

*Michael*

- 1/2 February 03

# IMBAGHAD MA BAQA' HADD

A TRANSLATION OF AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

'AND THEN THERE WERE NONE'

A PLAY IN THREE ACTS

## CHARACTERS :

ROGERS  
NARRACOT  
MRS ROGERS (ETHEL)  
VERA CLAYTHORNE  
CAPTAIN PHILIP LOMBARD  
ANTHONY MARSTON  
WILLIAM BLORE  
GENERAL JOHN MACKENZIE  
EMILY BRENT  
SIR LAWRENCE WARGRAVE  
DR EDWARD ARMSTRONG

The action takes place in the living-room of the house on Indian Island, off the coast of Devon.

ACT 1		An evening in August
ACT 2	<i>P.41</i>	Scene 1 : The following morning Scene 2 : The same day, afternoon
ACT 3		Scene 1 : The same day, evening Scene 2 : The following morning

CD

(A) = OPENING + CLOSING ACTS

(B) INCIDENTAL MUSIC

(C) SOUND EFFECTS.

(D) RAIN TRAIL

MB - PISTOL SHOT = CD Track ~~10-14~~ 18

2 OPENING MUSIC (A) <sup>Track</sup> No 7

(C) SEAGULLS Track 20

(C) MOTOR HORN Track 15 = Level 40 low  
ACT 1

The living-room of the house on Indian Island. It is a luxuriously furnished room of the period. It is a bright sunlit evening.

Nearly the whole of the back of the stage is comprised of windows looking directly out to sea. French doors are open in the centre to a balcony. It should give the impression of being like the deck of a liner almost overhanging the sea. There is a chair out on the balcony and the main approach to the house is presumed to be up steps on the left of the balcony. There are also presumed to be steps on the right of the balcony; these are not the direct way up from the landing-stage, but are supposed to lead round the house and up behind it, since the house is supposed to be built against the side of a steep hill. The french doors are wide so that a good area of balcony is shown.

Left of the windows is a door to the dining-room. Down left is a door communicating with the hall. Both doors open off stage.

Up right is a door to the study. Right centre is a fireplace. Over it hangs the only thing on the walls - a big framed reproduction of the Ten Little Indians rhyme. On the mantelpiece is a group of then china figurines. They are not spaced apart, but clustered so that the exact number is not easily seen.

The room is barely furnished with modern furniture. An oval settee stands centre with a ledge down the centre dividing it into two halves. A chair and a small table are upper left. A seat is down left, where there is also a bookcase. There is a window-seat upper right and a cocktail cabinet below the mantelpiece. A stool is down right. Before the fireplace is a big white bearskin rug complete with head. There is a chair right centre.

When the curtain opens, Rogers is busy putting the final touches to the room. He is setting out the bottles DS. Rogers is a competent middle-aged manservant - not a butler, but a house-parlourman. Quick and deft, just a trifle specious and shifty. There is a noise of seagulls. A motor-boat horn is heard, off.

Mrs. Rogers enters from the dining-room. She is a thin, worried, frightened-looking woman. Narracot enters from the left window, carrying a basket of groceries.

Narracot L-ewwel group qieghed fit-triq fid-dghajsa ta' Jim. Il-group l-iehor warajh.

Ehtel Insellimlek Fred.

Narracot Insellimlek Sinjura Rogers.

Ethel Dik id-dghajsa ?

Narracot Iva.

Ethel X'wahda din, diga waslu. Ma nsejt xejn hux ?

Narracot Le. (He sets down the basket) Suppost kollox gibt. Lumi, krema, bajd, tadam, butir. Dawk li ridt hux hekk ?

Ethel Iva hekk hu. Ghandi tant x'nagħmel lanqas naf minn fejn se nibda. Is-sefturi jaslu ghada u l-mistiednin diga gejjin.

Rogers Iva ikkalma Ethel, kollox qieghed f'postu. X'jidhirlek Fred ?

Narracot Hekk hu. Daqxejn vojtt imma dawn in-nies sinjuri hekk jogħgobhom.

Ethel In-nies sinjuri strambi.

Narracot U anki min bena hawnhekk kien stramb. Nefaq hafna flus biex bnieha imbagħad xeba minnha u bieghha.

Ethel Għadni ma nistax nifhem għaliex il-familja Owens riedet tixtrieha biex jghixu fuq din il-gzira wahedhom.

Rogers U ejja Ethel. Hu l-affarijiet fil-kcina. Dalwaqt se jaslu.

Ethel (Picking up the basket) Kollox sew, arani sejra.

A motor-boat horn is heard in the distance.

Narracot Dak Jim. Mela jiena se ndabbar rasi. Hemm zewg sinjuri gejjin bil-karozza. (He moves to the balcony)



Ethel (Calling) Ghandi bzonn hames hobziet u tmien flixken halib ghada filghodu, tinsiex.

Narracot Kollox sew.

Mrs. Rogers exits into the hall.

Rogers Tinsiex iz-zejt ghall-generator, Fred. Ghax inkella ma jkollniex dawl ghada.

Narracot Iva, issa ntellghu mieghi ghada.

Rogers U ghati daqqa t'id bil-bagalji ta'.

Narracot (As he goes) Mela le.

Narracot exits. Mrs. Rogers enters DL.

Ethel Insejt intik il-lista tal-mistiednin, Tom.

Rogers (Taking the list) Grazi qalbi. (He looks reflectively at the list) Hmm, din Miss Claythorne ma tantx tidher ta' xi klassi. Nahseb li xi segretarja.

Ethel Ma tantx joghgbuni dawn is-segretarji. Ghar minn nurses tal-isptar. Kollhom arja u aqta kif iharsu lejna s-servitu'.

Rogers U tibdix tgerger. Mur fil-kecina u ibza ghalija ghax tiswa hafna flus.

Ethel Nghid ghalija fiha wisq buttuni u affarijiet jidhlu u johorgu wahedhom.

She exits DL.

The voices of Vera and Lombard are heard outside. Rogers stands ready to receive them. He is now the well-trained, deferential manservant.

Vera and Lombard enter from UL, on the balcony. She is good-looking, about twenty-five. He is an attractive, lean man of thirty-four, well tanned, with a touch of the adventurer about him. He is already a good deal taken with Vera.

Lombard (Gazing about the room, very interested) Mela allura din hi !

Vera Tassew sabiha.

Rogers Miss Claythorne ?

Vera Inti .... Rogers ?

Rogers Iva. Sinjorina.

Vera Rogers, tista itella l-bagalja tieghi u dik tal-Kaptan Lombard jekk joghgbok ?

Rogers Mela le sinjorina.

He exits through the window L.

Vera Allura, qatt gejt hawn ?

Lombard Le ... imma smajt hafna fuqu.

Vera Minghand l-Owens.

Lombard Le. Certu wiehed Johnny Brewer, li kien habib tieghi, bena din id-dar ... ghandha storja kemmxejn ta' dwejjajq.

Vera Storja ta' mhabba ?

Lombard Iva. Storja ta' mhabba malenkonika għall0ahhar. Hu kien sinjur kbir u ha grazzja mal-famuza Lily Logan ... izzewwgu, xtara din il-gzira u bnielha din id-dar apposta ghaliha.

Vera Kemm kien romantiku.

Lombard Miskin Johnny ! Haseb li jekk jinqata mill-kumpliment tad-dinja minghajr mezz ta' komunikazzjoni, lanqas tat-telefon ... kien se jgieghla tibqa hawn.

Vera Imma, ovvjament, Lily iddejjet minn dan il-post u harbet ?

Lombard Hekk hu. Johnny mar lura Wall Street, ghamel izjed miljuni u din id-dar inbiegħet.

Vera U issa ahna qiegħdin hawn. (She moves towards the door L). U issa nahseb li ahjar insib lis-sinjura Owen. L-ohrajn se jkunu hawn dalwaqt.

Lombard (Stopping her) Imma ma jidhirlekx li mhux edukazzjoni li thallini wahdi.

Vera Eh iva ? Insomma. Min jaf fejn hi ?

Lombard Tigi meta tkun lesta. U sakemm noqgħodu nistennew, mhux ahjar niehdu drink. Ghandi grizmejjja nixfin.

Vera Da zgur li tista.

Lombard Wara tela' bhal dik thossok gharqan xraba. (He moves to the drinks cabinet) X'se tiehu int ?

Vera Le, grazzi, xejn ... mhux meta nkun xogħol.

Lombard Imma segretarja tajba dejjem xogħol.

Vera Eh iva. (She moves and looks around the room) Kemm hi ecitanti ?

Lombard Xiex ?

Vera Dan kollu. Ir-riha tal-bahar, it-tajr, il-bajja u din il-gmiel ta' dar. Il-veru se niehu pjacir.

Lombard (Smiling; moving to her) Hekk nahseb. Anzi t-tnejn li ahna se niehdu gost. (He holds up his drink) Nixrob bis-sahha tiegħek ... daqs kemm inti sabiha.

Rogers enters from the window with two suitcases.

Vera (To Rogers) Fejn huma s-sur u s-sinjura Owens ?

Rogers Is-sur u s-sinjura Owens mhux se jigu minn Londra qabel ghada. Kien mingħalija li taf. (He sets down the suitcase)

Vera Ghada ? Imma ....

Rogers (Taking out the list) Ghandi lista tal-mistiednin kollha, sinjorina, jekk trid. It-tieni vjagg ghadu kif wasal.

Vera Grazzi. (She takes the list)

Rogers picks up the cases and exits into the hall.

Vera X'affarijiet dawn ... inti ma jimpurtax jekk tghini xi ffit hux ?

Lombard Mhux se niccaqlaq minn hdejk. Tiehux hsieb.

Vera Grazzi. (She looks at the list) Ma tahsibx li daqxejn stramba li lilna gabuna wahedna fuq l-ewwel dghajsa u l-ohrajn gejjin kollha fuq it-tieni wahda ?

Lombard (Smiling) Kienet ippjanata apposta hekk.

Vera Apposta ? X'jigifieri ?

Lombard Issuggerejt lis-sid tad-dghajsa biex ma jistenniex lil ohrajn. Hames liri malajr irrangat kollox.

Vera (Laughing) Imma ma kellekx ghalfejn taghmel hekk !

Lombard Ma tantx deheru ecitanti l-ohrajn.

Vera Hemm wiehed daqxejn zghir jidher gustuz.

Lombard Gustuz imma ma jiswa ghal xejn. Ghal xejn.

Vera U inti tahseb li ragel il fuq minn tletin sena huwa izjed attrajenti.

Lombard Mhux nahseb ... naf.

Marston, a good-looking man of twenty-three or so, appears on the balcony and enters. He is rich, spoiled, and not very intelligent.

Marston X'daqxejn ta dar ghandkom hawn hej.



He moves to greet Vera as his hostess. Lombard stands to her side, like a host.

Vera (Shaking his hand) Jiena s-segretarja tas-sinjura Owen. Hi tkun hawn ghada ghax okkupata b'xi xoghol Londra.

Marston (Vaguely) Hi xi dnub.

Vera Dan hu l-Kaptan Lombard. Is-sur eh ....

Marston Marston. Anthony Marston.

Lombard Tiehu drink ? (He moves to the drinks cabinet)

Marston Iva, grazzi.

Blore enters from the balcony. He is a middle-aged, thick-set man. He wears rather loud clothes and gives his impression of a South African gold magnate. His eyes dart about, making notes of everything.

Lombard X'se tiehu ? Gin, whisky, sherry ... ?

Marston Whisky, nahseb.

Vera moves to Blore.

Blore (Seizing Vera's hand and wringing it hearily) X'daqxejn ta' post ghandek hawn.

Vera Jiena s segretarja tas-sinjura Owen. Baqghat Londra, u ma tkunx hawn qabel ghada.

Lombard Ghidli meta !

Marston Ah, prosit !

Blore Kif inti ? (He makes for the drinks cabinet)

Lombard Jien Lombard. Tiehu drink, sur ....

Blore Davis, jisimni Davis.

Lombard Sur Davis .... Sur Marston !

Blore Kif inti sur Marston ? Ghandi pjacir. Grazzi sur Lombard, niehu drink jekk joghgbok. Wieqfa t-triq mhux hazin. (He moves to the balcony and looks out of the window) Imma ha nghidlek, veduta tassew inkredibli. U l-gholi li hawn. Tfakkarni fl-Afrika t-isfel.

Lombard (Staring at him) Iva ? U liema parti ?

Blore Ah ... eh ... Natal. Durban taf int.

Lombard Eh iva ? (He hands Blore a drink)

Blore Evviva mela. Inti tafha l-Afrika t-isfel ?

Lombard Jien ? Le.

Blore (With renewed confidence) Minn hemm gej jien. Dak pajjizi.

Lombard Pajjiz tassew interessanti nahseb hux hekk ?

Blore L-ahjar pajjiz fid-dinja. Deheb, fidda, djamanti, laring, dak kollu li ghandek bzonn.

General Mackenzie enters from the balcony. He is an upright, soldierly old man, with a gentle, tired face.

Mackenzie (Hesitating courteously) Eh ... kif intom ?

Vera (Moving to meet him) Il-general Mackenzie, hux veru ? Jiena s-segretarja tas-sinjura Owen. Sfortunatament baqghat Londra u mhux se tkun hawn qabel ghada. Nista nintroduciek mal-Kaptan Lombard, is-sur Marston u s-sur ...

Blore (Moving to Machenzie) Davis.

They shake hands.

Lombard Whisky, general ?

Mackenzie (Dropping his coat on the settee) Eh ... grazzi. (He moves to Lombard)  
Inti fis-servizz.

Lombard Kont fis-servizz. Imma tlaqt.

Mackenzie Hasra.

Lombard pours out the soda.

Mackenzie Meta.

Miss Emily Brent enters from UL. She is a tall, thin spinster with a disagreeable, suspicious face.

Emily (To Vera; sharply) Fejn hi s-sinjura Ogden ? (She puts her case on the settee)

Vera Is-sinjorina Brent, hux hekk ? Jiena s-segretarja taghha. Is-sinjura Owen baqghat Londra.

Lombard moves to stand next to Vera.

Lombard } (Together) U mhux se tkun hawn qabel ghada. (They  
Vera } tail off, rather embarrassed)

Emily Eh iva. X'affarijiet dawn. Jaqaw tilfet il-ferrovija ?

Vera Hekk nahseb. Tielu xi haga ? Nista nintroduciek mal-kaptan Lombard, il-general Mackenzie, is-sur Marston. Nahseb li kollha iltqajtu fuq id-dghajsa. U is-sur ...

Blore Davis. Jisimni Davis. Nista nghinek bil-bagalja ?

Emily glances at him coldly.

Lombard Ingieblek drink. Martini ? Sherry ? Whisky ?

Emily (Coldly) Jiena ma nixrobx alkohol.

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Lombard    Ma tixrobx alkohol !

Emily        (Picking up her bag and moving below the settee) Nahseb li taf li hailejtna kollha nistennew fuq il-moll hux ?

Vera         Jiddispjacini imma nahseb li kien tord tieghi. Ghaliex riddt ...

Emily        U din kif ma gietx tilqa l-mistiednin is-sinjura Ogden stess.

Vera         (Smiling) Nahseb li wahda minn dawk li l-hin kollu titlef il-ferrovija.

Blore        (Laughing) Mid-deherha hekk hi.

Emily        Mhux veru. Is-sinjura Ogden mhi xejn minn dan.

Lombard    (Lightly) Forsi tord tar-ragel.

Emily        (Sharply) M'ghandhiex ragel.

Vera stares. Rogers enters from the hall.

Emily        Nixtieq nitla fil-kamra tieghi.

Vera         Da zgur. Ha nwasslek.

Rogers       (To Vera) Is-sinjura Rogers qieghdha fuq. Tista turik hi l-kmamar.  
(He holds the door open)

Vera and Emily exit into the hall. Rogers exits after them. Wargrave enters from the balcony.

Lombard    (Moving to meet Wargrave) Jiddispjacini imma l-Owens ghadhom ma waslux. Jiena Lombard.

Wargrave    Jiena Wargrave. Kif inti ? (He puts his coat down on the settee)

Lombard    Kif inti ? Tiehu drink ?

Wargrave    Iva, whisky, grazzi.



Lombard prepares the drink.

Blore (Moving to Wargrave) Kif inti ? Jiena Davis. (Affably) Post sabih hux ? Pjuttost uniku.

Wargrave Iva, naqbel mieghek. Uniku.

Blore takes the drink from Lombard and hands it to Wargrave.

Blore Ghandek id-drink.

Marston Allura Berkely ghadu ma giex ?

Lombard Min ?

Marston Berkely. Hu qalli biex nigi. Allura meta gej ?

Lombard Ma nahsibx li gej. M'ghandna 'l hadd b'dak l-isem.

Marston (His jaw drops; then) Mela dahaq bija. Jiddispjacini daqxejn. Imma insomma, gzira sabiha hafna. U anki dik it-tfajla, is-segretarja, tassew faqa. Nahseb li l-atmosfera mhux se tkun monotona biha. Isma, habib, mhux ahjar inbiddu qabel l-ikel, xi tghid eh ?

Lombard Ejja halli nitkixxfu daqxejn. (He puts down his glass on the mantel)

Marston Ah, prosit ! (He puts down his glass on the settee lodge)

Lombard Hawn daqxejn tad-dizgwid peress li m'hawnx l-Owens.

Marston Iva, ma jimpurtax. Il-veru post tal-genn biex tigi ghal vaganza.

Lombard and Marston exit into the hall. Blore wanders out on the balcony, looks back sharply into the room and presently exits UR while Mackenzie and Wargrave talk.

Wargrave continues to sit like a Buddha. He observes Mackenzie, who is standing looking rather lost, absentmindedly pulling his moustache. Mackenzie is carrying a shooting-stick. He looks at it wistfully, half opens, and then closes it.

Wargrave M'intiex se tpoggi bilqieghda ?

Mackenzie Insomma, ghax biex nghidlek il-verita', qieghed bilqieghda f'posti.

Wargrave Hi jiddispjacini. Ma kontx naf li inti wiehed minn tal-familja.

Mackenzie Le m'iniex. Imma biex inghidlek jien qatt ma gejt hawnhekk. Izda jiena ili membru fil-Benton Club ghal dawn l-ahhar ghaxar snin u dejjem poggejt fuq siggu li jkun fejn qieghed bilqieghda inti. Taf inti qisek tidra imbaghad.

Wargrave Iva, tigi vizzju. (He rises)

Mackenzie Iva veru. Grazzi. (He sits) Mhux komdu daqs dak tal-Club imma mhux hazin. (Confidentially) Biex nghidlek is-sewwa, qatt ma bsart li se nircieve invit bhal dan. Ilu xi erba snin meta l-ahhar ircevejt wiehed. Gest sabih minn naha tagghom hux ?

