

Silva-Schulkausgaben · Englische Reihe
Band 22



ARNOLD RIDLEY
THE GHOST TRAIN

simplified by
MICHAEL WEST



Silva-Verlag · Berlin

SILVA-SCHULAUFGABEN

A ENGLISCHE REIHE

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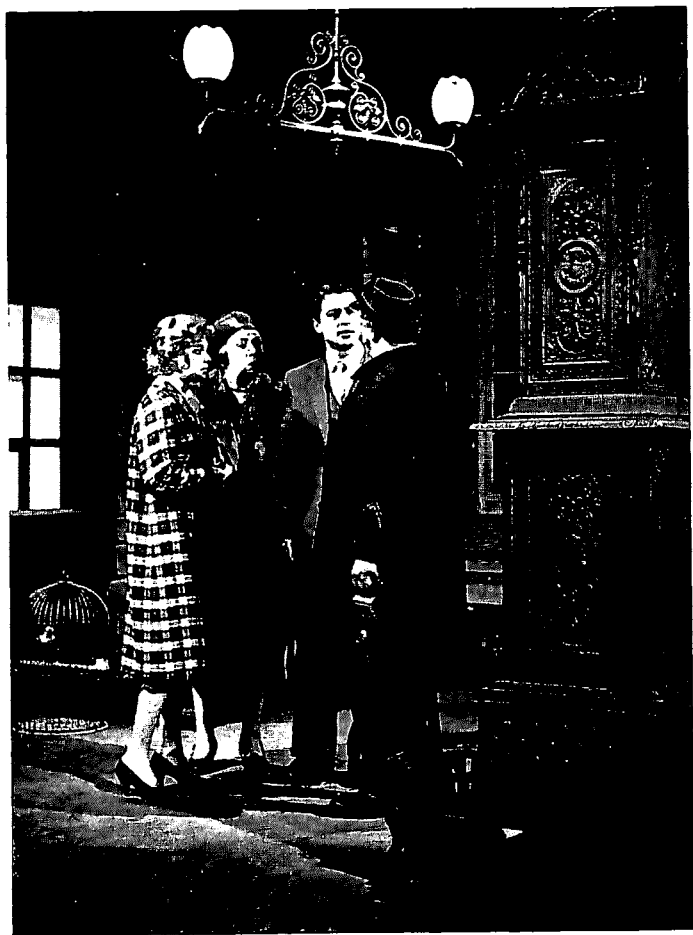
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Aus dem Fernsehspiel „Der Geisterzug“
des Süddeutschen Rundfunks — Fernsehen — Stuttgart
in der Regie von Rainer Wolffhardt

mit *Brigitte Rau, Käthe Lindenberg,*
Manfred Boehm und *Karl-Georg Saebisch*

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ARNOLD RIDLEY
THE GHOST TRAIN

simplified by
M I C H A E L W E S T

Bearbeitet von Oberstudienrat
Dr. Paul Kämmer, Geldern

SILVA-VERLAG ISERLOHN

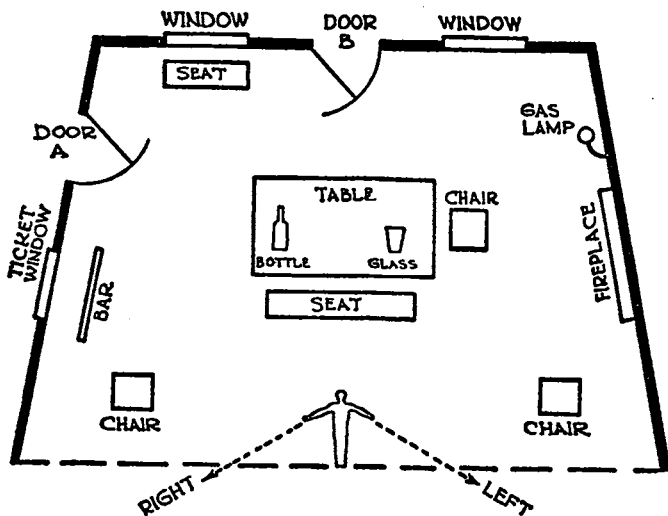
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THE PERSONS IN THE PLAY.

Saul Hodgkin (Station-master at Fal Vale station).

Richard Winthrop.

Elsie (his wife).

Charles Murdock (of Murdock & Son).

Peggy Murdock (his newly married wife).

Miss Bourne.

Teddie Deaken.

Julia Price.

Herbert Price.

John Sterling.

Jackson.

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ACT I

Scene—*The Waiting-room at Fal Vale, a small railway station in Cornwall, England. The Year, 1933. Time, 10 p. m. The room looks very unpleasant and uncomfortable. One gas-lamp gives a weak light, and throws dark shadows. There is not enough light for reading. Outside the rain falls heavily. Everything seems wet. Pieces of wall-paper hang from the walls.*

There is the sound of a whistle, and through the windows the lights from railway-carriages can be seen, as a train moves slowly out of the station.

SAUL HODGKIN comes in; he turns up the gas. He goes out through door B. Another train comes into the station. Shouts are heard, "All Change!" and there is the noise of shutting the doors of carriages. Voices are heard. Then the door opens and RICHARD WINTHROP and his wife, ELSIE, come into the room. Both look rather bad-tempered.

Elsie: Do you think this really is the waiting-room?

Richard: It looks like it. *(He puts his bag on the table, and then goes to the right.)*

Elsie: What smoke! just the sort of place you would bring me to. *(Coming to the seat in front of the table.)*

Richard: Bring you! Oh!

Elsie: It's cold, wet, and unpleasant. *(She sits.)*

Richard: Yes; you're right: it is unpleasant enough!

Elsie: But you don't care.

Richard (R. of table): Possibly I'm used to it.

Elsie: Thank you.

Richard: Why do you blame me? I'm not the manager of the Railway Company, am I? You should blame that young fool who lost his hat and pulled the cord to stop the train. It was he who made us lose our other train on to Truro. *(He goes to door A and opens it.)* What's this other room here? *(He goes into the ticket-office, followed by Elsie.)*

(Door A is opened again by Saul Hodgkin, the station-master and man-of-all-work.)

Saul: Well, all I say is, don't blame me!

(Charles Murdock and Peggy, his wife, come in. They were only married this morning, and are wearing beautiful new clothes.)

Charles: I say! What a hole!

Peggy: Oh, Charlie!

Saul (speaking to someone outside): Hi! where are you going? Not that way! (He goes out through door B.)

Charles (putting his bags on the table): This looks a nice bright place, doesn't it! (He crosses to door B and shuts it.)

Peggy: It doesn't matter, dear. (She sits on a chair on the left of table. Charles comes and kisses her.) It doesn't matter, dear.

Charles: We don't want to stay here long. The people at the hotel won't know what has happened to us.

Peggy: I hope they won't think that you were afraid of getting married, and changed your mind.

Charles: What a joke! (Singing softly.)

"There was I, waiting at the church,
Waiting at the church!"

No! It's no joke. I'm hungry, and you're tired, and we want to get to our hotel. It's bad enough losing that train at Exeter.

Peggy: Mother is to blame for that. I knew we should be late.

Charles: That fellow and his hat! No one but a perfect fool would stop a train because he's lost his hat.

Peggy: Now, now! Gently, gently.

Charles: I'm very angry. When we've only this one week before I have to go away and leave you, I don't want to waste a minute of it.

Peggy: Let's forget about that, dear. Let's pretend we shall always be together.

Charles: I'm sorry, dear. I won't complain. — There's one thing I notice; all those other people seem to have gone away; we are alone. Give me a kiss and I'll smile again.

(They kiss. Just as they do so, the door opens again and MISS BOURNE comes in, followed by Saul. Miss Bourne is an old lady, carrying a bird-cage.)

Miss Bourne: Oh! Love birds!

(Charles and Peggy jump up and go towards door A.)

Miss B: So sorry! This is the waiting-room, isn't it?

Saul: Yes.

Miss B: I'm so sorry.

Charles: Oh—er—not at all!

(Richard and Elsie come in from the ticket-office.)

Charles: Hullo! Here are some more of them.

Miss B: What a frightful smell of smoke. Phew! Phew!

(She sits on the seat.)

Charles: They do say that where there's smoke there's fire; but that doesn't seem to be true here.

Saul: I'm sure it's a nice fire for the time of night.

Peggy: Well, we shall have to be satisfied with it till the next train.

Saul: I keep on telling you there is no next train.

Charles: What?

Saul: There are no more trains till seven to-morrow morning.

Charles: Listen; I *must* get this young lady—my wife—to Truro to-night.

Saul: Sorry, sir; but you can't.

Charles: Then can we get a car?

Saul: There are no cars round here.

Charles: Well,—then, what can we do?

Saul: If you want to go anywhere to-night, you'll have to walk.

Charles: Oh! I say; I *am* sorry, Pegs; we seem to be in frightful trouble.

Peggy: We can't do anything, old man. It doesn't matter.

Richard: Now listen, porter,—

Saul: I'm the station-master.

Richard: Well, listen, station-master: do you really mean that we can't get any farther to-night?

Saul: That's what I said.

Richard: Then where's the nearest hotel?

Saul: Truro.

Richard: Where?

5 Saul: Truro.

Richard: Surely there is some place where we can stay the night?

Saul: There are no houses here. There's a farm five miles along the road.

10 Richard: But surely you live somewhere?

Saul: I bicycle to Truro.

Richard: Well, ladies and gentlemen, it seems as if we shall have to stay here till morning.

(Elsie sits in a chair, Right.)

15 Charles: Where is that fool who stopped the train?

Saul *(going to door B, opening it and shutting it again)*. — There's another gentleman outside.

Charles: We hope he'll stay there. I shall kick him if he comes in here.

20 Richard: We have to thank him for this—him and his hat.

Miss B: He ought to be put in prison. Why did he pull the cord?

(TEDDIE DEAKEN comes in, unnoticed.)

Richard: He's a fool.

25 Charles: Worse than a fool. My foot wants to kick him.

Teddie: I say! *(They all turn and look at him.)* What a nice little place. Here we all are. What are you doing? Disagreeing about something?

Richard: Not at all. We are all quite agreed on the subject.

30 Teddie: How strange! So we're here till morning, eh?

Charles: Yes.

Teddie: I think it's rather amusing. It's a little excitement—a little change from the usual sameness of life.

Charles: You may feel that way; but it's very uncomfortable
35 for us.

Teddie: I'm sorry. To tell you the truth, I'm quite enjoying myself.

Miss B: Young man, have you no thought for the feelings of others?

Teddie: I don't know what you mean. 5

Miss B: I am not surprised that you do not know what I mean!

Teddie: I say, you aren't angry with me, are you? (*He puts some papers and story-books on the table.*)

Miss B: You are the cause of this most unpleasant position; yet you show no shame; you don't seem to care at all. 10

Teddie: My good woman—

Miss B: Please do not address me in that impolite way.

Teddie: Sorry! (*Turning to Richard.*) Here! You must be just. How could I stop my hat from blowing away?

Richard: If you lean out of the window, it often happens. 15

Teddie: But, my dear old thing, I was watching the smoke from the engine;—it was so pretty!

Charles: Losing your hat is no reason for pulling the cord to stop the train.

Teddie: Don't you think so? 20

Charles: No!

Teddie: Well, I do. It was a very nice hat. I only bought it last week. Besides, I've always wanted to pull that cord. It's so amusing: don't you think so?

Richard: Sir! Have you got *no* gentlemanly feelings? 25

Teddie: What do you mean?

Richard: Listen to me. You don't seem to have understood what happened.

Teddie: I hate trying to understand things.

Richard: Then it will be a pleasure to me to make you understand. First of all you put your head out of the window, like a fool that you are. Then, when your hat blows away, you pull the cord and stop the train on a hill. So we lost our other train and found ourselves in this hateful place. And then you don't say you're sorry; you behave as if you had done us all a kindness. 35

Teddie: I say! You don't seem to like me, do you?

Richard: If I were to tell you what I really think of you—

Elsie: Oh, don't quarrel, Richard. Surely our position is uncomfortable enough without a quarrel. Whatever you
5 say now can do no good. Here we are, and here we shall have to stay.

Saul: I'm sorry, madam, but you can't stay here.

Elsie: What?

Richard: Eh?

10 **Saul:** I say that you can't stop here.

Richard: What do you mean?

Saul: As there are no more trains, everything must be shut up for the night. I'm going off home.

Richard: Well?

15 **Saul:** And, before I go, I have to lock this place up.

Richard: Well, you can't lock it up!

Saul: Those are my orders, and I've got to obey them.

Richard: Don't be a fool! Where else can we go?

Saul: I don't know. All I know is that I've got to obey orders.

20 — You might go to the farm.

Richard: Do you expect the ladies to walk five miles along a country road on a night like this?

Saul: You can't stop here. You've got to go.

Charles: Who is going to make us go?

25 **Saul:** I am.

Charles: What are you going to do? Throw us out?

Saul (scratching his head): It seems as if I shall have to.

Richard (taking off his coat): Then you can start with me.

30 **Teddie (coming down to the front and sitting on a chair facing Richard and Saul):** I say! This is fine! The fight will now begin! *Ting-a-ling!* (He gets up, walks backwards and sits down on Miss Bourne's knees.)

Miss B: Be silent, sir!

Teddie: Sorry.

35 (Richard goes up to Saul as if to begin the fight.)

Saul: Now, look here, sir, don't you lay your hands on me!

Richard: I'm not going to. I thought you were going to lay your hands on me.

Charles: It's no use. We mean to stay. We'll arrange that you don't get into any trouble.

Saul: Well, sir, I don't know——

Charles (*putting some money in Saul's hand*): Everything is all right, isn't it? 5

Saul: Well, sir, I don't know. I can't do anything else.

Charles: That's right. Come along now; let's see what we can do to make these ladies comfortable. This is a very bad fire. 10

Saul: There's a fire in the ticket-office. I don't know if that's any better.

Charles: Let's go and see, Peggy.

(Saul leads the way through door A. Charles and Peggy follow. Miss Bourne gets up and goes to the door; then she remembers her bird-cage; runs back and takes it from Teddie, who is looking at it. She then goes into the ticket-office, followed by Teddie. Elsie and Richard stay in the waiting-room.) 15
20

Richard: Well, what do you think of this, Elsie?

Elsie: Not much. But you will enjoy it.

Richard: I don't understand.

