

Helen Ffoliot-Ffoulkes, Smith, Canon, Dr Bessner, Louise

Helen:

I call it disgraceful – absolutely disgraceful! Proper safeguards should be taken. Natives should not be allowed to creep aboard in the night.

Smith:

Nobody has come aboard, Miss Ffoliot-Ffoulkes.

Helen:

Nobody?

Smith:

Nobody.

Helen:

But then --

Canon:

Surely if your cabin is near that of Mrs Mostyn you heard the shot?

Helen:

I did not hear anything.

Canon:

I see.

Helen:

Where is Christina? I should have said the least she could do was to come and look after me. I might have had a serious heart attack with the shock. I might have been murdered. Where is Christina?

Canon:

Isn't she in her cabin?

Helen:

No.

Canon:

Dr Bessner, will you go to Miss de Savrac's cabin and ask Miss de Savrac to come here?

Dr Bessner:

Certainly.

(He exits to the left deck)

Helen:

I suppose my niece has been murdered and her body flung overboard.

Canon:

I think that there is probably a much less melodramatic explanation of her absence.

Helen:

Nothing can excuse her heartless conduct in not coming to look after me.

(She sits)

Canon:

I think it possible that Christina does not yet know there has been a murder on board.

(He turns to Louise)

Where did you sleep?

Louise:

(Starting)

Pardon?

Canon:

Je vous demande, mademoiselle, ou est votre cabine?

Louise:

My cabin, monsieur – it is next to that of Madame Mostyn. Beyond, you comprehend.

Canon:

Next door. And you did not hear the shot?

Louise:

Oh, yes, monsieur. I heard the shot. But I wake up and do not know what it is I hear. So, I come along the deck, and I find here monsieur shot through the leg – so naturally, monsieur, I think it is *that* shot I hear.

Canon:

And you heard no one on the deck outside your cabin?

Louise:

No, no, I hear nothing.

Canon:

And you saw nothing?

(Louise speaks with a trace of meaning)

Louise:

What should I see, monsieur?

Canon:

I am asking you.

Helen:

I heard footsteps running past my cabin – light, quick footsteps.

Canon:

But you said just now that you heard nothing at all.

Helen:

I know, but.....