Rogers enters DL and picks up Wargrave's coat from the settee.

Rogers Tista ttini c-cwieviet jekk joghgbok ?

Wargrave Ghidli daqxejn. Lady Constance Culmington gejjja ukoll hawnhekk ?  
(He gives his keys to Rogers)

Rogers (Surprised) Lady Constance Culmington ? Le ma jidhirlix. Sakemm mhux nizla mas-sinjuri Owens.

Wargrave Ah.

Rogers Halli f'idejja sir. (He takes Mackenzie's coat) Ic-cwieviet jekk joghgbok ?

Mackenzie Le, le halli f'idejja. Issa niftah jien.

Rogers L-ikel se jigi servut fit-tmienja. Tridni nurik il-kamra tieghek sir ?

Mackenzie Iva jekk joghgbok. (He rises)

SEAGULLS

T20

*SOUND = UP until door <sup>balcony</sup> is closed*

Rogers holds open the door. Mackenzie exits. Wargrave follows more deliberately, looking around the room in an unsatisfied fashion. Rogers follows them out. The sound of seagulls.

Dr. Armstrong enters L from the balcony, followed by Narracot carrying his suitcase. Armstrong is a fussy, good-looking man of forty-four. He looks rather tired and moves slowly.

*Fade out sound*

Narracot Hekk hu, wasalna. Halli navza lil Rogers.

Narracot exits into the hall. Armstrong looks round, nods approval, and looks out at the sea.

Narracot enters. Armstrong tips him. Narracot exits on the L of the balcony. Armstrong sits on the settee, reading the rhyme silently.

Blore enters from the R of the balcony. He pauses at the sight of Armstrong.

Blore Kif inti ? Jiena Davis.

Armstrong (Rising) Jiena Armstrong.

Blore Dr. Armstrong, hux hekk ?

Armstrong Iva.

Blore Hekk deherii. Qatt ma ninsa wicc.

Armstrong Tghidlix li insejt pazjent minn tieghi !

Blore Le, le mhux hekk. Imma darba rajtek tixhed fil-qorti.

Armstrong Eh iva ? Tinteressak il-ligi ?

Blore Iva. Jiena mill-Afrika t-isfel. U taf inti ahna kollha ninteressaw fiha l-ligi.

Armstrong Eh, tajjeb.

Blore Tiehu drink ?



Armstrong Le, le. Ma nixrobx.

Blore Jimporta jekk inferra ghalija ?

Armstrong Le lanqas xejn.

Blore (Pouring himself a drink) Kont qed indur mal-gzira. Tassew sabiha.

Armstrong Iva, eccezzjonali. Jiena u gej hekk ghidt. Kemm tidher kwieta.

Blore (Moving to him; putting his face close to his) Kwieta izzejjed ghal xi whud.

Armstrong (Moving away L) Imma tassew tajba biex tistrieh. Jiena specjalista tan-nervi. U dan il-kwiet tajjeb ghan-nervi.

Blore Iva, naf. Allura gejt bil-ferrovija ? (He moves towards Armstrong)

Armstrong (Crossing up to the window) Le, bil-karozza. Waqaft nara pazjent jiena u nizel. Ghamel progress kbir. Sodisfatt hafna.

Blore (Following Armstrong up to the window) Kellek mitejn mil nahseb. U kemm hadt biex wasalt hawn ?

Armstrong (Moving away to RC) Gejt bil-mod. Mhux tajjeb ghan-nervi. Imma xi wiehed bla edukazzjoni kwazi tefani barra t-triq hdejn Amesbury. Kien qed isuq mhux hazin. X'gharukaza dan is-sewqan kollu. Xtaqt li hadtlu n-numru.

Blore (Moving to Armstrong) Iva, gharukaza. Kellu bzonn in-nies jibdeu jiehdu n-numri ta dawn in-nies.

Armstrong Iva. Imma issa skuzani halli mmur inkellem lis-sur Owen.

He crosses quickly and exits into the hall.

Blore (As Armstrong opens the door) Eh, imma .... is-Sur Owen mhux se jkun hawn ....

Armstrong is already gone.



Blore rings the bell, finishes his drink and puts the glass on the settee. Rogers enters almost immediately.

Rogers Cempilt, sir ?

Blore Iva, hudli l-kappell, jekk joghgbok. (He hands him his cap, which was in his jacket pocket) F'ix-xhin hu l-ikel ?

Rogers L-ikel fit-tmienja sir. (Pause) Kwarta ohra. Nahseb li kulhadd jista jilbes li jrid.

Blore (Familiarly) Allura qieghed tajjeb hawnhekk ?

Rogers Iva, sir, grazzi.

Blore U ilek tahdem hawn ?

Rogers Kwazi gimgha, sir.

Blore Daqshekk biss ? (Pause) Mela nahseb li ma tantx taf fuqhom in-nies li hawn ?

Rogers Le, sir.

Blore Xi hbieb antiki tal-familja ?

Rogers Ma nafx, sir (He moves towards the door L)

Blore Kollox sew ... ah, Rogers.

Rogers (Stopping) Iva, sir ?

Blore Rogers, tahseb li tista tqieghdli xi sandwiches u flixkun birra fil-kamra tieghi ? Ghax hawnhekk fetahli aptit kbir.

Rogers Issa nara x'nista naghmel sir.

Blore Tibzax jiena nahseb fik. Allura fejn hi l-kamra tieghi ?

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Rogers Nista nurik jekk trid, sir. (He holds the hall door open)

Blore (As he goes) Iva ahjar, ghax ghandi bzonn niffriska ftit.

They exit into the hall. Mrs. Rogers enters at the UL door. She picks up the glasses from the settee and from the table UL. Rogers enters with a tray of eight glasses.

Mrs. Rogers takes the clean glasses off the tray and Rogers puts on the dirty ones.

Ethel Ah, Rogers hawn qiegħed. Isma, imissek tizbarazzhom dawn it-tazzi mahmugin taf. Dejjem thalli l-aghaz xogħol għaliġa. Ara jiena imhabbta tant bl-ikel u ma għandi 'l hadd jgħini. Imissek ittini daqqa ta' id fil-keċina. U dak minn kien li kont qed tkellem ?

Rogers Davis. Dak tal-Afrika t-Isfel. Xejn speċjali u xejn flus ukoll.

Ethel Ma jogħgħobni xejn ... insomma kollha ma jogħgħbunx. Qishom dawki li kellna in-naha l-oħra.

Rogers Davis irida ta xi miljunarju. Imma trid tara l-hwejjeg ta' taht tiegħu. Tgħidx kemm huma tal-qamel.

Ethel Mhux qed jiehdu hsiebna sew taf. Mela il-mistiednin kollha waslu illum u s-servitu' mhux se jaslun qabel għada. X'jabsu li ahna ?

Rogers U ejja, qed ihallsuna tajjeb, mhux hekk ?

Ethel Imisshom le. Ma kontx nerga nagħmel dan ix-xogħol li kieku l-flus mhux tajba.

Rogers U fil-fatt il-flus huma tajba, allura għaliex qed tgerger ?

Ethel U għalhekk għadni hawn ha ngħidlek. Imma jiena xogħoli nsajjar ! Jiena koka tajba ...

Rogers (Placating her) Koka tajba hafna anzi.

Ethel           Imma jiena posti fil-*kcina* u m'*ghandix* x'*naqsam* mal-*kumplament* tal-*facendi*. Dawn il-*mistiednin* kollha. *Ghandi* *aptit* naqbad il-*kappell* u l-*coat* u *nerga* *lura* *Plymouth*.

Rogers        (*Grinning*) Imma ma tistax taghmilha.

Ethel        (*Belligerently*) U min qal li ma nistax ? Nixtieq inkun naf ghaliex ?

Rogers        Ghax qeghdin fuq *gzira*. Mela insejt ?

Ethel        Iva, u ma tantx toghobni taf, din li qeghdin fuq *gzira*.

Rogers        U lanqas jien. Ma nistax immur il-*pub* jew ic-*cinema*. Imma fil-*fatt* ghalhekk qed ihallsuna d-*doppju* tas-*soltu*. U kieku stess hawn hafna birra.

Ethel        Hemm mohhok .. fil-*birra*.

Rogers        U issa tkomplix teqred u mur *lura* fil-*kcina* ghax se tirrovina l-*ikla*.

Ethel        U nahseb li diga irrovinat. Kulhadd se jkun tard *ghandu* jkun. Mn'*Alla* m'*ghamiltx* *souffle*'.

Vera enters from the hall.

Ethel        (*Moving to the dining-room door*) Eh, l-*ikel* dalwaqt lest miss. Ftit *irqaqat* *zghar*.

Mrs. Rogers exits into the dining-room.

Vera        Kollox sew, Rogers ? Tahseb li tlahhqu bejnitkom it-*tnejn* ?

Rogers        Iva, *grazzi*, miss. Il-*mara* tgerger daqxejn imma kollox tlahhaq.

He moves towards the dining-room as Vera goes to look out of the window R. Emily enters from the hall, having changed, and carrying a large handbag. She glances with disapproval at Rogers.

Rogers exits.

Vera        X'*serata* *sabiha* hux ?

- Emily Iva. Hekk hu. U t-temp jidher ahjar issa.
- Vera Iva, kwazi anki l-bahar jinstema minn hawn.
- Emily Iva, fil-fatt qed niehu gost.
- Vera Bil-kemm hawn rih ... u t-temp daqxejn shun. Mhux soltu għall-Ingilterra.
- Emily (Surveying Vera critically) Kont nahseb li ma thossokx komda b'dik il-liebsa.
- Vera (Not taking the point) Eh le.
- Emily (Hastily) Tidher daqxejn issikkata izzejjed, mhux hekk ?
- Vera (Good-humouredly) Le, ma nahsibx.
- Emily (Sitting on the settee and taking out some grey knitting) Skuzani, imma inti għadek zghira u trid taqla x'tiekol ...
- Vera Iva ?
- Emily Mara ta l-affarijiet tagħha ma thobbx tara lis-segretarja liebsa hekk. Jidher, qiesu, qed tipprowa tigbed l-attenzjoni tas-sess oppost.
- Vera U inti tahseb li nigbidhom ?
- Emily Dik m'għandix x'taqsam. Mela tfajla ddahhal f'rasha li trid tigbed l-attenzjoni tal-irgħiel ma tantx iddum ma titlef xogħolha.
- Vera (Laughing) Imma dik tiddependi ma min qed tahdem ?
- Emily Miss Claythorne !
- Vera Ma jidhirlekx illi qed ittini daqxejn mill-agħar izzejjed ?
- Emily (Spitefully) Iz-zaghzagħ illum igibu ruhom b'mod tassew dizguztanti.



Vera Dizguztanti ?

Emily (Carried away) Iva. Ilbies b'darhom barra. Nofshom gharwenin fuq il-bajja. Taparsi qed jixxemxu. Skuza biex joqghodu indicenti, xejn izjed. U din il-kunfidenza zejda. Kulhadd jghajjat lil xulxin b'ismu. Jixorbu l-cocktails. U ara l-irgiel imbaghad. M'huma tajbin ghall-xejn. Hares lejn dak Marston. Dak f'ix inhu tajjeb. Jew il-Kaptan Lombard !

Vera Xi trid tghid fuq l-Kaptan Lombard ? Ghalija huwa ragel li ghadda minn hafna affarijiet u kellu hajja interessanti hafna.

Emily Dak ir-ragel huwa xallatur. Il-generazzjoni ta llum m'huma tajbin ghal xejn.

Vera Inti ma toghgbokx iz-zoghziya mid-dehera.

Emily (Sharply) U xi trid tghid biha ?

Vera Jigifieri li inti ma joghgbukx iz-zaghzagħ.

Emily U ghalfejn ghandhom joghgbuni ?

Vera Le hux ... (Pause) Imma nahseb li qed tiflef hafna.

Emily Inti daqxejn impertinenti.

Vera (Quietly) Skuzani, imma jiena hekk nahsibha.

Emily Id-dinja tkun hafna ahjar jekk teqirdu nies immorali bhal dawn.

Vera (To herself) Jew nies bhalek. (She turns away)

Emily (Sharply) X'ghidli ?

Vera Xejn.

Emily sits. Armstrong and Lombard enter, taking.

Lombard Allura x'jidhirlex minn dak ix-xih .....

Armstrong Qisu fekruna, ghalija.

Lombard L-imhallfin kollha qishom fkieren. Ghandhom il-habta li johorgu w jdahhlu rashom. U l-Imhallel Wargrave wiehed minnhom.

Armstrong Ma kontx naf li huwa Imhallel.

Lombard Iva. (Cheerfully) Nahseb li huwa l-izjed bniedem go l-Ingilterra li baghat nies innocenti il-habs.

Wargrave enters and looks at Lombard, who does not see him.

Lombard (To Vera) Kif inti ? Tafu lil xulxin ? Dr. Armstrong ... Miss Claythorne. Armstrong u jiena iddecidejna li dak ix-xih ....

Vera Iva, naf smajtkom u nahseb li anki hu semakom.

Wargrave moves to Emily.

Emily (Rising as she sees him approaching) Ah, Sir Lawrence.

Wargrave Miss Brent, hux hekk ?

Emily Hemm xi haga li nixtieq nistaqsik. (She indicates the balcony) Jimporta jekk nitkellmu hawn barra ?

Wargrave (As they go) Iva, mela le. Lejla sabiha !

Emily and Wargrave exit UC. Marston enters with Blore, in conversation.

Marston X'karozza super hux ... ma tantx tara minnhom fit-triq. Aqta kemm nafasha kieku tkun f'idejja.

Vera sits on the lower side of the settee.

Blore Allura inti gejt minn Londra ?

Marston Iva, mitejn u tmin mili, u ghamiltha f'inqas minn erba sighat.

Armstrong turns and looks at Marston.

Marston Kien hemm wisq karozzi fit-nofs. Wasalt sa disghin mil jiena u ghaddej minn Salisbury Plain. Mhux hazin hux ?

Armstrong Nahsel li ghaddejt minn hdejja f'dik it-triq.

Marston Eh, iva ?

Armstrong U kwazi waddabtni barra mit-triq.

Marston (Unmoved) Eh iva ? Skuzani.

Armstrong Kieku rajt in-numru tal-karozza tieghek kont nirrapurtak.

Marston Jekk kont qed issuq qisek <sup>mejjet</sup> ~~mien fuq il-bajd.~~

Armstrong Eh, iva. X'wicc tost.

Blore (Trying to relieve the atmosphere) Niehdu drink ?

Marston Iva, ideja tajba.

They move towards the drinks cabinet.

Marston Tiehu wiehed, Miss Claythorne ?

Vera Le, grazzi.

Lombard (Sitting on the upper side of the settee ; to Vera) Kif inti Sinjura Owen ?

Vera (Facing him) Sinjura Owen ?

Lombard Nahseb li toqghodlok hafna tal-mara ta xi wiehed miljunarju.

Vera Inti dejjem tittanta lit-tfajliet b'dan il-mod ?

Lombard Dejjem.

Vera Ah ! Mela issa nafu .... (She half turns away, smiling)

Lombard Isma, dik Miss Brent, x'inhi tghidlu lil-Imhalled ? Lanqas hallietu jiccaqlaq minn taht it-tarag.

Vera Ma nafx. Imma kienet kwazi zgura li ma jezistiex sur Owen.

Lombard Ma tahsibx lis-sinjura Owen ... irrid nghid li m'hemmx ... li mhumieq ?

Vera Mizzewwgin, trid tghid ?

Rogers enters, switches on the lights, draws the curtains and exits into the study.

Marston moves towards Vera.

Marston Xi dnub li ma konniex nafu lil xulxin qabel. Li kieku kont inwasselek jien hawnhekk.

Vera Iva, kienet tkun ideja tajba.

Marston Kont nista nurik x'kapaci naghmel b'karozza fit-triq. Isma ... min jaf li kieku ninzlu flimkien lura ?

Wargrave and Emily enter UC. General Mackenzie enters and sits in 'his' chair.

Lombard Jiddispjacini Marston, imma Miss Claythorne diga irrangat kif se tmur lura.

Vera (Surprised) Imma jien ... (She rises)

Marston Imma jiena se nkun wahdi fil-karozza.

Lombard Iva, imma joghghobha kif irrangat biex tmur lura ....

Vera (Crossing to the fireplace) Ara ! Xi hlew hux ? Dawn l-ghaxar figurini ta Cinizi ...

Marston and Lombard scowl at each other.

Vera Hi ara ... u hemm dik il-poezija.

STAND BY  
MIC. STAND  
+ MUSIC  
↓



Musie B I  
 STAND MIC <sup>Level 20</sup>  
 and MUSIC

Lombard X'inti tghid ? X'figurini ? X'poezija ?

Vera (She points at the figurines and rhyme, reading) Ghaxar Indjani kielu ikoll flimkien, Wiehed faga u miet, disgha waqghu fis-skiet.

Rogers enters from the study.

(She continues reading) Disgha Indjani tard ragdu bil-lejl, Wiehed rieqed baqa', Tmienja hadu qata'.

Blore Tmien Indjani kollha marru Devon, Wiehed hemmhekk insewh, Seba' imxew u rhewh.

STAND MIC - ON and

SPOOKY TR ONE

Voice Gheziez sinjuri, nitlobkom daqxajn tas-silenzju !

~~EXCLAM~~

All rise. Everyone stops talking and stares round at each other, at the walls. The Voice continues very slowly and clearly. As each name is mentioned that person reacts by a sudden movement or gesture.

Intom hatja ta' dawn l-akkuzi. Edward George Armstrong, li kkawzajt il—mewt ta' Louisa Mary Clees. William Henry Blore, illi kont responsabli ghal-qtil ta' James Stephen Landor. Emily Caroline Brent, inti kkawzajt il mewt ta Beatrice Taylor. Vera Elizabeth Claythorne, inti qtilt lil Peter Ogilvie Hamilton.

Vera sits on the settee

Philip Lombard, inti kont hati li qtilt wiehed u ghoxrin ragel mit-tribu' tal-Afrika tal-Lvant. John Gordon Mackenzie, li inti kont responsabli ghal-mewt ta, Arthur Richmond, il-mahbub ta martek.

General Mackenzie sits DL

Anthony James Marston, inti akkuzat li qtilt lil John u Lucy Combes. Thomas Rogers u Ethel Rogers, intom ikkawzajtu l-mewt ta Jennifer Brady. Lawrence John Wargrave, inti qtilt lil Edward Seton. L-imputati ghandhom xi haga x'jghidu fid-difiza taghhom ?

~~OFF SOUND~~

There is a momentary paralysed silence. Then there is a scream outside the door L to the dining-room. Lombard springs across the room to it. An indignant murmur breaks out as people recover from the first shock.