Elsie: It gives you a fine chance to make yourself unpleasant to everyone. Already you have tried to fight the station-master; and you have lost your temper with the young fool who stopped the train. You must be enjoying this. 25

Richard: Look here, Elsie, *must* we go on quarrelling like this?

Elsie: I thought you would like it.

Richard: Can't we forget it all? 30

Elsie: I can't forget what you said to me this morning.

Richard: I'm sorry I lost my temper with you this morning. I am very worried just now because of Parkinson dying suddenly like that.

Elsie: Surely you can get another manager for the Works? 35

Richard: I can get some sort of manager. But I must have a good man, a man I can trust.

Elsie: And because you couldn't get him, you got angry with me.

5 *Richard:* You made me angry.

Elsie: Blame me, because you behaved badly! I might have expected that.

Richard: I didn't say that.

Elsie: No, but you meant it.

10 *Richard:* We've only been married a year, Elsie. It seems sad that we should go on like this. Why not start again?

Elsie: It's too late. We must keep to our arrangement.

Richard: But——

15 *Elsie:* It's no good talking it all over again. We don't agree with each other, and we never shall. As soon as we leave here, I shall go back to London. We must separate.

Richard: I'm sorry about that.

Elsie: Did I say we should separate? Or did you?

Richard: I did, but——

20 *Elsie:* Very well then.

Richard: I was in a bad temper at the time. You know that. We were both in a temper.

Elsie: That is not true: I never lose my temper.

Richard: Not openly, I know; but——

25 *Elsie:* Then please speak the truth!

Richard: Elsie, do try to see reason.

30 *Elsie:* Oh! It's no good, Dick. We don't suit each other. You should have married a quiet little girl who's afraid of everything. You would have looked after her and saved her from danger, and she would have looked up to you as a god, and gladly obeyed your orders. It's different with me. I don't need looking after. I won't be given orders. The "Strong Man" doesn't interest me because I can look after myself. I've never been afraid in my life.

35 *Richard:* That's just it, Elsie. You're far too sure of yourself.

Elsie: There! You've started again! I've had enough quarrelling for one day; I'm going into the other room.

Richard (stopping her): Elsie, for the last time, let's start again.

Elsie: No, Dick; I've made up my mind; I'm quite decided.

(Charles comes in from the ticket-office, and runs into Elsie.)

Charles: Sorry!

5

Elsie: Not at all. *(She goes into the ticket-office.)*

Charles (going across to Richard who is sitting on the seat).

It's a wonderful thing to be married, isn't it? —to have someone to stand by one in every trouble.

Richard: You'll find that out for yourself.

10

Charles: Yes—but——

Richard: What's the trouble? Have had a quarrel?

Charles: Oh, no!

Richard: Sorry.

Charles: That's all right, sir. Possibly married people do have quarrels sometimes?

15

Richard: Undoubtedly.

Charles: It isn't easy to understand. My trouble is that my name is Murdock.

Richard: Any relation of Murdock & Son?

20

Charles: Yes; I'm the son.

Richard: Oh, I see!

Charles: Of course, everyone knows about it. We're finished!

Richard: I noticed it, because I happen to be in the same line of business myself.

25

Charles: That's strange. Well, we're finished. I'm leaving England next week.

Richard: Alone?

Charles: Yes. I couldn't possibly take the wife out there. Just one week together, and then——

30

Richard: Must you leave England?

Charles: What else can I do? I've tried everywhere in England for work. Our marriage was arranged before the trouble came. Her mother and father wanted her to give

35

me up. But she wouldn't,—the dear girl! I say, I don't know why I'm telling you all this. It must be very uninteresting.

Richard: Oh, no.

5 *Charles:* Isn't it strange how friendly people become when they are all in trouble together? If that fool hadn't pulled the cord, we should be sitting silently opposite each other in a railway-carriage, looking at each other as if we were enemies. And here I am telling you all my
10 family troubles!

Peggy (speaking from the ticket-office): Where are you, Charlie?

(Charles runs to the door and meets her.)

Charles: Here I am, dear. Did you succeed in getting a wash?

15 *Peggy:* Yes; old Saul found a piece of soap—after much trouble.

Charles: Good! I've been having a talk with Mr.—er—

Richard: Winthrop is my name.

Charles: Peggy, this is Mr. Winthrop. Mr. Winthrop, I want
20 you to meet Miss Peggy—er—my wife.

Richard (shaking hands): How do you do.

Charles: We've just found that we're both in the same line of business.—Strange, isn't it?

Richard: Yes, it's really very strange. *(He turns to go.)*

25 *Peggy:* Please don't let me drive you away.

Richard: Not at all, Mrs. Murdock; there's something I want to say to my wife.

(Richard goes into the ticket-office and shuts the door.)

Charles (kissing Peggy): He seems quite a nice fellow.

30 *(They sit.)*

Peggy: Yes.

Charles: I say, old girl, this is a nice position, isn't it?

Peggy: We can't do anything about it.

Charles: Yes, but to start our married life like this! If we
35 were always going to be together, it wouldn't be so bad.

Peggy: Don't say any more about that, old boy, please!

Charles: I'm sorry, Pegs, but it's all so unjust!

Peggy: Please!

Charles: If only you could come——

Peggy: I'm ready to come; you know that.

Charles: It's impossible. I don't know how rough the life
may be. 5

Peggy: My man!

Charles: It will be all right for me, Pegs; I'm strong and
healthy; but for you it would be different.

Peggy: I'm strong and healthy too, Charlie. 10

Charles: Yes, but—I couldn't even get the money to pay your
passage on the ship. You'll have to stay in England till
things are better.

Peggy: You mustn't give up hope; things will be all right in
the end. When you are away and things are going badly, 15
think of me. I shall be praying for you, my dear.

(The sound of rain is heard.)

*(Charles takes Peggy in his arms and kisses her.—The
ticket-window opens and Teddie puts his head out.)*

Teddie: All change! All change! Keep in line, please. Sorry, 20
sold out of tickets to London. *(Seeing Charles and Peggy.)*
I say, I'm frightfully sorry!

Charles: That's all right. We are beginning to get quite
used to you.

Teddie: I believe someone likes me! *(Beginning to sing)—* 25
"When you are ha-a-a-ppy, friend of mine,
And all your skies are blue"——

Charles: Shut up!

Teddie: Don't you like my voice?

Charles: I do not. 30

Teddie: Then take your ticket in the Sleeping-Car. *(He shuts
the window.)*

Charles: I've met some fools in my time; but this one is the
biggest!

(Richard, Elsie, Miss Bourne and Saul come in from the 35

ticket-office, followed by Teddie. Teddie sits near the window, Right.)

Miss B: I was never at a worse managed station in my life.
I shall write to the Company. *(Sits.)*

5 Saul: Please do, madam. I've written time after time.

Charles: What's the trouble?

Richard: The rain's coming through the roof in there, and we had to come out.

Peggy: I'm frightfully hungry.

10 Richard: Is there anything eatable here?

Saul: Eh?

Richard: Is there anything eatable here?

Saul: Not a drop, sir, except water.

Miss B: I don't know what my poor birdie will think of it.
15 He's sleeping beautifully. *(She lifts the cover of the cage and makes little noises at her bird.)*

Charles: I think we'd better pull up the seats to the fire and make ourselves as comfortable as we can.

Richard: That's a good plan.

20 *(They do so. Richard brings a chair from the ticket-office.)*

Charles: That's better.

(Elsie sits on the chair brought by Richard.)

Saul: That chair doesn't come out of the office.

Richard: Yes, it does. Look!

25 *(The ladies sit.)*

Teddie: Still hungry, ladies and gentlemen?

Peggy: Very.

Teddie: I'll soon see to that.

Richard: How?

30 Charles: Can you?

Teddie: *(Teddie pretends to spread a table-cloth on the table.*

He puts the water-bottle in the middle. He puts his handkerchief over his arm.) Just coming, sir. One minute, sir.

35 *(He goes to the ticket-window and opens it)* Dinner for six!—Just coming up, sir. . . Sorry, sir, but all the kitchen servants have gone boating. Oh, it's all right; there's a fly in the water-bottle .

Miss B: Young man, do you ever take anything in life seriously?

Teddie: Oh, yes.

Miss B: May I ask what?

Teddie: Food! 5

Miss B: Sir, you are no gentleman!

Teddie: Thank you for these kind words.
... Well, you may be right. (*He sits.*)

Saul: Well, seeing that you've all decided to stay here, I'll be off home. (*Moving towards the ticket-office.*) 10

Richard: You're going?

Saul (turning): You can stay here, since you've made up your minds about it; but I won't.

Richard: Look here, I'd like you to stay; we might want something. 15

Charles: Yes; you know where things are. We'll give you ten shillings.

Saul (afraid): What! Stay here all night!

Charles: Why not?

Saul: ME STAY AT FAL VALE STATION ALL NIGHT! 20

Richard: That is what we want you to do.

Saul: See here! Have you never heard anything about this station?

Charles: No.

Richard: I never even knew it was here. 25

Peggy: Heard what about it?

Saul: About the ghost.

Peggy: The ghost?

Saul: Yes.

Teddie: Well,—if that isn't quite perfect! The station is 30
haunted. (*He laughs loudly.*)

Saul: You may laugh, sir.

Teddie: May I? Oh! Thank you very much.

Saul: Perhaps you won't think it so laughable before morning.

Richard: Do you mean to say you believe in GHOSTS? 35

Saul: Yes, I do. There aren't many people in these parts who don't. Not for a five-pound note would I stay in this station—*to-night of all nights!*

Richard: But you're not afraid to stay with us, are you?

5 **Saul:** I—I don't know. Have you never heard about it?

Richard: What is the story? Before you go you must tell us what to expect.

Saul: No. I'll be getting home now.

10 **Charles:** Look here! You needn't go yet. Tell us all about the ghost,—or ghosts. We want something to amuse us.

Saul: Amuse you! Ha!

Richard (*crossing to Saul and putting money in his hand*):
Come along!

15 **Saul:** Well, I'll do it; but I warn you it isn't a pretty story. Twenty years ago, this very same night, a man named Ted Holmes used to be station-master here. Did you notice a bridge just down below?

Charles: Yes, I did.

20 **Saul:** That is a bridge over the River Ross. It is a swinging bridge, and it used to be worked by a handle in this station,—just outside that window. In those days quite big boats used to come up the river because of the China Works. They don't come now.

Richard: Well?

25 **Saul:** Twenty years ago, this very same night, a number of people went to a party in Truro, and they arranged for a train to take them back home, to St. Blande, down the line. That was the only night-train that ever ran on these lines. The bridge was always left open at night
30 to let the boats go through; but Ted Holmes was kept at the station to shut the bridge for the train to come over it. It must have been eleven o'clock when they telephoned from Truro to shut the bridge, as the train was starting. Ted answered that he would go and shut
35 the bridge at once. And those were the last words he was ever heard to speak.

Peggy: What happened?

Saul: I'm coming to that. As I was saying, Ted answered that he would go and shut the bridge that minute, just at eleven o'clock. He went to the door; and there it was that illness came to him; and he fell down—there—just outside that door—dead! 5

Miss B: Oh! What a fearful thing!

Saul: And that isn't the worst of it,—not nearly the worst. As I was saying, just at eleven o'clock Ted Holmes fell down dead, and after it was all finished, outside that door they found him, the lamp still burning in his hand. It must have been half-past eleven when the train started from Truro. And there was the bridge open, and Ted Holmes lying dead in the station. On came the train down the valley. It travelled fast, for every one was wanting to get home. On it came, at forty miles an hour. Poor Ben Isaacs was driving; and, when he was just above this station, it seemed as if something warned him. What it was, God alone knows. But he tried to stop the train. It went slipping and tearing through the station here with the whistle blowing—and then—*crash!* 10
15
20

Richard: Good God!

Charles: Were there many killed?

Saul: Six killed then, and two died after. By some chance poor Ben Isaacs was thrown out of the engine. He climbed out of the water and came back to the station. His mind was gone. They say he walked up and down here for hours, holding up a red lamp and singing. Next morning he died. He must have been glad to die. Six bodies they brought up from the mud, and laid them out in this very room. 25
30

Miss B: What a fearful thing!

Saul: I warned you it wasn't a pretty story you were making me tell.

Richard: Yes, but where does the haunting come in? 35

Saul: I think I've said enough. The ladies are getting frightened. (*He moves to door A.*)

Elsie: Not at all. It was a fearful thing, no doubt. But I don't see how it can frighten us.

5 **Saul** (*coming back*): Ever since that night this station has been haunted.

Charles: By whom? What ghost? Ted Holmes?

Saul: More than that. Some nights the signal bell rings, and a train comes through the station with the whistle blowing.

10

Richard: Nonsense!

Saul: It's God's truth I'm telling you, sir. One night, a little time back, I was kept late by a storm, and just as I got down the road, the signal bell rang, and I heard the train go through. I saw the red light of her fire,—saw it with my own eyes, sir!

15

Charles: I expect it's some goods train that has started this story.

Saul: I tell you there are no trains run on these lines from ten at night till seven in the morning. Besides, the train never starts from Truro, and never runs into St. Blande. If it's a natural thing, where does it come from? Where does it go?

20

Charles: Hm! Yes.

25

Saul: You don't believe me?

Charles: You Cornish people believe in lots of things.

Saul: People in these parts run like mad if they hear a train in the night. They do say that to look upon the ghost-train means that you will die.

30

Richard: Now that's perfect nonsense.

Saul: Wait a little! Two months ago a thief broke into this waiting-room one night; and the next morning they found him here dead. The doctors say he died of—fear!

Richard: That was just an accident.

35

Saul: Then what about the train, sir? Lots of people have heard it, rushing along the line; and early one morning

a man from the farm was walking to Truro to catch the London train, and he saw someone walking about in front of these windows, holding a red lamp; and he heard him singing.—You can stay here, if you like, but not me. They do say that the dead walk about the station with poor Ben Isaacs leading them. 5

(The rain is heard beating against the windows.)

Teddie: Ha! Ha! Ha! I do think this is all so amusing. I never heard anything quite so funny in all my life.

Saul: Funny? 10

Teddie: You don't expect us to believe that story, do you?

Saul: I do, sir.

