hdejn dawk it-twieqi.
- Vicar            Allura?
- Mary            Il-qattiel kien qed jistahba wara dak il-haxix.
- Griselda        (After a pause) Grazzi Mary. Inti kont ta ghajnuna kbira.
- Mary            Hekk tahseb? Kien ftit hin mhux hazin wara li dahhalt lil Kurunell.

Hawes enters left. He wears his cassock. Mary does not see him.

Mary        Ara daqxejn, il-qattiel ghatas ezattament hdejja. (She turns sharply, bumps into Hawes, screams and exits left)

Dennis        Phew!

Griselda      Ah, Ronny. Ghadek ma hadtx it-te.

Hawes        (Moving up centre) Ma rridx te, grazzi, Griselda. U issa sar il-hin li mmur il-knisja. (To the Vicar) Qed nistenna bil-herqa il-priedka tieghek, sir. Inhoss li l-laqgha tal-Hadd filghaxija hija solenni hafna.

Vicar        (Thoughtfully) Solenni iva. Hin meta hija izjed facli biex tolqot l-qalb ta' dak li jkun.

Hawes        U inti hekk taghmel, sir.

Vicar        Jien?

Griselda      Naf xi jrid jghid Ronny. Fuq l-altar tidher persuna differenti ... maqtuh ghalik imma li tifhem.

Vicar        (Smiling) Imma mhux dejjem hekk jien?

Griselda      Iva, imma din differenti. Daqxejn iebsa biex tispjega.

Hawes        (Surprisingly) Jien nifhem. Immur issa, Mr. Clement?

Vicar        Iva, mur.

Hawes        (Moving to the french windows and turning) U noqghod attent li dak Willie Simpson ma jdahhalx il-hemster tieghu fl-ispellizza.

Vicar        Grazzi. (He studies a letter on his desk)

Hawes exits through the french windows to right. Dennis crosses to the door left and opens it.

Vicar        Ma waslet din?

Griselda      Ma nafx. Gibtha mieghek inti, Dennis?



Dennis        Le.

Griselda     Nahseb li poggitha Mary mela. Minghand min?

Vicar         (Rising) Hmieg!

Griselda     Alla tieghi! X'inho mela, Len?

Vicar         (Moving down left centre a few steps) Ittra anonima.

Dennis       Fuq xiex?

Vicar         Eh ... ah, xejn.

Griselda     (Rising and moving to right of the Vicar, sharply) Fuq xiex inhi, Len?

Vicar         Redikolha, kollha kemm hi.

Griselda     Len, *x'inho*?

Vicar         Attakk malizjus. Gideb, ovvjament.

Griselda takes the letter from the Vicar.

Griselda     (Reading) 'X'kienet qed taghmel il-mara tal-Vicar fid-dar ta' Lawrence Redding dakinhar tal-qtil? Din xi haga li kulhadd jixtieq ikun jaf'.

Vicar         Ahjar ma qrajthiex. (He takes the letter from her) Din il-bicca hija assurda.

Griselda     Mhux ... assurda, le.

Vicar         X'jigifieri?

Griselda     Ovvjament xi hadd rana ... rani.

Dennis       Grisel, nahseb li ...

Griselda     (Sharply) Dennis, halli lili nitkellem.

Vicar         Inti kont fid-dar ta' Redding nhar il-Erbgha?

Griselda     Iva.

Dennis Imma jekk inti ...

Griselda (Turning to Dennis) Dennis, jekk ma tistax toqghod kwiet ... jekk joghgbok mur 'l hemm.

Vicar Griselda, din serja. X'ix-xjafek ggaghlek tmur hemm, u f'gieh il-Bambin, ghaliex ma ghidtli xejn?

Griselda Qalbi, mhux importanti. (She moves to the fireplace and takes a cigarette from the box on the mantelpiece)

Vicar (Moving below the sofa) Griselda. Darba għall dejjem, trid tirrealizza li kien hawn qtil. Għadu kemm interrogak l-ispettur u inti ma ghidtlux l-informazzjoni kollha.

Griselda Imma, qalbi, ma għandha x'taqsam xejn mal-qtil.

Vicar Inti mort id-dar ta' Redding. U l-arma ta' Redding intuzat fil-qtil.

Griselda Ridt inkun hafifa sew biex nigi hawn mid-dar ta' Redding. Anki kieku bir-rota.

Vicar Jista jkun. Imma ma għamiltx sew li ma ghidtlux b'dan lill-ispettur.

Griselda lights her cigarette.

Vicar Issa ejja halli naghmlu kollox car. Tista tghidli ghaliex inti mort id-dar ta' Redding?

Dennis (Moving to left centre) Nahseb ...

Griselda Qalbi, diga ghidtlek li ma għandha x'taqsam xejn mal-qtil.

Vicar Mela xi spjegazzjoni hemm?

Griselda Ma hemm l-ebda wahda.

Vicar Tirrealizza li ittra simili se tasal għand l-ispettur? Imbagħad jistaqsuk mistoqsijiet.

**Griselda** (Coming to a decision) Ara, qalbi! Mort biex nara lil Lawrence. Ghaddejt ghandu jiena u gejjja mill-istazzjon. U kif wasalt hemm ma kienx id-dar, kif taf int.

**Vicar** U ghaliex ma ghidtlieq?

**Griselda** Kieku ghidtlek ghaliex, kont ridt nghidlek kollox.

**Vicar** Kollox?

**Griselda** Ghax, kont naf lil Lawrence meta kont zghira, fi zmien il-gwerra, sew qabel ma iltqajt mieghek.

**Vicar** Qatt ma ghidli.

**Griselda** Naf. Tinstama stupida issa, imma meta kont zaghzugha kelli grazzja mieghu. Taf inti, dejjem bil-hsieb li stajt kont mejta mument wara.

**Dennis** Ma nemmnekx. Qed tghid hekk ghaliex ...

**Griselda** (To Dennis, urgently) Veru Dennis, kollu veru. Ma kien hemm xejn hazin fiha. (To the Vicar) Kont bela, Len, imma tant kellek fiducja fija li kieku ghidtlek meta Lawrence gie joqghod hawn, kont zgur nohloq dubju fik ... naf kemm dawn l-affarijiet jistghu ...

**Vicar** Ma tantx tafni mela, hux?

**Griselda** (Quietly) Le, ma nahsibx. Imma wara kollox, qatt ma kont naf ragel daqshekk twajjeb.

**Vicar** Imma x'raguni kellek biex tmur id-dar ta' Lawrence? F'komunita zghira bhal din, kulhadd isir jaf fejn tmur u x'taghmel.

**Griselda** Imma, qalbi, kienet haga innocenti hafna. Ridt biss nidhol u nitkellem mieghu fuq il-passat. Hafna minnha, qalbi, nimmisjawha l-gwerra. Naf li xi haga li imissna nisthu imma hekk hu.

The five-minute bell starts ringing.

**Vicar** Imma jekk ma tghidlix dawn l-affarijiet kif tridni inkun naf. Ruhi qalbi, jien inhobbok u irridek tkun ferhana.

Griselda (Moving to him) Naf! U jiena ferhana, ma hawn hadd ferhana daqsi.

Dennis (Slightly embarrassed) Ah, dik il-qampiena tal-knisja.

Griselda Iva, hekk hu. Se mmur ingib l-affarijiet. (To the Vicar) Tinsix iggib in-noti ghal-priedka, qalbi. (She crosses to the door left)

The Vicar eases left centre.

Griselda (She turns) Len, tifhimni hux?