UP MUSIC

The door opens L to show Mrs. Rogers in a fallen heap.

*Muric afternoon as Rogers falls.*

Marston sprints across to Lombard. They pick up Mrs. Rogers and carry her in to the lower side of the settee. Armstrong comes to her.

Armstrong M'hi xejn. Intilfet minn sensija, dak kollu. Issa tigi f'taghha dalwaqt. Tuha daqxejn ~~brandy.~~ ~~MAA~~ *off*

Blore Rogers. Gib ftit ~~brandy.~~ ~~MAA~~

Rogers, shaking all over, exits by the door to the dining-room.

Vera Min kien qed jitkellem ? Kien qiesu ...

Mackenzie (His hands shaking; pulling at his moustache) Dan x'qed jigri hawn ? Din xi cajta goffa ?

Blore mops his face with his handkerchief. Wargrave stands in the middle of the room, thoughtfully stroking his chin, his eyes peering suspiciously from one to the other.

Lombard Min fejn ix-xjafek giet dik il-vuci ? *off*

They stare all round. Lombard exits quickly to the study.

Lombard (Off) Hawn hu.

Voice Intom hatja ta' dawn l-akkuzi ... *← OFF STAND M/C.*

Vera Aghlaqlu ! Aghlaqlu ! Tal-wahx !

The voice is switched off. Mrs. Rogers groans.

Amstrong Cajta dizguztanti ghall-ahhar.

Wargrave (With significance) Allura tahseb li hi cajta din ?

Armstrong Xi tridha tkun ?

Emily sits DL

Wargrave Bhalissa mhux lest li naghti l-opinjoni tieghi.

Rogers enters with ~~brandy~~ and a glass <sup>of water</sup> on a tray and puts it on the table UL.

Marston Imma nista nkun naf min xeghha d-diska ?

Wargrave Nahseb li ahjar naghmlu investigazzjoni. (He looks significantly at Rogers)

Lombard enters with the CD, and puts it on a chair.

Ethel (Beginning to move and twist) Ajma, ajma.

The others crowd nearer, obscuring the table where the brandy is. Attention is focused on Mrs. Rogers. Armstrong kneels by her.

Rogers (To Vera) Halli f'idejja, sinjura. (To Armstrong) Halli f'idejja sir. Forsi jekk inkellimha jien. Ethel ... Ethel... (His tone is urgent and nervous) kollox sew. Kollox sew, qed tismaghni ? Ejja qum fuq tieghek.

Mrs. Rogers begins to gasp and moan. She tries to pull herself up. Her frightened eyes stare round the room.

Armstrong (Taking her wrist) Kollox, Sinjura Rogers. Hassek daqxejn hazin.

Wargrave pours out some brandy.

Ethel Hassni hazin ?

Armstrong Iva.

Ethel Dik il-vuci ... dik il-vuci ... kienet qisha qed taghmel xi gudizzju ...

Rogers makes an anxious movement. Mrs. Roger's eyelids flutter. She seems about to collapse again.

Armstrong Fejn hu l-brandi ?



They draw back a little to disclose the brandy. Wargrave hands the glass to Blore, who gives it to Vera, who hands it to Armstrong. Vera sits on the L edge of the settee, holding a cushion under Mrs. Roger's head.

Armstrong Ixrob daqxejn.

Mrs. Rogers gulps a little. The spirit revives her. She sits up again.

Ethel Issa mhux hazin. Imma taghti taqliba.

Rogers (Quickly) Da zgur li taghtek. Anki lili. U dawn il-hafna gideb. Irrid inkun naf ...

Wargrave deliberately clears his throat. It stops Rogers, who stares at him nervously. Wargrave clears his throat again, looking hard at Rogers.

Wargrave Mela allura minn tefa din is-CD ? Inti kont Rogers ?

Rogers Jiena kont qed nobdi biss l-ordnijiet. Dak kollox.

Wargrave Ordnijiet ta' min ?

Rogers Is-Sur Owen.

Wargrave Mela ejja naraw fhimtekx tajjeb. L-ordnijiet tas-Sur Owen x'kienu ezattament ?

Rogers Jiena kelli nitfa is-CD player fl-istudju. Kelli insib is-CD's fil-kexxun, u kelli nibda b'dik. Jiena hsibt li kienet tal-muzika.

Wargrave (Sceptically) Storja tassew inkredibli.

Rogers (Hysterically) Imma dik il-verita, sir. Nahlef quddiem Alla li dik hija l-verita. Ma kontx naf x'fiha is-CD. Kien hemm isem fuqha. Jiena hsibtha xi bicca muzika.

Wargrave looks towards Lombard, who examines the record.

Wargrave X'jisimiha is-CD ?



Lombard (Grinning) X'jisimiha ? Eh iva. Jisimiha <sup>dying</sup> 'Swan Song'.

It amuses Lombard. Some of the others react nervously.

Mackenzie Imma dan kollu paroli fil-vojt. Jintefaw akkuzi serji bhal dawn. Irridu naghmlu xi haga. Dan Owen, hu min hu ...

Emily Hekk hu. Imma dan Owen, min hu ?

Wargrave (With authority) Ghalhekk ghandna naghmlu l-affarijiet bil-galbu. Jiena nissugerixxi li tiehu lil martek fis-sodda u terga tigi hawnhekk.

Rogers Iva, sir.

Armstrong Ha ntik daqqa t'id.

Vera (Rising) Tahseb li tkun tajba dott ?

Armstrong Iva, iva, kollox sew.

Armstrong and Rogers help Mrs. Rogers up and take her out into the hall.

Marston (To Wargrave) Ma nafx inti, imma jiena ghandi bzonn drink.

Wargrave Jiena naqbel mieghek.

Marston Ha mmur ingibhom. (He moves to the drinks cabinet)

Mackenzie (Muttering angrily) Gharukaza ... dik hi ... gharukaza. (He sits in his chair)

Marston Whisky, Sir Lawrence ?

Emily (Sitting on the settee) Jiena ghandi bzonn tazza ilma, jekk joghgbok.

Vera Iva, issa ngibha jien. Jiena niehu daqxejn whisky. (She takes a glass of water to Emily, then sits in a chair)

Emily and Vera sip their drinks without speaking, but they eye each other. Armstrong enters from the hall.

- FADE OUT MUSIC

IB  
MUSIC

Armstrong Issa mhux hazin. Ghadni kif tajtha injezzjoni biex torqod.

Blore (Crossing to him with a drink) Issa, haqqek drink wara dan kollu dott.

Armstrong Le, le. Jiena ix-xorb ma mmissux (He sits)

Blore Eh iva bil-haqq. Mela hudha inti General. (He moves to Mackenzie and offers him the glass)

Marston and Lombard refill their glasses. Rogers enters from the door DL and stands. He is nervous. Everyone focuses their attention on Rogers.

Wargrave (Taking charge) Issa, Rogers mhux ahjar tghidilna minn hu dan is-Sur Owen.

Rogers Is-sid ta din id-dar.

Wargrave Dik nafha. Imma x'tista tghidli fuq dan ir-ragel ?

Rogers Ma nista nghid xejn, sir. Ghax jiena qatt ma ltqajt mieghu.

A faint stir of interest.

Mackenzie X'jigifieri qatt ma ltqajt mieghu ?

Rogers Il-mara tieghi u jiena ilna biss gimgha hawnhekk, sir. Gejna impjegati permezz ta' ittra mill-ufficju fejn konna qed nirregistraw go Plymouth.

Blore Dik hija xi haga li nistghu nivverifikaw.

Wargrave U ghada ghandek l-ittra ?

Rogers Iva, sir. (He hunts for it and hands it to Wargrave)

Wargrave (Looking through the letter) Isa, kompli bl-istorja tieghek.

Rogers Wasalna hawnhekk bhal ma intqal fl-ittra fl-erbgha tax-xahar. Kollox kien lest. Hafna ikel u kollox pulit. Kull ma kien hemm bzonn kienet daqxejn tfarfira 'l hawn u 'l hemm.

Wargrave Komplli, komplli.

Rogers Xejn, sir. Kellna struzzjonijiet biex inlestu tmien kmamar tas-sodda. Imbaghad ilbierah ircevejna ittra bil-posta fejn qalet li s-Sur u s-Sinjura Owen ma setghux jigu illum u biex niehdu hsieb ahna. Fiha qalulna ukoll x'ghandna naghmlu dwar l-ikel u biex nixghalu is-CD player. Hawn sir, it-tieni ittra. (He hands over the letter)

Wargrave Hm. Miktuba fuq karta tar-Ritz Hotel. U fuq il-<sup>computer</sup>word processor.

Blore takes the letter out of Wargrave's hand. Marston and Mackenzie read over Blore's shoulder.

Blore Hm. Milli jidher il-printer huwa gdid u ma fijiex zbalji fil-kitba. Ma tantx nistghu niskopru hafna minnha. Forsi xi fingerprints, imma issa ara kemm missewha nies. (He gives the letter back to Wargrave)

Lombard X'daqxejn ta' detektiv fik.

Wargrave turns and looks at sharply. Blore's manner has completely changed, so has his voice. Mackenzie sits UL; Lombard sits on the upper side of the settee.

Marston (Taking the letter) Ghandu daqxejn ta' isem stramb hux ? Ulick Norman Owen. Ghandek siegha biex tghidu.

Wargrave (Taking the letter from Marston) Grazzi sur Marston. Ghadek kif hrigt b'punt kurjuz hafna. (He looks round, in his court manner) Nahseb li wasal il-hin biex kulhadd jghid dak kollu li jaf. Ma tkunx ideja hazna li kieku kollha kemm ahna nghidu x'nafu fuq l-Owens. Ahna kollha mistiedna tieghu u ahjar li kieku kulhadd jghid kif gejna mistiednin.

Pause.

Emily Hemm xi haga stramb dwar dan kollu. Ircevejt ittra imma l-firma ma gharafthiex. Fiha qalet li kienet mara li ltqajt maghha xi zmien ilu go resort. L-isem hsibtu Ogden. Imma nista nassigurakhom li ma naf lil hadd bl isem ta' Owen.

Wargrave U l-ittra ghada ghandek, Miss Brent ?



Emily Iva. (She rises) Halli mmur ingibha.

She exits DL

Wargrave Miss Claythorne ?

Vera (Rising) Jiena qatt ma ltqajt mas-Sinjura Owen. Kelli bzonn xoghol u applikajt ghand Grenfell's Secretarial Agency go Londra. Offrewli dan il-post u accettajt.

Wargrave Jigifieri qatt ma kellmitek dwar il-post ?

Vera Le. (She opens her handbag and takes out a letter). Hawn ha l-ittra. (She hands him the letter and sits)

Wargrave (Reading) 'Indian Island, Sticklehaven, Devon. Ircevejt l-ittra tieghek minghand l-agenzija ta' Miss Grenfell. Nifhem li din tafek personalment. Jiena lest li nhallsek is-somma li qed titlob u tista tibda x-xoghol tieghek mit-tmienja ta' Awissu. Tista taqbad il-ferrovija ta' 12.40 minn Paddington u xi hadd jiltaqa mieghek kif tasal Oakbridge Station. Qed nibghatek 40 lira sterlina ghall-ispejjez. Inselli ghalik Una Nancy Owen'.

Marston starts to move away.

Wargrave Sur Marston ?

Marston Lanqas jien, ma nafhomm lil Owens. Habib tieghi, Badger Berkely qalli biex nigi hawn. Kont daqxejn surpriz ghax ma kontx naf li kien mar in-Norvegia. Imma l-fax ma zammejthiex.

Wargrave Grazi. Dr. Armstrong ?

Armstrong (After a pause) Fic-cirkostanzi, nahseb li ahjar nghid mill-ewwel li jiena gejt hawnhekk fuq bazi professjonali. Is-Sur Owen kitibli u qalli li kien inkwetat dwar is-sahha tal-mara tieghu. Ridni naghmillu rapport minghajr ma nallarmaha. Ghaldaqstant issuggerixxa li nigi hawn bhala wiehed mill-mistiednin.

Wargrave U qatt ma kont iltqajt magghom ?

Armstrong Le.



Wargrave U allura qbadt u gejt ?

Armstrong Ghax fl-ittra kien imsemmi habib antik tieghi u wara kollox baghtli cheque mhux hazin. U kieku stess kelli bzonn ta' vakanza. (He crosses to the mantlepiece for a cigarette)

Emily enters and hands a letter to Wargrave, then sits.

Wargrave (Reading) Ghaziza Miss Brent, nispera li tiftakarni. Konna flimkien fil Bell Haven Guest House fl-Awissu ta' xi snin ilu u deherli li kellna hafna affarijiet komuni bejnitna. Se niftah Guest House tieghi fuq gzira barra mill-kosta ta' Devon. Nahseb li se jkolli bzonn ta' xi hadd li jaf isajjar u jiehu kollox bis-serjeta'. Mhux se jkun hemm tfajliet jixxemu nofshom gharwenin jew muzika tghajjat sa tard bil-lejl. Nixtieqek li tigi hawnhekk ghas-sajf - bhala mistiedna tieghi, ovyjament. Jiena nissugerixxi it-tmienja ta' Awissu. Il-ferrovija li trid taqbad hija ta' 12.40 minn Paddington ghal Oakbridge. Inselli ghalik U.N.' Hm, iva, il-firma tidher daqxejn ambigwa.

Lombard rises and crosses to Vera.

Lombard (Aside to Vera) Toghobni dik il-bicca tat-tfajliet !

Wargrave (Taking a letter from his pocket) Din l-ittra li rcevejt jien. Minghand habiba antika tieghi, Lady Constance Culmington. Bhas-soltu tiktek b'mod vag u staqsietni biex niġi hawn bl-izjed mod ambigwu.

Armstrong, Marston and Mackenzie move to read over Wargrave's shoulder.

Lombard (With sudden excitement; staring at Blore) Isma, tafux qed nahseb ?

Wargrave Minuta.

Lombard Imma jien ....

Wargrave Ha niehdu l-affarijiet wahda wara l-ohra, jekk ma jimpurtax, Kaptan. General Mackenzie ?

Mackenzie (Rather incoherently; pulling at his moustache) Waslet ittra minghand dan Owen ... kien minghalija li ltqajt mieghu il-Club ... semma xi nies li naf, li kellhom ikunu hawn. Qalli biex niskuzah tal-mod kif stedinni. L-ittra, jiddispjacini, imma ma zammejthiex.

Wargrave U inti, Kaptan ?

Lombard L-istess haga. Invit fejn semma xi hbieb tieghi. L-ittra ma zammejthiex lanqas.

Pause. Wargrave turns his attention to Blore. When he speaks his voice is silky and dangerous.

Wargrave Ghadna kif smajna xi haga li ddisturbatna lkoll. Apparentement xi hadd qed jitfa dawn l-akkuzi biex inghid serji hafna. Imma hemm punt intessanti hafna li jidhirli li m'ghandniex ninsew. Fost l-ismijiet li intqalu semmew l-isem Willian Henry Blore. Issa, sa fejn naf jien, m'hawn hadd b'dak l-isem. B'kumbinazzjoni l-isem ta' Davis ma ssemghiex. Ghaldaqstant ghandek xi haga x'tghidilna sur Davis ?

Blore (Rising) Issa m'hemmx x'taghmel. Ilkoll indunajtu. Fil-fatt kunjomi mhux Davis.

Wargrave Inti Willian Henry Blore ?

Blore Hekk hu.

Lombard U nixtieq inqid ukoll li barra li gie hawn b'isem falz huwa ukoll giddieb prima klassi. Inti ghidt li gej minn Natal, gewwa l-Afrika ta Isfel. Hemmhekk nafu sew jien u nista nahlef li inti lanqas biss qatt kont hemm.

All turn towards Blore.

Blore Nahseb li qed tahsbu hazin fija ghalxejn. Jiena ex-CID.

Lombard Eh iva, pulizija.

Blore Ghandi il-kredenzjali fuqi jekk tridu tarawhom. Jiena niehu hsieb agenzija privata go Plymouth. Qieghed hawn fuq xoghol.

Wargrave U gejt imqabbad minghand min ?

Blore Heq, mhux is-Sur Owen. Baghtli somma sabiha u qalli biex niggi hawn bhala mistieden. Tani l-ismijiet taghkom kollha u qalli biex nzomm ghajnejja fuqkom.

Wargrave U qallek ghaliex ?

Blore Qal li s-Sinjura Owen ghandha xi gojjelli prezjuzi. (Pause) X'gojjelli gojjelli. Lanqas biss nahseb li tezisti s-Sinjura Owen.

Wargrave (Sitting on the lower side of the settee) Fil-fatt nahseb li l-Owens ma jezistux u xi hadd ridna lkoll hawn flimkien fl-istess hin.

Vera Imma din gennata !

Wargrave (Rising; quietly) Iva, da zgur. Nahseb li gejna mistiednin hawn minn xi hadd mignun ... probabilmment xi qattiel.

There is an appalled silence.

Rogers Hi x'wahda din !

Wargrave Min gabna hawnhekk, qad jiehu l-hin u l-pacenzja biex ikun jaf sew dwarna. (Pause) U wara li sar jaf dan kollu ghamel akkuzi serji kontrina kollha.

Everyone more or less speaks at once

Blore } Dan kollu gideb.

Mackenzie } Akkuzi infondati.

Vera } Il-veru ragel kattiv.

Rogers } Giddieb, giddieb, qatt ma ghamilna dawn l-affarijiet.

Marston } Ma nafx xi jrid jghid biha din.

Wargrave raises a hand for silence.



Wargrave (Sitting on the upper side of the settee) Nixtieq ngħid din. Il-habib tagħna akkuzani bil-qtil ta xi hadd jismu Edward Seton. Jiena niftakru sew lil dan Seton. Gie quddiemi fil-qorti f'Gunju. Kien mixli li qatel lil mara anzjana. Kellu difiza tajba hafna u halla impressjoni tajba fuq il-gurati. Madanakollu il-verdett hareg li kien hati u intbagħat għomru l-habs. Id-difiza appellat imma jiena bqajt ninsisti li il-verdett kellu jibqa kif kien. Fil-fatt intbagħat għomru l-habs imma wara sena u nofs qatel ruhu b'idejh. (Pause) Nixtieq ngħid ukoll li jiena għandi l-kuxjenza f'posta u dak li għamilt kien kollu gust. Tajtu s-sentenza li kien haqqu.

Pause

Armstrong U kont tafu lil dan Seton ? Personalment jigifieri.

Wargrave (Looking at Armstrong; hesitating a moment) Ma kont naf xejn dwaru qabel il-guri.

Lombard (Low to Vera) Qed jibdeh. Zgur.