Teddie: Well, I always used to think that I was rather good at telling tall stories; but you're better at it than I am. This reminds me of a story I once heard about a haunted Police-station, or Fire-station, or something in London —or was it Manchester? I believe it was Liverpool. Well, there was a man there one day, and he saw an old lady all dressed up in black silk (*looking at Miss Bourne*) sitting on a seat; and then—suddenly—SHE WASN'T 20 THERE! (*Miss Bourne looks frightened.*) He went round the corner, and there she was again! He said something to her. He said—I can't remember what he said, but I know it was frightfully funny. (*He laughs loud and long.*)

Saul: So you are making fun of me, sir? 25

Teddie: Don't get angry, old dear. Really your story is . . . well, one can't be expected to believe it, can one? (*Coming towards Miss Bourne*) I'll tell you another story, about a fellow at a Mothers' Meeting. You see, someone gave him a fat baby to hold and— (*He sees Miss Bourne looking at him*) No—on second thoughts—I won't. (*He goes back to the chair and sits down.*) 30

Miss B (who has stood up): This is the last time I shall ever travel on this line. I never heard of anything so badly managed. Haven't they any signals? 35

Saul: When the accident happened, the line was only just opened. Things are different now, and the bridge is never opened.

Teddie: Then what is that handle outside? What does it do?

5 **Saul:** That lets a train go off on to the side-line: the side-line runs up the hill to the old tin-mine—only about a hundred yards away.

Richard: Well, station-master, your story has been very interesting, even if it was rather unpleasant. I'm sorry I
10 can't believe it all, but really——

Peggy (suddenly getting up with a cry): Look!

Richard: }
Charles: } What?

Miss B: Ah!

15 **Peggy:** I thought I saw someone looking in through the window. (*Saul runs to the door and opens it. He calls the others. All the men run outside.*)

Elsie (calmly going up to the window): You dreamt it, I expect.

20 **Peggy:** No, I saw it quite clearly.

Miss B: This is really a most unpleasant station.

(The men come back. Saul goes into the ticket-office and is heard locking doors.)

Charles: No one about, Pegs.

25 **Richard:** Not a sign of anyone.

Teddie (shutting door B): One of the dear old ghosts, I expect.

Richard: Shut up, you fool!

Teddie: Sorry! (*He sits on the seat below the window, Right.*)

Charles: It can't have been anything, Peggy. You must have
30 just thought you saw it.

Peggy: Possibly. (*To Elsie*) I'm sorry if I frightened you.

Elsie: I wasn't at all frightened.

Richard (to Peggy): That's the worst of ghost-stories, Mrs. Murdock; they really make us all feel rather frightened,

but some of us are not brave enough to say that we're afraid.

Elsie: Thank you.

Richard: I wasn't talking about you.

Elsie: Oh!

5

(Saul comes in from the ticket-office, putting on his coat.)

Richard: Can't you get us some coal, station-master? This fire is very bad.

Saul: Sorry, there is very little coal left. I'll see what there is. *(He goes into the ticket-office.)*

10

Miss B: It's really very wet and cold. I'm sure my Joey will catch a cold.

Teddie: Now, don't look so sad, everyone. It might be worse.

Miss B (getting up): You have put us in this most unpleasant position; but you do not say you are sorry. All you do is to laugh at us. You are no gentleman!

15

Teddie: Oh, I say!

(Saul comes in.)

Miss B: My dear sister at Truro will be sitting up all night for me, and here I am in a cold railway station with ghosts and things all over the place; and all you can do is to sit there and laugh. I will not stay in the same room with you. *(Seizing the bird-cage, she goes towards the door of the ticket-office.)* Oh! Oh!

20

(Teddie stands up.)

25

Charles: What's the matter? *(He goes to her.)*

Miss B: I'm sure I saw something move in there.

Charles (going into the ticket-office): There's nothing there.

Miss B: Oh, dear, me! *(She sits on the seat near the door and cries.)*

30

Elsie: It's all right; really it is.

Saul: Well, I'm going.

Richard: Here,—I say!

Saul (looking about him fearfully): It's no good, sir; I won't stay here any longer, not for a hundred pounds, I won't. I know too much about this station.

35

Charles: Can't you see you're frightening the ladies?

Saul: Don't blame me, sir. I warned you, when you first came, that Fal Vale station was not a pleasant place to pass the night in. If you take my advice, you'll set out for the farm even now. *(He goes to the ticket-window, opens it and takes his bicycle-lamp.)*

Richard: We shall not.

Elsie: Of course not. We're not going to catch frightful colds because of a foolish ghost-story.

Saul: As you please, madam. I've done my best. But I'm not going to put myself in danger. I've got a wife and children.

Richard: Then go! You fool! If you're afraid——

Saul: Afraid? Yes, I'm afraid. And I'm not ashamed to say so.

Charles: Where's your bicycle?

Saul: Outside. Have you got a match, sir?

Charles *(giving him a box of matches):* Yes. Take these.

(The rain is heard again.)

Saul: Thank you, sir. *(Lighting his lamp)* I'll be back at seven to see you onto the train. And you take my advice: keep in here, and, if you do hear a train, don't you go running out to look at it.

Richard: Look here! Stop talking like an old woman. If you believe in your ghost-train, you may. We don't. Do you understand?

Saul: Yes, sir.

Richard: If you're going, go.

Saul: All right. *(He picks up his lamp and goes to the door.)*
Good night to you all.

Richard: Good night.

Teddie: Good night and a pleasant ride, old thing! I hope you get frightfully wet.

Saul: Thank you, sir. Good night to you.

(He goes out, lamp in hand, looking angrily at Teddie.)

Teddie *(going to the door and opening it):* Kiss baby for me.
(Shutting the door) Nice old fellow, that.

Richard: Now we must make arrangements for the night. The ladies may sleep in here; it is drier than the ticket-office.

Miss B: I'm sure I shan't sleep anywhere.

Richard (to Teddie): Help me to move the table. Here, you!

Teddie: Me? Oh—of course.

5

(Richard and Teddie move the table up to the window, left. Charles and Elsie move the seat up to the table.)

Richard: Someone may be able to sleep on this.

Charles: Look here! What fools we are!

Richard: Why?

10

Charles: We never told that fellow to bring us any food when he comes back.

Elsie: He may think of it.

Charles: I doubt it.

Richard: So do I.

15

Miss B: He is a very polite man. I shall write to the Company about him.

(Something falls against door B. All turn quickly and look at it.)

Charles: What's that? *(He goes to the door and opens it. Saul is seen leaning backwards. As the door opens, he falls into the room, his bicycle-lamp still in his hand.)*

20

Richard: What's the matter?

Peggy: Is he ill?

Miss B: Oh dear, oh dear—he can't be—

25

Elsie (suddenly crying out): Ah!

Richard: What is it?

Elsie: Look! Look! THE LAMP!

Richard: Well?

Elsie (falling into a chair): Don't you remember? "Outside the door they found him, THE LAMP STILL BURNING IN HIS HAND!"

30

Charles (looking at his watch): Eleven o'clock!

CURTAIN.

ACT II

Scene: The same room, about a quarter of an hour after the end of Act I. Miss Bourne is sitting in a chair in front of the fire. Peggy is leaning against the wall near the ticket-window. Elsie is sitting on the edge of the table trying to light a cigarette.

5

Elsie (as the match goes out again): Blow! (She lights another match, which also goes out.)

Peggy: Your hand is shaking. Can I light it for you?

10

Elsie: Thank you, but my hand is not shaking. These matches are bad. (She lights a third match and succeeds in lighting her cigarette.)

Miss B: How you can smoke at a time like this, I really don't know! Dear me! Dear me!

Peggy: A cigarette is rather calming when one is——

15

Elsie (quickly): Please don't think that. I'm feeling perfectly calm.

Miss B: Oh, dear me! What is going to happen to us?

Peggy: Nothing, Miss Bourne. You forget that there are three men with us;—there's no danger.

20

Miss B: Yes; but there were four men with us just now.

Elsie: Try not to think about it.

Miss B: But I can't help thinking about it. He lay there—Oh, it was frightful! (She begins to cry.)

Peggy: Dear Miss Bourne, don't give way.

25

Miss B: To think that a thing like this should happen to me! I've read things in newspapers, fearful things, but they were always a long way off, and never seemed quite real. I have been living with my dear sister for so many years, and it has never seemed possible that anything

30

frightful should happen to me.

Peggy: But nothing has happened to you.

Miss B: Nothing happened! Oh, dear me! Nothing happened! How can you say such a thing? Oh, dear, dear, dear! I shall never be the same woman again.

35

Elsie: You must try to be brave.

Miss B: I'll try,—I'll try—really I will, but it's all so frightening.

(Charles comes in from the ticket-office, followed by Richard and Teddie.)

Miss B: Who's that?

5

Charles: It's all right—it's only us.

Richard (locking the door and coming over towards the fire):
Now, ladies, this is an unpleasant business, I know, and it has given us rather a fright, but we must try hard not to take things too seriously.

10

Miss B: Can't we go away somewhere?

Richard: Of course; but it's raining harder than ever,—it's pouring down. Besides, there's nothing to be afraid of now. We've put that poor fellow in the other room and locked the door. Let's try to forget about it.

15

Miss B: Forget! Oh, dear!

Richard: We must be calm. *(He sits on the seat, Left.)* There's hardly a house in England where someone hasn't died, hardly a station where someone hasn't been killed by an accident of some sort; and as for the poor fellow in there,—well, people do die suddenly sometimes, and he didn't feel any pain.

20

Peggy: Then you think his dying was just an accident—not because of the story he told us?

Richard: My dear lady, put that out of your mind. Life is full of strange chances.

25

Teddie: It was very strange, wasn't it? It's just what he said happened, just the very same thing.

Charles: Shut up, you fool!

Teddie: Aren't I allowed to say what I think, just the same as everyone else?

30

Charles: You're not allowed to frighten people.

Teddie: I wasn't meaning to frighten people. I was only thinking of a story I once heard about some people who passed the night in a haunted house; and, just at midnight—

35

Richard: I don't think we want to hear that story now.

Teddie: All right! Don't lose your temper about it. I don't believe in ghosts myself; I think this is all rather funny. But so did those people who passed the night in that haunted house. They saw a fearful—

5 **Peggy:** Oh!

Charles: Look here! Shut up!

Teddie: Oh, very well, I *will*. Now I shan't tell the story at all. (*He goes and sits on the seat and turns his back to them.*)

10 **Miss B:** I feel perfectly sure that there is some fearful power at work—something that's not natural.

Richard: Nonsense.

Miss B: That's just what you said before,—but look what has happened.

15 **Richard:** As I said just now, that was only an accident.

Miss B: Then there was the face at the window.

Peggy: I may have dreamt that.

Miss B: Or you may not have. I'm perfectly sure I saw something move in the other room.

20 (*The ticket-window shuts with a loud "BANG."*)

Oh! Oh!

Richard (getting up): Only the window. Nothing unusual about that.

Miss B: Dear! Oh dear! What shall we do?

25 **Charles:** We must try not to give way: that's what we must do.

Miss B: Don't you believe in ghosts, young man?

Charles: I don't believe in them, and I don't disbelieve in them.

30 **Miss B:** What do you mean?

(*The rain is heard again.*)

Charles: I have an open mind on the subject. I have never had any reason to believe in them, but I'm not so foolish as to disbelieve people who say they have seen ghosts.
35 I might as well say that there is no such place as India because I've never seen it.

Miss B: There! So you must believe in them.

Charles: No. Why? Nothing ghostly has happened here.

Miss B: But it might happen. If that train comes, what shall we do?

Charles: What train?

Miss B: The ghost-train that he spoke of.

Charles: Oh, that's just a story.

Miss B: But one can't be sure.

Teddie: I say, if the ghost-train comes, we'll stop it and get a ride in it.

Peggy (standing up): Listen!

Charles: What's the matter?

Peggy: Listen! Listen!

(They listen.)

Richard: Well?

Peggy: I'm sure I heard a step outside.

Richard: A step outside!

Teddie (copying Richard's voice): "A — step — outside!"
(Richard goes and looks out of the window.)

Charles: It isn't like you to get frightened about nothing, Pegs.

Peggy: I'm quite sure I heard it, Charlie.

Teddie: We'll soon decide the matter. *(He opens the door and goes out; then comes back again and holds onto the side of the door. In a frightened voice —)* There's — there's —

Elsie: }
Peggy: } Yes? Yes?

Teddie (brightly): No one there.

Miss B: Oh, do shut the door! I'm sure something will get in at us. Oh dear, oh dear, why ever did I leave my poor sister? *(Miss Bourne begins to cry again.)*
(Peggy and Charles cross to Miss Bourne; Richard also comes to her.)

Peggy: There's nothing to be frightened about, Miss Bourne. It was another mistake of mine, that's all.

Richard: Yes; there's no danger.

Miss B: I feel so ill.

Teddie (coming to them): I've just thought of something!
(He pulls a bottle out of his pocket) I forgot all about this!

Richard: What is it?

5 Teddie: Brandy.

Richard (taking the bottle from Teddie): Just what we need.
Come now, Miss Bourne, have some of this.

Miss B: Oh dear, no! I couldn't!

Peggy: You should have a little, just to strengthen you.

10 Miss B: Oh, no! No!

Richard: Come!

Miss B: But what would my sister say?

Richard: She'd say that you behaved very sensibly.

(Teddie goes to the seat and opens a newspaper.)

15 Miss B: Do you really think so?

Richard: I'm quite sure of it.

Miss B: Then just a little (taking the bottle and drinking).

Ah! Ugh! Now, I've broken my promise. Dear me, it's
not as unpleasant as I thought it would be.

20 Richard: Have a little more.

Miss B: Do you think I should?

Richard: Yes, of course.

Miss B: Then just a very little (She drinks.)

Teddie (suddenly): I say! (He runs across holding his
25 newspaper.)

(Peggy, Charles, Elsie and Richard come to him.)

Charles: }
Richard: } What?

30 Teddie: Couldn't we all try to guess the answers to this
thing? You get a hundred pounds if you get it right.

Richard: Don't be a fool, man.

(Miss Bourne finishes the rest of the brandy.)

Charles (to Teddie): And don't speak so suddenly.

Teddie: You're all of you against me.

Richard: Not at all. (*Turning to Miss Bourne*) Do you feel better now?

Miss B: I think I do feel a little better.

Richard (*taking the bottle from her and giving it to Teddie*):
I thought that would put new life in you. 5

Teddie: Oh!

Charles: What's the matter now?

Teddie: Look at my bottle! (*He turns it upside-down.*)—
Empty!

Charles: Well? 10

Teddie: It was full just now—full to the top.

Richard: Oh! (*They all look at Miss Bourne.*)

Miss B: Do you know, it's a strange thing—all these frightful things have happened, and yet I'm beginning to feel quite happy. 15

Charles: I say!