Vicar Da zgur. (He moves to the desk) Gibli l-basket, Dennis, jekk joghgbok. (He puts the anonymous letter on the desk, then takes off his jacket and hangs it over the desk chair)

Griselda and Dennis exit left. Dennis re-enters immediately with the Vicar's cassock.

Dennis (Moving to the Vicar and helping him on with the cassock) Imma in-ti temminha hux, Uncle Len?

Vicar (After a pause) Ghaliex qed tistaqsini? (He picks up his sermon notes from the desk)

Dennis Nispera li ... jsibu l-qattiel. Din il-haga li ma nafux mhux sabiha.

Vicar (Moving to the french windows) Il-persuna li qatlet lil Kurunell Protheroe se jinstab, hu minn hu.

Dennis Uncle Len.

Vicar Ghidli?

Dennis Le, xejn.

The Vicar exits through the french windows to right. Griselda enters left. She wears a hat and carries gloves, handbag and prayer-book.

Griselda (Moving up centre) Telaq?

Dennis Iva.

**Griselda**    **Dennis.**

**Dennis**    **Ghidli?**

**Griselda**    **Dik kienet l-unika darba li gdibtlu.**

**CURTAIN**

Act 2 – Scene 2. The same. An hour and a half later.

When the Curtain opens, tea and the tea table have been removed. The sky is leaden and overcast. There is a distant sound of an organ playing the hymn, ‘Oh, for a closer walk with God’. Lawrence is pacing impatiently up and down. After a few moments, Anne enters through the french windows. She is dressed in black and wears a hat.

Lawrence Ah, wasalt. Ili nistennik tul is-servizz tal-knisja. (He moves to the fireplace)

Anne Skuzani, qalbi. (She moves down left centre, takes off her hat and puts it on the coffee table)

Lawrence Kien minghalija li kellek titlaq qabel ma jispicca kollox.

Anne (Moving below the sofa) Ghadu ma spiccax fil-fatt. Qeghdin ikantaw l-ahhar hymn. Lawrence ...

Lawrence Allura, x'gara?

The organ stops.

Anne Il-Vicar tghidx kemm ghamel priedka tal-biza. Ridt nitlaq, imma xi haga ggieghlitni noqghod hemm u nisma. Tghidx kemm kienet tal-biza. Qatt ma smajtu jippriedka hekk. Aqta kemm kien ispirat. (She sits on the sofa)

Lawrence (Sitting right and Anne on the sofa) Il-Vicar mhux iblah. Probabilment ha vantagg tat-tensjoni li hawn fl-arja. Ara, qalbi, ejja nitkellmu fuq xi haga ohra. Dalwaqt jigu lura.

They kiss passionately.

Anne Ah, qalbi, kemm ilna ma niltaqghu. Ghadda hafna zmien minghajr ma narak. Kultant nahseb li niggennen jekk ma narakx almenu ghal minuta. Ghaliex ma thallinix niggi id-dar tieghek?

Lawrence Ma tafx li tkun daqxejn stupida bl-affarijiet kif inhuma.

Anne Iva, hekk nahseb. Imma ma nistax niflahha izjed. Lawrence, ma nistax, ma nistax.

Lawrence U ejja, ruhi, toqghodx tinkwieta. Kollox se jitranga u ahna inkunu liberi fl-ahhar. Liberi biex naharbu minn dan il-mishut villagg.

The sound of the organ 'Voluntary' is heard in the distance.

Anne Ma nahsibx li xi darba se nkunu liberi. Ma nahsibx li xi darba nistghu nitilqu minn hawn. Tghidx kemm hassejt ostilita' illejla fil-knisja.

Lawrence Issa qed thalli l-imaginazzjoni tieghek tigri bik.

Anne Lawrence, ma tifhimnix. Wara kollox, dak kien ir-ragel tieghi.

Lawrence Ismaghni Anne. Ahna ninhabbu. Xejn izjed ma jimporta. Tafdani hux, u temminni hux hekk?

Anne Ma tafx li iva. Jiena inhobbok izjed milli qatt habbejt lil xi haddiehor. L-unika darba li nhossni fiz-zgur hu meta inkun mieghek. (She rises and moves right) Imma, qalbi, ahna qatt mhu se nkunu ferhanin, qatt mhu se naharbu. Jien naf li qatt mhu se jigri dan kollu.

Lawrence (Rising and taking Anne in his arms) Da zgur li se nitilqu. Ikollna l-flus u nsifru. Immorru fejn dejjem xtaqna u nixxemxu kemm nifilhu.

Lettice enters through the french windows. She carries a hat.

Lettice Ideja tajba. Nahseb li anke jien niggi.

Anne and Lawrence break apart.

Anne (Startled) Lettice! Ghaliex gejt warajja?

The organ stops.

Lettice Insomma, almenu stajt kont izjed konvincenti meta ghidt li hassek hazin. Issa kollox spicca. (She moves to the armchair centre) Phew! (She sits) Min jaf ghalxiex kien qed jirreferi il-Vicar hux? Jien nahseb li jaf min qatel lil papa' u kien qed jipprova jgieghlu jistqarr kollox. Anki jien hassejtni hatja.

Anne Tkunx bela. Ghaliex gejt hawn?

**Lettice** Diga ghidtlek. Irrid niehu hsieb lil mara ta' missieri hux? U kieku stess, ghaliex qeghdha hawn ma Lawrence.

**Anne** Taf sew li Griselda stednitna ghal tazza sherry.

**Marple** (Off up centre to right) Hadt gost nara hafna nies fil-knisja.

**Lettice** (Rising) Mid-dehra Griselda stiednet lix-xjuh ukoll. (She moves up left)

Anne crosses to left. Miss Marple and Mrs Price Ridley enter through the french windows. Both wear hats and carry prayer-books, gloves and handbags.

**Price** (Moving to the sofa) Qatt ma rajt il-knisja daqshekk mimlija. (She sits)

**Marple** Iva, ta' l-ghageb kemm kien hemm nies. (She moves to the coffee-table, puts her book down and takes off her gloves). Imma nahseb li kien minhabba l-incidenti tragici li kellna u l-publicita' zejda.

**Lettice** Rajtha l-gazzetta tal-Hadd?

**Anne** Lettice!

**Lettice** Irnexxielna nidru fuq il-gazzetti kollha.

**Marple** Kumbinazzjoni rajt in-News of the World tan-neputija tieghi Nellie.

**Price** (Roaring with laughter) Imhattra li taraha kull gimgha.

Miss Marple ignores Mrs Price Ridley, puts her gloves on the coffee table, and sits in the armchair left centre.

**Marple** (To Anne) Il-presenza tieghek fil-knisja qajmet agha fost dawk li jhobbi jnemmsu ruhi.

Dennis enters through the french windows.

**Price** Ghamilt bicca xoghol ta mara. Hekk trid taghmel ma nies bhal dawn. Titratthom talli huma .... Imbecilli.



Lawrence sits right of Mrs Price Ridley on the sofa.

Lettice (Moving to left of Dennis) Hello Dennis. M'ghadekx tkellimni, jaqaw qed tibza minni?

The underlined conversation is said together.

Dennis Da zgur li le.

Marple Sibt il-priedka daqxejn inkwetanti, Mrs. Protheroe. X'tahseb?

Anne Insomma, iva, jien ...

Lettice Ma rajtekx minn mindu ....

The Vicar, still wearing his cassock, enters through the french windows, followed by Hawes, also wearing his cassock. Hawes stands above the sofa.

Dennis (With relief) Ah! Hawn hu Uncle Len. Uncle Len, rajtha lil Grisel?