Mackenzie (Rising) Ir-ragel mignun. Mignun bil-provi. (To Wargrave) Izda certi affarijiet ahjar li jibqghu reqdin. Allavolja m'hemm xejn ta verita fuq dak li qal dwar Arthus Richmond. Richmond kien ufficjal tahti. Dan inqatel f'incident waqt sparatura. U dik li qal fuq il-mara tieghi mhux veru. Mietet zmien ilu. Kienet mara tajba hafna. L-ahjar wahda fid-dinja. Assolutament. (He sits down again)

Marston Kont qed nahseb fuq John u Lucy Combes. Dawn kienu xi tfal li tajjart bil-karozza hdejn Cambridge. Veru xorti hazina.

Wargrave (Acidly) Xorti hazina għallhom jew għalik ?

Marston Le, kont qed nahseb għalija ... imma għandek ragun. Xorti hazina għalihom. Kien incident, dak kollu. Qabdu u qasmu t-triq bl-addocc. Kelli l-licenzja sospiza għal sena.

Armstrong Dan il-giri sfrenat bil-karozzi .. mhux tajjeb, mhux tajjeb. Zaghzagħ bhalek huma periklu kbir għas-socjeta'.

Marston (Wandering to the window and picking up his glass which is half full) Insomma, dan kien incident. Dak kollox.



Rogers (Moving in a pace) Nista nghid kelma jien, sir ?

Lombard Iva, mela le Rogers.

Rogers Jiena u s-Sinjura tieghi gejna imsemmieha dwar il-mewt ta' Miss Jennifer Brady. M'hemm l-ebda verita fiha. Ahna konna ma Miss Brady meta mietet. Dejjem kienet marida, minn qabel ma kien hemm ahna. Kien hemm maltempata dak in nhar li mietet u telefon ma kienx qed jahdem. Ma stajtx naqbad mat-tabib u kelli nimxi sad-dar tieghu. Imma kien tard wisq meta gie. Ghamilna dak kollu li stajna, sir. Konna iddedikata hafna lejha. Kulhadd jista jghidlek. Hadd qatt ma qal xejn fuqna. Qatt.

Blore (In a bullying manner) Imma nahseb li hallietlek kemmxa mhux hazin hux ?

Rogers (Crossing towards Blore; stiffly) Miss Brady hallitilna xi haga biex tpattilna ghal li ghamilna maghha. U ghaliex le wara kollox ?

Lombard (To Blore; with meaning) U inti Sur Blore ?

Blore X'jigifieri ?

Lombard Ismek kien fuq il-lista.

Blore Naf, naf, Landor, ridd tghid hux ? Dak kien dak li seraq il Lloyd's Bank ta' Londra.

Wargrave (Moving to the mantelpiece and lighting his pipe) Niftakkru l-kaz, ghalkemm ma kontx qed nippresiedi jien. Landor intbaghat il-habs wara x-xhieda tieghek. Fil-fatt il-kaz kien f'idejk hux hekk ?

Blore Iva, hekk hu.

Wargrave Landor intbaghat ghal ghomru u fil-fatt miet go Dartmoor ftit snin wara. Kien ragel marid.

Blore Kien kriminal. Hu kien li qatel l-ghassies tal-bank. Ha dak li haqqu.

Wargrave (Slowly) U jekk mhux sejjer zball, inti gejt ippremjat.

Blore Iva, hadt promotion. (Pause) Kont qed naqdi id-dover tieghi.

Lombard (Sitting on the upper side of the settee) Kelma convenjenti hux - dover.

There is a general suspicious movement. Vera sits and stares in from of her during the following.

Lombard U inti dott ?

Armstrong (Shaking his head good-naturedly) Ninsab daqxejn mitluf. L-isem ma fisser xejn ghalija ... eh x'kien bhalissa ? Close ? Clees ? Ma nistax niftakar xi pazjent tieghi b'dak l-isem, jew xi hadd li miet li jismu hekk. Ovvjament ilu hafna issa. (Pause) Jista jkun li xi wiehed li operajt fuqu. Hafna min-nies jigu ghandna meta jkun tard wisq u imbaghad meta jmutu jwahhlu fina.

Lombard U imbaghad taqbdu triq ohra u ma tibqghux toperaw. Xi whud minnhom jaqtghu x-xorb ukoll.

Armstrong Irrid nipprotesta. Ma ghandekx dritt tinsinwa affarijiet bhal dawn. Jiena qatt ma missejtu l-alkohol.

Lombard Imma jiena qatt ma ghidt li missejtu. U insomma, kieku stess l-Owens biss jafu l-fatti kollha.

Wargrave Miss Claythorne ?

Vera starts. She speaks unemotionally and without feeling of any kind.

Vera Jiena kont niehu hsieb lic-ckejkien Peter Hamilton. Konna kollha go Cornwall ghall-vakanzi. Ma kellux permess li jghum il barra hafna. Darba minnhom kont ghaljenata u hareg il barra. Kif rajtu mort nghum warajh imma ma lhaqtx fil-hin u ...

Wargrave U kien hemm inkjesta ?

Vera (In the same dull voice) Iva, u gejt esonerata mill-ewwel. Ommu ma wahletx fija lanqas.

Wargrave Grazzi. Miss Brent ?

Emily M'ghandi xejn xi nghid.

Wargrave Xejn ?

Emily Xejn.

Wargrave Jigifieri mintiex se tiddefendi ruhek ?

Emily (Sharply) M'hemm xejn x'niiddefendi. Jiena dejjem ghamilt skond il-kuxjenza tieghi.

Lombard U hawn kulhadd jidher li jobdi l-ligi. Hlief jien mid-dehera.

Wargrave Fil-fatt qed nistennew l-istorja tieghek.

Lombard Imma jiena m'ghandix storja.

Wargrave (Sharply) X'jigifieri ?

Lombard (Grinning and apparently enjoying himself) Jiddispjacini li se niddizappuntakom imma jiena hati. Vera. Jiena veru li hallejt grupp ta' nies imutu. Biex nghix jien.

His words cause a sensation. Vera looks at him unbelievably.

Mackenzie (Rising; sternly) Jigifieri abbandunajt in-nies tieghek ?

Lombard (Coolly) Mhux xi haga li niftahar biha, veru. Imma wara kollox l-ewwel ghandi nibza ghall-hajti imbaghad ghal dik ta' haddiehor. U kieku stess dawn l-indigeni ma jimpurthomx li jmutu. Mhux bhalna l-ewropej ... (He moves DR and sits on the fireplace fender)

Pause. Lombard looks around at everyone with amusement.

Wargrave (Clearing his throat disapprovingly) Nahseb li l-inkjesta taghna tieqaf hawn.

Rogers crosses L to the hall door.



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Wargrave Rogers ...

Rogers stops.

Wargrave Minn hawn fuq il-gzira, minbarra ahna, inti u l-mara tieghek ?

Rogers Hadd, sir.

Wargrave U inti zgur ?

Rogers Iva, sir.

Wargrave Grazzi.

Rogers moves to go.

Wargrave Titlaqx Rogers. (To everyone) Ghadni minix zgur mir-raguni ghaliex gabuna hawn. Imma jiena nahseb li hi xi bicca gennata. U mhux qed nitkellem ghax huwa mignun fil-veru sens tal-kelma. Fil-fatt nahseb li huwa perikoluz hafna. Fl-opinjoni tieghi ghandna nitilqu minn hawn immedjament.

General agreement.

Rogers Skuzani, sir, imma m'hemmx dghajsa fuq il-gzira.

Wargrave Le ?

Rogers Le, sir.

Wargrave Mela allura cempel u imbaghat ghall wahda.

Rogers M'hemmx telefon lanqas. Fred Narracot jigi hawn kull filghodu, sir. Igib l-halib, hobz, posta u l-gazzetti u jiehu l-ordnijiet ghall gurnata ta wara.

Wargrave Mela allura jiena nissuggerixxi li nitilqu hekk kif dan Narracot jigi ghada filghodu.

A chorus of 'Jiena naqbel', 'Hekk hu', 'M'hemmx haga ohra x'taghamel', during which Marston picks up his drink from the window-seat.

SB  
MUSIC (B)  
TR. ONE

MUSIC

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Marston (Raising his voice) Imma jiena nghid li ghandna nibqghu. Xejn xejn insolvu l-misteru ghalfejn gabna hawn. Bicca xoghol ecitanti ghall-ahhar.

Wargrave (Acidly) Jiena wasalt f'punt f'hajti li l-ecitament mhux tajjed ghalija.

Marston (Grinning and stretching out his legs) Kulhadd qed jikser il-ligi illum il-gurnata. Jiena favur il-kriminalita'. (He raises his glass) Evviva! (He drinks it off at a gulp, appears to choke, gasps, has a violent convulsion and slips on to the settee; the glass falls from his hand)

→ MUSIC - 21

Armstrong runs over to him, bends down, feels his pulse and raises his eyelid.

Armstrong Hi x'wahda din, dan miet!

The others can hardly take this in. Armstrong sniffs Marston's lips, then sniffs the glass. He nods.

Mackenzie Mejjet? Trid tghid li fega u miet?

Armstrong Tista tghid li fega iva.

Mackenzie Imma kif jista jkun li jaqbad u jifga u jmut.

Emily (With meaning) Fil-qalba tal-hajja insibu l-mewt. (She sound inspired)

Armstrong Ragel ma jmutx sempliciment ghax jifga, General. Il-mewt ta' Marston hija dik li nghidulha mhux naturali.

Vera Kien hemm xi haga fil-whisky?

Armstrong Iva. Mir-riha taghha, cyanide. Potassium cyanide. Tahdem malajr hafna.

Lombard Imma allura bilfors li tefghu hu stess fit-tazza.

Armstrong Hekk mid-dehera.

Blore Suwucidju, eh?

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Vera Imma qatt ma kont tobsor li se jikkommetti suwiciđu. (To Lombard)  
Kien jidher tant haj. Kien qed ... jiehu gost. (She is distressed)

Emily moves and picks up the remains of a figurine from behind a chair RC.

Emily Ah ! Harsu daqxejn ... wiehed mill-figurini ... imkisser. (She holds it up)

All look at her.

CURTAIN

INC.  
- MUSIC ~~Radio~~

and fade out w/ HOUSE LIGHTS



C D (A) TR 7  
 - Tell They enter

ACT 2 - Scene 1

The same - the following morning.

The windows are open and the room has been tidied. It is a fine morning. There are only eight figurines on the mantelpiece.

Suitcases are piled up on the balcony. All are waiting for the boat to arrive. Mackenzie is sitting UL in his chair, looking definitely a little queer. Miss Emily Brent is sitting RC, knitting, with her hat and coat on. Wargrave is sitting in the window-seat UR, a little apart, and is thoughtful. His manner is judical throughout the scene.

Vera, restless, comes into the room as if to speak; no-one takes any notice. She moves to sit DL.

Armstrong and Blore enter from the balcony UR.

Armstrong Dorna kullimkien. Id-dghajsa ma tidhirx.

Vera Iva, imma ghadu l-hin.

Blore Iva. Imma ir-ragel issoltu jgib il-halib, l-hobz u kollox. Kont nahseb li sa dan il-hin ikun gie. (He opens the dining-room door and looks in) U lanqas il-kolazzjon ... ghadu mhux lest. Fejn hu dak Rogers ?

Vera U issa mohh il-kolazzjon ghandna ...

Wargrave Kif inhu t-temp ?

Blore Ir-rih iffriška ftit. Kien hemm wiehed fuq il-ferrovija ilbierah qal li t-temp se jihzin. Nahseb li kellu ragun.

Armstrong (Nervously) Nispera li ma ddumx ma tigi d-dghajsa. Izjed ma nitilqu malajr izjed ahjar. Imma din redikola li m'hawnx dghajsa fuq din il-gzira.

Blore M'hawnx fejn jittrakka. Jekk jonfoh ir-rih mill-lbic iffarrakha mal-blat.

Emily Imma jista jkun li dghajsa tasal ghal hdejna minn max-xatt.

Blore Fil-fatt dak hu precizament li ma jaghmilx.

Emily Jigifieri trid tghid li ahna maqtughin ghall kollox.

Blore Iva. Halib, Ryvita u bottijiet ghandna sakemm jieqaf il-maltemp. Imma toqghodx tinkwieta, mhux se jdum.

Emily Nahseb li ma tantx hemm fix titfixkel fejn tista tiddeverti fuq din il-gzira.

Armstrong (Restlessly) U ma nafx kemm se tigi d-dghajsa. Hija stramba kif mibnija din id-dar. Imkahlha mal-blat. Ma tistax tara x-xtajta hliet minn fuq nett. (To Blore) Trid immorru naraw minn hemm fuq ?

Blore (Grinning) Ghalxejn dott. Issa nistennew u naraw.

Armstrong Imma dan Narracot x'inhu jaghmel biex ghadu ma giex ?

Blore (Philosophically) Hekk jaghmlu go Devon. Kulhadd johodha bil-mod.

Armstrong U fejn hu Rogers ? Ghaliex mhux qieghed hawn ?

Blore Nahseb li Rogers kien daqxejn inkwetat minhabba lbierah.

Armstrong Iva naf. (He shivers) X'wahda din.

Blore Imma nahseb izjed inkwieta fuq l-akkuza kontrieh, ghax nahseb li veru qatluha lix-xiha.

Wargrave (Incredulously) Hekk tahseb ?

Blore Heq, qatt ma rajt ragel imbezza daqsu. Jien nghid li huwa hati.

Armstrong Imma din inkredibbli.

Blore Imissu telaq 'l hemm Rogers.

Armstrong Imma kif seta. M'hemmx dghajsa fuq din il-gzira. Mhux hekk ghadek kif ghidt ?

**Blore** Iva. Imma kont qed nahseb. Ghandna l-kelma tieghu biss li m'hawnx dghajsa. Forsi kien hawn u telaq biha l-ewwel xoghol.

**Mackenzie** U le ! Ma nahsibx li seta telaq b'dan il-maltemp.

His tone is so strange the others stare at him.

**Blore** Allura, irqadt tajjeb General ?

**Mackenzie** Hlomt ... iva, hlomt ...

**Blore** Min jaf ghaliex.

**Mackenzie** Hlomt b'Lesley ... il-mara tieghi.

**Blore** (Embarrassed) Ah ... eh ... iva ... nispera li ma jdumx Narracot.

**Mackenzie** Min hu Narracot ?

**Blore** Dak li gabna hawn ilbierah.

**Mackenzie** Ilbierah ? Qiesu ilu hafna izjed.

**Blore** (Determinedly cheerful) Iva, hekk inhossni jien ukoll. Dik is-CD ... is-suwicidju. Kemm jiflah bniedem. Ha nghidlek, mhux se jiddispjacini li se nitlaq minn hawn.

**Mackenzie** Fh mela mhux qed tifhem allura. Stramba.

**Blore** X'jigifieri General ?

**Mackenzie** nods his head gently. **Blore** looks questioningly at Armstrong, then taps his forehead significantly.

**Armstrong** Ma joghobni xejn.

**Blore** Nahseb li is-suwicidju ta' Marston hasa wisq. Jidher qiesu xjah f'daqqa wahda.



Armstrong Fejn hu Marston issa ?

Blore Fl-istudju .. qeghdtu hemm jiena stess.

Vera Dott., tahseb li veru suwucidju ?

Armstrong (Sharply) Ghaliex le ?

Vera (Rising, crossing to the settee and sitting on the downstage side) Ma nafx. Imma suwucidju ... (She shakes her head)

Blore Dal-lejl qghadt nahseb. Min jaf jekk dan Owen mhux qieghed x'imkien fuq din il-gzira. Forsi Rogers ma jafx, jew qallu biex ma jghid xejn. (He watches Armstrong) Mhux hsieb sabih hux ?

Armstrong Imma kif jista jkun li xi hadd tefa xi haga fit-tazza ta' Marston minghajr hadd ma rah ?

Blore Imma it-tazza kienet hemmhekk. Kulhadd seta jitfa ffit cyanide kieku ried.

Armstrong Imma allura ...

Rogers comes running up from R of the balcony. He is out of breath and comes straight to the doctor.

Rogers Ah, dott. Ili infittxek kullimkien. Jekk joghgbok tista tigi u tara l-mara, sir ?

Armstrong Iva, mela le. (He moves towards the hall) Jaqaw mhux qed ihossha tajba ?

Rogers (Following him) Ghax hi ... ghax hi ... (He swallows convulsively)

Armstrong (Turning at the door) Titilqux minghajri tafux.

He exits L with Rogers.

Vera M'hemmx li tigi d-dghajsa. Kemm sirt nobodu dan il-post.

Wargrave Iva. Izjed ma naghrfu lil pulizija malajr izjed ahjar.

Vera Il-pulizija ?

Wargrave Meta isehh suwucidju bil-fors trid tavza lill-pulizija, Miss Claythorne.

Vera Ah, iva ... da zgur. (She looks towards the door of the study and shivers).

Blore (Opening the dining-room door) Hawn x'gara ? Mela bla kolazzjon dalghodu.

Vera Bil-guh General ?

Mackenzie does not answer. She speaks louder.

Vera Kolazzjon, General ?

Mackenzie (Turning sharply) Lesley ... Lesley ... qalbi.

Vera Le ... jiena Vera Claythorne.

Mackenzie (Passing a hand over his eyes) Da zgur. Ahfirli. Hsiebtek il-mara.

Vera Ah !

Mackenzie Qed nistennieha ghalhekk.

Vera Imma jiena hsibt li l-mara tieghek mietet ... zmien ilu.

Mackenzie Iva, hekk hsibt jien ukoll. Imma kont zbaljat. Hawn qieghdha. Fuq din il-gzira.

Lombard enters from the hall.

Lombard L-ghodwa t-tajba.

Blore L-ghodwa t-tajba, Kaptan.

Lombard Bqajt rieqed. Id-dghajsa waslet ?

6

Blore Le.

Lombard Ittardjat daqxejn hux ?

Blore Iva.

Lombard (Crossing to Vera) L-ghodwa t-tajba ! Stajna morna nghumu li kieku ma inqalax dan kollu.

Vera Ma kienx imissek bqajt rieqed.

Blore Inti daqxejn bla demm biex bqajt rieqed dan il-hin kollu.

Lombard Jiena xejn ma jwaqqafni milli norqod.

Vera moves to the mantelpiece.

Blore U ghalli jista jkun ma hlomt fuq xi indigeni Afrikani hux ?

Lombard Le. Inti hlomt b'nies li qeghdin maqfula f'Dartmoor ?

Blore (Angrily) Isma hej, din mhux tad-dahq, Kaptan.

Lombard Mhux inti bdejt. Insomma jiena ghandi l-guh. X'hemm x'niekol ?  
(He sits)

Blore L-istaff mid-dehera qieghed fuq strike.