Peggy (*in Charles' ear*): Is she — — ill?

Charles: Yes, dear; I'm afraid she is. (*Crossing to Miss Bourne*) Miss Bourne, wouldn't you like to lie down? 20

Miss B: Lie down? Why?

Peggy: We thought that you would be more comfortable.

Miss B: I'm perfectly comfortable, my dear.

Peggy: Come, Miss Bourne. (*Richard and Charles help to lift Miss Bourne.*)

Miss B: Dear me, I feel quite strange. (*She falls.*) 25

Richard: Come along, Miss Bourne.

Miss B: Why?

Charles: We want to put you to bed on the table.

Miss B: Why on the table? I've got a beautiful bed of my own.
A brass bed. Brass beds in every room. 30

Richard: Brass beds in every room.

(*They lift her up again.*)

Miss B: Brass beds in every room.

(*They lift her up and put her to bed on the table. While this is being done, Richard crosses to Elsie.*) 35

Richard: Feeling better now?

Elsie: I didn't know that I was ill.

Richard: You know what I mean—just now.

Elsie: Well?

5 *Richard:* When we found that fellow dead, I was worried about you; you seemed——

Elsie: I was rather excited for a minute. I wasn't really afraid.

Richard: Of course I was here, wasn't I?

10 *Elsie (quickly):* Yes. (*Remembering*): It would have been all the same if you hadn't been here.

Richard: Are you sure?

Elsie: As I told you before, I don't need to be looked after.

Richard: Then you still want us to be separated?

Elsie: Of course. Why not?

15 *Richard:* I don't know. I thought that possibly you might have changed your mind. That was all.

Elsie: You know that I never change my mind.

Richard: Look here, Elsie——

(Charles comes to Richard.)

20 *Charles:* That was rather funny, her getting "knocked over" as easily as that.

Richard: My dear fellow, she drank the whole bottle.

Peggy: Possibly it's just as well for the poor old thing. She's gone to sleep now, and may not wake till daylight.

25 *Teddie:* But it's very hard on me. I didn't expect her to finish the whole lot!

Charles: Wait! I've thought of something.

Richard: Well?

30 *Charles (going to the Right):* There must be a telephone somewhere, joining this station to other stations.

Richard: No use; they're all shut up. I've been trying for the last ten minutes.

Charles: Of course they would be. I forgot that.

(There is a knock on the door.)

35 Now, who——?

Peggy: Wait!

Charles: Well?

Peggy: You don't know who it may be.

(Another knock at the door.)

Charles: Then I must find out.

Peggy: But—but——

(Another knock.)

5

Charles: All right. (He opens door B.)

(A woman is standing outside. She is JULIA PRICE, a pretty girl of twenty-five, wearing a beautiful evening dress. She does not speak. She comes in, shuts the door, and leans against it.)

10

Julia: Tell me, has it come?

Charles (Left of door): Sorry: what did you say?

Julia: Has it come?

Charles: I'm sorry; I don't quite understand.

15

Julia: You know. You must know.

Richard (Right of door): I'm sorry, we don't.

Julia (to Richard): Listen to me. I want you to help me. Will you help me?

Richard: Of course; but what's the matter?

20

Julia: Hide me from them; hide me!—please!

Richard: Yes,—but hide you from whom?

Julia: From them.

Richard: But—er—who are they?

Julia: You must help me! Don't let them take me back. I can't go back. I can't.

25

Man's voice (outside): Julia! Julia!

Julia (to Charles): There they are. What shall I do? They'll find me. They'll take me back again. Help me!

Charles: It's all right. We won't let anyone hurt you.

30

Julia: Then let me hide—in here (going towards door A).

Richard (standing in her way): No! No! not in there.

Julia: Then where can I go?

Richard: Anywhere except there!

Man's voice (off): Julia! Julia!

35

Julia: They're coming, I tell you!

Peggy: It's all right.

Julia: It's not all right.

5 (*Julia runs and gets behind door B as two men come in. They are HERBERT PRICE, aged about forty and JOHN STERLING, a tall thin man. Both are in evening dress.*)

Price: Hullo! Who are you people?

Richard: That's just what I was going to ask you.

Price: We have come here on a very important matter.

10 *Richard:* And we are here by accident.

Price: Oh!

Charles: You are surprised to find us here at this time of night.

Price: I am—very.

15 *Charles:* We didn't choose to be here. We lost our other train and have to wait here till the next.

Price: But there is not any next train.

Richard: Just so.

Price: You know what place this is?

20 *Teddie:* Oh, yes.

Price: This is Fal Vale station.

Charles: Quite so.

Richard: And now I hope you'll tell us why you came in so unexpectedly.

25 *Price:* Oh, yes. My name's Price. This is Doctor Sterling. We are looking for my sister.

Richard: Your sister?

Price: Yes. Have you seen a young lady here? We have strong reasons to believe that she would come to this
30 place.

Richard: Then she's run away from you?

Price: Well—, yes. Have you seen her?

Charles: But why should she run away? Why should she come here?

- Price:** That is a matter which I do not want to talk about to strangers.
- Charles:** All right! If that's so, I'm sorry we can't help you.
- Sterling:** She's here somewhere, Price. I know that. Look in the other room. 5
- Price:** All right. (*He moves towards door A, but Richard stands in his way.*)
- Charles (going up to Price):** Stop! You can't go in there—not yet!
- Price:** And why not, sir? 10
- Charles:** Because—because there's something we must tell you.
- Price:** So she *is* in there.
- Charles:** No!
- Price:** I'm sorry but I don't believe you. You are doing a very foolish thing to mix yourself up in this matter. 15
(*Price turns to the door again.*)
- Richard:** She's not there. (*Price turns to Charles.*)
- Charles:** I promise you, she's not there.
- Price:** It's not good enough. Shut that door, Sterling. 20
- Sterling:** Yes.
- Price:** I mean to find out about this. (*He moves to door A.*)
(*Sterling shuts door B and shows Julia, who has been hiding behind it. She looks very frightened.*)
- Sterling:** Hullo! 25
- Price (turning and coming towards her):** So there you are, Julia.
- Julia:** It's no use: I can't come back. You know I can't.
- Sterling:** Come along, Julia. Let's get out of here before it starts raining again. 30
- Julia:** No, I can't. I must stay here.
- Price (going to her and seizing her):** That's enough of this nonsense.
- Julia (tearing herself away):** Don't touch me! Go away!
(*Richard comes forward.*) 35

Price: Fool!

Sterling (going to Price): Gently, Price. Leave her to me.

(Julia runs to Richard.)

5 **Richard:** Allow me to tell you that this lady has asked us to help her.

Price: Who asked you to take any part in this matter? Please keep out of it.

Richard: You are not going to take this lady away—unless she wants to go.

10 **Price:** It is no business of yours.

Charles: It is our business.

Sterling: You'd better tell them, Price. It's no use being rough with them. Come, Julia, let's sit down by the fire.

Julia (weakly): All right.

15 *(Julia goes with Sterling. Peggy and Elsie make room for her by the fire.)*

Price (coming into the middle): Now listen to me, please. You people have heard the story about this place, haven't you?

20 **Charles:** We've heard the ghost-story, about this place being haunted. Is that the one?

Price: Yes. Please don't let my sister worry you. She's—well, she sees things which are not there.

Richard (quietly): You mean that she's—?

25 **Price:** No; hardly that. It's all this business of the ghost-train. She was near this station one night, a few years ago, and she thought that she saw the train.

Julia (wildly): I did see it!—you know I saw it! I did see it!

30 **Sterling:** There, there, Julia. *(He tries to get her to talk to him.)*

Price: She's Cornish and she believes in ghosts. She always has done, ever since she was a little child. I sometimes feel that there's something strange about her in that way. Well, she thought she saw the ghost-train, and it gave her a great fright. She was so frightened that she has not
35 been the same since. She is perfectly well most of the

time, but on some nights she thinks that the ghost-train will run, and then she can't keep away from it. She feels that she must see it again. This is one of her bad nights. Now I hope you understand.

Julia: It will come to-night. I know it will.

5

Price: Nonsense, Julia.

Julia: It's not nonsense. I know it. I feel it. I've never been wrong. That night the thief died—I felt it then!

Price (to the others): There it is, you see. Don't let it frighten you. How did you get to know this story?

10

Charles: The station-master told us about an hour ago.

Sterling: Oh, old Saul Hodgkin. Where is he?

Richard: Something strange has happened here to-night, something rather unpleasant. We would like you to know about it.

15

Price: Well?

Richard: The old fellow didn't want us to spend the night in this place; he didn't think it was safe.

Julia: There, you see! He felt it too!

Richard: He told us the whole story and he said he would go home.

20

Julia: He wouldn't stay here?

Richard: No.

Julia: I don't blame him. I wouldn't stay here, if I could go away.

25

Price: Good! Then come along. (*He goes to Julia.*)

Julia: But I can't go away; you know I can't. I've got to see it again. I don't want to see it, but I've got to see it. It makes me see it.

Price: Don't worry about that now. (*To Richard.*) You were saying?

30

Richard: Saul Hodgkin said that he would go home. He took his bicycle-lamp, lit it, and went off. Then we heard a noise, and, when we opened the door, we found him lying outside—dead!

35

Julia: I knew it. What did I tell you? Now you will believe me.

Peggy: Do you think there is some strange power working which we can't understand?

5 **Julia:** Yes. (*Suddenly*) Why, that's where they found poor Ted Holmes, lying outside that door. (*She shuts her eyes.*)

Sterling: Don't give way, Julia.—I'm a doctor, ladies and gentlemen. Where is the poor fellow? Let me see him.

Richard: We carried him into the ticket-office.

10 **Sterling:** All right. I'll go and have a look at him. (*He goes to door A. Richard unlocks the door and Sterling goes in.*)

Charles: You see, it was an unpleasant business, and it gave us rather a fright.

Price: Of course. Come along, Julia; it's time to be going.

15 **Julia:** No, no. I *must* stay. Everything is proving that I'm right. The train won't let me go.

Richard: There's a lot of difference between two men happening to fall dead and a ghost-train.

20 **Julia:** But Ted Holmes falling dead was the beginning of it all, twenty years ago to-night.

(Sterling comes back from the ticket-office.)

Sterling: Here, I say! What's the joke?

Richard: Eh?

25 **Sterling:** This is hardly the right time or place for joking. Do you expect us to laugh?

Richard: I don't understand.

Sterling: Didn't you tell us that Saul Hodgkin dropped dead?

Richard: Yes. We carried him in there. What's the matter?

Sterling: Go and look.

30 **Richard:** What——? (*Richard makes a sign to Charles, who crosses to him, and they go into the ticket-office. After a short time they come back.*)

Richard: Why!—he—*isn't*—there!

(Richard comes forward; Charles stays at the door.)

35 **Sterling:** No.

Peggy: Not there? He *must* be there.

Price: I'm not amused by this joke, gentlemen: you know my sister's weak health.

Peggy: But we saw him!

Julia (crying out): I've got it! I've got it!

Price: What's the matter?

Julia: Don't you see it?

Richard: See what?

Julia: It was Ted Holmes!

Price: What do you mean?

Julia: It's all clear, fearfully clear. Listen to me. Don't you know that Ted Holmes was a short man with a face very like Saul Hodgkin: my father knew him well. I'm quite sure that at this minute old Saul is safe at home in bed. It wasn't him you found outside the door; it was Ted Holmes.

Elsie: Oh!

Peggy: It couldn't have been—it couldn't.

Julia: If it was Saul Hodgkin, where is he? A man can't become thin air. (*Crossing to the fire-place. In a deep voice.*) And the time when all this happened—was it eleven o'clock?

Charles: Well—er—yes.

Julia: I knew it. It was Ted Holmes.

Price (to Sterling): We've got to get her out of here in some way or other. Come along, Julia.

Julia: I say again—I CAN'T COME. I'm going to stay here. You're trying to drive me mad. You know, as well as I do, that the train will come; and you pretend that I'm "seeing things." You want to get me shut up in a mad-house, as you did before; you're trying to get me "put away." I won't move from here, however frightened I am. I'll prove to you that I'm not wrong about this. You can kill me, but I won't go. (*She crosses to the right.*)

Price (following her—angrily): Enough of this, Julia.

Julia: Don't touch me! Go away! Go away! (*She sits down.*)

Sterling: Gently, Price! Listen to me. (*He takes him to one side.*) Why can't you pretend to give way to her? She'll be all right by the morning. Why don't you go away and leave her to me? I can manage her better. You seem to excite her. I can get her away, I think; and if I can't, let her stay here. The train won't come, and that may put an end to these attacks of illness. It's worth thinking about.

Price: All right. (*Crossing to Julia*) I'm going, Julia. I'm not going to wait about here all night. Good night, all.

(*He goes out and shuts the door.*)

Teddie: Good night.

Julia (*after a few seconds*): Where has he gone?

Sterling: He's gone home. You have a little rest; and then we'll all go.

Julia: I'm going to stay here.

Sterling: All right, Julia; just as you like.

Julia: It isn't as I like. It's because I've got to. (*She stands up and moves up to the left.*) This place frightens me.

This room is full of eyes;—they're all looking at me—looking and looking and looking. (*Suddenly to Elsie who has come forward*) Don't look at me like that. You think I'm mad; but I'm not mad. This room is full of fear and hatred and—

Sterling: Yes, Julia, yes. Why not come away from it?

Julia: Why do you keep saying that? Why are you so unkind to me? You know I would go if I could. Won't any of you help me? (*She turns to Richard.*)

Richard: We all want to help you.

Julia: No, you are equally bad. You are as afraid of the place as I am, but you won't say so. You blame me.

Sterling: Everything is all right, Julia. I'll stay with you.

Julia: And if the thing happens, you won't say I'm mad any more?

Sterling: Of course not.

Julia: All right. (*She goes to a chair and sits down.*)

(*A short silence.*)

Sterling: As things are, I really think it would be better for you people to go away.

Richard: I hardly know what to do.

Sterling: It's only about five miles to the farm, and five and a half miles to Mr. Price's house. I think it would be better to get wet than—to have any more unpleasant events happening. 5

Charles (crossing to Peggy): What do you think, Pegs?

Peggy: Just as you like. I'm not afraid when I'm with you.

Elsie: I think it would be better to go. I'm not afraid, of course, but this room is very uncomfortable. 10

Richard: All right. We'll go.

(All get up.)

Teddie: But, I say, just a minute——

Richard: Well? 15

(Teddie points to Miss Bourne, who is now in a deep sleep.)