Anne Qaltilna biex nigu ghal drink.

Vicar (Moving centre) Ghadha ma gietx?

Dennis Le.

Lettice Rajtha sejra l-isfel lejn il-bosk.

Price Ah, meta jkollhom wicc sabih, wiehed lest li jinsa l-manjieri hziena. Imma meta wicchom ikun tawwali u xieref .... (She glares at Miss Marple)

Lawrence rises and moves to the fireplace. The Vicar takes off his cassock and puts on his jacket. He hangs the cassock over the back of the chair.

Marple (Sweetly) Kemm ghandek ragun Mrs Price Ridley. (To the Vicar) Il-priedka tieghek, ghaziz Vicar. Mhux tas-soltu, daqxejn sorprendenti. Qatt ma smajtek daqshekk .... Dirett ...

Lettice Fakkritni fi priedka ta wiehed predikatur iswed f'wiehed mill-films. Emozzjonajthom hafna.

Anne            Lettice!

Price            Tantx toqghod rasek mistrieħa bl-emozjonijiet.

There is a distant roll of thunder.

Vicar            (Quietly) Le, ma nserrahx rasi lanqas jien. Imma ma tantx kont sew illejla.

Marple          Miskin Vicar. Ghandek wisq affarijiet fuq mohħok.

Vicar            (Moving centre) Mela, la Griselda mhux hawn, ejja nieħdu drink. Ronny, tista tagħmillhom drink jekk jogħgbok? Qegħdin fil-cupboard.

Hawes           Mela le, imma jiddispjacini ma tantx nifhem fid-drinks.

Lawrence       Ejja ha ngħinek jien Ronny. (He moves to the drinks cabinet up right)

Hawes smiles gratefully at Lawrence and moves to the drinks cabinet. They take the decanter and glasses from the cupboard and pour out two glasses of sherry. Dennis moves to the fireplace. Mary enters suddenly left. Her hair is hanging loose and her hat is half off. Tears are pouring down her face. She flings herself on her knees at the Vicar's feet.

Mary            (On her knees) Qatt ma ridt nagħmillha. Qatt ma ridt nagħmillha. Imma ma stajtx nagħmel mod iehor. Ir-ragel tiegħi tghidx kemm hu rrabjat li gejt hawn. Ma gejniex il-knisja u għandi bzonn li tahfirli. Irridek tahfirli.

The Vicar hoists Mary to her feet.

Vicar            Mary! Xi gralek? Qum. Issa, għidli x'gara?

Mary            Ma stajtx norqod minuta. Il-kuxjenza ma hallitniex ... mhux wara dik il-priedka tiegħek. (She sobs loudly and noisily) Qatt ma kelli intenzjoni nehodha. Emminni. Imma omm ir-ragel tghidx kemm thobb il-kuluri.

Vicar            Ikkontrolla lilek innifsek, Mary. Tista tghidli fuq xiex qed titkellem. X'ħadt?

**Mary** (Through her tears) **Il-vazun li fih Torquay fuqu. Tahfirli? Jekk joghgbok, Sir, ahfirli.**

**Vicar** (Twinkling) **Nahseb li nahfirlek, iva. Issa ejja u toqghodx tinkwieta fuqu.**

**Mary is beyond speech. The Vicar propels her to the door left and they both exit.**

**Dennis** **Marelli! X'vazun hu dan?**

**Marple** **Nispera mhux dak il-vazun tieghek Mrs Price Ridley li dejjem jitfacca fil-bazaars taghna.**

**Lawrence hands a glass of sherry to Mrs Price Ridley.**

**Marple** (She rises and moves up left centre) **Min kien, Mr. Hawes, dak li qal 'Fl-ahhar is-sewwa jirbah fuq kollox'?**

**Lawrence offers Miss Marple a glass of sherry.**

**Marple** **Le grazzi, Mr. Redding.**

**Lawrence takes the glass of sherry to Anne.**

**Marple** **Iva, kienet priedka tassew sabiha. Nahseb li kulhadd hassu imqanqal.**

**Lettice** **Nixtieq ffit sherry jekk joghgbok.**

**Lawrence moves to the drinks cabinet and pours out a glass of sherry for himself.**

**Anne** **Le, Lettice.**

**Lettice** **Ghaliex le? Jien nixrob taf. (She moves down centre) Meta Dennis u jiena tlajna l-belt biex naraw show u morna nieklu, xrobna flixkun xampanja bejnietna, hux veru Dennis?**

**Marple** **Tch! Tch!**

**Dennis** **Imma bhala cajta biss. It-toghma ma ghogbitni xejn.**

Anne (To Lettice) Xampanja! Imissek tisthi x'affarijiet dawn, Lettice.

Lawrence drinks his sherry and puts the glass on the drinks cabinet.

Lettice Nisthi. Ara min qed jitkellem. Iddawwar lil missierek fuq subajk biex ihallilek il-bicca l-kbira tal-flus. Ara kieku hallihom lili, kienet tkun storja differenti hux?

Lawrence (Moving down right centre, with terrific power behind his words) Jien nissuggerixxi li toqghodu kwieti.

Anne Taghtix kasa, Lawrence. Huwa l-gost u pjacir taghha li tarani nitlef il-pacenzja.

Lettice Insomma, li kieku l-flus gew ghandi kieku Lawrence zgur ma kienx jigri warajk b'daqshekk passjoni bhal ma qed jaghmel. Kien jigri warajja ukoll sakemm ...

Lawrence (Interrupting) Sinjorina, qed nistieden l-inkwiet ...

Lettice (Ignoring Lawrence : To Anne) L-inqas li jista jaghmel huwa li joqghod il boghod minnek sakemm jissolva kollox.

The Vicar enters left and stands above Anne.

Anne Lettice, bizzatejded.

Lettice Le ma rridx. Quddiem in-nies taf toqghod kwieta u pacenzjuza u kalma. Imma hija haga ohra meta kont tkun wahdek mieghu, hux hekk? Jien rajt certu affarijiet. Miskin il-papa. Ma kienx jaf ghal xiex diehel meta zzewweg lilek. Ma inti xejn hlief mara tat-triq!

There is another distant roll of thunder.

Vicar (Firmly) Lettice!

Lawrence (Moving towards Lettice) Wasal iz-zmien li xi hadd jaghlmek lezzjoni lilek.

Vicar (Quite quietly) Lettice!

**Lettice** (Moving to the french windows) **Kollox sew, Mr. Clement. Sejra jien. (She turns) Kull min jaghmel id-deni bil-mohbi jtemm hajtu fil-mohbi.**

**She exits through the french windows to left. Miss Marple moves slightly down left centre. There is an embarrassed pause.**

**Marple** X'wahda din! Kemm hi fuq ruha.

**Anne** Jiddispjacini Mr. Clement. Ma nafx se naqbad naghmel biha. Lili ... lili tobodni.

**Vicar** (Easing slightly to centre) **Ghandek bzonn tibghata x'imkien ghal xi zmien.**

**Lawrence** (Moving towards Anne) **Ejja, Anne. Ejja halli nwasslek sad-dar.**

**Anne** (Putting her glass on the coffee table and moving up centre) **Le, jekk ma jimpurtax nixtieq immur wahdi. (She turns) Jekk joghgbok ghid bye lil Griselda, u jiddispjacini ta dan kollu. Milli nista nifhem din ila biex tfaqqa.**