Lombard M'hemmx x'tagħmel. Se jkolli naghmel jien.

Vera (Examining the china figurines) Ara, din stramba.


Lombard X'inhu ?

Vera Tiftakru meta sibna figurin imkisser ilbierah ?

Lombard Iva, suppost li baqa disa.

Vera Hekk suppost. Ninsab certa li kien hemm ghaxra meta wasalna.

MUSIC  
(B)





7

(B)  
MUSIC  
TR. ONE

Lombard Allura ?

Vera Hemm tmienja biss.

Lombard (Moving the mantlepiece) Iva hekk hu.

They look at each other.

Vera Daqxejn stramba hux ?

Lombard Wisq probabli li kien hemm disa ilbierah. Forsi assumejna li kien ghaxra minhabba l-poezija.

Armstrong enters from the hall. He is upset, but striving to appear calm. He shuts the door and stands against it.

Lombard Armstrong, x'gara ?

Armstrong Mrs. Rogers mietet.

Wargrave rises.

Blore } (Together) Le ?

Vera } Kif ?

Armstrong Mietet fir-raqda. Rogers haseb li rieqda minhabba d-doza li tajtha jiena u allura nizel hawn u hallicha rieqda. Imbaghad, mid-dehera beda jinkwieta u gie ghalija. (Pause) Ilha mejta xi hames sighthat. (He sits)

Vera sits on the settee.

→ FADE OUT.

Blore Biex mietet ? Qalba ?

Armstrong Mhux possibli li tghid. Jista jkun.

Blore Wara kollox, ara x'qata hadet ilbierah filghaxija.

Armstrong Iva.

Wargrave Jista jkun li glet avvelenata, dott ?

Armstrong Da zgur li seghet.

Wargrave Bl-istess velenu li qatel lil Marston ?

Armstrong Le, mhux cyanide. Wisq probabli b'xi narkotiku iehor. Xi haga hekk.

Blore Imma inti tajta doza ilbierah filghaxija, dott.

Armstrong (Rising; crossing to the drinks cabinet for a glass of water) Iva, tajta doza zghira.

Blore Ma tajtiex izzejjed hux ?

Armstrong (Turning to face Blore) Da zgur li le. Xi trid tghid biha ?

Blore Le, le. Mhux hekk ridt nghid. Imma peress li kellha qalba dghajfa ...

Armstrong Id-doza li tajtha ma taghmel hsara lil hadd.

Lombard Allura ezattament x'gara ?

Armstrong Impossibli li tkun taf minghajr awtopsja.

Wargrave Imma, jekk per ezempju, dan gara lil xi wiehed mill-pazjenti tieghek x'kont taghmel ?

Armstrong Jekk ma nkunx naf lil-pazjent ma nohrogx certifikat. (He sits)

Vera Imma ilbierah ma kenitx tidher tajba. Forsi waqfitilha qalba.

Armstrong Qalba waqfitilha. Dik zgur. Minhabba xiex ma nafx.

Emily (Firmly and with emphasis) Minhabba il-kuxjenza.

They all jump and look at her.

Armstrong U xi trid tghid biha ?

Emily Intom kollha smajtu bhali. Giet akkuzata, flimkien ma zewgha, bil-qtil volontarju tas-Sinjura li kienu jahdmu maghha.

Blore U inti temminha din, Miss Brent ?

Emily Da zgur. Kollha kemm intom rajtuha ilbierah. Kif hassa hazin. Ix-xokk li hadet kien wisq ghaluha. Ir-rimors kien kbir u mietet litterament bil-biza.

Armstrong (Doubtfully) Hija teorija possibli. Imma wiehed ma jistax jikkonfermaha jekk ma jkunx jaf certi dettalji ....

Emily Jekk trid, sejhilha, 'Act of God'.

Everyone is shocked.

Blore Uh, le, Miss Brent.

Emily (Fanatically) U inti tahseb li hija impossibli li wiehed midneb jintlahaq minn idejn Alla ? Jiena ma nahsibx.

Wargrave (Stroking his chin; ironically) Sinjorina, fl-esperjenza tieghi f'dawn l-affarijiet, il-providenza thalli f'idejna l-bnedmin biex naghmlu gustizzja ma min hu hati u hafna drabi il-process huwa imfixxkel b'hafna diffikultajiet. (He sits).

Blore Imma ejja nkunu prattici. X'kielet u xorbot qabel ma raqdet ?

Armstrong Xejn.

Blore Xejn. Lanqas tazza te ? Jew tazza ilma ? Naghmillek imhattra li hadet tazza te. Nies bhala dejjem jiehd.

Armstrong Rogers qal li ma hadet xejn.

Blore Jista jkun li qal hekk.

Lombard Allura inti hekk tahseb ?

Blore (Facing him) Ghaliex le ? Kulhadd sema l-akkuzi ilbierah. U jekk huma veru ? Miss Brent hekk tahseb. Mela Rogers u martu qatlu lix-xiha. S'issa dejjem hassuhom komdi u kuntenti ...



Vera           Kuntenti ?

Blore           (Sitting on the settee) Insomma ... jigifieri m'hemmx periklu imminenti ghalihom. Imbaghad, ilbierah, xi mignun mar u kixef kollox. X'gara ? Il-mara bezat u cedit. Ma rajtuhx kif beda jdur maghha hekk kif kienet qed tigi f'taghha ? Kien nervuz. Ghaliex ? Ghax s'issa dejjem helisha hafif. Imma issa l-mara bdiet iccedi. U jekk jigiha r-rimorz u tikxef kollox. Ma jaqbilx. Allura x'jagħmel ? Jifta xi haga fit-te, imbaghad jinzel isfel, ilahhlah kollox u jigi jghidlek li ma hadet xejn.

Vera           Uh le. Impossibli. Ragel ma jagħmilx haga bhal din ... mhux lil martu stess. (She rises)

Blore           Għadek ma tafx ragel x'jasal biex jagħmillha lil martu. (He rises)

Rogers enters through the hall. He is dead white and speaks like an automation. Just the mask of the trained servant.

Rogers        (To Vera) Skuzi, Miss. Jiena se nibda nipprepara l-kolazzjon. Ma tantx ninqala biex insajjar imma se nipprova. Nista nagħmel xi laham u ffit patata għall-ikla ta' nofs-in-nhar jekk tridu.

Vera           Tajjeb hafna, Rogers.

Blore           Ikel ? Ikel ? Mhux se nkunu hawn għall-ikel. U meta x-xjafek gejjja din id-dghajja ?

Emily         Sur Blore ! (She picks up her case, marches up to the window-seat and sits)

Blore           Hawn ?

Rogers        (Fatalistically) Skuzani, sir, imma id-dghajja mhux gejjja.

Blore           X'inhu ?

Rogers        Fred Narracot dejjem jigi hawn qabel it-tmienja. (Pause) Hemm xi haga ohra li għandek bzonn, Miss ?

Vera           Le, grazzi, Rogers.

Rogers exits.

Blore U qed tghidu li mhux Rogers ! Mela hemm hi martu mejta fuq u hu kalm kalm jipprepara l-kolazzjon. U issa qal li d-dghajsa mhux gejjja. Tista tghidli kif ix-xjafek jaf ?

Emily Sur Blore !

Blore Hawn ?

Vera U ejja, mhux qed tara li qiesu mejjet. Qed ikompli jaghmel li qed jaghmel ghax irid ikompli xogholu.

Blore Jiena nghidlek li dan kollu xogholu.

Wargrave L-aghar haga hija li mhux gejjja d-dghajsa. Jigifieri li ahna maqtughin mill-kumpliment tad-dinja minghajr l-ebda ghajnuna.

Mackenzie U baqa f'tit hin ... f'tit hin ...

Blore X'gara General ?

Mackenzie Ftit hin. Ma nistghux nahlu l-hin fuq dawn l-affarijiet. (He turns back to the window)

All look at him dubiously before resuming.

Lombard U ghaliex tahseb li ma giex dan Narracot ?

Wargrave Mhux ghax Owen qallu biex ma jigix.

Lombard Jigifieri, qallu li din xi cajta .. jew xi haga hekk ?

Blore U ejja, mela dak se jemmina ?

Lombard Ghaliex le ? Wara kollox kull min jigi hawn ghandu reputazzjoni li jorganizza hafna affarijiet mhux tas-soltu. Narracot jaf li hawn hafna ikel u xorb u jahseb li din kienet xi cajta.

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Vera U min jaf li kieku naghmlu huggiega ? Xi hadd jaraha.

Lombard Wisq probabli qalulu ukoll biex xi haga bhal din jinjoraha.

Vera (Impatiently) Mela allura ma nistghux naghmlu xi haga ?

Lombard Iva, nistghu. Nistghu infittxu lil dan il-mignun, Owen, u ngieghluh iwaqqaff din cajta goffa. Naghmlilkom imhattra li qieghed x'imkien fuq din il-gzira jiehu gost bis-sitwazzjoni. Dan il-bniedem perikoluz. Perikoluz daqs serp.

Wargrave Imma almenu serp javzak li gej, ghax tisimghu.

Lombard Javzak ? Iva ! (He indicates the nursery rhyme) Dak huwa l-avviz taghna. (He read)

Ghaxar indjani ...

Kien hemm ghaxra meta gejna, mhux hekk ?

Ghaxar Indjani kielu lkoll flimkien,  
Wiehed faga u miet

Marston faga, mhux hekk ?

Disgha Indjani tard raqdu bil-lej,  
Wiehed бага rieqed

Baqa rieqed ... din taqbel ma dak li grala s-Sinjura Rogers, mhux hekk gara ?

Vera Ma tahsibx ... ? Jigifieri tahseb li jrid joqtolna kollha kemm ahna ?

Lombard Iva, jiena hekk nahseb.

Vera Kollha jidher li jaqblu ma li hawn miktub ! (She sits on the downstage side of the settee)

Armstong Le, ma jistax ikun. Din coincidenza.

Lombard Ahna bqajna tmienja. Din coincidenza ukoll. Xi tghid Blore ?



Blore           Ma toghgobni xejn.

Armstrong   Imma ma hemm hadd izjed fuq din il-gzira.

Blore           M'inhiex zgur minnha dik.

Armstrong   Hi x'wahda din !

Mackenzie   Hadd mhux se jitlaq minn hawn.

Blore           Mhux ahjar xi hadd isikket lix-xih.

Lombard      Ma taqbilx mieghi, Sir Lawrence ?

Wargrave    (Slowly) Sa certu punt ... iva.

Lombard      Mela allura, izjed ma naraw x'se naghmlu izjed ahjar. Ejja, Armstrong, halli naghmlu pjan. Ejja Blore.

Blore           Jiena lest. Ghalli jista jkun m'hawn hadd li ghandu xi arma hux ? Jew qed nispera ghalxejn.

Lombard      Jiena ghandi. (He takes it out of his pocket)

Blore's eyes open rather wide. An idea occurs to him - not a pleasant one.

Blore           Dejjem iggorraha mieghek ?

Lombard      Iva, ghax mhux l-ewwel darba li inqbadt f'sitwazzjoni kera.

Blore           Ah. Nista nassigurak li qatt ma inqbadt f'sitwazzjoni bhal din. Jekk dan huwa manijaku wisq probabli ghandu skoss armi mhux hazin. U se juzahom.

Armstrong    Jista jkun li m'ghandekx ragun Blore. Hafna mgienen huma nies kwieti u ma tindunax bihom.

Wargrave    Nies minn taghna hafna.

Armstrong    Nies li lanqas biss tahseb hazin fihom.

**Blore** Mela issa jekk dan Owen jinzerta xi wiehed minn dawn, nadduh lilek Armstrong. Jiena nissuggerixxi li l-Kaptan Lombard ifittex hawn gew u ahna nduru wahda mal-gzira.

**Lombard** Tajjeb. Id-dar mhux suppost li hija problema. M'hawnx kompartamenti sigrieti. (He moves towards the study)

**Blore** Oqghod attent li ma jaqbadx lilek qabel ma taqbd u inti.

**Lombard** Thabbilx rasek. U intom it-tnejn ibqghu flimkien. Ftakkru 'Wiehed hemmhekk insewh'.

He exits into the study.

**Blore** Ejja, Armstrong.

Armstrong rises and exits UC with Blore.

**Wargrave** (Rising) Ragel energiku hafna, dan Lombard.

**Vera** (Rising) Tahseb li veru ? Jekk xi hadd qed jistahba fuq din il-gzira isibuh ?

**Wargrave** Jiena nahseb li din il-problema izjed tissolva bil-mohh. (He moves towards the balcony)

**Vera** Fejn sejjer ?

**Wargrave** Se mmur daqxejn fix-xemx ... u nahseb.

He exits on to the balcony.

**Emily** Issa fejn hallejt il-kobba tas-suf ?

**Vera** Forsi hallejtha fuq ? Trid immur nara ?

**Emily** Le, ha mmur jien. Nahseb li naf fejn qieghdha.

She exits into the hall.

Vera Qed niehu gost li Lombard ghandu arma.

Mackenzie Qed jahlu l-hin ... jahlu l-hin.

Vera Hekk tahseb ?

Mackenzie Iva. Ahjar joqghodu hawn u jistennew.

Vera X'nistennew ?

Mackenzie Il-mewt. Ahna kollha se mmutu. (He moves away)

Vera (Following him) General.

Mackenzie Le hallini. Irrid immur niltaqa ma Lesley. (He goes out on the balcony and draws up a chair and sits. The back of his head down to the shoulders is visible through the window. His position does not change throughout the scene).

Vera stares after him. Her composure breaks down.

Vera (Sitting on the upper side of the settee) Qed nibza ... qed nibza...

Lombard enters from the study.

Lombard Kollox sew ... l-ebda passagg sigriet ... kadavru wiehed.

Vera (Tensely) Le !

Lombard (Turning to look at her) Kemm tidher imbazza. Ghax ma tiehux drink biex tigi f'tieghek ?

Vera (Rising, flaring up) Drink ! Zewg katavri fid-dar fid-disa ta' filghodu u kull ma ghandek xi tghid hu 'hu drink'. Wiehed xih qed jitlaq minn mohhu - 'hu drink !, ghaxar minn nies akkuzati bi qtil - 'hu drink', semplici, tiehu drink u jghaddi kollox.

Lombard Kollox sew mela. Ibqa bil-ghatx. (He moves to the dining-room door)



Vera           Inti mhux hliief wiehed avventuruz. Dak li int. (She moves to the fireplace)

Lombard       Iva xi gralek, hanini tieghi. (He moves towards her)

Vera           Jiena mhux il-hanini tieghek.

Lombard       Imma jiena hekk hsibt.

Vera           Mela hsibt hazin.

Lombard       U ejja, jiena u int ghandna xi haga komuni. It-tnejn qattiela. (He takes her hand)

Vera           (Drawing away) Qattiela ... !

Lombard       Iva. Ma toghgbokx il-kumpanija tal-qattiela. Mela ha mmur inkompli infittex jien.

He exits into the hall. Emily enters a moment later.

Vera moves up to the window.

Emily           Ragel tassew dizguztanti ! Ma stajt insibu imkien. (She sees Vera's face) Xi gralek ?

Vera           (In a low voice) Qed ninkwieta fuq il-General. Marid, marid hafna.

Emily looks from Vera to Mackenzie, then goes out on the balcony and stands behind him.

Emily           (In a loud, cheerful voice as though to a small child) Qed tistenna d-dghajsa, General ?

Mackenzie does not answer. Emily waits a moment, then comes slowly in.

Emily           (Unctuously) L'id ta' Alla lahqitu.

Vera           (Angrily) Le, tghidx hekk.

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Emily Kulhadd irid jiffaccja r-realta'.

Vera Ma nistghu noqghodu nghidu fuq haddiehor.

Emily (Sitting on the settee) Imma anki li kieku l-mara tieghu kienet se tghid xi haga, xorta ma kellux dritt jiehu l-gustizzja f'idejh.

Vera (Coldly angry) U xi tghid ghal Beatrice Taylor ?

Emily Eh ?

Vera Mhux hekk kien jisimha ? (She looks at her challengingly)

Emily Jaqaw qed tirreferi ghall-akkuza assurda li qalu kontriya ?

Vera Iva.

Emily Issa li qeghdin wahedna nista nghidlek kif graw il-fatti. Fil-fatt nixtieq li tkun tafhom.

Vera sits on the settee.

Emily Ma kienitx storja li stajt nghid quddiem l-irgiel, ghalhekk irrifjutajt li nitkellem ilbierah. Dik it-tfajla, Beatrice Taylor, kienet tahdem ghalija. Gejt imqarrqa wahda tajba minnha. Kellha manjieri tajba u kienet nadifa u habrika. U kont kuntenta biha. Imma, ovvjament minn taht kienet differenti. Ma kellix morali. Dizguztanti ! Ftit wara sirt naf li kienet bhal ma jghidu 'fl-inkwiet'. Tifhimni int. Kien xokk qawwi ghalija. Il-genituri taghha kienu twajba hafna u rabbewha tajjeb.

Vera U imbaghad x'gara ?

Emily (Self-righteously) Naturalment ma hallejthiex izjed fid-dar tieghi. Hadd ma jista jghid li jiena naqbel ma l-immoralita'.

Vera U kkommettiet suwucidju billi qabzet il-bahar ?

Emily Iva.

Vera (Rising and backing away) U kemm kellha zmien ?

Emily        Sbatax.

Vera        (Slowly) Sbatax biss.

Emily        (With a horrible fanaticism) Kbira bizzejjed biex tkun taf x'ghandha taghmel u x'm'ghandhiex. Ghidtilha li kienet tfajla indidenti u li gabet sahhta kbira fid-dar tieghi u li it-tarbija giet mid-dnub u li kienet se tghix fid-dnub. Ghidtilha li l-ebda ragel ma kien se jizzewwigha u imbaghad kecejtha mid-dar.

Vera        (Shuddering) Ghidt dan kollu lil tfajla ta' sbatax il-sena ?

Emily        Iva. U ninsab kuntenta li ghidtilha dan kollu.

Vera        Miskina.

Emily        M'ghandiex pacenzja ma nies li mohhhom biss biex jindbu.

Vera        U ovvjament ma kelliex il-kuragg li tmur lura d-dar u ghalhekk marret taqbez. U inti ma hassejt xejn ma sirt taf ?

Emily        (Puzzled) Hassejt ? Ghalfejn ?

Vera        Jigifieri ma wahaaltx fik innifsek li ghamlet hekk ?

Emily        Da zgur li le. Jiena m'ghandiex hniena ghal-nies bhal dawn.

Vera        Nemmnek.

Rogers enters.

Rogers        (Looking doubtfully at Emily) Il-kolazzjon lest.

