

VERNON. Evenin', Miss Bixley.

CRANE. Why, Verne, what are you doing up at this hour?

VERNON. (*Moves down to CRANE. KATE slowly crosses to kitchen door till she is standing guard over that.*) I just discovered a car out front—one of them you-rent-it things. The receipt inside says it's made out to a Mr. Richard Hammond; said it was hired five hours ago in Boston and we know Mr. Hammond was sittin' here five hours ago. I think someone's impersonatin' your husband.

CRANE. I don't believe it, do you, Kate?

KATE. Nooo!
VERNON. I think we oughta have a talk with your husband.

CRANE. Not now. Wait till the morning.

VERNON. Everyone seems to be awake. I think we oughta talk now. (*He goes to the foot of the stairs and calls up.*) Mr. Hammond!

(*RICHARD pushes open the closet door and CRANE, leaning against it, pushes him back. At the same time the business goes on between KATE and PHILIP.*)

VERNON. Did you hear something?

KATE AND CRANE. Nothing at all.

VERNON. I think I did. (*Calls again.*) Mr. Hammond!
(*Repeat of door pushing business.*) You two women are concealing something, all right.

(*The front door bursts open and a very dishevelled HELEN comes in. Her purse is gone, her hat is over one eye, and her hair is a mess. She staggers to the right side of the arch and collapses against it.*)

HELEN. I have been attacked!

VERNON. Helen!

HELEN. I was grabbed from behind. Someone stole my flashlight and left me flat in the rhododendrons.

CRANE. I didn't know we had rhododendrons.

HELEN. And prickly roses.

PHILIP. (*Comes out from the kitchen.*) Cream with your coffee?

HELEN. (*Points at PHILIP.*) That's him. That's the attacker.

CRANE. (*Indicating doors.*) Run! (*PHILIP rushes out.*)

HELEN. Get him, Verne. He's Redfax's boss. (*VERNON runs after PHILIP and HELEN runs out after VERNON.*)

CRANE. (*Opens closet door. RICHARD is standing there leaning against the jamb. Politely, as though nothing had happened.*) Darling, you must think this is very peculiar.

RICHARD. Crane, what is happening?

CRANE. Kate, you watch Jenny.

KATE. With pleasure. (*She goes out to the kitchen, rolling up her sleeve on the way.*)

CRANE. Darling, there's some kind of a mix-up with people and bodies and diamonds.

RICHARD. You're writing another book?

CRANE. This one has sort of gotten out of hand. I'll explain. (*She moves away Down Left.*) There are some diamonds here and it seems there are several people after them. (*The closet door opens and RANDOLPH comes out, hits RICHARD on the back of the head with the butt of his gun and shows RICHARD in the closet and closes the door. He moves to above CRANE pointing the gun at her.*) A fence, who is the big boss, and some hoodlums, and then there's this private eye in the crowd somewhere. (*She moves Right and RANDOLPH follows above her.*) But the whole thing got mixed up because Lillian married Lyle and he has to pretend to be my husband because she got divorced in Mexico. But I don't care about all that. You're here now and I love you and— (*Turns around and stares right into the muzzle of the gun. She drops in a dead faint. RANDOLPH runs out the front door as we hear LILLIAN calling outside French doors, "Crane! Crane!"*)

LILLIAN. (*Enters and sees CRANE lying on the floor.*) What happened? (*Crosses to the Left of CRANE.*) Did you find another body? Crane!

(As she puts her hand, voices are heard outside front door and RANDOLPH comes in, runs between chair and sofa and jumps over CRANE. The others repeat this business in order: PHILIP, VERNON, and HELEN. As each jumps over CRANE, LILLIAN tries to get his attention. As the last goes out French doors, KATE enters from kitchen.)

KATE. Is there a stampede? It sounds like a rerun of "Ben Hur." (CRANE starts to come to.)

LILLIAN. She's coming to. (Moves to Right of CRANE.)

KATE. What happened, another body? (Moves to her left.)

CRANE. Richard. Richard.

LILLIAN. She's delirious.

KATE. No, Richard's here. (Looks around.) Somewhere.

CRANE. Richard, where are you?

LILLIAN. Crane, dear, there are hordes of people running through your house like it was the Indianapolis Speedway.

KATE. Come on, now, can you stand?

CRANE. (As they help her up.) Of course. I was talking to Richard and suddenly he changed into another person right in front of my eyes, like Jekyll and Hyde.

LILLIAN. Crane, you're delicious.

LYLE. (Appears at doors.) Lillian, there you are. There's a regular track meet going on out there.

LILLIAN. I know, dear. (There is a GROAN from the closet. LILLIAN rushes to LYLE and KATE backs over to desk.) Who's that?

KATE. Quasimodo!

CRANE. Richard, darling. (She opens the closet door just as RICHARD is getting to his feet. He comes out.)

RICHARD. (Rubbing his head.) I'm going back to Chicago.

LILLIAN. Richard, how wonderful of you to come.

JENNY. (Enters from the kitchen with the familiar bucket of ice.) Ice!

KATE. I'll make drinks. (Takes bucket up to bar.)

JENNY. (Pointing at RICHARD.) Who's that?

CRANE. This is my husband, Jenny.

JENNY. (Pointing at LYLE.) Then who's that?

CRANE. Oh, never mind. Just go make breakfast—do something.

JENNY. I could sell this whole story to Confidential.

(She slams out to the kitchen.)

CRANE. (Sitting RICHARD on the Right side of the sofa and sitting beside him.) Richard, you come and sit down here and rest your head.

RICHARD. Someone hit me.

CRANE. I know, dear.

RICHARD. Aren't you upset?

CRANE. Well, everyone else has been through it already.

LILLIAN. Can anyone explain the whole thing to anyone?

KATE. Here. (Hands drinks to CRANE and RICHARD and returns to the bar for her own drink.)

CRANE. Thanks.

LILLIAN. First, Richard, I'd like you to meet my husband. You see, Crane borrowed him for a while or rather I insisted she take him and that started it all.

LYLE. I couldn't get back to our home for a while because Vernon Cookley—

RICHARD. You mean you stayed here?

LYLE. It was rather an unusual arrangement for a honeymoon. But Kate was here.

KATE. (Turning from bar, with a smile.) Yes, I fell asleep.

RICHARD. What! (KATE turns back to bar.)

CRANE. (Rises.) Stop everything! Right this minute. I know where the diamonds are and we might as well settle this whole thing. (Crosses to front door.)

KATE. You know?

LILLIAN. Where?

LYLE. You found them?

CRANE. (Leaning out the front door.) Hello, out there!

Come on in! Everyone out of the pool!

KATE. Where are they?