**She exits through the french windows. Lawrence moves down left. Miss Marple moves up left of the Vicar.**

**Price** (Rising; to the Vicar) **Kollu tord tieghek, Vicar. Dik il-priedka esagerata tieghek. (She moves centre) Se jkollu hajja difficli b'dik mas-saqajn. It-tfajliet huma inkwiet minn mindu jitwiieldu. Mid-dehra, Griselda mhux se titfacca. Fejn ix-xjafek baqat?**

**Vicar** Jiddispjacini imma ma nafx.

**Price** **Insomma. Nghidilkom li xejn mhu se jgieghlni immur il-mixja tas-soltu wahdi bhalissa. Almenu fil-gungla kien hemm tigris u sriep. U noqghod attenta li ma nsibx xi hjiel fuq il-qtil minghajr ma rrid. Mhux tajjeb li tkun hafna sakemm il-qattiel ghadu jdur mas-saqajn. (To Miss Marple) U int imissek toqghod izjed attenta. (She puts her glass on the drinks cabinet).**

**Marple** (Innocently) **Jien, ghaziza Mrs Price Ridley?**

**Price** (Moving to the french windows) **Iva, int. Insomma, jien sejra dritt id-dar u se nimxi fin-nofs tat-triq.**

**Marple** (Moving up centre) Mument wiehed, ghaziza Mrs Price Ridley. Ha nigi mieghek u nara li tasal id-dar kollox sew.

**Price** (Thoroughly taken aback) Eh ... grazzi.

**Dennis** (Moving up) U jien nigi biex neskortakom it-tnejn li intom.

**Price** Insomma, grazzi tax-sherry.

More distant thunder is heard. Mrs Price Ridley exits through the french windows with Dennis and Miss Marple.

**Vicar** (Moving up right; worried) Qed jidlam sew. (He switches on the lamp up right) Nixtieq li Griselda tigi lura. Nispera li kollox sew. Min jaf li kieku nistaqsi lill-ispettur ...

**Lawrence** Forsi ...

The telephone rings. The Vicar crosses to the desk, switches on the desk lamp, and lifts the telephone receiver. Lawrence moves to the french windows.

**Vicar** (Into the telephone) Hello! .... Min? ... Mrs Abbott ... Iva jien hu ... Ah, jiddispjacini. Mela le ma nigix ... iva , issa stess. (He replaces the receiver). Miskin Mr. Abbott jinsab hazin. Mrs Abbott tridni immur ghandha issa stess. (He moves down centre)

**Hawes** (Starting) Mrs Abbott! Ah!

**Vicar** X'gara?

**Hawes** In-ti zgur li kienet Mrs Abbott?

**Lawrence** Alla tieghi!

**Vicar** (After a pause) U ejja, kieku l-qattiel iridni nerga nillarga minn hawn zgur li ma kienx se juza l-istess isem. Almenu, hekk nahseb jien.

**Hawes** Le, le da zgur li le. Imma stramba.

**Lawrence** Kulhadd jidher daqxejn fuq ix-xwiek illejla.

Hawes (Fingering his collar) Ma tantx hawn arja. (He moves round right of the settee and sits on it)

Lawrence Il-maltempata qed tawvicina.

Vicar (Absentmindedly; his thoughts on Griselda) Iva, ahjar niehu l-coat. Il-bdiewi ghandhom bzonnha x-xita.

Lawrence Il-bdiewa dejjem iridu t-temp differenti milli jkollna.

Vicar Iva hekk hu hux? (To Lawrence) Hu drink iehor Redding. Meta tigi lura Griselda ghidilha li mhux se ndum.

Lawrence Kollox sew.

The Vicar exits left.

Lawrence Tridu drink? (He puts out a glass of sherry for himself)

Hawes Eh? Le, grazzi.

Lawrence Niehu iehor jien. Jimporta?

Hawes Le, da zgur li le. (Despairingly) Alla tieghi!

Lawrence (Moving to the armchair centre) Nahseb li ghandek bzonn tiehu xi drink jew xi haga.

Hawes Ghandi rasi qisa se tispodi. U ghajnejja aqta x'jugawni.

Lawrence Ghax ma tiehux pillola minn tas-soltu?

Hawes Iva, nahseb ahjar niehu wahda. Ha mmur ghalihom. (He rises and crosses to right) Ma tantx jien ragel ta stoffa. Eh bilhaqq, Mr. Clement qalli li kont qed tistaqsi ghal ktieb ta Keats li selliftni. Ha mmur ingibu.

Lawrence M'ghandekx ghaggla. Ghogbok?

Hawes Sibtu daqxejn tqil.

He exits left. Lawrence rises and moves to the drinks cabinet. As he does so, he glances out of the french windows.

**Lawrence** Ix-xjafek! (He puts his glass on the drinks cabinet, moves quickly to the door left, hesitates, then sits in the armchair left centre.

**Griselda** enters wearily through the french windows. She carries a hat.

**Lawrence** (He rises slowly) Hello, Griselda.

**Griselda** (Moving to the sofa) Ah, hello Lawrence. (She puts her hat on the sofa table) Il-marelli! Fejn hu kulhadd? Jien hsibt li se nsib lil kulhadd jixrob u jghid fuq in-nies.

**Lawrence** Hekk konna fil-fatt. Sakemm il-helwa Lettice hassret kollox billi kienet arroganti izjed miss-soltu.

**Griselda** X'wahda din! Kollu tort tieghi ghax kien imissni kont hawn. Fejn hu Len?

**Lawrence** Mar ghand l-Abbotts. Cemplulu biex imur.

**Griselda** (Staring) Abbott!

**Lawrence** Iva. Qed tibza li se jsir xi qtil iehor?

**Griselda** Le ... ma nahslbx. Imma ko-incidenza stramba.

**Lawrence** (Over eagerly) Ghax ma tmurx warajh? Ghadu kif telaq issa. Tilhqu zgur.

**Griselda** (Moving below the sofa) Inhossni ghajjena wisq. (She sits on the sofa)

**Lawrence** Allura ghax ma titlax u tistrieh ffit?

**Griselda** Le issa jghaddieli. Kollu tort tal-priedka ta Len.

**Lawrence** Int ukoll ?!

**Griselda** Ma ... ma ghogbitniex. Qatt ma rajtu hekk. Deher ... ma nafx ... ridt nahseb ffit fuqha, ghalhekk mort mixja.

**Lawrence** Kien ikun attur tajjeb. Allura fejn mort?

**Griselda** Min fejn il-moghdija.



Lawrence Biex tigi ghandi?

Griselda X'jigifieri?

Lawrence Ghax int u ghaddejja mill-moghdija tghaddi min hdejn id-dar tieghi.

Griselda Ghaliex ghandi nigi ghandek?

Lawrence (Moving to the sofa) Xi tghid fuq nhar il-Erbgha filghaxija?

Griselda Fhimtek. Trid tghid ...?

Lawrence Iva, ircevejt ittra. Mort id-dar tieghi? (He sits left of Griselda on the sofa)

Griselda Iva, fil-fatt iva. Hekk ghamilt.

Lawrence Griselda! Xi hlew! Ma insejtx.

Griselda Ma tantx kien hemm x'ninsa.

Lawrence U ejja. Xi tghid ghal dik is-serata meta zfinna u ...?

Griselda Bizzejjed Lawrence. Dak spicca u mar.

Lawrence Niftakarha sew dik il-lejla ... kont liebsa libsa hadra u b'dak ix-xaghar li kellek kont qisek ...

Griselda Lawrence! Ghalxejn qed tipprowa tuza il-hlewwa tieghek mieghi. Qed tahli l-hin.

Lawrence Imma mort id-dar tieghi. U hadt ir-riskju li xi hadd jarak. Allura ...

