

Simon Mostyn & Canon Pennefather (Steward & Smith)

Simon:

What will you have sir?

(He turns and presses a bell beside one of the windows)

I gather from what Kay said that you're not a teetotaler.

Canon:

No I am of the worldly order of clergy, who enjoys the good things of this life. "Take a little wine for thy stomach's sake" has always struck me as sound advice.

(He laughs conventionally)

Smith:

Stomach's sake, that's good!

(Smith rises and exits to the left deck. There is a pause)

Simon:

I – I hope you don't mind my marrying Kay, sir. I mean, I hope that you'll think I'm good enough for her – not that I could ever really be that. She's such an amazing creature.

Canon:

As I said, I've seen you before, Mr Mostyn.

Simon:

Make it Simon, won't you sir? I'm afraid, you know, that I don't quite remember where –

Canon:

I don't think you would remember – under the circumstances.

(The steward enters from the left door)

Steward:

Did you ring sir?

Simon:

What will you have sir?

Canon:

I think perhaps a gin-fizz.

(Simon turns to the Steward)

Simon:

Make it two.

(The Steward exits to the left deck)

You were saying – ?

Canon:

I was saying that I once saw you at a small restaurant in London. The Chateau en Espagne. You were sitting at the next table to me. I could not help hearing your conversation.

Simon:
Yes?

Canon:
There was a very striking girl with you – a dark girl. You were talking of a time to come – when you would go for your honeymoon – to Egypt.

(Simon draws a deep breath. The Canon watches him very closely)

Simon:
(Shocked)
Oh, I see. You feel – that that needs some explanation?

Canon:
Frankly, yes. It was not so very long ago.

Simon:
(Angrily)
I suppose you think I married Kay for her money. Well, you're wrong. I'd have gone after Kay to the world's end if she hadn't had a penny piece.
(He pauses. His manner changes)
As a matter of fact, I'm rather glad you *did* see us in the Chateau en Espagne. It makes it easier for me to tell you the whole thing – and God knows I want to tell it to someone.

Canon
(Encouragingly)
Yes?

Simon:
The girl you saw me with was Jacqueline de Severac. I was engaged to her. She was also Kay's best friend.

Canon:
I see.