

Side 7

Louise, Smith, Bessner, Simon, Canon, McNaught

Your arm under so - Right. Now lift. Your arms over our shoulders, Mr. Mostyn. I -

~~(Together they raise SIMON to his feet. LOUISE screams off right. She enters right, screaming.)~~

LOUISE. Oh my God! Madame... Madame...

SMITH. Be quiet. Don't make that noise.

LOUISE. But Madame - Madame - she is dead - dead there in her bed!

SIMON. *(with a great roar)* What's that?

LOUISE. She has been shot - shot through the head.

*(SIMON makes a spring forward, tries to run, and collapses.)*

DR. BESSNER. *(to SIMON)* Are you mad? You cannot possibly walk, do you not understand? *(He seats SIMON in the chair again and stands behind him.)*

*(SMITH crosses below the table to LOUISE at right center.)*

SIMON. But Kay - Kay -

SMITH. *(shaking LOUISE)* Tell us. Tell us.

LOUISE. I went into Monsieur's cabin to get his pyjamas. The door into Madame's cabin was ajar, so I move very quietly not to wake here. Then I smell something... *(She sniffs.)* It is the same smell as in here. The smell there is when a gun is fired.

DR. BESSNER. Yes, yes?

LOUISE. And it comes from Madame's cabin. So I go in. I go across to her bed. She lies there on her side. I think it is all right, but I listen and there is no breathing, you understand. So I switch on the light, and I see - I see Madame has been shot through the head. There is a little round hole here. *(She indicates her temple. She sits at the table down right.)*

*(CANON PENNEFATHER enters left. He is still fully dressed. He is followed by the STEWARD.)*

CANON. *(coming left center)* What is this? What; has happened? Who screamed?

SMITH. Mrs. Mostyn has been shot.

CANON. Shot!

*(The STEWARD runs out left.)*

SIMON. Jackie has killed Kay...

DR. BESSNER. We must go and see. *(To CANON PENNEFATHER.)* You will come?

CANON. At once!

*(DR. BESSNER and CANON PENNEFATHER go out right. SIMON buries his face in his hands.)*

SIMON. Kay... Kay...

*(MCNAUGHT, the ship's manager, enters left with the STEWARD.)*

MCNAUGHT. What's this? Someone's been shot? *(He comes down left center.)*

SMITH. Mrs. Mostyn.

MCNAUGHT. Dead?

SMITH. The doctor has gone to see.

MCNAUGHT. This is verra bad business. It's a thing that has never happened before. I'm at a loss to know the correct procedure.

SMITH. *(coming center below the table)* Are you in charge?

MCNAUGHT. I am. But as I say, a thing like this has never occurred before. Mrs. Mostyn's a very important person, which doesn't make it easier. *(He looks at SIMON, then moves center nearer to SMITH.)* Is it known who shot the lady?

SMITH. I'm afraid so.

MCNAUGHT. I see. I was about to observe that no one from on shore could have come on board. There's a guard always stationed on the bank. *(He moves away to left.)*

~~SMITH. *(following to left center)* Do you expect trouble, then?~~

start

end