Vera        Grazi Rogers.

Rogers        (To Vera) Ghalli jista jkun taf fejn huma l-irgiel, Miss ?

Vera        Sir Lawrence qieghed x'imkien bilqieghda fix-xemx, Dottor Armstrong u s-Sur Blore qeghdin jigru madwar il-gzira. Thabbilx rasek ghalihom.



Rogers exits on the balcony.

Vera        Nidhlu ?

Emily       M'ghandix aptit niekol.

Rogers       (To Mackenzie) Il-kolazzjon lest, sir.

He exits along the balcony.

Blore enters from UC. Armstrong enters from the balcony.

Vera        Sibtu xi haga ?

Armstrong M'hemm imkien fejn wiehed jista jistahba. La gherien, xejn.

Blore        Iva veru.

Lombard enters from the dining-room.

Blore        Rajt xi haga ?

Lombard    Xejn. Lest li naqta rasi taht mannara li m'hawn fid-dar hlielna. Dort minn fuq nett sal-kantina.

Rogers enters from the balcony. Wargrave enters from R, along the balcony slowly.

Rogers       Il-kolazzjon se jiksah.

Lombard    (Boisterously) Il-kolazzjon ! Ejja Blore, ilek teqred biex tiehu xi haga minn mindu qomt. Ejja nieklu, nixorbu u niddevertu ghax ghada se mmutu. Jew min jaf, forsi illum !

Vera and Armstrong move towards the dining-room. Emily rises and drops her knitting. Blore picks it up.

Emily        Imissek tisthl titkellem hekk, Kaptan.

MUSIC (B)

WEATHER CD  
 RAIN - ~~Full 30 NA~~ LOOP  
 RAIN

MUSIC

Lombard (Still in the same vein, with determination) Ejja General. (He calls) Kolazzjon. General ... (He goes out on the balcony to Mackenzie. He stops, stoops, and comes slowly back and stands in the window. His face is stern and dangerous) X'wahda din, 'Wiehed hemmhekk insewh' ... xi hadd niffed lil General b'sikkina.

Armstrong goes quickly to Mackenzie.

Armstrong (After a brief examination) Miet .... miet.

Blore Imma ma jistax jkun .... jekk hawn ahna biss ....

Wargrave Ezattament. Mhux qed tirrealizza li l-qattiel huwa dejjem pass qabilna. Hu jaf ahna x'se naghmlu u jippjana kif jaqbillu. Hemm post wiehed fejn qattiel jista jinheba minghajr ma hadd ma jsibu.

Blore Post wiehed ... fejn ?

Wargrave Hawn, f'din il-kamra ... Owen huwa wiehed minna !

CLOSE CURTAIN

RAIN / MUSIC

Scene 2  
 WHITE A Down to 4

RAIN (D) 16  
 MUSIC (A) 7  
 then curtain  
~~RAIN (D) 16~~

The same day. Afternoon.

There is a storm, the room is much darker. The windows closed and beating rain and wind.

Wargrave enters from the dining-room, followed by Blore.

Blore Sir Lawrence ?

Wargrave Allura, Sur Blore ?

Blore Ridt insibek wahdek. (He looks over his shoulder at the dining-room) Sewwa ghidt dalghodu. Li l-qattiel hu wiehed minna. U nahseb ll naf min hu.

Wargrave Eh iva ?

Blore        Qatt smajt bil-kaz ta' Lizzie Borden ? Koppja anzjana maqtula b'mazza fid-dawl tax-xemx. L-unika persuna li setghet taghmillha kienet it-tifla ta' ragel rispettabli hafna. Inkredibbli. Tant inkreddibli li giet mehlusa. Imma qatt ma sabu soluzjoni ohra.

Wargrave    Jigifieri inti tahseb li kienet Miss Emily Brent ?

Blore        Qed nghidlek li dik il-mara hija mignuna. Dik iffissata fuq ir-religjon. Qed nghidlek hi kienet. U jaqblinna noqghodu attenti ghaliha.

Wargrave    Hekk tahseb ? Kelli impressjoni li kont tfajt ghajnejk x'imkien iehor.

Blore        Iva ... imma biddilt il-hsieb, u nista nghidlek ghaliex ... ghax mhix qed tibza, u hi biss mhux qed tibza. Ghaliex ? Ghaliex taf li mhihiex fil-periklu ... xhhh..

Vera and Emily enter from the dining-room. Vera carries a coffee-tray.

Vera        Ghamilna daqxejn kafe'. (She sits on the fender and pours coffee)

Blore moves up the stool as a table.

Vera        Brr ... kemm hu bard hawn.

Blore        Fejn kont tobsor kemm kienet gurnata sabiha dalghodu.

Vera        Il-Kaptan Lombard u Rogers ghadhom barra ?

Blore        Iva. L-ebda dghajsa ma tista tittrakka f'dan it-temp.

Vera        Miss Brent. (She hands a coffee cup to Blore)

Emily sits on the upper side of the settee.

Wargrave    Halli f'idejja. (He takes the cup and hands it to Emily)

Vera        (To Wargrave) Kellek ragun tinsisti biex nieklu xi haga u niehdu daqxejn brandy. Inhossni hafna ahjar issa.



Wargrave (Returning to the coffee-tray, taking his own coffee, and standing by the mantelpiece) Il-qorti dejjem taggorna ghal-ikel.

Vera Imma xorta wahda, qisa holma kera. Qisa mhux veru. Issa ... issa x'se naghmlu ?

Blore sits.

Wargrave Issa jaqbel li naghmlu inkjesta informali. Almenu inkunu nistghu neliminaw dawk li huma innocenti.

Blore M'ghandekx xi ideja għall li jista jkun hux, Miss Claythorne ?

Wargrave Ma jidhirlekx li jekk Miss Claythorne tissusspetta xi hadd minna t-tlieta, hija mistoqsija daqxejn imbarazzanti.

Vera Imma jiena mhux lilkom nissusspetta. Għaliya kien Dr. Armstrong.

Blore Armstrong ?

Vera Iva. Għaliex hija facli hafna għall-tabib biex jagħtiha xi haga lis-Sinjura Rogers. U imbagħad igib skuza li kienet medicina.

Blore Veru. Imma xi haddiehor ta' l-brandy, ma tiftakarx.

Emily goes UL and sits in the chair below the window.

Wargrave Ir-ragel tagħha kellu izjed opportunita li jtieha id-doza hu.

Blore Le, mhux Rogers. Dak lanqas biss għandu mohhu jilhaqlu daqshekk. U lanqas għandu l-flus. Barra minn hekk, jidher kemm hu bezghan.

Rogers and Lombard, in mackintoshes, appear at the window. Blore goes and lets them in. As he opens the window a swirl of loud wind and rain comes in. Emily half screams and turns round.

DOOR INCREASE SOUND and LOWER

Lombard Il-marelli, x'maltempata dik.

Rain

Emily Eh, mela intom ...

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Vera           Minn hsibt ? (Pause) Beatrice Taylor ?

Emily          (Angrily) Eh ?

Lombard       M'hemmx cans li xi hadd gej isalvana. Mhux qabel ma jieqaf dan kollu. Dak kafe' ? Tajjeb. (To Vera) Qed tara intlaqt fuq il-kafe' issa.

Vera           (Taking him a cup) Taghmel sagrificcju bhal dan f'mument ta' periklu, tista titqies bhala xi haga eroika.

Wargrave      (Sitting down) Ma nippretendiex li jiena xi espert fuq it-temp. Imma nahseb li ghalissa l-ebda dghajsa mhi se tigi hawn ghalina. Almenu mhux f'dawn l-erbgha u ghoxrin siegha li gejjin. Anki jekk ir-rih jieqaf, il-bahar xorta jibqa daqxejn imqalleb.

Lombard sits on the upper side of the settee. Rogers pulls off his boots.

Vera           Kif int imxarrab.

Blore          Hawn xi hadd jaf jghum ? Forsi jista jghum sa naha l-ohra.

Vera           Ghandek kwazi mil ... u bil-bahar hekk qawwi zgur li jhabbtek mal-blat u tispicca teghreq.

Emily          (Speaking like one in a trance) Teghreq ... teghreq ... fil-bahar ... (She drops her knitting)

Wargrave      (Startled) Skuzi, Miss Brent (He rises and picks up the knitting for her)

Blore          Siesta.

There is another furious gust of wind and rain.

Vera           Kemmu hu kiesah hawn gew. (She sits on the fender)

Rogers         Jekk trid nista nixghal il-fireplace, miss ?

Vera           Iva, ideja tajba.

Lombard    Ideja genjall, Rogers. (He sits on the fender, L of Vera, and puts on his shoes)

Rogers moves to the hall door and is going through, but comes back.

Rogers      Skuzawni, imma għall li jista jkun ma tafux xi grala l-purtiera tas-shower hux ?

Lombard    U ejja Rogers, mela qed titbellah jew ?

Blore        (Blankly) Il-purtiera tas-shower ?

Rogers      Iva, kienet tal-plastic. M'ghadhiex hemm.

They all look at each other.

Lombard    Xi hadd ra xi purtiera tal-plastic ? Le. Skuzani Rogers, hadd ma raha.

Rogers      Ma jimpurtax, sir, imma tidher daqxejn stramba.

Lombard    Kull ma hawn fuq din il-gzira hija stramba.

Rogers      Halli ngib izjed injam għal-fireplace.

He exits into the hall.

Vera        (Rising) Min jaf jekk iridx ftit kafe' miskin. Imxarrab għasra. (She runs after him ; calling) Rogers !

Lombard    X'gara minnu Armstrong ?

Wargrave    Mar f'kamartu jistrieħ.

Lombard    Wisq probabli diga qalaghha s'issa.

Wargrave    Nahseb li għandu sens bizzejjed u sakkar il-bieb.

Blore        Ma nahsibx li se jkun facli għall-qattiel issa li qeghdin għassa. (He lights a cigarette at the mantelpiece)



A rather unpleasant silence.

Wargrave Nixtieq li ma tkunx daqshekk kunfidenti sur Blore. Fil-fatt nixtieq nissugerixxi xi misuri li ghandna niehdu.

Lombard Mizuri kontra min ?

Wargrave Kontra xulxin. Ahna kollha fil-periklu. Minn ghaxar min-nies li gejna tlieta diga barra. Baqa sebgha ohra ... sebgha indjani zghar.

Lombard U wiehed minnhom huwa indjan falz.

Wargrave Ezattament.

Blore Insomma, minkejja dak li qalet Miss Claythorne, jiena nahseb li neskludu lil Sir Lawrence u Dr. Armstrong. Inti imhallef maghruf mal-Ingilterra kollha u hu tabib rispettat hafna.

Wargrave (Interrupting him) Sur Blore, dak ma jfisser xejn. Kien hemm imhallfin li qatlu. U anki tobbi. U anki pulizija.

Lombard Sewwa qed tghid.

Vera enters from the hall.

Lombard Allura jrid kafe' ?

Vera (Lightly) Jippreferi jaghmel tazza te izjed tard. U Dr. Armstrong, tahsbu li jkun irid tazza ?

Wargrave Issa nehodilu jien jekk trid.

Vera pours a cup of coffee.

Lombard Ha nehodha jien. Ghandi bzonn imbiddel.

Vera Iva, veru ghax se tiehu xi cmajra.

Wargrave (Smiling ironically) Nahseb li jippreferi jara lili. Jista jkun li ma jhallikx tidhol. Forsi jibza mir-revolver.

Blore Ah, ir-revolver. (Meaningly) Ghandi bzonn inkellmek fuqu ...

Vera (To Lombard) Mur u biddel. (She moves to Wargrave with the coffee).

Wargrave takes the cup from her and exits into the hall.

Lombard (Turning to Blore) U x'kont se tghid ?

Blore Irrid inkun naf ghalfejn ghibt revolver mieghek meta kont taf li din kienet biss stedina minghand hbieb tieghek.

Lombard Eh, iva, trid tkun taf. (Pause) Jiena kelli hajja kemmxejn avventuruza u ghandi l-vizzju ll ngorr mieghi dan ir-revolver kull fejn immur. Mhux l-ewwel darba li sibt ruhi f'xi nassa. (He smiles) Hija rassiguranti li jkollox revolver mieghek meta jkollox bzonna. (To Blore) Ma taqbilx mieghi ?

Armstrong enters with his coffee from DL.

Blore Insomma irrid inkun naf ghaliex ghandek revolver.

Lombard Kemm inti ragel suspettuz.

Blore Ghax jiena ninduna mill-ewwel meta jkun hemm xi haga tinten.

Armstrong Jekk fuq ir-revolver, nixtieq nismaghha jien ukoll. (He drinks his coffee)

TO START FADE OUT OF RAIN

Lombard Insomma, mela ha nghidilkom. Ircevejt din l-ittra biex nigi hawnhekk bhala mistieden tal-Owens. Qaluli li jafu li jiena ghandi reputazzjoni li nhobb l-avventura u li kont se niehu gost ghax kien se jkun hawn element ta periklu.

Blore U xorta wahda gejt.

Lombard Da zgur. Iddejjaqt fejn kont. Kollox kwiet u qatt ma jigri xejn. Kienet proposta intriganti, mhux hekk ?

27

Blore Kienet daqxejn vaga l-ittra.

Lombard Iva, imma qajmitli l-kurzita'.

Vera Ghax ma tmurx tbiddel.

Lombard Sejjer, qalbi, sejjer. (He moves towards the lower L door) Kemm tiehu hsiebi hux ?

Vera U tkunx redikolu. (She goes and collects Emily's cup)

Lombard exits L.

Blore Hija daqxejn storja fjakka. Jekk hija vera, ghax ma qalx dan kollu ilbierah filghaxija ?

Armstrong Forsi haseb li din hija l-emergenza li qalulu.

Vera Iva, jista jkun.

Armstrong (Putting down his cup) Ma nahsibx. Din kienet biss l-incentiv li Owen tah biex jgieghlu jigi hawn. Nahseb li jafu bizzejjed biex jaf l-punt debboli tieghu.

Blore Jekk hija vera. Imma jiena xorta wahda ma nafdahx.

Vera U inti tahseb li daqshekk tajjeb biex tiggudika ?

Wargrave enters from the hall.

Armstrong (With a sudden outburst) Irridu nitilqu minn hawn ... qabel ma jkun tard wisq. (He shakes violently)

Blore sits.

Wargrave L-unika haga li ma rridux naghmlu hija li noholqu paniku.

Armstrong Skuzawni. (He tries to smile) Dan hu kaz fejn it-tabib irid ifejjaq lillu nnifsu.

Wargrave Forsi ma kont qed torqod dan l-ahhar ?



28

Armstrong Iva. Nohlom bi sptar, operazzjonijiet, xi hadd ipoggi sikkina ma għonqi. (He shivers)

Wargrave Hazin. hazin.

Armstrong Iva. (Curiously) Qatt hlomt inti li qiegħed il-qorti u bagħat lil xi hadd innocenti l-habs ?

Wargrave (Sitting on the settee, smiling) Jekk qed tghid għal xi hadd li jismu Edward Seton, nista nassigurak li qatt ma hlomt ikrah dwar il-kaz tiegħu. Kien qattiel krudili u mingħajr ebda kuxjenza. Il-gurati hassew għalih u hellsuh imma jiena indunajt x'inhu u tajtu dak li haqqu.

Everyone gives a little shiver.

Blore Brr ! Il-kasha, hux (He rises)

Vera Nispera li ma jdumx Rogers.

Blore Eh, iva, fejn hu Rogers ? Ilu daqxejn hemm barra.

Vera Qal li sejjer jqatta xi hatab.

Blore (Struck by the word) Hatab ? Hatab ? Jqatt l-hatab ?

Armstrong Hi x'wahda din ! (He rises, looking at the mantelpiece)

Blore Jaqaw hemm xi wiehed nieqes ? Kemm hemm ? Sitta ?

Armstrong (Bewildered) Hawn biss hamsa.

Vera Hamsa ?

They stare at each other.

Wargrave Rogers u Lombard ? (He rises)

Blore strides towards the door L

MUSIC

(B)



B1  
MUSIC  
↓

29

Vera (With a cry) Le, mhux Philip.

Lombard enters from the hall and meets Blore rushing out, calling 'Rogers'.

Lombard Fejn ix-xjafek sejjer dak il-mignun ?

Vera (Running to him) Ah, Philip, kont ...

Wargrave Rajtu lil Rogers ?

Lombard Le, ghaliex ?

Armstrong Hemm zewg figurini neqsin.

Lombard Tnejn ?

Vera U hsibt li inti ...

Blore enters from the L, looking pretty awful.

Armstrong Allura, x'gara ?

Blore (Only just able to speak, his voice quite unlike itself) Hemm ... barra.

Vera U ... ?

Blore Iva, mejjet ...

Vera Kif ?

Blore Daqqa ta mannara. Xi hadd gie minn wara u tahielu.

Vera (Wildly) 'Wiehed minn nofs tqatta', sitta baqghu fatta'. (She begins laughing hysterically)

Lombard Ieqaf, Vera ... ieqaf.

He sits her on the upper side of the settee and slaps her face.

Lombard (To the others) Issa jghaddilha. Xi jmiss ? Nahal ? Hawn in-nahal fuq din il-gzira ?

~~Faded in RAIN~~

They stare at him, as if not understanding. He keeps his nonchalant manner up with a trace of effort.

Lombard Il-vers li jmiss, mhux hekk. 'Sitt indjani hdejn xehed' ghasel laghbu, wiehed in-nahla hass, hamsa haffew il-pass'. (He moves around the room)

Armstrong Iva, ghandu ragun. Hamsa baqa'.

Lombard 'Wiehed in-nahla hass ' ... kulhadd jidher tajjeb, m'hemm xejn hazin. (His glance rests on Emily) X'wahda din, mhux ... (He moves slowly over to her, bends down and touches her. He then picks up a hypodermic syring, and turns to face the others) Siringa.

~~SO MUST~~

Wargrave Metodu modern ta tingiza.

Vera (Stammering) Waqt li konna bilqieghda ... xi hadd minna ...

Wargrave Xi hadd minna.

They look at each other.

INCREASE

Armstrong Min minna.

→ MUSIC ~~RAIN~~

CURTAIN



VERY  
DIM Lighting

20  
1

MUSIC (A) 7

ACT 3 - Scene 1

Some hours later, the same night.

The curtains are drawn and the room is lit by three candles.

Wargrave, Vera, Blore, Lombard and Armstrong (who is dirty and unshaven) are sitting in silence. Lombard sits in the chair RC. Armstrong sits on the lower side of the settee, Wargrave on the upper side. Vera sits on the fender. Blore sits DL. From time to time they shoot quick covert glances at each other. Vera watches Armstrong. Blore watches Lombard. Lombard watches Wargrave. Armstrong watches Blore and Lombard alternatively. Wargrave watches each in turn, but most often Vera with a long speculative glance. There is silence for some few moments. Then Lombard speaks suddenly in a loud jeering voice that makes them all jump.