Griselda (Rising and moving to the fireplace) Jekk joghgbok Lawrence, tkunx iblah. Ma mortx biex narak.

Lawrence Mela x'mort taghmel?

Griselda Nahseb li haqqek spjegazzjoni. Ma ridtx nghidlek ... la lilek u lanqas lil hadd, wisq izjed lil len, imma ... insomma, mort ghal Dennis.

Lawrence Dennis! Ghaliex Dennis?

Griselda Sibt nota minn Lettice, fejn qalet lil Dennis biex jiltaqa maghha hemm. Naf li dik l-indimonjata se tispicca hazin imma ma ridtx lil tinvolti lil Dennis ukoll.

Lawrence Allura mort u sibthom hemm u kissirt imhabba li kienet ghada kif twieldet.

Griselda Le, Lettice ma kenitx ghadha waslet u Dennis kien qed icempel.

Lawrence Mid-dehra ghamilha daru hemm. Imma din l-istorja hija redikola ...

Griselda Le veru. Kien Dennis li cempel lil Mrs Price Ridley minn darek. Kien irrabjat ghal affarijiet li kienet qed tghid fuq Lettice.

Lawrence Fhimt. Mela allura hu kien is-salvagg li cemplilha. Qatt ma bsart li ...

Griselda Lawrence, tkunx iblah. Il-villagg kollu jaf kemm inhobbu lil Len.

Lawrence Naf li thobbu lil dak ir-ragel. Il-hajja hija semplici wisq ghal certu nies.

Griselda Dak li gara meta iltqajt ma Len. Il-hajja f'daqqa wahda giet tassew semplici.

Lawrence (Rising and moving left centre) Insomma, nahseb ahjar immur. Len qallek biex tiltaqa mieghu jekk ma ddumx ma tigi.

Griselda Hekk qal?

Lawrence Iva. Nahseb li kien inkwetat fuqek.

Griselda Kemm hu helu. (She moves to the french windows) Taf xiex? Jien qatt ma ghidtlu u mhux se nghidlu imma jien ma haqqniex ikolli lilu.

She exits through the french windows. Lawrence moves above the sofa, picks up Griselda's hat, hides it behind the sofa, then moves to the fireplace and stands with his back to it. Hawes enters left. He has changed out of his cassock. He carries a book.

Hawes        Hsibt li kont qed titkellem ma xi hadd.

Lawrence    Le. Qed timmagina wisq. Hadtha l-pillola?

Hawes        Issa niehu wahda izjed tard. Gibt il-kaxxa mieghi. Ah, ghandek il-ktieb. (He puts the book on the coffee table)

Lawrence    Grazzi.

Hawes        Il-poeziji huma l-konsolazzjoni tieghi.

Lawrence    Konsolazzjoni? Imma jien minghalija li kont kuntent toqghod hawn.

Hawes        (Moving centre) Iva, inhossni ferhan li noqghod ma xi hadd bhal Mr. Clement.

Lawrence    (Sitting in the easy chair down right) Tammirah hux hekk?

Hawes        Iva, u jaf jippridka hafna, u ...

Lawrence    Iva, jippridka tajjeb hafna. Kulhadd hassu skomdu illejla minhabba fih.

Hawes        Iva naf. Imma wara kollox ahna kollha mi-midinbin.

Lawrence    Iva, hekk nahseb. Qatt ma hsibt fuqha. Imma ghidli, tahseb li jekk xi hadd verament jiddispjacih ghandu l-mahfra ta Alla?

Hawes        (After a pause) Dak li kien qed jghid illejla l-Vicar. B'certu sahha qal 'Stqarru htijitkom u Alla jahfrilkom'. (He moves to the sofa and sits on it)

Lawrence    Hsieb sabih, ovyjament. Nehhieha minn fuq mohhok darba ghal dejjem. Tistrieħ, nahseb.

Hawes        (Bowing his head) Iva. Illejla bil-kemm flahtha.

Lawrence    Imma min-naha l-ohra jekk ma kellekx ghalfejn tistqarr u hemm xi cans li ma tinqabadx, ma ghandekx fuq xiex tinkwieta. Tistqarr kollox lil Alla haga, imma tistqarr kollox quddiem il-villagg kollu ...heqq, (He shrugs) kulhadd ikun jaf imbaghad.

Hawes Tistqarr lil Alla jew serv tieghu, ...

Lawrence (A little too quickly) Trid tghid lil Vicar. (He rises, gets his drink, and moves to the fireplace) Dik ideja tajba ...jekk xi hadd kellu ghalfejn jistqarr.

Hawes (After a pause; quietly) Inti kont ge-gentili hafna mieghi.

Lawrence Xejn. Jiena ghandi rispettt lej. Hlief, ovvjament, li kultant inhossni skomdu mieghek.

Hawes Skomdu! Mhux jien imma.

Lawrence Iva, inti. (He puts his glass on the mantelpiece) Ma tistax taghmel mod iehor veru. Inti ghandek sens kbir ta x'inh u tajjed u hazin. Dik xi haga li ma nistax nifhem. Is-sens ta' htija ...

Hawes Htija! Htija! Dik hi. Il-kuxjenza tieghi ma thallinix fil-paci. Il-Vicar qal 'Dan il-lejl intom se taghmlu dak li tghidilkom il-kuxjenza'. Hassejt li qed jghid lili ...ma nafx se naqbad naghmel ...

Lawrence (Perching himself on the right arm of the sofa) Xi haga qed tinkwetak hux? Ghax ma tiftahx qalbek mieghi?

Hawes Ah, li kieku nista.

Lawrence (Smiling charmingly) Heq, dejjem tista tipprova. Ejja isa, ghidli.

Hawes Il-f-flus tal-knisja.

Lawrence (Feigning surprise) Il-flus tal-knisja?

Hawes Iva ... ghalhekk ried jara lil Vicar il-Kurunell, dakinhar li inqatel. Kien qed jissuspetta fija. Zgur minn dan. Ghaliex, jiena hadt il-karta tal-lira ta' Miss Hartnell. U hadt ukoll xi flus ohra mill-kaxxa tal-knisja.

Lawrence Int!

Hawes Iva. Naf li kulhadd jghidha din, imma verament kelli l-intenzjoni li inqeghdom lura. Kelli nircievi xi flus izjed il quddiem, u xtaqt hafna li nixtri certu kotba.

Lawrence Allura sparajt lil Kurunell biex ma jirkellimx?

Hawes Sp-sparajt lil Ku-kurunell! Da zgur li le! Min dahhalek dik l-ideja. Jien ma nista qatt nispara lil xi hadd. Imma mhux qed tara, kien se jghid lil kulhadd. Ghandi bzonn nistqarr kollox.

Lawrence Tistqarr? Lil Vicar?

Hawes Iva, imma kull darba li nipprova, ilsieni jehhilli u ma nghid xejn.

Lawrence Ghaliex le ... facli.

Hawes Fac-facli?

Lawrence Iva, ikteb nota u halliehilu fuq l-iskrivanija. Dalwaqt ikun hawn.

Hawes Imma hekk inkun qisni bezziegh.

Lawrence Lanqas xejn! Ejja isa, nehheha mill-kuxjenza, imbaghad ejja mieghi sad-dar u niehdu ftit kafe'.

Hawes (Rising) Hekk tahseb li ghandi naghmel?

Lawrence Iva. Jiehu gost jekk taghmel hekk.

Hawes (Moving to the desk) Tajjeb, hekk naghmel mela. (He sits at the desk) Nahseb li se naghmel xi haga tajba. (He pauses) Imma ma nafx se naqbad nikteb.

