

(**MAXINE** nods at her gloves on the table.)

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. Yes, I was wondering when you'd come back for them.

(To **TONY**.) How is it out there?

TONY. We've got a full blown mob. If we're to go to the station, you'll have to have your men disperse them.

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. It would be simpler to give them the slip by way of the garden. Unless they've gathered there too. Would you mind checking?

TONY. (*Knows INSPECTOR HUBBARD is trying to get rid of him*) Of course, Inspector.

(**TONY** exits through the French doors to the garden, leaving them open.)

START →

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. All right, Miss Hadley, I got rid of Mr. Wendice for you. You came back because you wanted to tell me something.

(**INSPECTOR HUBBARD** shows her the letter.)

Is it about this?

MAXINE. How did...?

MARGOT. The police found it on Lesgate.

MAXINE. Lesgate?

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. The man Mrs. Wendice killed. A Mrs. Van Dorn let us into Lesgate's flat this morning. Behind a mirror we found five thousand pounds in sealed bank notes. We traced the serial numbers to your bank, Mrs. Wendice. You took out those same bank notes six months ago. Would you care to explain how Lesgate ended up with them?

MARGOT. I told you before, I never met any man named Lesgate!

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. Six months ago, he was calling himself Pryce-Jones and living above The Grape and Vine off Bywater Street.

(MARGOT twigs on that, looks at MAXINE.)

Did you happen to frequent The Grape and Vine when you were living there, Miss Hadley?

MAXINE. If The Grape and Vine was the closest purveyor of liquor, it's a good bet I did, but I didn't know a Pryce-Jones or Lesgate or whatever he was calling himself! All I know is someone was blackmailing Mrs. Wendice! After she lost that letter, she received two notes. This is one of them.

(MAXINE takes out a blackmail note and gives it to INSPECTOR HUBBARD.)

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. *(As he reads.)* Where's the other?

MAXINE. At my hotel somewhere, I couldn't find it.

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. How did *you* get them?

MAXINE. Mrs. Wendice showed them to me the day before yesterday.

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. *(Holds up note, to MARGOT.)* You paid the blackmailer five thousand pounds, didn't you?

MARGOT. Yes.

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. How did you get him the money?

MARGOT. I sent it to that address, like the note said to.

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. And you got back the letter?

MARGOT. I never got it back.

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. Is that why you met with him last night?

MARGOT. What?

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. To say you'd paid him the five thousand pounds he wanted, now give back the letter?

MARGOT. I didn't speak to him!

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. The evidence suggests you were in the middle of *entertaining* him.

MARGOT. This is / ridiculous.

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. / You say you came in here to make yourself a drink. But my men found two cocktail glasses. One was on the coffee table with your lipstick and fingerprints on it. The other was shattered on the floor next to the drinks table. It had been ground nearly to dust. We found shards of the same glass embedded in your slippers.

MARGOT. Yes, I stepped on it.

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. Did you intentionally crush that glass?

MARGOT. Why would I do that?

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. To make sure no fingerprints could be retrieved from it. So it wouldn't look like you and Lesgate were having drinks just before you killed him.

MARGOT. Why would I be having drinks with him in my nightgown?!

INSPECTOR HUBBARD. But you weren't wearing a nightgown.

(Consults notebook.)

When the police arrived, you were dressed in a blouse and slacks.

MARGOT. I changed, that was after!

(TONY enters through the French doors.)

Tony, tell him!

← END