Teddie: How about My Lady?

Charles: Ah! Yes!

(The rain is heard, pouring.) 20

Sterling (seeing Miss Bourne for the first time.) Who's that?

Richard: This lady is one of our party.

Sterling: Isn't she well?

Richard: No—not quite.

Peggy: She couldn't walk five miles at the best of times. 25

Sterling (crossing to Miss Bourne): What's the matter with her?

Richard: Well, doctor, it's not easy to tell you. She felt ill, and we got her to take a little brandy. While we weren't looking, she—er—er—she—— 30

Teddie: She drank up the whole lot in a second. I can't understand how she did it.

Sterling: So she's——?

Richard: You see, she wasn't used to it.

Teddie: I wouldn't be so sure about that. 35

Charles: Don't be a fool.

Teddie: She'll have a bad head in the morning, sure enough!

Richard: You see this makes things rather hard for us.

Sterling: Then leave the lady to me.

Charles (*going towards Miss Bourne*): But if Miss Bourne
5 wakes, that would give her rather a fright.

Sterling: It's the only possible thing to do.

Teddie: I've thought of something. Listen; it's raining again;
I'm not going to walk five miles in the rain for any ghost.
I'll stay here and help look after Miss Bourne. I think
10 she rather likes me;—she ought to like me, after taking
all my brandy.

Sterling: No, you go with the others.

Teddie: No, I shall not.

(The wind drives the rain against the windows.)

15 **Richard:** I think we had better all stay. What do you say,
Elsie?

Elsie: I'm not afraid. *(She puts down her bag.)*

Charles: Shall we stay, Pegs?

Peggy: Yes, I'm equal to it. *(She stands in front of the fire-
20 place with Charles.)*

Richard (to Sterling): That's agreed then. We stay.

Sterling: I think you are very foolish.

Teddie: Not at all. I think this business is very amusing.

Sterling: All right, if you have decided.

25 **Teddie:** Have I told you of those people who passed the night
in a haunted house? They hadn't been in the place more
than half an hour when they heard——

Julia: Yes, yes. What did they hear?

Teddie: W—w—well they heard——

30 **Richard:** Look here; once and for all, we don't want that story.

Teddie: It's quite a nice story. *(He goes to the table.)*

(Silence. The rain is heard.)

Sterling: It would be much better to take the ladies away.

Julia: They say that when it comes, you hear the bell ringing
35 —frightfully. I wonder if the bell will ring to-night. Just
listen!

Sterling: The rain, Julia.

Julia: It may be. I was thinking—this was the room where they brought those dead people, and the water dropped from——

Sterling (*putting his hand on her shoulder*): Be calm, Julia. 5

Julia: It's coming, I tell you. It'll be here soon. I can feel it. Look! Look! (*To Richard*) Don't you see? There!

Richard: What?

Sterling: Julia! Julia!

Julia: (*crossing to the right, as if she is really seeing Holmes*): 10

Look! There's Ted Holmes again,—coming out of the office—the lamp in his hand. Don't you see him?

Sterling: Really, Julia.

Julia (*moving in a half-circle towards the door*): He's crossing to the door. Look! he's opening the door. 15

(The door suddenly opens. Elsie and Peggy cry out.)

Richard: Look!

Sterling (*going to the door and looking out*): It's all right. It's only the wind. (*He shuts the door.*)

Teddie: All this is very strange. (*He goes towards the ticket-office.*) 20

Sterling: Come along, Julia. Let's go into the other room. This place isn't good for you.

(Julia crosses the room with Sterling. When she gets to the door of the ticket-office, she turns round.) 25

Julia (*pointing at door A*): If you open the door, you'll find him there again.

(Julia goes out with Sterling. Richard is just going to open door B when Elsie stops him.)

Elsie: Dick! (*He takes his hand off the handle.*) Shall we go with them? 30

Richard: Yes; let's go.

(They go into the ticket-office. Teddie crosses to door B. He looks at it; then he turns back towards the ticket-office; then he turns again to door B. Just as he puts his hand on 35

the handle, Charles kicks over the coal-box by accident; and Teddie runs into the ticket-office.)

Charles (to Peggy): Dearest, I'd have given anything in the world to save you from spending a night like this.

5 Peggy: I'm not blaming you, my dear. There is some good in it; it teaches us to face things together always. (She kisses him.)

Charles: Yes, but I can't bear to see you frightened. What can we do?

10 (Peggy is sitting in a chair facing the fire. Charles walks to the back of the room.)

Peggy: Was that poor girl right? (Charles walks quietly out of door B; Peggy does not hear him go.) I must try not to give way. It's foolish of me to be frightened when you are here, isn't it?—Charlie, why don't you answer me? (She sees that she is alone.) Charlie, where are you? (She gets up and sees the door open.) Where are you, Charlie? (She goes to the door, looks out, and gives a loud cry.) Charlie, where are you? Where are you, Charlie?

20 Charles (off, far away): All right, Peggy. (He comes running back.) It's all right, Pegs. I thought I heard someone talking outside, and I went to see who it was. (He shuts the door with a noise. The door of the ticket-office opens suddenly and Teddie comes in. He jumps into the room shouting "I say!" Peggy and Charles jump yards. Charles is very angry.)

Teddie: I say!

Charles: Well?

30 Teddie: I want to speak to you two.

Charles: Oh!

Teddie: Yes. I—I want to warn you about something.

Charles: What's that?

Teddie: Well, I—I don't know. But I feel that I must warn you.

35 Peggy: Warn us about what?

Teddie: I've got a sort of feeling. I feel that we haven't got over the worst of this yet.

Charles: You're very hopeful, aren't you?

Teddie: Yes. I'm trying to be; but I feel sure that the worst is to come.

Charles: Don't talk nonsense, man.

Teddie: But it isn't nonsense. I want you to promise me something. Will you?

Charles: I can't say till I know what it is.

Teddie: I want you to promise that, if anything unpleasant happens, you'll do what I say.

Charles: What you say!

Teddie: Yes. You needn't look so surprised. I'm not such a fool as I look.

Charles: I didn't think you could be.

Teddie: I want you to stand by me.

Charles: What are you going to do?

Teddie: That's the funny thing: I really don't know.

Charles: This is no time for joking.

Teddie: But, my dear sir, I'm very serious. (*He puts his hand in his pocket and then takes it out.*) Give me your hand.

Charles: Why? (*Teddie passes something to him.*)

Teddie: I want you to hold this. . . . Don't show it to anyone. . . . Put it in your pocket. (*Charles does so.*) Now do you understand?

Charles: No, I don't.

Teddie: Of course not. Now, look here, I can trust you to do as I tell you, can't I?

Charles: You're a fine fellow to put yourself at the head of the party, aren't you?

Teddie: Do you think so?

Charles: No! I don't!

Teddie: But you'll do as I tell you?

Charles: I shall trust my own judgment.

Teddie: Oh, I say! You shouldn't do that!

(Richard and Elsie come in from the ticket-office.)

Richard: I say, you people.

Charles: Hullo!

Richard: I've been thinking things over, and I have decided
5 this: we don't quite know what danger we are up against;
so I think we must all stand together. *(Teddie moves
quickly to Richard and stands by his side like a soldier.)*

Charles: Undoubtedly.

Richard: I want to know if you are ready to trust me.

10 **Charles:** What are you going to do?

Richard: Well, I don't quite know.

Teddie: To tell you the truth, I was just asking them to
trust me.

Richard: You?

15 **Teddie:** Yes. Why not?

Richard: I shouldn't have thought that you were quite the
best man in a dangerous position.

Teddie: Here——

Peggy: What was that?

20 **Richard:** I didn't hear anything.

(A sound from Julia in the ticket-office.)

Elsie: It's that poor girl in the next room.

(Julia and Sterling come in.)

Julia: I can't bear it—I can't.

25 **Sterling:** It's all right, Julia; it's finished now.

Julia: Finished! Why, it hasn't started. I don't want to
frighten you people, but I know what's going to happen,
and it's going to happen soon. I can feel it. Listen! There
it is again. It will be here soon. Just as it happened
30 before. The whistle, the noise of the wheels. Louder,
louder, louder! So loud that the noise nearly kills one.
It's frightful, frightful,—and I have to see it again; and
if I see it again, I may die.

Sterling: Then come away.

35 **Julia:** No, no, it won't let me. It keeps me here. Why don't
you all go away and leave me?

Richard: Because we're not frightened.

Julia: That makes it all the more dangerous. Why won't you take my advice? You think I'm mad. I'm not mad. When the train comes——

Richard: The train can't come.

5

Julia: On it came,—on down the valley. And then it tried to stop.

Richard: If the train comes, I'll believe the story. People can't play about with railway trains; that's sure enough.

Julia: The noise of the wheels—the whistle,—and a dead man lying in the station. Louder and louder—and then—down into the river—*crash!* Don't you hear it? Why don't you go? There's still time.

Richard: We can't go now.

Julia: Then, stop your ears! Don't look at it. Remember what happened to me. Be warned, oh, do be warned.

Richard: The train won't come—it's not possible. (*There is a short silence, then the sound of a bell, far away outside. It rings sadly. Then silence again.*)

Julia: Now will you believe me?

20

Sterling: There are more things in this world than we know of, more than we dream of.

Charles: It might have been the wind.

Julia: No, no! The bell! The bell! It always rings.

Richard: But—but this is 1933!

25

Julia: A million years would be a second in that timeless country of the dead.

Richard: What's the time?

Charles (looking at his watch): A minute to twelve.

Elsie: What was that?

30

Richard: Eh?

Elsie: I thought I heard a train whistle.

Julia: It's coming! It's coming!

Richard (to Elsie): You dreamt it.

Elsie: No, no, I'm sure I heard a whistle.

35

Richard (going towards the door): Let's go and see.

Julia: No, no! Stop!

(The whistle of the train is heard far away.)

Richard: My word! she's right!

Charles: What?

Richard: A train. Don't you hear it?

5 *(The whistle is heard again, nearer.)*

Julia: Yes, yes! I knew it.

Peggy: It's coming, it's coming! *(She holds Charles tightly.)*

Charles *(taking her in his arms)*: Keep calm, old girl.

Julia: Down—down the valley. It's coming, it's coming. On!

10 On! On!

Teddie: I'm going to see it. *(He seizes the handle and pulls at the door.)* It's stuck!

(Richard goes quickly to him and they pull wildly at the door.)

15 Richard: It's locked or fixed in some way. *(He runs to the door of the ticket-office, and tries it.)*—This one's locked too. We're shut in.

Charles: No!

Richard: We are, I tell you. We're shut in.

20 *(They stand quite still. The noise of the train becomes louder.)*

Julia: Listen to it! Listen to it! I've got to see it. I must see it. I must.

Sterling *(seizing her)*: Hold her, someone.

25 Julia: Let me go! Let me go!

(She tears herself away from him, jumps on the table, seizes the water-bottle and breaks the window with it, as the train, with a fearful noise, passes through the station, its whistle blowing madly. A cloud of steam comes into the room. Julia, with a loud cry, falls from the table and is caught by Sterling. The train goes on,—and the

30

CURTAIN

falls.)

ACT III

Scene—The same room, half an hour later.—The two seats have been put together and Julia placed on them. When the curtain goes up Sterling is kneeling by her; Teddie stands quite near looking on. Charles and Peggy are sitting on the edge of the table where Miss Bourne still lies asleep. Richard and Elsie are sitting by the fire; Elsie is crying quietly. 5

Sterling (straightening himself): Hm!

Teddie: You don't understand it, eh?

Sterling: No, I don't. 10

Peggy: You're sure she's not dead?

Sterling: Oh, no, she's not dead. I can feel the heart, but it's very weak.

Teddie: Haven't you got one of those what-d'-you-call-'ems? You know what I mean—those things you listen with. 15

Sterling: I have none of my things here. I'm sorry.

Richard: Then you don't know what's the matter with her, Doctor?

Sterling: I don't. She has had attacks of illness like this before; but they have not ended like this. It looks like cerebral hæmorrhage, but I don't find many of the usual signs of that in her. 20

Teddie: What signs don't you find?

Sterling: You wouldn't understand if I told you.

Teddie: Tell me and see if I understand. 25

Sterling: You are a very strange young man. Does it make any difference?

Teddie: Oh, I can't say that it does. I only wanted to know. I expect we are all likely to have—er—that thing, and it would be useful to know when it's coming on. 30

Elsie: You don't think anything else will happen to us?

Teddie (brightly): Oh, I expect so.

Charles (to Teddie): You perfect fool!

Teddie: I don't know why it is, but you are all against me.

Charles: Why can't you shut your mouth! Every time you open it you say something foolish.

Richard: I can't understand it. The train *did* really come.

Charles: And then there's Miss Price. What knocked her
5 over like that?

Sterling: I don't know what's the matter with her.

Peggy: Do you remember? She said she saw it. She was going to tell us about it—"I saw the driver and he was——"
and then she fell.

10 **Sterling:** Of course that's just according to the story of the ghost-train. Anyone who sees it dies.

Teddie: But, my dear old thing, she's not dead. (*He moves to the right of Julia.*)

Sterling: Not yet.

15 **Elsie:** Then you think——?

Sterling: You can't tell. She's very ill. (*He kneels by her side.*)

(*Charles and Peggy come to the left of Julia.*)

Elsie: Oh, it's frightful, Dick! Can't you take me away?

20 **Richard:** My dear girl, the doors are locked and the windows are barred. We can't get out.

Elsie: You won't leave me, Dick, will you? I should die if you went away.

Richard: I won't leave you, Elsie. Don't be afraid.

25 **Elsie:** Oh, I've been a fool, Dick. Such a fool.

Richard: Don't worry about that, old girl.

Elsie: But I am worrying, Dick—fearfully.

Charles: It's very strange about this lady. (*To Richard*) If she hadn't been taken ill, she would have told us something
30 about the train.

Teddie: She was telling us. It seems as if this train doesn't like being looked at. (*He moves away to the right.*)

Peggy: But what could make Miss Price ill?

Charles: I don't know at all.

35 **Sterling:** Oh, it's no good asking questions about this business. There is something here which is too big for us.

Peggy: You really think——?

Sterling: What else can I think? When I came here to-night I thought the ghost-train was just a foolish story. But one must believe what really happened. If it was old Saul you found outside the door, how did his body get 5 out of the ticket-office? There's no window except one in the roof.

Richard: If only she had told us something before she fell!

(Julia moves her arm.)