Lawrence (Rising) Imma inti taf izjed minni fuq dawn l-affarijiet. Qatt ma kelli xi haga hekk fuq il-kuxjenza tieghi. Isa, ikteb dak li qed thoss.

Hawes (Holding his head) Ghandi ghajnejja jugawni hafna, ma nistax nahseb.

Lawrence Ahjar tiehu l-pillola. (He moves to Hawes) Fejn qeghdin?

Hawes Fil-but. Mhux suppost li niehu izjed minn wahda kuljum. (He takes the box of tablets from his pocket)

There is a distant roll of thunder.

Hawes U diga hadt wahda izjed kmieni illejla.

Lawrence (Taking the box of tablets from Hawes) Wahda ohra mhux se taghmel hsara. Ma tistax tibqa mugugh hekk. (He crosses to the drinks cabinet and puts all the tablets from the box into a glass with some water) Xi ktibt sa issa? (He crosses to Hawes with the glass)

Hawes Ktibt 'Irrid nistqarr ...'. Imma kif se nghidlu ... ma nistax nahseb izjed ...

Lawrence Ejja isa, ixrob din. Ixrobha kollha. (He hands Hawes the glass)

Hawes drinks.

Hawes Kemm huwa qawwi.

Lawrence Dak ghax ferrajt xi soda ukoll. (Hurriedly; to prevent Hawes writing any more) Ghidli daqxejn, toghbok Griselda?

Hawes Griselda. Isem tassew helu. Ghandha certu purezza ...

Lawrence Taf li anki hi toghgobha.

Hawes Noghgobha?

Lawrence Iva, zgur minn dan. Ftit ilu kienet qed tghidli ...

Hawes Imma qatt ma taghti kazi. Gentili, gentili u daqshekk. Qatt ma hsibt ...(His head drops down on to his arms on the desk)

As soon as Hawes is unconscious, Lawrence moves to him and reads the note he has been writing. The he takes another note out of his own pocket and puts it into Hawes' coat pocket. He puts the empty box of tablets back on to the desk. There is a sound of footsteps off up centre. Lawrence hears them, starts, and exits hurriedly left. He leaves the glass on the desk. Miss Marple enters through the french windows. She has taken off her hat, and put on a cardigan. She looks around the empty room in surprise. Then she sees Hawes at the desk. She moves to him. Dennis saunters in through the french windows.

Marple Mill jidher ghadha ma gietx lura.

Dennis Iva hekk hu, stramba imma. Ronny qed jiehu in-naghsa tas-soltu.

Marple (Doubtfully) Iva, hekk jidher.

Dennis (Moving to left of desk) Ara daqxejn il-kulur ta wiccu. Tghid ma jiflahx. Ahjar nghajjat lil Mary.

Miss Marple looks closely at Hawes.

Marple (Right of the desk) Mary tkun harget ma Mr. Archer. Ahjar tghid lil Dr. Haydock.

Dennis (Moving to the french windows) Imma illum il-Hadd. Dr. Haydock ikun ghand il-Jamesons kull Hadd filghaxija.

Marple Iva hekk hu, u m'ghandhom telefon.

Dennis Iva hekk kont qed nahseb. Ahjar immur bir-rotta, mhux se ndum izjed min hames minuti ... tlaqt.

He exits through the french windows. Miss Marple feels Hawes' pulse, smells the glass, opens the empty box of tablets, then picks up his arm and let it drop back on the desk heavily. In doing this she notices the note. She moves his arm and reads the note. Her head comes up and she thinks furiously. She goes to the telephone and is just lifting the receiver when Lawrence enters left. Miss Marple slowly puts the receiver down. They face each other warily.

Lawrence Hello, Miss Marple!

Marple Hello, Mr. Redding. Miskin, Mr. Hawes jidher li qabdu attakk ta' irqad rega.

Lawrence Veru? Kien tajjeb meta hallejtu ffit ilu. Kien qed jikteb xi haga fuq bicca karta. Jien gejt lura (He pauses) ghal dan il-ktieb. (He picks up the book from the coffee table).

Marple (Moving to him) Hija hasra li ghandu din il-marda. Hasra.

Lawrence Iva, imma l-ahjar haga hu li nhalluh jorqod bil-kwiet. Forsi jekk nitilqu ...

Marple (Moving to the sofa and sitting at the left end of it) Le, ma nahsibx li ghandna naghmlu hekk. Se nistenna sakemm jigi xi hadd. Fejn hu l-Vicar?

Lawrence Mar s'ghand l-Abbotts, minghalija.

Marple Hmmm!

Lawrence (Moving to left of the sofa) Nahseb li se jdum daqxejn.

Marple (Firmly) Jien hawn se nibqa.

Lawrence (Moving to the french windows) Mela f'dan il-kaz jien se nitlaq. Goodnight Miss Marple.

Marple Imma nixtieq li inti tibqa hawn ukoll, Mr. Redding.

Lawrence (After a pause) Ah, ghaliex? (He throws the book on to the table above the sofa and moves to left of Miss Marple)

Marple Hemm xi affarijiet li nixtieq niddiskuti mieghek.

Lawrence Iva? Bhal xiex?

Marple Bhal per ezempju, il-qtil tal-Kurunell.

Lawrence (Crossing to the fireplace) Ah, sewwa. U nahseb li inti taf min qatlu hux? (He takes a cigarette from the box on the mantelpiece)

Marple Iva, Mr. Redding, nahseb li naf.

Lawrence looks at Hawes.

Marple (After a pause) Le, le. Mhux Mr. Hawes miskin. Le, zgur li le.

Lawrence Le. Mela min?

Marple Qed tissorprendini li qed tistaqsi. Kont minghalija li taf.

Lawrence Jien? Dawn hmerijiet. Kieku naf kont immur ghand il-pulizija. Ghaliex ma taghmilx hekk int. Jew forsi trid tghid lil l-ewwel. (He sits right of Miss Marple on the sofa, and strikes a match)



Marple Il-Kurunell Protheroe gie maqtul mill-mara tieghu.

There is a pause as Lawrence lights his cigarette.

Lawrence Dik hija xi haga tassew serja li ghadek kemm ghidt, Miss Marple.

Marple (Flinching at the word) Omicidju huwa xi haga serja hafna, Mr. Redding.

Lawrence (After a slight pause) Xi hmerijiet dawn! Mhux inti stess gibr provi li hija innocenti.

Marple (Holding up her hand) Le, din mhux korretta. Jien ghidt li ma kenitx qed iggorr arma meta kellmitni dakinhar li kienet gejja hawn. U hekk hu.

Lawrence (Tensely) Allura?

Marple Hi sabet l-arma hawnhekk, mohbija u lesta ghaliha.

Lawrence Hekk tahseb? U fejn setghet kienet mohbija.

Marple Fil-pjanta li Mary dejjem tinsa ssaqqi. Kienet mohbija hemmhekk, taht il-hamrija ... il-gurnata qabel l-omicidju, inti taf.

Lawrence Le ma nafx. Hija l-izjed storja redikola li qatt smajt. Anne lanqas biss ghandha mohhha daqshekk intelligenti biex tahseb f'ideja brillanti bhal din, ahseb u ara tispara lil xi hadd. Ma ghandhiex gazz taghmel xejn minn dan.

Marple (Rising and moving left) Naqbel mieghek, minghajr ftit pressjoni minn haddiehor. Pressjoni minhabba biza ... jew imhabba.

Lawrence Kompli, tidher interessanti.

Marple Le, kif ghidt int, Anne mhux kapaci li tippjana xi haga hekk. Le, int ippjanajt dan kollu. Mr. Redding ... hux hekk?

