

- DANIEL I'll pay, whatever it costs!
- INSPECTOR That's not the point. ~~Now, let's stop wasting time.~~
(Crosses to kitchen door.) Mme. Corban, come in here will you? (To DANIEL.) And any more loutish behaviour and you'll be in trouble, I'm warning you.
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- (FLORENCE comes in.)
- Come in. Sit down, won't you?
- FLORENCE Thank you. It's getting gloomy in here. I'll just switch the lights on.
- MAXIMIN I'll do it.
- FLORENCE Oh, thank you, the switch is by the door. It's getting chilly, too. Father, I wonder if you'd turn the heating on for me. There's a red lever in the kitchen, under the gas meter. And I'd very much like a soft drink. There's some fruit juice in the refrigerator. Thank you so much.
- (MAXIMIN goes out. She turns to the INSPECTOR, all charm, and waits attentively.)
- INSPECTOR I see you know the house well.
- FLORENCE Naturally.
- INSPECTOR Quite so. Your husband – (DANIEL reacts violently.)
– your husband, ~~I repeat~~ – until proof to the contrary
– has just been telling me how you met and got married and how you came to be staying here.
- FLORENCE Yes, he's been suffering from his nerves lately. A friend of his wrote to him in Venice offering to rent us this chalet. I was delighted about it. I thought the mountain air would do him good. We'd planned to stay here for a fortnight and then go back to my flat in Paris.
- INSPECTOR Now we come to the quarrel you had just before you went away.
- FLORENCE Yes. I'm desperately sorry about that. I should never have left. I had no idea it would do this to him.
- INSPECTOR May I see your papers, please?
- FLORENCE Of course. (She opens her bag.)

- DANIEL They're all forgeries, you'll see.
- INSPECTOR They look perfectly genuine to me.
- FLORENCE Yes, and shall I tell you why?
- INSPECTOR Why?
- FLORENCE Because they are genuine.
- INSPECTOR *(handing back the papers)* You must know that if your papers are false you can't hope to keep this up for more than a few hours at most. We have our ways of finding out. We'll send out an appeal on the radio, we'll put announcements in all the newspapers. The real Elizabeth Corban will come back and then where will you be?
- FLORENCE A radio message? That's a wonderful idea. I suggest you do it right away.
- INSPECTOR Thank you for the advice.
- ~~*(A knock at the door. A POLICEMAN appears, gives him a letter. The INSPECTOR looks at the letter, gives DANIEL a meaning look and then goes to FLORENCE, holding the letter behind his back.)*~~ *— Taking a letter from the policeman*
- INSPECTOR Tell me, Madame, have you a rich relation who's very ill at the moment? An Aunt?
- FLORENCE No, an uncle. Why? Oh, I see. I see what you're driving at. You're trying to set a trap for me. Look, I am Elizabeth Corban! I'm doing my best to co-operate with you, but can't stand much more of this! I'm sorry.
- (MAXIMIN has come in again. He goes to sit beside her. The INSPECTOR produces the letter.)*
- INSPECTOR ~~*One of my men found*~~ ^{*I discovered it*} this in your letter-box down by the road. It's from . . . *(He reads the back of the letter.)* Bollinget and Martin, solicitors, at St Denis, and it's addressed to Mme. Elizabeth Corban. *(A pause. He repeats.)* To Mme. Elizabeth Corban!
- FLORENCE Thank you. May I have it, please?
- (She holds out her hand. The INSPECTOR puts the letter in his pocket.)*

No, this is too much! Give me that letter at once or I'll ring up the Commissioner of Police at Chamberry and report you. You have absolutely no right to keep that letter. Give it to me.

INSPECTOR What does it contain?

FLORENCE How should I know? I promise you I'll let you read it.

INSPECTOR We'll open it together at the Commissioner's office at Chamberry tomorrow.

FLORENCE *(fuming)* Right, you asked for it! *(She goes to the telephone.)*

MAXIMIN Suppose I open it? Will you trust me?

INSPECTOR *(after a second's thought)* Yes.

DANIEL No! Give me that letter. Give it to me! Give it to me!

INSPECTOR I thought it was too good to last. Can't you stop your caterwauling for more than two minutes?

DANIEL That letter isn't meant for her. Don't let them get hold of it! That woman is not my wife!

INSPECTOR Well, for God's sake prove it, then!

DANIEL All right, I will! I'll soon show you she isn't Elizabeth. I'll ask her some questions now. And she won't be in a hurry to answer those.

FLORENCE What questions? What about?

DANIEL About us. You've found out a lot, but can't know everything.

FLORENCE Daniel, do stop all this. It's so boring for the Inspector.

INSPECTOR I'm used to boredom, don't you worry. Carry on. We might get somewhere, you never know.

DANIEL Let's see how well you've learnt your part.

FLORENCE Look, if this will help cure you and convince the Inspector, I'm quite willing. But with all I've been through today, have pity on my memory.

INSPECTOR Don't make excuses, just answer the questions. Carry on.