Charles: I say, look! *(Richard and Elsie move to the left of 10 Julia.)*

Sterling: What?

Charles: I thought I saw her move.

Sterling: Yes! You're right. *(He turns to Julia.)* Better?

Julia *(in a weak voice):* Hullo!

15

Richard: That's good!

Elsie: She's better?

Richard: I think so.

(Julia sits up. Sterling kneels, holding her up.)

Julia: What am I doing here?

20

Sterling: It's all right. Are you better now?

Julia: I've got such a pain in my head.

Peggy: I expect you knocked it when you fell.

Julia: Fell? Who fell? *(She gets up.)*

Charles: You did. Don't you remember?

25

Julia: I didn't fall, did I?

Sterling: Don't you remember, Julia? You fell off the table.

Julia: How could I? I wasn't on the table. *(She stands.)* Oh, my head's going round and round.

Sterling: Sit down quietly. *(He places her on the seats again.)* 30

Julia: What's all this about falling off the table?

Sterling: Surely you remember? *(He sits down on her left.)*

Julia: Oh, my head! I don't seem able to remember anything.

Yes, I do! It was the train. I thought it would come to-night. I have—er—"attacks" sometimes. It's fearfully 35 bad while it lasts. . . . I'm sorry. I can see now what a

fool I've been. I ought to have known that there was nothing in this ghost-business.

Richard: What do you mean by "nothing in this ghost-business"?

5 *Julia:* I ought not to have given way and frightened you. The train won't come.

Charles: But the train *did* come.

Julia: I've been here all the time, haven't I?

10 *Charles:* You *saw* the train. You were the only one of us who did see it.

Julia: Please don't try to frighten me. What do you mean?

Richard: He's quite right. Don't you remember? We heard the train coming and you jumped on the table to try to get out of the window.

15 *Julia:* That's right. I remember now. I *did* jump on the table.

Richard: And then the train came.

Julia: No, no, it didn't.

20 *Richard:* Yes. It came through the station just as you said it would; and, after it had gone, you turned round and shouted that you'd seen it.

Julia: What?—the train?

Richard: Yes. You said you'd seen the driver, and you were just going to tell us who the driver was, when you fell.

25 *Julia (passing her hands over her head):* No—— I—— I—— no!

Sterling: This is the important thing, *Julia:* who was the driver? (*He kneels.*)

Julia: The driver?

30 *Richard:* Yes.

Julia: I don't know. I don't know at all.

Richard: But you saw him.

35 *Julia:* I tell you I don't remember anything about it. I jumped on the table; and then I fell. It's a funny thing. I've never done that before in my life.

Sterling: Well, you did this time; there's no doubt about that; but it was *after* the train came, not before. The question is this: what made you fall?

Julia: I don't know.

Charles: What was it you saw?

Julia: You know, I didn't see anything.

Teddie: Now look here, old thing— (*He gets up and comes quickly towards Julia.*)

Richard (*turning on Teddie*): Shut up!
(*Teddie stops suddenly. Then he takes more quick steps as he speaks.*) 10

Teddie: But I was only going to ask—

Richard: Shut up!

Julia: Stop, stop! This joke has gone far enough.
(*Teddie moves up to the right.*) 15

Richard: Eh?

Julia: Can't you see I'm not well. I think it's very unkind to make a fool of me like this. It's not right. You know I'm not strong, and yet you do this to me. (*She begins to cry.*) 20

Richard: No one is trying to make a fool of you; there's no joke.

Charles: Of course not.

(*Julia gets up and crosses slowly towards the fire-place.*)

Julia: Oh, what shall I do? (*To Elsie, who is behind her*) Can't you make them stop? Why do they worry me like this? 25

Elsie: But what they've said is quite true.

Julia: So you're in it, too?

Sterling: Julia, I tell you we are not fooling. We couldn't think of such a thing—after what has happened here to-night. 30

Julia: Honest?

Richard: Yes.

Charles: Yes; that's true.

Julia: All I know is I feel frightfully ill. (*She sits in the chair, facing the fire.*) 35

Sterling (*crossing to right of Julia*): Now let's see if we can think things out clearly.

5 **Julia**: Yes. But everything's perfectly clear. Oh, yes, yes! I didn't dream it. We heard the bell—yes, I remember now; we heard the train, far away. I jumped on the table and then—and then—I don't know any more.

Sterling: Now listen, Julia; this is what really happened. The train came through the station, and you broke a window. (*He points to the window.*) Look, you can see it for yourself. After the train had gone, you said you saw the driver; and, just as you were going to tell us about it, you fell from the table. You gave us a fearful fright. We thought, at first, that you were dead.

15 **Julia**: I don't remember anything about that. Then the train *did* come?

Richard: Yes.

Julia: And none of you saw it?

Charles: Only you. The doors were shut and we couldn't get out.

20 **Richard**: We can't get out now.

Teddie: Fearfully exciting, isn't it?

Julia: It's frightful. What can we do? What can we do?

Sterling: We must all get away from here—if we can.

Julia: If only we'd gone with Herbert.

25 **Sterling**: If only we had!

Elsie: Look! Look! (*She stands and points to the window. Through the thick dull glass at the bottom of the window the light of a red lamp can be seen. It passes as if carried by someone.*)

30 **Teddie**: A red lamp! There's someone outside. (*He goes towards door B.*)

Sterling: Stop!

Teddie: What's the matter?

Sterling: Have you forgotten the rest of the story?

35 **Teddie**: I don't quite understand.

Sterling: Who do you think that is out there?

Teddie: Someone to open this door, I hope.

Julia: But, if it's Ben Isaacs——

Teddie: And who's he?

Julia: Haven't you heard the rest of the story,—how Ben Isaacs went mad?

Elsie: Yes, yes; they told us that.

5

Charles: It can't be.

Sterling: Who knows?

Richard: Don't be a fool, man.

(There is a knock on the door.)

Peggy: Listen.

10

(Silence. They all look at the door.)

Richard: Who's there? *(Silence.)* Come in! *(He goes towards the door.)*

Elsie: Don't let it in!

(Peggy gets behind the chair.)

15

Richard: We must know what this means.

(There are five more knocks. Then silence.)

Teddie: I'll find out. *(He picks up a chair.)*

Julia: No, no! Don't let it in! Don't!

Teddie: Oh! *(He drops the chair.)*—No.

20

(Julia sits. Silence.)

Sterling: It's gone, whoever it is.

Elsie: Thank God for that.

Richard *(turning to the others):* Well!

Charles: You're right. I'd like to know what the game is.

25

Peggy: If it had been a man, he would have answered.

(Coming forward) How many times did he knock?

Richard: Six.

Peggy: Oh!

Charles: Well?

30

Peggy: I've just remembered something.—No, I shan't tell you. I might be wrong.

Richard *(crossing to Peggy):* Come, Mrs. Murdock, we're all in this, you know.

Peggy: It's—it's—too frightful!

35

Sterling: But we have a right to know.

Charles: Come along, Peggy,—out with it.

Peggy: It's just this. There were six knockings at the door.

The old station-master said there were six people killed.

Julia: Yes. "Six dead bodies they brought up out of the water
5 and laid out in this room."

Sterling (*going to Julia; very gently*): Julia!

Richard: I don't think that has got anything to do with it.
We've no proof of it.

Sterling: We've no proof of anything.

10 (*The red lamp passes the window again.*)

Charles: That's true enough.

Elsie: There's that lamp again!

(*Elsie and Julia stand up. There is silence as the lamp
passes the left window.*)

15 (*A man's voice is heard singing outside.*)

Peggy: Listen.

(*The singing ends, and there is a sound of mad laughing.*)

Sterling: It is Ben Isaacs.

Julia: Yes! yes! yes! Oh, this is fearful! What can we do?

20 (*She sits on a chair, Left.*)

Elsie (*going to seat, and sitting down*): I can't bear it! I can't
bear it!

Richard (*going to her*): Now, be brave, Elsie.

Elsie: I can't bear any more of it. I can't, I tell you.

25 (*Charles goes to Peggy, Right.*)

Charles: It's stopped now.

Richard: He's gone away.

Elsie: But, if he gets in, what shall we do?

Richard: Come, Elsie,—you mustn't give way. Whatever
30 it is, it can't hurt us.

(*Another knock at the door is heard.*)

Peggy: There it is again! Ah!

Julia: He's trying to get in.

Peggy: What can we do? What can anyone do?

Charles (turning to the others): That's just it; what can we do? Something must be done, or these women will go mad.

(Richard puts his handkerchief to his forehead.)

Teddie (standing up): I say, you fellows, just listen to me. 5

Richard: You shut up; you'll only make things worse.

Teddie: Look here——

Richard: Oh, shut up, will you!

Teddie: There's nothing to get excited about. (He sits down again.) 10

Richard: Oh, no! (He turns to Julia and Sterling) What do you think we ought to do?

Sterling: Do you feel well enough to walk, Julia?

Julia: Yes, I think so. I'll do anything if we can only get away.

Sterling: Then you'll go now? 15

Julia: Yes.

Sterling (taking a coat from the seat and putting it on Julia): Then let's get out of here as soon as possible.

Charles: Where can we go?

Sterling: Anywhere. There must be a hut or some place. 20
Anything is better than this;—don't you think so?

Charles: I do.

(Richard goes to the table where Miss Bourne lies asleep.)

Richard: What about this lady?

Sterling: We must wake her up. At the worst, we can carry 25
her.

Richard: All right.. (To Charles) What do you say, Murdock?

Charles: Yes.

Teddie (standing): But, my dear old things, you've forgotten something. (Julia sits.) 30

Richard: Eh?

Sterling: What's that?

Teddie: We're shut in, aren't we? We can't get out.

Sterling: If we've decided to get out, we can get out. We can break down the door. 35

Teddie: And then we shall have to pay for the damage.
We've broken a window already.

Richard: Well I'm——!——if you aren't the biggest fool! I never
in all my life——

5 **Teddie:** That's right! Go on, be polite!

Richard: You——!

Teddie: And there's another thing, too.

Sterling: And what's that?

10 **Teddie:** If we break the door down, we shall let in that fellow
outside.

Elsie (standing and going to the right): Yes. Don't open the
door, whatever you do.

15 **Richard:** Now, look here, Elsie. Just listen to me, Mrs. Mur-
dock. If it's a man outside, it's quite safe; we're four to
one. If it's not a man——

Elsie: Oh, Dick!

Richard: If it's not a man, no locked door will keep him out.
Do you understand me?

Peggy: Yes, I expect you're right.

20 **Richard:** Let's have a try.

*(Richard goes to the door and pulls it; he goes to the ticket-
office door and pulls that.)* They're still shut, both of
them. We'll break this one down. *(He takes hold of the
seat. The gas-lamp begins to go out slowly.)*

25 **Julia:** Wait! *(There is a sound of a mad man laughing outside.)*
There it is again!

Elsie: We can't go out there! We can't!

Sterling: We shall have to face it. It is madness if we stay
here.

30 **Charles (coming forward):** There's something the matter with
the gas.

(The gas is still going down.)

Richard: The light's going out!

Elsie: Nol nol nol

35 **Julia:** Let's go! Let's go!

Elsie: Dick! Dick!

(Charles runs towards the light and just gets to it as it goes out, leaving the place in black darkness.)

Richard: I'm here, Elsie!

Julia (with a cry): Oh! Something touched me! Something cold! 5

(Teddie turns on an electric hand-lamp, and moves the light about the room.)

Richard: Everyone all right?

Sterling: I think so. 10

Charles: There's a smell of gas.

Richard: I believe it's on again. Light a match, someone.

Charles: Right. *(He re-lights the gas.)* So it is!

(During the darkness the two doors have been opened.)

Julia (pointing at the doors): Oh, look at that! 15

(They all turn.)

Elsie: Why! The doors are open.

Julia: Yes.

Peggy: How cold it is!

Sterling: Come along, let's go. 20

Teddie: Wait a minute.

Julia: No, we won't wait a second. We must go quickly; we must!

Richard: Just a second; we must make some arrangement about Miss Bourne. 25

Elsie: I shall be afraid to go.

Sterling (going to door B, and looking out, then coming back): There's no one about. It's quite safe now.

Charles (going to the table for his bag): We'd better get ready to run. 30

Richard: Yes, I think so.

(All move about, getting ready.)

Teddie: Now, please!

Richard: What! Are you speaking again?

Teddie: I want you all to listen to me and take my advice. 35

Richard: You're a fine fellow to give advice on anything; aren't you?

Teddie: In this case I am, old dear.

Charles: Well, what is it?

5 **Teddie:** I say, let none of us go. Let's all stay here.

Sterling: Stay here? Why? Don't listen to the fool. "Stay here!"

(Julia goes back to a chair near the fire, and sits there with Peggy and Charles.)

10 **Teddie:** Why not stay?

Sterling: Because we're in great danger; we're up against some frightful thing, and, if we stay, God knows what may happen to us. It was different when the doors were shut; then we could not choose whether to go or stay.

15 Now we have got to take this chance, and run.

Teddie: Yes, but listen, old thing. All these things have happened, and yet none of us has been hurt.

Sterling: What about this lady?

Teddie: She's all right now.

20 **Sterling:** Don't talk like a fool; we're not staying a minute longer.

Teddie: All right, old thing.

Sterling: Then come along.

25 **Richard** *(waiting and thinking for a second):* Right. *(He crosses to Miss Bourne.)*

Teddie: Wait a minute, before you wake the Sleeping Beauty with a kiss.

Richard: What is it?

30 **Teddie:** I'll stay and look after her. You'll kill the old girl if you pull her out of bed at this hour—after she's drunk all that stuff.

Charles: I don't understand.

35 **Teddie:** It's quite easy. I'll stay here with Miss Bourne. She'll be all right. She won't wake till morning: that stuff of mine was very strong.

Peggy: Aren't you afraid?

Teddie: My dear lady, I'm frightened to death.

Richard: Then why——?

Teddie: Because there's a lot of difference between being afraid and running away. What would my father and mother say if they knew I'd been running about all night, getting my clothes wet and dirty, out of pure fright? 5

Charles: Then you think we're afraid?

Teddie: I didn't say so. You have the ladies to think of.

Richard: Look here——

Teddie: You've been saying "Look here" ever since we came here. I don't care whether you go or stay. You do as you like, and I'll do as I like. Is that all right? What? 10

Sterling: But we may not have a chance to go later on.

Teddie: Then run along, my little man.

Sterling: We've really got to go. 15

Teddie: Well, I'm not stopping you, am I?