Lombard Hames indjani il-ligi studjaw, wiehed Imhallef sar, erbgha lkoll telqu d-dar. Il-verzjoni l-gdida ! (He laughs discordantly)

Armstrong Issa mhux hin toqghod ticcajta.

Lombard Irrid nizvoga f'xi haga. (He rises) Il-generator dalwaqt jieqaf. Ejja nilghabu loghba tridu ? Insemmuha 'Suspetti'. A jissuspetta f' B. B jissuspetta f' C, u nkomplu hekk. Ejja nibdew bi Blore. Nahseb li naf lil minn tissuspetta inti. Lili hux hekk ? (He strolls over towards Blore)

Blore Mhux se nghidlek li le.

Lombard Hemm fejn sejjer hazin. Jiena ma noqtolx jekk ma jkunx hemm xi haga x'se nigwadanja.

Blore Kull ma rrid nghid huwa li ilek tagixxi f'mod suspettuz mil-bidu. Ghidtilna zewg stejjer differenti. Gejt hawnhekk b'revolver u issa ghidtilna li tliftu.

Lombard Imma veru tliftu.

Blore Mur emmnek.

Lombard X'tahseb li ghamilt bih ? Jiena ghidtlek biex tfittex fuqi.

Blore Ah ! Mhux ghandek qieghed. Inti intelligenti wisq. Imma taf fejn hu.

Lombard Jigifieri qed tahseb li poggejtu x'imkien ghal meta jkolli bzonnu ?

Blore Ma nkunx surpriz li ghamilt hekk.

Lombard Ghax ma tuzax mohhok, Blore ! Li kieku ridt diga qtiltkom kollha kemm intom, pop, pop, pop, pop, pop.

Blore Iva, imma mhux dik l-ideja tieghek. (He points to the rhyme)

Lombard (Sitting down) Dik gennata ! Jiena s'issa ghadni f'sensija.

Blore It-tabib qal li xi whud mill-imgienen lanqas biss tinduna li huma imgienen. (He looks round at everyone) Hekk hu nahseb.

Armstrong (Breaking out) Ma ... ma nistghux nibqghu hawn, ma naghmlu xejn ! Possibli m'hemmx xi haga li nistghu naghmlu ... nistghu inqabbdu huggiega kbira ...

Blore F'dan it-temp ? (He jerks his head towards the window)

Wargrave Din hi kwistjoni ta' hin u pacenzja. It-temp issa jikkirja. Imbaghad nistghu naghmlu xi haga. Xi huggiega jew xi haga hekk.

Armstrong (Rising) Hin ? Hin ? (He laughs in an unbalanced way) Imma m'ghandniex hin. Kollha se mmutu.

Wargrave Bil-prekawzjonijiet li hadna mhux se mmutu, tibzax.

Armstrong Iva, nghidlek ... se mmutu. Kollha minbarra wiehed ... issa jahseb f'xi haga ... issa stess qed jahseb ... (He sits)

Lombard Miskina Louisa ... x'kien jisimha ... Clees ? Minhabba xi attack nervus li qtiltha, dott ?

Armstrong (Almost mechanically) Le, ix-xorb. Kont nixrob bl-addocc. Kont xurban meta operajt fuqha. Operazjoni semplici. Idejja bdiet tirtod ... (He buries his face in his hands) Ghadni niftakarha sa llum. U jiena qtiltha.

Lombard (Rising) Mela kelli ragun ... hekk kien fil-fatt ?

Armstrong Is-soru kienet taf. Imma baqghat lejali lejja ... jew lejn l-isptar. Qtajt ix-xorb u mort nistudja fuq il-mard tan-nervituri.

Wargrave B'success. (He rises)

Armstrong Kelli xi rizultati tajbin ma nies importanti. Imbaghad huma tkellmu ma haddiehor u f'sentejn sirt popolari hafna. U ghandi hafna xoghol. Ergajt ilhaqt il-quccata.

Lombard Sakemm gie Owen u rega tefak fl-abbissi tal-infern.

Armstrong (Rising) Jaqbillek tieqaf minn dan ic-cajt.

Wargrave (Moving to stand between Armstrong and Lombard) Iva, oqghodu kwieti. Hawnhekk kollha qeghdin fl-istess sitwazzjoni. Ma nistax nhallu l-emozjoni tigri bina.

Lombard Kollox sew. Niskuza ruhi.

Armstrong Ma niflahiex izjed din li ma naghmlu xejn. (He sits)

Wargrave Imma qed naghmlu dak li hu possibli, fl-opinjoni tieghi. (He sits) Sakemm nibqghu flimkien u kulhadd jista jara lil xulxin, nahseb li m'ghandniex minn xiex nibzghu. Kulhadd ghamel zgur li hadd ma ghandu arma. U li hadd ma ghandu xi velenu jew xi haga ohra. Ghaldaqstant, jekk nibqghu kif ahna m'hemmx periklu u ma jista jigri xejn.

Armstrong Imma ma nistghux nibqghu hekk. Irridu nieklu, nixorbu u norqdu.

Blore Jiena naqbel mieghek.

Wargrave Ovvjament dak huwa l-mument meta l-qattiel jista jaqbadna fuq sieq wahda. Mill-bqija nistghu inserrhu rasna.

Armstrong Inserrhu rasna ... ?

Lombard Kemm inti kwieta Vera.

Vera M'hemmx xejn xi nghid ...



Pause. Wargrave rises.

Vera           Min jaf x'hin hu. Il-hin ma jghaddi qatt ma tkun qed tistenna xi haga.  
Hawn xi hadd jaf x'hin hu ?

Lombard       It-tmienja u nofs.

Vera           Biss ?

Lombard       U ma tantx hawn dawl. Ghandna bizzejjed xema.

Blore           Hemm pakkett shih. (He rises) Il-maltemp qiesu qed ibatti issa, xi  
tghid ? (He moves to the window)

Wargrave       Jista jkun. Ma rridux inkunu ottimisti zzejjed.

Armstrong     Il-qattiel ghandu kollox favur tieghu. Anki t-temp qisu jaf x'inhuma l-  
pjanijiet tieghu.

Wargrave sits. Pause.

Blore           Mhux ahjar niehdu xi haga x'nieklu ?

Vera           (Rising) Jekk trid, immur niftah xi bott tal-preserv u naghmel ffit  
kafe'. (She moves to the door L and then turns back) Imma intom l-erbgha ibqghu  
hawn. (To Wargrave) Sewwa ?

Wargrave       Le, ma tantx. Ma nahsibx li ideja tajba li nieklu xi haga mhux  
ippreparata quddiemna.

Vera           Ah ! (Slowly) Ma ghandekx grazzja mieghi hux ?

Wargrave       Din mhux kwistjoni ta' grazzja, Miss Claythorne.

Vera returns slowly and sits.

Lombard       Ma tantx jaharbulek affarijiet hux, Sir Lawrence. (Herises) Nispera  
ma tiehux ghalik, imma ghalija inti s-suspett numru wiehed.



Wargrave (Rising and looking at Lombard coldly through his spectacles in the best court manner) Kaptan, nahseb li dan huwa l-izjed mument fejn hadd ma ghandu jiehu ghalih.

Lombard Ma nahsibx li huwa Blore. (To Blore) Jista jkun li sejjer hazin, imma ma nahsibx li ghandek imaginazzjoni bizzejjed. Li nista nghid huwa li jekk inti l-qattiel, innehhilek il-kappell ghal kemm inti attur tajjeb.

Blore Grazzi ... ghal xejn.

Lombard (Pause; looking at Armstrong) U lanqas inti dott. Ma nahsibx li ghandek il-kuragg. (He looks at Vera) Mentri inti ghandek kuragg, Vera. Imma minn naha l-ohra, tidher f'sensik sew. Ghaldaqstant mhux se toqtol jekk mhux ghar-raguni tajba.

Vera (Sarcastically) Grazzi.

Armstrong (Rising) Hsibt f'xi haga.

Lombard Tajjeb. Annimal, haxixa jew minerali ?

Armstrong Dak (He points to Blore) jghid li huwa pulizija. Imma m'ghandniex provi ta dan. Kien wara li smajna is-CD li qal min hu. Qabel kien qed jippretendiha ta' miljunarju mill-Afrika ta Isfel. Forsi qed jilaghbha ta' pulizija.

Lombard Le, pulizija. Hares lejn saqajh.

Blore (Rising and then sitting again) Issa bizzejjed, Lombard.

Armstrong sits.

Lombard Mela issa nafu fejn qeghdin. Eh bil-haqq, dott, Miss Claythorne tissuspetta lilek. Ma rajthix thares lejk minn taht. Mela allura, jiena nissuspetta lil Sir Lawrence, Blore jissuspetta lili. Armstrong lil Blore. (To Wargrave) U inti, sir ?

Wargrave Jiena wasalt ghall-konkluzjoni kmieni fil-bidu tal-gurnata. Jidher li kif graw l-affarijiet ghadu jaqbel ma dik il-konkluzjoni. (Pause. He looks straight ahead) U ghadni ta l-istess opinjoni.

6

Vera U min hu ?

Wargrave Nahseb li fil-prezent mhux sew li nghid min.

Lombard Fl-interess ta kulhadd ?

Wargrave Ezatt.

Everyone looks at each other.

Blore U xi tghidu ghall-ideja tal-ikel ?

Armstrong Le, le ahjar nibqghu hawn.

Vera Jiena mhux bil-guh.

Lombard Jiena lanqas. Blore ghax ma tmurx u tiekol int.

Blore Min jaf li kieku ingib kaxxa gallettini ? (He rises and moves to the hall door)

Lombard Iva, ideja tajba.

Blore makes to go.

Lombard Blore.

Blore Ghidli.

Lombard Gib landa maghluqa.

Blore takes the candle from the bookcase and exits into the hall.

Pause. Everyone watches the door. ~~There is a gust of wind and the curtains rattle.~~  
Vera rises. Wargrave sits on the upper side of the settee.

~~Lombard Dak ir-rih. Qed icaqqlaq il-purtieri.~~

Vera Min jaf x'sar minna l-purtiera tas-shower ? Dik li ma sabx Rogers.

Lombard Ma nistax nara kif bicca purtiera tista tintuza minn dan il-mignun.

Vera Imma l-affarijiet qed jisparixxu. Miss Brent tilfet il-kobba suf li kienet qed tahdem.

Lombard Mela allura l-qattiel huwa halliel ukoll.

Vera Kif tmur ? Hames indjani ... ?

Lombard Il-ligi studjaw, wiehed imhalled sar ...

Vera Imhalled sar, imma din ... ? Sakemm, da zgur ... (She looks at Wargrave, the judge)

Wargrave Precizament, sinjorina. Ghalhekk qieghed bil-qieghda hawn hekk minghajr ma niccaqlaq.

Lombard Ah ! Kont izjed nahsbek il-qattiel mhux il-vittma.

Vera Dik il-poezija, il-hin kollu tidwi f'ras, inhossni se nibqa niftakarha sakemm immut. (She realizes what she has said and looks round the others)

Pause. Armstrong rises.

Armstrong Dak Blore, ilu daqxejn.

Lombard Forsi, hatfu il-lupu.

Armstrong sits.

Wargrave Kemm il-darba ghidtlek biex ma toqghodx titfa dawn il-botti, Kaptan.

Lombard Skuzani. Imma jiena hekk inhossni nizvoga.

Blore enters with a tin of biscuits. Vera moves to another chair and sits. Wargrave takes the tin and opens it.

Wargrave Fittxu fuqu.



Armstrong and Lombard search Blore. Armstrong takes the tin and offers the biscuits to Vera. Blore replaces the candle on the bookcase.

Vera           Le, grazzi.

Blore sits.

Lombard       U ejja ... lanqas hadt xejn illum.

Vera           Ma nistax niekol.

Lombard       a navzak ... il-lupu se jibla kollox hu.

Blore           Ma nafx ghalfejn qed titfa dawn ic-cajt vojta. (Sadly) Baqalna sigaretti ?

Lombard       (Taking out his case, opening it, then sighing ruefully) Jiena m'ghandix.

Armstrong     Anki jien spiccawli. (He puts the biscuits on the lower side of the settee and sits)

Wargrave      Fortunatement, jiena npejjep il-pipa.

Vera           (Rousing herself) Ghandi pakkett shih fuq. Ha mmur ghalihom. (She pauses at the door) Ara ibqghu hawn.

She exits into the hall, carrying the candle from the bookcase.

Wargrave moves to the door, looking after her.

Blore           (Rising, fetching the tin and eating solidly) Mhux hziena dawn il-gallettini.

Lombard       Ta' xiex inhuma, gobon ?

Blore           Iva.

Lombard       Kien imissa hadet. (He takes a biscuit)

Armstrong Ghandha daqxejn ta' attackk nervus.

Wargrave Ma nistax nghid li naqbel mieghek, dott. Is-sinjorina tidher kalma u taf x'inhi taghmel.

Lombard (Looking curiously at Wargrave) Eh, hekk tahsibha ?

MUSIC

Armstrong Ma naqbilx mieghek, wara kollox dik mara.

B1

Wargrave Nahseb li inti u jien ghandna fehma differenti dwar in-nisa.

Blore Xi tghidu ghal grokk whisky ?

Lombard Ideja tajba, basta nifthu flixkun gdid.

An appalling and blood-curdling shriek of utter terror comes from overhead, followed by a heavy thud. All four men start up. Lombard and Blore catch up candles.

B.O

All four rush to the door to the hall and out in this order; Lombard, Blore, Armstrong and Wargrave - the latter is slow getting under way owing to age. NB. The stage is quite dark as soon as Lombard and Blore have gone through the door, and before Wargrave reaches the door.

There are confused noises off stage. Then, on the stage, Wargrave's voice calls out, 'Min hemm ?' There is the sound of a shot. A confused moving about on the stage, voices off also; someone goes out at the hall door and shuts it. Noises off are faint, then they come nearer. The dining-room door opens. Then the hall door. Blore is heard swearing, off. We also hear Armstrong's voice.

Vera enters from the dining-room, stumbling about.

Vera Philip, Philip, fejn inti ? Tliftek.

Lombard enters through the hall door.

Lombard (As he enters) Hawn qieghed.

Vera Ma nistghux ikollna daqxejn dawl ? Kullimkien dlam. Ma tafx fejn qieghed. Ma tafx fejn qeghdin l-ohrajn. (She sits on the upper side of the settee)

Lombard    Dak ir-rih fit-tarag ... tefa ix-xemghat kollha. Hawn, ghandi lighter.  
(He lights the candle and sits)

Vera        Fejn hu t-tabib ?

Armstrong (From the hall) Qed infittex is-sulfarini.

Lombard    Hallihom is-sulfarini, gib izjed xemghat.

Vera        Kelli biza kbir ... daret ma ghonqi ...

Lombard    X'ghadda ?

Vera        It-tieqa tal-kamra tieghi infetthet u tfit ix-xema kif ftaht il-bieb.  
Imbaghad xi haga daret ma ghonqi. F'dak id-dlam hsibt li kienet qed tifgani id  
kiesha ...

There is a murmur off stage.

Lombard    Mhux ta' b'xejn werzaqt.

Vera        Min dendel dak l-alka hemm ?

Lombard    Ma nafx. Imma la nkun naf min se jiddispjacih ghall-mewt.

Armstrong enters quietly from the hall.

Vera        (Sharply) Min hemm ?

Armstrong Kollox sew, Miss Claythorne. Jiena.

Blore       (From the hall) Wasalna.

A faint glow through the door as Blore lights his candle. He enters carrying the  
candle.

Blore       Min spara ?



TOTAL B/O  
till end.  
of scene

11

Vera rises. She moves LC, turns and screams. The light reveals Wargrave seated, UR, on the window-seat, the shower curtain draped round his shoulders, the grey skein of wool plaited into a wig on his head. In the centre of his forehead is a round dark mark with red trickling from it. The men stand paralysed. Vera screams. Armstrong pulls himself together, waves others to stand back and goes over to Wargrave. He bends over him, then straightens up.

Armstrong Mejjet ... sparawlu f'mohhu.

Vera Wiehed imhalled sar, erbgha lkoll telqu d-dar ...

Armstrong Miss Claythorne !

Lombard Vera.

Vera Intom warrabtuni min-nofs. Gieghltuni immur fuq ghas-sigaretti. Intom poggejtu l-alka mat-tieqa ... biex tkunu tistghu toqtlu lil Wargrave, miskin .. intom kollha mgienen .. kollha kemm intom. (Her voice is low and full of horror) Ghalhekk ridtu l-purtiera u kobba suf .. kienet ippjanata.. ilha ippjanata din. X'wahda din .. irrid nitlaq min hawn ... ghajjut.

She edges to the door and rushes out.

CURTAIN

Scene 2

MUSIC (A) ?  
FULL LIGHTS

The following morning.

The sun shines brilliantly. The room is as it was the night before.

Blore, Lombard and Vera are sitting on the settee, their backs to the audience, eating tinned tongue. A tray is on the settee ledge. Blore is at the L end, Vera is R and Lombard is between them.

Lombard T'lett indjani zghar, jieklu biss perzut, kollha qeghdin jahsbu, min imissu jmut.

Vera U ejja, Philip.

Blore Le, kollox sew, Miss Claythorne. Ma jimpurtax li niccajtaw, basta fuq stonku mimli. (He puts down his knife and fork)

Vera Veru li kont bil-guh jiena. Imma nahseb li kemm indum hajja mhux se niekol izjed perzut.

Blore Minn mindu kielt inhossni ragel differenti. (He puts his plate back on the tray)

Lombard Konna ilna kwazi erbgha u ghoxrin siegha bla ikel. Il-moral kien daqxejn baxx.

Vera U fid-dawl tax-xemx kollox jidher differenti.

Lombard Ma nistghux ninsew li ghandna manijaku idur fuq din il-gzira.

Vera Ma tantx inhossni imbazza bhal bierah. (She puts her plate on the tray)

Lombard Ghax issa nafu minn kien il-qattiel, eh Blore ?

Blore Hekk hu.

Lombard Kienet dik l-incertezza li kienet qed toqtolni lili.

Vera Jiena min dejjem hsibt fit-tablb.

Lombard Xi hlew, hux. (He hands his plate to Vera, who puts in on the tray) Sakemm, ma kontx qed tiflef mohhok u hsibt fina lkoll.

Vera (Rising, she moves to the mantelpiece and takes three cigarettes out of the box) Kemm tidher stupida hux fid-dawl tax-xemx.