Lawrence (After a pause) Din hija akkuza perikoluza hafna, Miss Marple.

Marple (Sitting in the armchair left centre; after a pause) Ili daqxejn nosservak issa. Dik il-karizma tieghek, daqqa tuzaha u daqqa le. Imma fil-fond ta qalbek inti kattiv. Inti hbejt l-arma fil-pjanta il-gurnata ta qabel l-qtil, Mr. Redding. Nahseb li Mrs Price Ridley u jien kwazi qbadnik fil-fatt.

Lawrence Veru, Miss Marple? Qed nibda inhossni dispjacut ghalik. Ghaliex nahseb li qed tiflef mohhok.

Frightened as Miss Marple is, she is determined to keep Lawrence with her till someone comes. She glances around from time to time at the french windows and the door left.

Marple Le, le. Inti warrabt lil Vicar minn nofs bit-telefonata tieghek u ppjanajt il-qtil waqt li jien inkun fil-gnien. Inti taf li jiena ninzel fil-gnien wara t-te. Kellu inkun jien li naghtik l-alibi li kellek bzonn ghal dawk il-minuti vitali. Minhabba l-kundizzjoni tal-gisem, inti kont taf li t-tabib kien se jghid li ma setax jigi maqtul f'dawk il-ftit minuti qabel ma inti iltqajt mal-Vicar. Iva ... kienet Mrs Protheroe. Kienet taf fejn hi l-arma. Inti kont taf li l-Kurunell kien wahdu. Kull ma kellha x'taghamel hu li tidhol mill-french windows, tiehu l-arma u tispara ... zewg jew tlett sekondi kollox. U inti kont taf ukoll li jien kont se narak gew mill-villagg ftit minuti wara u diehel go l-istudju.

Lawrence (Rising) U kif hsibt f'dan kollu, Miss Marple? (He puts the cigarette out at the mantelpiece)

Marple Kellek xi zewg zelqiet.

Lawrence Veru?

Marple L-ewwelnett, l-istorja tieghek. Inti ghidt li inti u Mrs Protheroe iltqajtu ghall-ahhar darba, imma meta ghaddejt minn hdejja intom u sejr in l-villagg, kont tinsab ecitat u ferhan, xi haga li ma taghmilx sens.

Lawrence turns.

Marple It-tieni, l-isparatura fil-bosk. L-arma tieghek, ovyjament, kellu silencer meta Mrs Protheroe uzata ... l-ebda sparatura ma kellha tinstama dak il-hin, imma kienet essenzjali li tinstama sparatura vicin is-sitta u nofs, meta inti u Mrs Protheroe tkunu diga gewwa l-istudju. Dan il-mekkanizmu gdid fejn jigi sparati bullets kull certu hin kien ideja tajba. Hafna bdiewa juzawh biex iwarrbu l-ghasafar. Kull ma ridt huwa li tissettja kif tridu inti. Ma tantx nifhem fih imma intom l-irgiel tajbin hafna f'affarijiet bhal dawn.

Lawrence (After a pause; unconvincingly) Affaxxinanti hafna. Komplì, Miss Marple, komplì.

Marple (After a pause) Dakinhar li rajtek fejn Jessops Copse sibt dan. (She produces a piece of charred rope with an empty cartridge case attached) Hija parti minn dan il-mekkanizmu li ghadni kif semmejt u ghandu cartridge imwahhla mieghu. Jidher li giet sparata. (She replaces the rope in her pocket)

Lawrence Ma nistax nifhem x'ghandha x'taqsam.

Marple Dakinhar li kellna dik il-konversazzjoni dwar il-mushrooms, jiena rajtek ftit minuti qabel ma rajtni inti, u kont qed tfittex xi haga fil-post ezatt li jiena sibt dan. Hemmhekk bdejt inkun suspettuza fik.

Lawrence (After a pause) Ghandek kollox mahsub hux?

He moves above the armchair centre, slowly, menacingly towards Miss Marple.

Marple Iva, hekk nahseb. Hlief is-silencer. L-ghatasa li semghet Mary kienet dak il-hin ezatt li Mrs Protheroe harget mill-french windows. Nissaponi li hlist mis-silencer qabel ma stqarrejt kollox b'dik ix-xena drammatika. (She rises and backs to left) Hasra. Imma intelligenti, Mr Redding. U kienet intelligenti wkoll, meta zidt man-nota li instabet, il-hin tas-sitta u ghoxrin biex b'hekk tfajt il-htija deliberatament fuq Mrs Protheroe. Is-suspetti tieghi zdiedu meta sirt hbieb sew ma Mr. Hawes, miskin. Ma ghandekx hin ghal persuna daqshekk ordinarja imma kellek bzonn xi hadd li jehel u miskin Mr Hawes kien is-suspettat numru wiehed. Allura uzajt il-karizma tieghek fuqu ... sa issa meta ippruvajt toqtlu.

Lawrence (Freezing) Noqtlu ... x'inti tghid?

Marple Osservajt, Mr Redding, li inti tajtu l-pilloli kollha, u min se jissuspetta li ma kienx suwucidju?

Lawrence (Moving to Hawes) Suwucidju? Jigifieri trid tghid li ha hafna pilloli. (He turns to the desk, sees the note and picks it up. He reads) 'Ghaziz, Mr Clement, irrid nistqarr ...'. Mela kien hu wara kollox. Miskin, ma setax jiflah izjed u qatel ruhu b'idejh. Irridu naghmlu xi haga ... Ha nghid lil Haydock. (He replaces the note on the desk and moves to the french windows)

**Marple** (Moving up left centre a few steps) U jekk dik l-istqarrija hija dwar il-flus tal-knisja?

**Lawrence** Il-flus tal-knisja?

**Marple** Inti kont taf li Mr Hawes seraqhom hux?

**Lawrence** U ghaliex kelli inkun naf?

**Marple** Ghaliex il-Kurunell zgur li kien qed jikteb dwar is-serqa meta gie maqtul.

**Lawrence** U din x'ghandha x'taqsam mieghi? Dan kollu x'inhu? Se jkollok tirrispondi ghal dawn l-akkuzi tieghek. Jien sejjer ghal Haydock.

**Marple** Jekk Mr Hawes imut, qatt ma stqarr li kien hu l-qattiel ghalkemm l-evidenzi huma kollha kontrieh. Imma jekk l-ittra li l-Kurunell kiteb tinstab fuqu jew fil-kamra tieghu ... taf x'irrid nghid hux, Mr Redding?

**Lawrence** (Left of the french windows) Iva, da zgur ... imma ...jekk inti trid issib izjed evidenza ghaliex ma tfittix l-ittra?... probabilmnt qeghda fuqu.

**Miss Marple** searches with shaking fingers and finds the letter in Hawes' pocket.

**Marple** Tajba hafna din. (She crosses below the sofa as she reads the letter)

**Lawrence** (Moving to left of the sofa) Dik x'inhu?

**Marple** L-ittra tal-Kurunell. Mitfuha hawn mill-qattiel. Mr Redding, qed tizbalja hafna issa. L-affarijiet ta Mr Hawes gew imfittxija sew ghal oggetti bhal dawn, ma kontx taf? U kieku stess, xi haga bhal din zgur li kien jehles minnha. Kulhadd hekk kien jaghmel, sakemm ma ridtx juzaha ghal skopijiet ohra. Imma inti kont genju, Mr Redding. Genju tassew. U nahseb li kellek kuragg kbir biex inti dhalt lura fil-kamra waqt li l-Kurunell kien hawn mejjet, hadt l-arma u s-silencer, biddilt in-nota u il-hin kollu ghassa li ma jigix il-Vicar.