Julia: You are putting us in serious danger. You're trying to drive us mad. You've no right to stand in the way of our escape.

Teddie: Too true, old thing, too true. 20

Julia (standing): Then come along, please.

Teddie: Now look here—(To Richard) You see, I can say "Look here" as well as you. (To the others) Let's have everything perfectly clear. You can all go, and take the ladies with you. I'll stay here with Miss Bourne. 25

Sterling: We have to think of the safety of Miss Bourne, haven't we?

Teddie: All right. Take Miss Bourne with you, and may the marriage bells ring sweetly.

Julia: Then that's agreed. 30

Teddie: Oh, quite.

Julia: We all go, eh? All go together?

Teddie: You all go. I stay.

Sterling: You can't stay.

Teddie: And why not? 35

Sterling: Because it isn't safe, you fool.

Teddie: It's so kind of you to think about my safety. I didn't think you liked me so much as that.

Sterling: Enough of this! You're coming.

5 *Teddie*: No, my dear sir, I'm not.

Richard: But why not?

Teddie: Because I happen to be a foolish thick-headed donkey; and when a thick-headed donkey like me makes up his foolish thick-headed mind, he usually gets what

10 he wants. Now, do you understand me?

Sterling: For the last time, you're not going to stay here alone.

Teddie: You surprise me! What are you going to do about it?

Sterling: Make you go.

15 *Teddie*: I think not.

Charles: Now gently, Doctor! Surely the fellow has a right to do as he pleases, however great a fool he is.

Teddie: Thank you, kind sir.

20 *Charles (to Peggy)*: I can't help liking him; he's not afraid of anything.

Teddie: Now I ask you, old thing: will you stay with me?

Charles: Well—I have my wife to think of.

Teddie: Of course.

Sterling: Now listen to me, you young fool.

25 *Teddie*: I'm listening, you old "crook."

Sterling (suddenly): What do you mean?

Teddie: Nothing. You called me a fool; I don't see why you should be the only person who can call bad names.

30 *Sterling*: Now, tell the truth. Why have you made up your mind to stay here?

Teddie: Pure foolishness, for one thing.

Sterling: And what else?

Teddie: There's something I want to see.

Sterling: What?

35 *Teddie*: I want to see what happens next. (*He sits down on the seat.*)

Julia: And do you mean to put your life in danger for that?

Teddie: Oh, yes.

Sterling: The fellow's mad. We really must take him away with us.

Charles: Wait a minute, Doctor. There's something in this that I don't understand. (To *Teddie*) I believe you know something. 5

Teddie: Who?

Charles: You.

Teddie: Me? 10

Charles: Yes.

Teddie: Oh, I'll tell you. I mean to wait here and see that train come back.

Julia: What train?

Teddie: The train that went through an hour ago. 15

Sterling: It won't come back.

Teddie: Oh? How do you know?

Julia: There's nothing in the story about it coming back. And if it did come back, it might mean that we should all die. Take warning by what has happened to me. 20

Sterling: That train isn't of this world.

Teddie: Is that so?

Sterling: Do you doubt it?

Teddie: To tell you the truth, I do.

Richard: What's that? 25

Charles: Here! I say!

Teddie: Well, I'm going to wait and see.

Julia (standing): What fools there are! If we waste any more time, it may be too late.

(The red lamp is seen outside the window.) 30

Look! It is too late. Ben Isaacs!

(An old man is seen, with a dead white face. A driver's hat is pulled down over his eyes. He passes the door carrying a red lamp. In the darkness outside nothing is seen very clearly.) 35

Julia: Now, are you satisfied?

Teddie: No! I'm not! (*Teddie's face and voice change. He stands up straighter. He pulls a revolver from his pocket.*)
Now for it! (*He jumps into the middle of the room and fires at the man outside.*) Hold that!

5 (*The man drops the lamp and runs away. Teddie goes outside and seizes the lamp.*)

Look! Blood! Ghost or no ghost, I've hit him. (*He comes back into the room.*) That's that. (*He puts the lamp on the table.*)

10 **Sterling (afraid):** What have you done?

Teddie: You'll soon see. Listen! The train again. (*The train is heard, far away.*)

Peggy: Oh! Oh!

Elsie: It's coming back.

15 **Teddie:** Yes, it's coming back all right, but don't worry. I've got this fixed. I've finished with one ghost already, and now I'm going to turn the ghost-train on to the side-line. (*He turns to go.*)

Sterling (wildly): Stop! Stop!

20 **Teddie:** (*turning on Sterling with his revolver*): Get back! Up with your hands! (*Sterling obeys.*) Where are you, Murdock?

Charles: Here.

25 **Teddie:** Do you remember what I told you? Where's that revolver I gave you?

Charles: I've got it.

30 **Teddie:** Then watch this fellow till I come back. (*Charles goes up to Sterling and keeps his revolver pointed at him. The noise of the train becomes louder. Teddie runs outside. He fires three shots. The noise of the train becomes less. Teddie comes back.*) I've done it! We've got it onto the side-line. (*The train stops.*)

Sterling: Look here——

Teddie: It's no good. The game is "up."

35 **Richard:** Do you mean that we've been fooled?

Teddie: Yes. These people were managing the whole business.

Peggy: Then there's no ghost-train?

Teddie: The train is as real as any other train.

Sterling: I tell you——

Teddie: Shut up!

Richard: But what's their game?

Teddie: I'm not sure yet. But we'll soon know.

(The sound of footsteps is heard outside.)

Ah, here they are.

(Two men come in. The first is the "ghost" that was seen outside the door, and the other is Saul Hodgkin. The "ghost" has been shot in the arm and is bleeding. Behind them comes JACKSON, a dark man with a thick coat, carrying a revolver. Behind him are two policemen.)

Richard: What the——?

Charles: Why, here's our old friend, Saul!

Teddie: Yes. He deceived you all when he pretended to be dead. *(To Jackson)* Have you got them all, Jackson?

Jackson: Yes, sir, I think so.

Teddie *(going up to the "ghost"):* Who's this fellow? *(Pulling off his hat and white hair.)* Hullo!

Richard: Why! It's Price!

Peggy: So it is!

Charles: I can't understand this business at all.

Teddie: I thought it was you I hit. Have I hurt you much?

Price: You shot me right through my arm.

Teddie: Now, what's the game?

Sterling: Keep your mouth shut, Price.

Price: I will!

Peggy: Hadn't the doctor better see your arm?

Teddie: Doctor? What doctor?

Peggy: Doctor Sterling.

Teddie: He's no more doctor than you are.

Sterling *(to Teddie):* Who are you?

Jackson: Why! Haven't you guessed who he is yet? That is Captain Morrison.

Richard (to Teddie): Not the Captain Morrison who caught all those fellows at Cologne.

5 **Teddie:** Yes.

Richard: Well, I'm——!

Teddie: Have you got the train all right, Jackson?

Jackson: Yes, sir.

Teddie: What was it they were carrying?

10 **Jackson:** Just as you thought, sir. Machine-guns.

Teddie: Ah.

Charles: Machine-guns?

Teddie: Yes. I want you to meet some rather interesting people: Mr. Herbert Pineway and Mr. John Silverton
15 of the Silverway China Company, whose works are up the line. Mr. Herbert Pineway also goes by the name Rupert d'Alvarez of Barcelona; and Mr. John Silverton is known as Herr Otto Sneitz of Hamburg.

Charles: What! Revolutionists?

20 **Teddie:** Right, first guess. The train outside is full of machine-guns. Thanks for your help, Murdock. (*He takes the revolver from him and gives it to Jackson.*)

Sterling: You can prove nothing.

25 **Teddie:** Can't I? I wasn't sure till to-night, but I made up my mind to find out the whole business. That was after you killed my man, Heath.

Price: Who's Heath?

30 **Teddie:** The "thief" they found dead. He was one of the best fellows working under me. (*To Saul*) You can tell us about that.

Saul: I didn't do it! I didn't do it. No one can prove it. They're to blame. I was a fool to touch their dirty money.

Sterling: Shut up!

35 **Saul:** It's all right for you. You haven't a wife and children. Five pounds they paid me to run that train from their works down to the river-side, and bring back their guns and things.

Price: That's not true.

Saul: It is true, and you know it. You've done it many times,—and now it's *me* that gets into trouble. You're a lot of dirty thieves.

Teddie: Have you got the cars all right, Jackson? 5

Jackson: Yes, sir.

Teddie: Take them away.

(A policeman takes Saul by the shoulder and pushes him out. Jackson and the other policeman take Price and Sterling.) 10

Elsie: I don't quite understand it even now.

Teddie: It's perfectly clear, Mrs. Winthrop. We've had an eye on these people for some time. They started this China Works in an out-of-the-way place like this so as to make it a store for the guns they had brought in; and they were sending out the guns from here to different parts of the country. The question was how they got the guns into England at all. At last I took up the case: I sent Heath to look into things here, and he was killed—killed in this room. These people bought over the station-master; and they've been running a train once a month from their works down to the river-side. Motor-cars would have been noticed in a quiet place like this. A Hamburg boat brought the guns here. All the rest was easy. 25

Peggy: Then is the whole story of the accident untrue?

Teddie? No. The accident did happen, and there is a story in these parts about the ghost-train. They made good use of that story. It made their work easier, because people have been taught for years to run away if they hear a train in the night. The great thing was that they didn't want any one in this room to-night, because the guns might have been seen, or the ghost-story disproved. The station-master couldn't make us go away; so they tried to frighten us away. But they didn't do it, did they? 35

Richard: Do you mean that they arranged the whole thing?

Teddie: This is what happened to-night. When Saul found that we would not go, he went off to Price's house and told them that we were here. Price's house is only half a mile away— not five miles. There was no time to lose; so they jumped up just as they were and came along to act all that mad stuff and get us away. It was all fixed up by them,—the illness and all.

Richard: Then why didn't Saul send us off to Price's house?

Teddie: They didn't want us there any more than here; this was their busy night.

Peggy (turning and looking at Julia): I'm sure you're wrong about one thing. This poor girl had nothing to do with it. They've deceived her just as they deceived us; or else they've got some strange power over her. *(To Julia)* I understand you, dear. I know you're not to blame.

Teddie (looking at Julia): I'm not sure about her yet.

Julia (standing up): I must go now.

Peggy: But where will you go?

Julia: How do I know? All this has been too much for me. My head! It's killing me. *(She moves to go.)*

Teddie: Just a minute.

Julia: What do you want?

Teddie: Just who are you?

Peggy: Those men have just used her.

Julia: Yes, yes. *(To them all)* You believe that, don't you? *(Elsie and Richard look at each other and do not answer.)*

Peggy: Poor girl!

Charles (trying to be polite, crosses to Julia): May I see you home?

Peggy: Charlie! *(She pulls him away.)*

(Jackson comes in.)

Teddie: Have you got that paper, Jackson?

Jackson: No, sir, it isn't on any of them.

Teddie (to Julia): Have you got it?

Julia: What paper?

Teddie (to Julia): You know what I mean—that list of revolutionist leaders in this country.

Julia: I don't know what you're talking about.

Teddie: Take her along with the others, Jackson. We'll make her speak.

Julia: No! No! don't do that. I'll tell. I know.

Teddie: Then you know where it is. 5

Julia (in a low voice): Yes.

Teddie: Well—say.

Julia: Not before all these people. I can't! I can't!
(*A silence.*)

Teddie (to Jackson): Have the other cars come, Jackson? 10

Jackson: Just on their way, sir.

Richard: Shall we go and leave you? (*He moves towards door A with Elsie.*)

Teddie: No. (*To Julia*) Come in here; but I warn you this is a serious matter.—All right, Jackson. 15

(*Jackson goes out. Julia walks across to door A. They all watch her. She goes into the ticket-office.*)

Elsie: I'm quite sure that girl knows nothing about it.
(*Jackson comes in.*)

Jackson: The cars are all here, ladies and gentlemen. 20

Richard (taking his coat from the seat): Then we'll go. (*To Charles*) Don't go to Africa, Murdock; what about a position in my new works? You're just the man I've been looking for. What do you think, Elsie?

(*Elsie agrees.*) 25

Charles: I say, do you mean it?

Richard: I do.

Charles: Pegs, do you understand what's happened?

Peggy: Yes, dear.

Richard: Here's my card. (*He gives Charles a visiting card.*) 30

Come and see us when you get back,—in about ten days' time. And think of us between now and then. You are just starting on your married life; we are just starting again. Aren't we Elsie?

(*Richard and Elsie go out, talking, followed by Jackson.* 35
Julia and Teddie come in from the ticket-office.)

Teddie: I don't believe a word of what you're telling me.
You're just wasting my time.

(*Julia throws some powder in his face, pushes him into the ticket-office, and locks the door. Then she turns quickly on Charles and Peggy.*)

5 *Julia (to Charles):* Put 'em up!

Peggy: Oh, Charliel

Charles: What does this mean?

10 *Julia:* Gee! to think that a young fellow like that should try to catch me!

Peggy: Who are you?

15 *Julia:* I'm a dangerous woman when I lose my temper, young man. I'm known to the best people as "Redhaired Chicago Sal." Get out of my way! (*—to Charles who is standing at the door.*)

Charles: I say "No!"

Julia: You soon won't be able to say anything, if you don't. I guess this is where I make my "get-away"; and you're going to help me. Get away from that door.

20 *Charles:* No!

Julia: Believe me,—yes! When I shoot, I shoot straight, and your little girl will have a dead husband—so soon after she's been married! Come on, now,—one, two,—

25 *Peggy (going up to Charles and pulling him away):* Think of me, dear!

Julia: That's right, listen to your sweet little wife. She's wiser than you. And I've forgotten more than you'll ever know.

30 (*Teddie comes in silently by door B and pushes up Julia's hand.*)

Julia: Oh!

Teddie (to Jackson, behind him): Will you kindly take away this lady, Jackson?

Julia: Say! are you one—or two?

35 *Teddie:* One.

Julia: How did you get out?

Teddie: You forget that our friend Saul has a way of getting out of that room. I found it.

Julia: You're too sharp. You've been eating knives for breakfast. When I get out of prison, I'll have a talk with you. I'd like us to do business together. 5

Teddie: What's that sweet you're eating? Where did you get it?

Julia: That's not a sweet. That's the paper you're wanting. . . . It's gone now! All gone! Good night, children. A Happy New Year! (*Noticing Jackson by her side*) Come on, old Vaseline! (*She goes out, laughing loudly. Jackson follows her.*) 10

Peggy (to Charles): And you might have seen her home!

