

- MAXIMIN You're joking!
- DANIEL Does it look like it?
- MAXIMIN Now look! ~~you promised you wouldn't make a scene.~~ You're being very unkind. Your wife has come back. I've done my part of it. The rest is up to you now.
- DANIEL Father, don't go, don't leave me alone! I tell you I don't know that woman!
- MAXIMIN Isn't she Mme. Corban?
- DANIEL No, she is not!
- MAXIMIN Are you sure?
- DANIEL Of course I'm sure!
- MAXIMIN You aren't yourself yet. It's been a great shock. Just sit down and –
- DANIEL That girl is either an adventuress or a lunatic. (*He shouts up the stairs.*) Come down here, you – whatever your name is! Come down!
- MAXIMIN Now, now, keep calm.
- DANIEL Will you kindly get out of my house and take that woman back where you found her!
- MAXIMIN (*soothingly*) Yes, yes, of course. (*Calling.*) Madame Corban, will you come down, please? (*To DANIEL.*) Tell me, do you often have these upsets? Do you suffer from loss of memory at all?
- DANIEL Certainly not! I tell you that woman is not Elizabeth! She's not the woman who gave you a donation the other day, is she?
- MAXIMIN But she is! Now try to calm yourself. The ordeal is over. Your wife has come home.
- DANIEL This is ridiculous.
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- (FLORENCE *has come down the stairs.*)
- FLORENCE (*euphorically*) Oh it's so wonderful to be home again. I've only spent two days in this little house but I've missed it terribly. Oh, my mountains! Oh dear, I must water my rubber plant. Look, it's

drooping!

DANIEL Look here, I'm very sorry, but –

FLORENCE Just a second, my darling. Let me say goodbye to our benefactor. (*To the PRIEST.*) May God reward you for what you've done for us.

MAXIMIN Oh, it was nothing . . .

FLORENCE Here. For your parish.
(*She gives him an envelope.*)

MAXIMIN Oh. That is kind of you.

FLORENCE What's money? It's what you feel that counts.

DANIEL Who are you?

FLORENCE You look pale, angel. I'm going to cook you some dinner. Have you kept to your diet? You haven't been drinking too much, have you? The doctor said you shouldn't drink. You know it's bad for your nerves. And your depression's always worse when you –

DANIEL Nerves? Depression? What are you talking about?

MAXIMIN (*sympathetically*) Ah, so that's it . . .

FLORENCE Oh, it's nothing serious. Only mild attacks now and again, and they don't last. Darling, it's me! I'm back.

DANIEL (*bewildered*) What is all this? You're not my wife. Why are you doing this?

FLORENCE I should never have gone away. Look at the state he's in, poor love.

DANIEL Father, don't listen to her. ~~She's trading on your innocence,~~ she wants you to think I'm mad. This woman's an adventuress. I don't know her from Adam.

(*He takes her by the arm and pulls her towards the door.*)

Get out, do you hear me? Get out!

FLORENCE Daniel, Daniel . . . !

MAXIMIN Hey, hey! You mustn't treat your wife like that.

(He comes between them.)

- DANIEL She's not my wife!
- FLORENCE Daniel. if this is a joke –
- DANIEL A joke?
- FLORENCE Now, darling. do stop it. Father Maximin isn't used to our fooling.
- DANIEL Get out of here or I'll have you arrested for house-breaking.
- FLORENCE Really. Daniel, don't be so childish. Father Maximin will think we're a pair of savages. Will you please stop all this tomfoolery. it's really in very bad taste.
- DANIEL Why are you pretending to be Elizabeth? Answer me!
- FLORENCE But I am Elizabeth.
- DANIEL Answer me!
- FLORENCE Darling. look at me. I'm your wife. I'm Elizabeth. Father, help me! Get a doctor! He doesn't recognise me.
- DANIEL Recognise you! I've never set eyes on you in my life.
- FLORENCE *(to MAXIMIN)* He was like this in Venice, on our honeymoon. One evening –
- DANIEL How do you know my wife and I went to Venice?
- FLORENCE One evening I came home rather late from the hairdresser's and I found Daniel in our hotel room raging like a maniac. It took me all night to quiet him down.
- DANIEL That's a lie!
- FLORENCE Oh dear. This is all my fault. I should never have left him. But he's been so cruel sometimes –
- DANIEL Lies! It's all lies.
- FLORENCE Never mind, I'll look after him though. We both will, won't we, Father?
- MAXIMIN Yes, we will. I promise. We'll look after you, M.

Corban.

FLORENCE Are you feeling better, angel? Do you recognise me now?

DANIEL It's all a plot! A fantastic, incredible plot!

(He strides over to the telephone.)

FLORENCE What are you doing?

DANIEL Calling the police.

FLORENCE For heaven's sake don't! You'll make us both look ridiculous!

MAXIMIN Yes, don't be too hasty.

DANIEL *(to FLORENCE)* I don't know what you're up to, but you won't get very far.

FLORENCE Daniel, please! Hang up.

DANIEL You're scared, aren't you? You see, the police know all about my wife's disappearance. So if you think you can foist yourself on to me and run up bills in my name you're mistaken. Your pretty little scheme won't work.

FLORENCE Do something, Father. Help him.

MAXIMIN You must excuse me, but this is all very bewildering. I don't mind playing the Good Samaritan, but I like to know what I'm doing. So if you don't mind –

(He picks up the telephone.)

Hello? Chamonix? Get me Police Headquarters. Yes, it's urgent. Hello, give me the Inspector, please. Ah, it's you, Inspector. This is Father Maximin. How do you do? I'm at the Corban's chalet on the Chamonix road . . . Oh, you have? Then I think you'd better come straight back . . . Well, you see, I brought his wife home . . . Well, no, he isn't . . . he's not pleased at all . . .

DANIEL *(seizing the receiver)* Listen, Inspector! A completely unknown woman has just forced her way in here and she's threatening to stay. Please come over at once. No, this is not a joke! And I have not been drinking! . . . Yes, he's still here. Right. I'll tell him to stay.