Lombard Stupida hafna.

Blore Imma allura, la qed nghidu li hu Armstrong, fejn qieghed ?

Lombard Li nafu zgur hu dak li jridna nahsbu x'gara minnu.

Vera (Giving Blore and Lombard cigarettes) Allura x'sibtu ezattament ?

Lombard (Lighting Vera's cigarette) Zarbuna ... zarbuna wahda ... fit-tarf tal-gholja. (He lights Blore's cigarette and his own) Telaq għall kollox minn mohhu u ikkummetta suwiciċju.

Blore (Rising) Hemm hafna kumbinazzjonijiet. Anki dik l-istatwetta imkissra fl-intrata.

Vera Nahseb li esagera daqxejn. Ragel li kien se joqtol ruhu b'idejh ma jaghmilx dawn l-affarijiet.

Lombard Hekk hu. Imma mahniex zguri li qatel ruhu b'idejh. Imma ried ikun fidil mal-poezija u intefgha fil-bahar u ghereq.

Vera U jekk mhux veru mejjet ?

Lombard Heq, jiena daqxejn suspettuz, izjed u izjed ghax ma sibniex il-kadavru.

Vera (Glancing at the study door) X'affarijiet dawn hux ? Ahna nieklu hawn gew u hemmhekk hemm hames kadavri.

Lombard Xi hlew hux dawn in-nisa ? Ghandna sitt kadavri, imma mhux kollha qeghdin hemm gew.

Blore I.e, le. Sewwa qed tghid. Hemm hames kadavri.

Lombard U s-sinjura Rogers ?

Blore Ghoddejtha. Hi il-hames wahda.

Lombard (Rising, a little exasperated) Ara, Marston, wiehed, Rogers, tnejn, il-general, tlieta, Rogers, erbgha, Emily, hamsa u Wargrave, sitta.

Blore (Counting themselves) Sebgha, tmienja, disgha u Armstrong ghaxra. Hekk hu, skuzani. (He sits on the lower side of the settee)



15

Lombard Imma inti zgur li ma smajt lil hadd jghaddi minn hdejn il-kamra tieghek wara li inzilna ahna ?

Vera Uh, immaginajt hafna affarijiet, imma biex tohrogni mill-kamra, riedet tkun qed taqbad id-dar.

Lombard Fhimtek ... suspettuza zzejjed.

Blore (Rising) Imma issa se naghmlu ?

Lombard Xejn. Noqghodu bilqiegħda u ma nidhlux f'periklu zzejjed.

Blore Imma jiena irrid immur naqbd.

Lombard Le ... u bil-haqq nahseb li veru gdibt il-qorti hux biex wehel ragel innocenti ?

Vera sits on the lower side of the settee.

Blore (Hesitating) Insomma, ma nahsibx li tagħmel differenza issa. Landor kien innocenti. Imma shabi gieghluni ngħid hekk u warabnih għal ftit snin mhux hazin. Qed ngħid hekk issa ghax ...

Lombard Ghax ninsabu fuq l-istess dghajsa ?

Blore Insomma, ma kontx se ngħidha quddiem Wargrave.

Lombard Mhux hekk, mhux quddiem imhalled hux ?

Blore (Rising) Min jaf, dan Seton, kienx innocenti eh ?

Lombard Hekk nahseb. Wargrave keilu raguni biex jehles minnu. Insomma, Blore mort tajjeb inti b'dak il-kaz.

Blore (Injured) Imma xorta wahda għamilt hazin allavolja hadt promotion.

Lombard U Landor spicca miet il-habs.

Blore Imma jiena fejn kont naf.

- Lombard    Sfortuna kbira.
- Blore        Ghalih, hux hekk ?
- Lombard    U anki ghalik. Ghaliex minhabba f'hekk, jista jkun li tispicca maqtul.
- Blore        X'inhu ? Jien ? Tibzax noqghod attent.
- Lombard    Tinsiex. Fadal biss tlett indjani.
- Blore        U inti ?
- Lombard    Tinkwetax ghalija. Kont f'sitwazzjonijiet bhal dawn u hrigt minnhom. U jerga jirnexxili f'din is-sitwazzjoni wkoll. (Pause) Barra minn hekk ghandi r-revolver.
- Blore        Iva ... dak ir-revolver. Isma. Inti ghidt li sibtu mal-art hemmhekk. U xi provi ghandek li ma kienx ghandek il-hin kollu.
- Lombard    (Smiling) Dejjem l-istess diska. M'ghandekx hlief ideja wahda f'rasedk hux ?
- Blore        Iva, imma ideja tajba.
- Lombard    U se tibqa biha.
- Blore        Li kieku kont minnek, kont nahseb fi storja ahjar minn dik.
- Lombard    Imma ridt nahseb fi storja semplici biex tkun tista tifhimha.
- Blore        Isma, Kaptan, li kieku kont onest, kont ...
- Lombard    U ejja, Blore. Hadd minna ma hu onest.
- Blore        Jekk qed tghid il-verita, kien imissek taqbad u tarmi r-revolver 'l hemm.
- Lombard    U ejja tkunx stupidu.

17

Blore Jiena offrej t li mmur infittex lil Armstrong, mhux hekk ? Jekk naghmel hekk tislifuli ?

Lombard (Rising) Da zgur li le. Dak tieghi u se nzommu jien.

Blore (Angrily) Mela taf x'se nibda nahseb ?

Lombard Mhux x'se tibda tahseb, ja idjota. Ilek tahsibha mill bierah. Li jiena il-qattiel. Hux hekk ?

Blore Mhux se mmerik.

Lombard Mela ahseb kemm trid. Imma ha navzak ...

Vera (Incisively) Nahseb li t-tnejn li intom qed taghmlu bhat-tfal.

They both look at her rather sheepishly.

Lombard Skuzani Miss.

Vera (To Blore, scornfully) Da zgur li l-Kaptan mhux il-qattiel. Ghax Armstrong huwa l-hati u ghadu haj.

Blore Hekk tahseb ?

Vera Iva. Dak mignun. Libbes il-purtiera lil-imhalled, qatel lil Rogers meta kien qed jqatta l-injam, niggez lil Emily Brent meta setgha facilment ivvelena. Imma le, ried jimxi mal-poezija.

Blore Mela ejja naraw x'imiss. (He moves to the mantelpiece and reads) Tlett indjani ilkoll marru saz-zu, wiehed tghannaq ma ors, tnejn baqghu bir-rimors. (He laughs) Nahseb li ghandu bicca xoghol issa. M'hawnx zu fuq din il-gzira ! (His laughter is cut short as he sees the big bear rug on which he is standing. He edges off the rug and turns to Lombard) Xi tghid, Kaptan, li kieku niehdu flixkun birra ?

Lombard Kemm se ddum tahseb biss f'zaqqek. Xi darba jew ohra se jaqbdek xi haga b'dan l-ikel u x-xorb kollu.

Blore Imma hemm hafna birra fil-kecina.

MOTOR BOAT  
C 15



*Motor boat*

18

Lombard Iva, u jekk xi hadd irid joqtlok, l-ewwel post li jpoggi il-velenu jkun go flixkun tal-birra.

From outside comes the sound of a motor-boar hooter. Vera rises.

*once*

Blore Dak x'inhu ? Dghajsa ! Dghajsa !

They all rush towards the balcony.

Blore rushes out on to the balcony. There is a scream, then a crash and a thud.

Vera X'Wahda din ! (She puts her hands over her eyes)

Lombard, revolver in hand, rushes to the window, looks out, then returns slowly to the room. Vera turns and sits.

Lombard Dabbarha Blore.

Vera Kif ?

Lombard Kien hemm wire minn naha ghall-ohra tal-bieb.

Vera U ... ?

Lombard Iva. Waqgha fuqu. L-ors tal-bronz li kien hemm fis-sular ta' fuq. Waqa u ghaffgu.

Vera Ors ? Hi !

Lombard Kemm kien stupidu dan Blore.

Vera U issa baqa tnejn.

Lombard Iva, issa noqghodu hafna attenti.

Vera Mhux se jirnexxielna. Mhux se nitilqu qatt minn din il-gzira.

Lombard Iva, nitilqu. Mhux se nhalluh jirbhilna.

Vera Hemm mhux qed thoss li hawn xi hadd ihares lejna u ghasa taghna.

19

Lombard **Ikkalma, ikkalma.**

Vera **Jekk joghgbok, Philip, hudni minn hawn. Forsi jistghu jarawna, dawk li ghaddeu fid-dghajsa.**

Lombard **Kollox sew. Issa nitilghu fuq l-gholja u naraw hemmx xi hadd.**

Vera **Iva, hekk naghmlu. Ahjar milli noqghodu hawn.**

Lombard **Imma mhux se tiksah b'dik il-libsa ?**

Vera **Jekk immut niksah izjed.**

Lombard **Ghandek ragun. (He moves to the window) Ha nara daqxejn.**

Vera **Oqghod attent, Philip ... jekk joghgbok.**

Lombard **Jiena mhux Blore. M'hemmx tieqa direttament fuqna. (He goes on to the balcony, and looks down. He is arrested by what he sees) Ara, hemm xi haga fuq il-blat.**

Vera **X'hemm ? (She joins him) Qisu kadavru.**

Lombard **(In a strange new voice) Ahjar toqghod hemm gew. Ha mmur nara x'inh.**

**He exits along the balcony. Vera backs into the room. Her face is full of conflicting emotions.**

Vera **Armstrong ... il-kadavru ta' Armstrong ...**

**Lombard reappears and enters very slowly.**

Lombard **Armstrong ... il-mewg tefa l-kadavru fuq il-blat.**

Vera **Mela allura m'hemm hadd izjed fuq din il-gzira .. hadd hlief, jiena .... u inti.**

Lombard **Iva, Vera. Issa nafu fejn qeghdin.**

- Vera Iva, issa nafu fejn qeghdin.
- Lombard Loghba tajba hafna, prosit. Dak il-wire. Wargrave dejjem qal li inti perikoluza.
- Vera Int ...
- Lombard Mela allura veru gharriqtu dak it-tifel.
- Vera Le, mhux veru ! Nitolbok temminni. Ismaghni, ismaghni !
- Lombard Qed nisma. Nispera li tkun storja interessanti.
- Vera Mhux storja. Hija l-verita'. Mhux jien qiltu it-tifel. Kien xi haddiehor.
- Lombard Min ?
- Vera Ragel. Iz-ziju ta' Peter. Kont inhobbu.
- Lombard Eh, tidher izjed interessanti hekk.
- Vera Toqghodx taghmel hekk. Kont qisni fl-infern. Peter twieled wara il-mewt ta' missieru. Kieku Peter kien tfajla, Hugh kien jiehu kollox.
- Lombard Eh, storja sabiha. Iz-ziju l-kattiv.
- Vera Iva ... ziju kattiv .. u jiena ma kontx naf. Hu qal li jhobbni, imma kien fqir wisq biex jizzewwigni. Kien hemm blata li Peter kien dejjem jghid jixtieq jghum sa hdejha. Ovvjament qatt ma hallejnih ghax perikoluz. Darba konna fuq ix-xtajta u kelli mmur lura d-dar ghal xi haga. Meta mort lura fuq ix-xtajta indunajt li Peter kien qed jghum ghal hdejn dik il-blata. Kont naf li ma kellux cans. Qbadt nigri lejn il-bahar imma Hugh waqqafni u qalli 'Tkunx bela, jiena ghidtlu li jista jaghmilla'.
- Lombard Komplu, kompli. Interessanti hafna.
- Vera Intfajt fil-bahar xorta wahda imma ma lhaqqtux u ghareq qabel ma wasalt hdejh.



21

Lombard U kollox mar lixx fl-inkjesta. Kulhadd qal kemm kellek kuragg u inti m'ghidt xejn fuq x'ghamel Hugh.

Vera U inti tahseb li xi hadd kien se jemmini ? U kieku stess kont inhobbu.

Lombard Storja sabiha hafna. U nassumi li Hugh hallik tixxejjer mar-rih ?

Vera U inti tahseb li jiena ridt inkompil narah wara din ?

Lombard Il-veru giddieba bl-unuri taf inti, Vera.

Vera Le miniex, Philip.

Lombard Inti ppreparajt in-nassa ghal Blore. Jiena ma kontx u Armstrong kien mejjet. Ghamilt hafna affarijiet hziena f'hajti u miniex xi qaddis. Imma jekk hemm xi haga li ndejjaqni ... huwa qtil.

Vera Idejjqek il-qtil ? U dawk l-indigeni li hallejt warajk x'inhu ? Mhux qtil.

Lombard Naf li titwemminx imma mhux jien kont.

Vera X'jigifieri ?

Lombard Ghal darba ghamilta tal-eroj. Ridt insib minn fejn stajna naharbu u grejtha minn gol-foresta. Qabel imma, hallejt ilhom l-armi, l-ikel u l-ilma. Sakemm mort lura sibthom kollha maqtula.

Vera U inti tistenna li nemmnek ? Ilbierah ammettejt.

Lombard Iva, naf. Imma kont qed niehu gost nara l-wicckom waqt li qed nghidha.

Vera Imma lili mhux se tbellaghieli.

Lombard (Completely losing his temper) Inti mara stupida !

Vera (Backing to the window) Kif ma indunajt qabel ? Hemm, f'wiccek ... wicc il-qattiel ...

BMSJC

Lombard Ma tistax tidhaq bija izjed.

Vera Ah ... (She sways forward as if fainting)

Lombard runs to catch her. She wrests the revolver from him.

Vera Issa !

Lombard (Backing away) X'se taghmel ?

Vera Pass iehor u nispara.

Lombard Inti ... zghira, sabiha, u mignuna. (He makes a movement towards Vera)

She shoots. He falls. She goes over to him, her eyes full of horror as she realizes what she has done. The revolver drops from her hand. Suddenly she hears a low laugh coming from the study door. She turns her head slowly in that direction. The laughter grows louder, the study door slowly opens, and ...

MUSIC STOPS.

Wargrave enters. He carries a rope in his hand.

Wargrave Kollox kif ippjanajt. L-ghaxar indjani tieghi ... il-poezija tieghi ...

Vera Ah ... (A stifled scream)

Wargrave (Angrily) Silenzju fl-awla. (He looks round suspiciously) Jekk ikun hemm izjed storbu, nizgombra l-awla.

Vera backs up stage.

Wargrave Kollox sew, hanini. Tibzax. Dan huwa l-qorti tal-gustizzja. Inti se tghaddi guri hawnhekk. (He crosses L and locks the doors. Confidentially) Hsibt li jiena xi fantasma hux ? Hsibt li jiena mejjet. Armstrong qal li jiena mejjet. Dak kien l-izjed punt intelligenti tieghi. Ftehemt mieghu li taparsi ninqatel biex inkun nista naqbad il-qattiel. Haseb li kien pjan tajjeb hafna ... imbaghad gie jkellimni hdejn l-gholja u tfajtu ghal-isfel.

Vera is petrified with horror.

Wargrave (In a confidential manner) Taf inti, Vera Claythorne, hajti kollha iddedikajta biex nehles mill-kriminali. Jiena niehu gost nibghad il-kriminali l-habs u jiehdu dak li haqqhom.

Vera moves down towards the revolver. Wargrave watches her.

Wargrave Dejjem hadt gost ... imma ma kienx bizzejjed ... dejjem ridt izjed ... ridt naghmel il-gustizzja jien ... b'idejja. (Suddenly he curbs his excitement and speaks with severe dignity) Imma jiena l-imhalledf tal-Qorti Suprema. Jiena ghandi sens ta gustizzja. (As if listening to an echo) Jiena niddikjara li Vera Claythorne hija hatja tal-akkuza. (He nods his head) HATJA ! Intom kollha hatja u jiena il-gustizzja. (He holds up his hands in a frenzy of delight) Jiena l-gustizzja ! Silenzju fl-awla !

Vera hammers on the door. Wargrave takes her arm and drags her above the settee.

S.B. MUSIC (7)

Wargrave Anthony Marston l-ewwel. Imbaghad s-sinjura Rogers. Velenu fil-brandy. Mackenzie ... daqqa ta sikkina. Rogers b'mazza. Emily Brent ... daqqa ta' siringa. Blore .. kien iblah. Dak kien facli. (Confidentially) Meta irritornajt ir-revolver nahseb li hawwadkom hux ? Bsart li tispicaw tahsbu f'xulxin. Il-konkluzjoni ? Min se jirbah. Jiena ghamilt imhattra fuqek. U irbaht. Issa se tkun izjed ecitanti noqtol tfajla ... (He steps on to the settee)

S.B. MOTOR BOAT

Vera falls to the ground next to the settee.

Wargrave Il-hati ghandu xi haga x'jghid qabel ma nghaddi ghall-esekuzzjoni tas-sentenza ...

Vera (With a sudden outcry) Ieqaf ! Ieqaf ! Jiena mhux hatja ! Mhux hatja !

Wargrave Dak biss ghandek xi tghid ? Kollha hekk jaghmlu. Sakemm ma jghidux li huma imgienen. Imma inti m'intix mignuna. (Very reasonably) Jiena mignun .. imma inti le.

Vera Imma jiena veru innocenti ! Nahlef ! Nahlef li mhux jiena qtiltu t-tifel. Qatt ma ridt noqtlu. Inti imhalledf. Taf meta xi hadd huwa innocenti jew hati. Nahlef li qed nghid il-verita.



MUSIC  
⑦

24

Wargrave Jigifieri mhux inti qtiltu ? Interessanti. Imma issa mhux importanti.

Vera Imma ... (She makes inarticulate sounds)

Wargrave (Swinging the rope in front of her and looping it over her head) Ma nistax ma nimxix mal-poezija. L-indjani zghar tieghi. Inti l-ahhar wahda. Indjan wiehed issa wahdu spicca, b'ingassa hajtu radd, imbagnad ma baqa hadd. Ejja ...

Lombard comes slowly to, picks up the revolver and shoots. Wargrave falls back off the settee.

Vera Philip ... Philip ...

Both sit on the floor in front of the settee.

Lombard Kollox sew, qalbi. Kollox sew.

Vera Imma jiena hsibt li qtiltek. Hsibt li qtiltek.

Lombard Nirrangrazzja 'l Alla li n-nisa ma jafux jimmiraw. Almenu mhux hafna.

Vera Qatt mhu se ninsieha din.

Lombard Iva. Se tinsieha. Taf li hemm tmiem iehor ghall-poezija ? Indjan wiehed issa wahdu spicca, izzewweg u imbagnad ma baqa hadd ! (He takes the rope and puts his head in the noose too. He kisses her)

There is the sound of a motor-boat hooter in the distance.

MOTOR  
BOAT

FINE MUSIC

## CURTAIN

MUSIC  
7A  
15C  
4A  
2018