Teddie (turning to Peggy): We've only got one little trouble left. (*He turns to the table on which Miss Bourne is lying.*) Here it is. 15

(*Miss Bourne shows signs of waking.*)

Charles: She's moving.

(*He comes towards her as she opens her eyes.*) 20

Hullo, Miss Bourne. Better?

(*Miss Bourne slowly sits up.*)

Miss B: Oh! Such a pain in my head!

Teddie: There's a car waiting for us all. You'll soon be safe in Truro. 25

Miss B: Oh, I'm so glad nothing exciting has happened.

Peggy: }

Charles: } Oh!!!

Teddie: }

CURTAIN.

WORTERVERZEICHNIS UND ANMERKUNGEN

3

⁵ ghost [ou] Geist, Gespenst.

4

⁶ newly married jung verheiratet.

5

² Cornwall ['kɔ:nwəl] südwestlichste Grafschaft v. Engl. — p. m. [pi:em] = post meridiem nachmittags. — ⁸ un'pleasant unerfreulich. — un'comfortable [A] ungemütlich. — ⁶ wet naß. — wall-paper Tapete. — ⁸ whistle [-sl] Pfeife. — ¹³ change hier: umsteigen. — ¹⁶ bad-tempered schlecht gelaunt. — ¹⁹ bag Handtasche. — ²¹ just the sort of place gerade so ein Ort. — ²⁵ enough (genug) hier: recht, sehr. — ²⁶ you don't care dir ist das gleich. — ²⁷ used [s]! to it daran gewöhnt. — ²⁹ to blame tadeln. — 'manager Leiter. — ³¹ fool Narr, Tor. — cord Leine (der Glocke für die Notbremse). — ³² Truro ['truərou] Stadt und Bischofssitz in Cornwall. — ³⁴ ticket-office Schalterraum.

6

⁷ hole geringschätzig: "Loch". — ¹⁰ to change one's mind s. anders entschließen. — ²⁰ gently sachte. — ³² to waste verschwenden. — ³³ to pre'tend tun als ob. — ³⁵ to com'plain s. beklagen. — ³⁶ to notice bemerken.

7

³ cage [ei] Käfig. — ⁴ love-birds Liebespärchen. — ¹² smell Geruch. — smoke Rauch. — phew! [fju:] puhl. — ¹⁷ 'satisfied zufrieden. — ¹⁹ to keep doing fortwährend etwas tun. — ³¹ trouble Not, mißliche Lage. — ³³ porter Gepäckträger.

8

¹³ to kick (mit dem Fuß) stoßen. — ²⁶ I say! Hören Sie mall — ²⁸ to disa'gree nicht einverstanden sein. — ²⁹ 'subject Gegenstand. — ³² ex'citement Aufregung. — ³³ sameness Gleichförmigkeit. — ³⁴ that way so.

9

¹ cause Grund, Ursache. — ¹² to a'ddress anreden. — ¹³ just gerecht. — ¹⁴ to blow blasen, geblasen werden. — ¹⁶ to watch beobachten. —

¹⁷ 'engine Lokomotive. — ²⁹ to hate (hassen) ungern tun. —
³⁵ hateful abscheulich. — ³⁶ to behave s. benehmen. — kindness ein
großer Gefallen.

10

³ to quarrel [ɔ] zanken. — ¹⁵ to lock up abschließen. — ¹⁹ to o'bey
gehorschen. — ²² like this wie diese(r), solch. — ²⁷ to scratch kratzen.
— ³⁰ facing gegenüber. — ³¹ backwards rückwärts. — ³² be silent!
schweige!

11

³ to mean beabsichtigen. — to a'rrange [ei] Vorkehrungen treffen.
— ¹⁴ Peggy Koseform für Margaret. — ²⁶ to lose one's temper
wütend werden. — ³³ a works Fabrik.

12

² to trust anvertrauen. — ¹¹ sad traurig. — ¹² a'rrangement Verein-
barung. — ¹⁸ to separate trennen. — ²⁵ the truth Wahrheit. — ²⁷ it's
no good es hat keinen Zweck. — we don't suit each other wir pas-
sen nicht zusammen. — ²⁹ to save hier: bewahren.

13

³ de'cided entschlossen. — ⁹ to stand by helfen, beistehen. —
²² I seel ich verstehe! — ²³ finished (beendet) erledigt. — ²⁴ line of
business Branche.

15

⁵ rough rauh, hart. — ⁹ healthy gesund. — ¹⁶ to pray (bitten) beten.
— ²⁰ keep in line! hintereinander! — ²⁸ shut up! (mach zu!) halt den
Mund!

16

¹⁵ cover (Bedeckung, Deckel) Tuch. — ²⁸ see to that etwas daran tun.
— ³¹ table-cloth Tischtuch. — ³³ water-bottle (Wasserflasche)
Karaffe. — ³³ just coming! komme sofort! — ³⁶ boating i. Boot fah-
ren, rudern.

17

¹² to make up one's mind s. entschließen. — ³⁰ 'perfect vollendet,
vollkommen. — ³¹ (the station is) haunted [ɔ:] es spukt in . . .

18

¹ these parts diese Gegend. — ¹³ come along! (komm mit!) los! —
¹⁵ the very same night i. gerade derselben Nacht. — ¹⁹ swinging
bridge Zugbrücke. — ²³ China Works Porzellan-Fabrik.

19

¹⁵ to travel reisen, fahren. — ¹⁷ to drive *hier*: die Lokomotive führen. — ¹⁴ chance (glücklicher) Zufall. — ²⁰ to slip gleiten, rutschen. — to tear (zerren) rasen. — ²⁷ his mind was gone er hatte den Verstand verloren. — ³⁰ mud Schlamm. — ³⁵ where does it come in? was hat das damit zu tun?

20

² frightened erschreckt, bange. — ¹⁷ to start (anfangen) *hier*: Anlaß geben zu. — ²⁶ Cornish people Leute aus Cornwall. — ²⁷ like mad wie verrückt, besessen. — ³⁴ 'accident (Unfall) Zufall.

21

¹⁴ a tall story eine ungläubliche Geschichte. — ¹⁵ to remind of erinnern an. — ¹⁶ fire-station Spritzenhaus. — ¹⁹ silk Seide. — ²⁰ Mothers' Meeting Mütterversammlung. — ³⁰ fat dick. — ³¹ on second thoughts nach Überlegung.

22

⁷ yard Elle (= 0,914 m). — ²⁴ no one about niemand da. — ²⁷ shut up! sehr grob: halt's Maul!

23

⁷ to get *hier*: besorgen. — ¹¹ Joey Koseform für Joseph. — ²¹ ... and things und dergleichen. — all over the place überall. — ²³ to seize *hier*: ergreifen. — ²⁷ to move s. bewegen. — ²⁹ dear mel lieber Gott! — ³⁴ it's no good es hat keinen Zweck.

24

⁶ bicycle-lamp Fahrradlampe. — ¹⁴ I'm ashamed ich schäme mich. — ³¹ a pleasant ride gute Fahrt.

25

¹ arrangements [ei] *hier*: Vorkehrungen. — ² dry trocken. — ¹⁴ to doubt [daut] bezweifeln. — ²¹ leaning backwards s. rückwärts lehrend. — ³⁴ curtain *hier*: Vorhang fällt.

26

⁴ edge Schneide, Kante. — ⁶ blow! zum Henker! — ⁸ to shake (schütteln) zittern. — ²⁹ I can't help ich kann nicht anders. — ²⁴ to give way nachgeben. — ²⁵ to happen s. ereignen, vorkommen. — ³⁵ brave tapfer.

27

¹⁰ serious [ˈsiəriəs] ernst. — ¹³ to pour gießen, in Strömen regnen. — ¹⁷ calm [kɑ:m] ruhig. — ²⁰ as for . . . was anbetrifft. — ²⁵ put it out of your mind schlagen Sie sich das aus dem Kopf. — ³⁰ aren't I? *statt* Am I not? *Dialekt*.

28

¹⁰ power Macht, Gewalt. — ²⁰ a bang Knall. — ²⁸ I don't disbelieve it ich bestreite es auch nicht.

29

¹ there! nun denn! — ¹⁸ to copy (abschreiben) nachahmen. — ²⁰ it's like you es sieht dir ähnlich. — ²³ the matter (Stoff) Angelegenheit. — ²⁸ brightly heiter, freundlich.

30

⁵ brandy Branntwein. — ⁹ to strengthen stärken. — ¹³ 'sensible vernünftig. — ¹⁸ ugh! [ʌx, uh, ə:h] hul oh! — ²⁹ to guess raten. — ³⁰ brass [ɑ:] Messing.

31

⁶ turn upside-down umstülpen, auf den Kopf stellen.

32

⁵ worried [ʌ] besorgt. — ⁷ excited aufgeregt. — ²⁰ "knocked over" erledigt. — ²⁵ to finish hier: austrinken. — ²⁸ the whole lot alles. — ³⁰ to join verbinden.

33

⁴ to find out ausfindig machen. — ²¹ to hide verstecken. — ³⁰ to hurt verletzen, verwunden.

34

¹⁵ to choose (wählen) hier: freiwillig tun. — ²² quite so! stimmt! — ²⁹ reason (Vernunft) Grund.

35

²⁰ it's not good enough hier: das genügt mir nicht. — ³⁴ to tear oneself away s. losreißen.

36

⁶ to take part in s. beteiligen. — ¹⁰ it's no business of yours das geht Sie nichts an. — ¹³ rough [ʌ] grob, rauh. — ²⁵ hardly that das nicht gerade. — ²⁹ there, there! nur ruhig!

37

²⁷ I've got to ich muß. — ²⁸ it makes me . . . es zwingt mich. — ³⁴ noise Geräusch, Lärm.

⁷ to give way nachgeben. — ¹⁴ to be going s. anschicken zu gehen.
— ¹⁵ to prove beweisen.

¹⁹ thin air (dünne Luft; also:) spurlos verschwinden. — ²⁷ to drive mad verrückt machen. — ²⁹ things hier etwa: Gespenster. — mad-house Irrenhaus. — ³⁰ "put away" wegschaffen, aus dem Wege räumen.

⁴ manage her mit ihr umgehen. — ⁷ attacks of illness Anfälle von Krankheit. — worth der Mühe wert. — ²⁴ hatred Haß. — ²⁹ keep saying andauernd sagen. — ³⁰ equally ['i:-] bad gleich schlecht.

¹ as things are so wie die Dinge stehen. — ⁵ mile Meile (= 1609 m). — ⁷ event [i'vent] Ereignis. — ⁸ to cross (überqueren) herübergehen zu. — ¹⁸ My Lady [mi'leidi] gnädige Frau. — ²² . . . is one of our party gehört zu uns. — ²⁵ at the best of times Sinn: als sie in der Verfassung war.

¹ a bad head "Brummschädel". — ⁵ to wake (up) erwachen. — ¹⁵ we had better all stay wir blieben besser alle hier. — ¹⁹ 'equal to it fähig und willens. — ³⁰ once and for all ein für allemal. — ³⁵ I wonder ich möchte wissen.

¹ to kick over umstoßen. — coal-box Kohlenkasten. — ⁹ to face ins Gesicht sehen, entgentreten. — ²⁵ yard Elle = 0,91 m.

¹⁹ to stand by zu jemand halten, beistehen. — ²³ to hold (festhalten) hier: bei sich behalten. — ³⁴ judg(e)ment Urteil.

⁵ we are up against a danger wir haben eine Gefahr zu bestehen. — ³⁰ whistle Pfeife. — wheel Rad.

¹² crash zerschmettert.

48

⁷ tight (dicht, straff) fest. — ¹² stuck, ¹⁵ fixed befestigt; also abgeschlossen oder verriegelt.

49

² placed gelegt. — ⁸ to straighten s. aufrichten. — ²¹ cerebral haemorrhage [ˈsɛrɪbrəl ˈhɛmərɪdʒ] Gehirnblutung. — ²⁹ I am likely to have wahrscheinlich habe ich.

50

¹⁰ according to gemäß. — ²¹ barred versperrt. — ²⁹ to be taken ill krank werden. — ³⁸ too big hier: zu mächtig.

52

²⁴ to be going to im Begriffe sein.

53

¹⁸ to make a fool of lächerlich machen. — ²⁶ to worry [A] ängstigen. — ²⁸ you're in it Sie sind auch dabei, daran beteiligt. — ³³ honest? (ehrlich) wirklich?.

54

⁹ to point to zeigen auf. — ²⁷ dull trübe.

55

¹⁷ five more weitere (noch) fünf. — ²⁵ what the game is was hier gespielt wird.

56

⁶ gently sacht, gütig. — ⁸ proof Beweis.

57

²⁰ hut Hütte, Unterkunft. — ²⁵ at the worst im schlimmsten Falle.

58

¹ damage Schaden. — ²⁸ to take hold of ergreifen.

59

⁷ hand-lamp Handlampe. — ¹³ to re-light wieder anzünden.

60

³¹ stuff "Zeug".

61

¹⁹ escape Entkommen, Flucht.

62

⁷ to happen to be zufällig sein. — ⁸ donkey [ɔ] Esel. — ¹⁷ however great a fool he is der unbestimmte Artikel muß nachgestellt werden, da great durch however hervorgehoben wird. — ²⁵ crook Gauner. — ²⁸ to call a person bad names Schimpfnamen geben.

64

⁸ now for it! jetzt dran! — ⁴ hold that! = take that! das ist für dich! — ²⁰ get back! zurück! — ³⁴ the game is "up" das Spiel ist aus.

65

¹⁸ to deceive [i:] betrügen. — to pretend to tun als ob.

66

¹⁹ revo'lutionist [—æ'lu:—] Revolutionär. — ²⁰ first guess beim ersten Raten. — ²⁴ to make up one's mind den Entschluß fassen. — ³³ dirty schmutzig.

67

¹⁴ out-of-the-way abgelegen. — ¹⁵ store Vorratsraum. — ¹⁸ the case der Fall, die Sache. — ²⁰ to buy over durch Bestechung gewinnen. — ²³ to notice beobachten, bemerken. — ³³ to disprove widerlegen.

68

⁶ that mad stuff diesen Unsinn.

69

²² what about? wie stände es mit?

70

¹⁴ Sal Abkürzung für Sally. — ¹⁸ "get-away" Flucht.

71

⁷ sweet Süßigkeit. — ¹⁵ we've got one little trouble left uns bleibt noch eine kleine Mühe.

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