Lawrence (Violently) Bizzejjed! (He speaks with a rising inflection) Smajt bizzejjed. Inti mignuna, mignuna u qed tghid il-hmerijiet. U inti tahseb li se tikkonvincihom? Miskin Mr Hawes stqarr kollox, u qieghed imut. (He leans threateningly towards Miss Marple) Ghaliex ma hallejtx l-affarijiet kif kienu?

Miss Marple sits on the sofa and shrinks from Lawrence, really frightened. She huddles into the corner of the sofa.

Marple (Quickly) Forsi l-istqarrija ta Mr Hawes taqbel ghalija ukoll. (She sits on the sofa) Ma kellekx ghalfejn igieghel lil Mrs Protheroe toqtol ghalik. Il-Kurunell ... kien diga mejjet meta dahlet fil-kamra. Kont diga qtiltu jien bil-velenu.

Lawrence Inti? (He pauses) Ma nemmnekx.

Marple Jien mhux normali li nigdeb, Mr Redding.

Lawrence Int. Int! Imma ghaliex?

Marple Gheddidni li jitfaghni l-barra mid-dar tieghi.

Lawrence Trid tghid li meta Anne dahlet hawn ...

Marple (Rising; quickly) Mela dahlet hawn ...(She breaks off and recovers herself) Naf min xiex kien ibghati l-Kurunell. Dhalt inkiss inkiss min gol french windows u ghidtlu li l-Vicar qalli biex naghmillu whisky sakemm kien qed jistenna. Dik iva kienet gidba.

Lawrence Imma l-whisky ma ...

Marple Poggejt xi velenu tal-grieden fih.

Lawrence (Still staring) Mela jekk l-pulizija jergghu jaqilaw il-gisem ...

Marple Iva. Fil-fatt jien qtil lil Kurunell, imma anki intom it-tnejn. Jien nissugerixxi, Mr Redding, li fic-cirkostanzi prezenti, ghada filghodu wara raqda tajba, inti tipperswadi lil Mrs Protheroe biex bhala rigal zghir tax-xoghol tieghi fil-komunita ta dan il-villagg, thalluli d-dar u l-gnien.

Lawrence (After a pause) Inti aghar minnha, ma tieqaf ghal xejn.

**Marple** Hafna mill-gardinara hekk huma. Il-pjanti ma jhobbux jiccaqalqu.

Anne enters through the french windows but she does not look at the desk.

**Anne** Lawrence, imm'Alla li qieghed hawn. Ara, Miss Marple. Lawrence, ghaliex qed thares ...(She sees Hawes) Dan Mr Hawes. Xi gralu? (She moves to right of Hawes)

**Marple** Mr Hawes qed imut.

**Anne** Imut?

**Marple** U halla stqarrija fejn qal li kien hu li qatel lil zewgek.

**Anne** (Turning) Imma mhux hu kien. Le. Le. (She turns to Lawrence) Alla tieghi! Xogholok dan. Ergajt qtilt.

**Lawrence** Ergajt? Xi trid tghid biha? Mhux jien qtiltu lil zewgek.

**Anne** (Moving to left of Lawrence) Naf li jiena sparajtlu imma inti ppjanajt kollox. Inti poggejt l-amra. U issa Ronny Hawes ... Ronny Hawes, li qatt ma ghamel hsara ...

**Lawrence** Ronny Hawes qed imut u halla stqarrija ...

**Anne** Inti l-veru qattiel bla qalb. Qed naraha f'harstek. Hallini nitlaq minn hawn.

**Lawrence** (Taking hold of Anne roughly) Le, hawn se tibqa. Se tibqa hawn mieghi. Irridu nibqghu flimkien, imut min imut.

**Anne** Nghidilhom kollox. Nistqarr.

**Lawrence** Bizzejjed. Mhux se tistqarr. Ma hemmx ghalfejn tghid xejn. Kienet Miss Marple, Miss Marple.

**Anne** Miss Marple.

**Lawrence** Iva, iva. Hi qatlet lil zewgek. Avvelenatu.

**Anne** Avvelenatu?

Lawrence Iva, dak li qed nipprova nghidlek. Kien mejjet meta dhalt hawn u sparajtlu.

Anne Mejjet? Da zgur li ma kienx mejjet. Kien qed jikteb. Gholla rasu qabel ma sparajtlu.

Lawrence Inti zgur?

Anne Iva. Qatt ma ninsieha. Qatt u qatt.

Lawrence (After a pause; turning, slowly and viciously to Miss Marple) Gholla rasu, Miss Marple. Mela ma kienx mejjet wara kollox. Mela ma kienx hemm whisky u velenu tal-grieden, u mhux inti qtiltu wara kollox. Kienet biss nassa biex tirbah il-hin sakemm jidhol xi hadd. Kun af li dawn it-tip ta nases jirrabjawni hafna.

Marple Jiena ... jiena bzajt li kont se zzid lili mal-lista tieghek ta vittmi.

Lawrence Ghadu mhux tard wisq ghalhekk. (He takes a revolver from his pocket and points it at Miss Marple).

Anne Lawrence.

The Vicar and Griselda enter through the french windows.

Vicar Warrab dik l-arma, Redding.

Lawrence (Backing to the door left) Oqghodu hemm, kollha kemm intom. Ejja Anne, halli naharbu flimkien.

Anne moves behind Lawrence. The Vicar begins to move slowly towards Lawrence.

Vicar Tini l-arma, Redding.

Lawrence Tersaqx izjed, Vicar.

The Vicar keeps moving towards Lawrence. Haydock and Dennis enter through the french windows.

Vicar Tini l-arma.

Lawrence Tkunx iblah. Vittma ohra mhux se taghmel differenza ghalija.

The Vicar continues to move.

Griselda Oqghod attent, Len.

Vicar Ghidtlek tini l-arma.

Lawrence Kemm int eroj, tassew eroj. (He takes deliberate aim)

Anne hurls herself between the Vicar and Lawrence. There is a shot. Anne slumps against Lawrence and knocks the gun out of his hand. Then Anne's body slowly falls to the ground. Lawrence reels against the bureau and stares at Anne's body on the floor. Haydock moves swiftly down to Anne, and kneels beside her. Griselda hovers centre. The Vicar picks up the revolver and covers Lawrence).

Haydock Jiddispjacini ... mejta. Il-bullet dahlet dritt fil-qalb. Ma nista naghmel xejn.

Marple Mela hu hsieb lil Mr Hawes minnufih, dott. Forsi kellha tispicca hekk, Mr Redding. Kont tassew iblah.

Haydock rises, moves quickly to the desk, and examines Hawes. Lawrence makes a violent threatening move towards Miss Marple.

Lawrence Iva, kont iblah.

The Vicar follows Lawrence, still covering him with the revolver.

Vicar Ibqa hemm, Redding.

Lawrence crosses to the fireplace.

Griselda (To Haydock) Ronny ... jinsab tajjeb?

The Vicar holds up Lawrence at the point of the revolver at the fireplace. Miss Marple crosses to the telephone, lifts the receiver, and dials a number.

Haydock Ha wisq pilloli, imma mhux fil-periklu. Tajtu injection u issa niehdu l-isptar.

Marple (Into the telephone) Hello ... Inspector Slack? Jiena Miss Marple, Spettur. Kien hawn incident, Spettur, hawn fid-dar tal-Vicar. Mela, tiftakar dakinhar li kont qed insaqqi ...?