

HOTEL CORNERSTONE

"The Case of the Traitorous Troupe"

A radio drama by

Kieran Best

& Lucien Holmes

PRODUCTION SCRIPT

June 19, 2019

kieran.best@bridges.edu

lucien.holmes@gmail.com

HOTEL CORNERSTONE
"The Case of Traitorous Troupe"

Production #1

LIST OF CHARACTERS

Recurring

CARLTON RITZ	Wisecracking detective, suave
DIGBY WALDORF	Shrewd manager, miserly, avoids conflict
FIFI HOLIDAY	French maid, alluring, ditzy, hardworking
DUFFLES	Dim bellboy, clumsy, means well
WYNDHAM	Receptionist, effusive, foppish, gossip
JOHNNY HYATT	Bartender, wise and caring, good listener
MISS IBIS	Nightclub singer, sultry

Featured

GORDON ASHTON	Lead actor, diva, married to Jessica, insufferable
PRESTON NEWBURY	Understudy, jealous, schemer
JESSICA ASHTON	Actress, married to Gordon, nervous
LANE RUDDERFORTH	Manager of troupe, stressed, temper

Not Appearing

"RAD" RADISSON	Piano player, happy go lucky, boozehound
RAFFLES	Morally flexible doorman, street smart
CHIEF MARRIOTT	Irish police chief, by the book, stressed

HOTEL CORNERSTONE
"The Case of Traitorous Troupe"

Production #1

CAST

JAMES LATHAM

LANE RUDDERFORTH
DUFFLES

LUCIEN HOLMES

CARLTON RITZ
PRESTON

EVAN PINCUS

JOHNNY HYATT

ANNA SCHAERF

JESSICA
MISS IBIS

KIERAN BEST

GORDON ASHTON
MR. WALDORF
FIFI HOLIDAY
MR. WYNDHAM

HOTEL CORNERSTONE
"The Case of Traitorous Troupe"

SOUND EFFECTS

INTRODUCTION

2 SFXDOOR OPENS
4 SFXFOOTSTEPS
5 SFXCHAIR SQUEAL
8 SFXCORK PULL
9 SFXLIQUID POURING

SCENE 1

33 SFXFOOTSTEPS
35 SFXDOORSLAM
43 SFXGLASS BREAKING
50 SFXRAPID FOOTSTEPS
53 MUSIC LOUNGE PIANO UNDER

SCENE 2

1 SFXBELL DINGING
3 SFXFOOTSTEPS
12 SFXFOOTSTEPS FADING AWAY
17 SFXFootsteps Approach
22 SFXFOOTSTEPS
23 SFXDOOR OPENING
24 SFXDOOR SLAMMING SHUT
34 SFXFOOTSTEPS AWAY
40 SFXTWO DINGS OF A BELL
41 SFXFRANTIC RUNNING
45 SFXRUSTLING OF BAGS
49 SFXTWO PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS
AND HEELS AWAY

SCENE 4

1 SFXWALLA WALLA
6 SFXWALLA WALLA OUT

SCENE 5

1 SFXGLASSWARE
2 SFXWALLA WALLA
3 SFXGLASS ON BAR
20 SFXGLASS ON BAR
26 SFXPOURING

SCENE 6

1 SFXHEELS ON TILE
3 SFXWater Sloshing
9 SFXHEELS ON TILE
13 SFXHEELS ON TILE

SCENE 7

1 SFXKNOCKING ON DOOR
5 SFXZIPPER ON LUGGAGE
6 SFX BAGS THUMP ON THE FLOOR
8 SFXDOOR OPENS
9 SFXFOOTSTEPS
11 SFXBAG DROPS ON FLOOR
12 SFXPILLS SCATTER ON HARDWOOD
24 SFXCOINS JINGLE
26 SFXFOOTSTEPS AWAY
28 SFXDOOR CLOSES

SCENE 9

0 SFXWALLA WALLA
5 SFXCURTAIN OPENS
6 SFXAPPLAUSE AND FADE
16 SFXROPE CUTTING
17 SFXWHIR OF PULLEY
18 SFXLARGE THUMP
19 SFXAUDIENCE GASP
20 SFXWALLA WALLA
25 SFXFOOTSTEPS
31 SFXFOOTSTEPS APPROACH
33 SFXFOOTSTEPS STOP
59 SFXRUNNING FOOTSTEPS
62 SFXTWO PAIRS RUNNING
FOOTSTEPS
64 SFXTWO BODIES HITTING THE
FLOOR
65 SFXWRESTLING
2 SFXWALLA WALLA
3 SFXDOOR OPEN
9 SFXFOOTSTEPS AWAY
11 SFXFOOTSTEPS APPROACH

HOTEL CORNERSTONE
"The Case of Traitorous Troupe"

MUSIC

INTRODUCTION

1 MUSIC SULTRY PIANO FADE IN
20 MUSIC PIANO OUT, ORGAN STING
22 MUSIC THEME STARTS
23 MUSIC THEME UNDER
25 MUSIC THEME UP
26 MUSIC THEME OUT

SCENE 1

53 MUSIC LOUNGE PIANO UNDER

SCENE 2

50 MUSIC BRIDGE

SCENE 3

16 MUSIC ORGAN STING

SCENE 4

31 MUSIC ORGAN THEME UP

SCENE 5

31 MUSIC STING

SCENE 6

15 MUSIC SWELL AND OUT

SCENE 7

30 MUSIC SWELLS AND OUT

SCENE 9

45 MUSIC STING

73 MUSIC JAZZ CHORD

OUTRO

1 MUSIC LOUNGE PIANO IN

13 MUSIC THEME UP

15 MUSIC THEME OUT

Introduction

(Carlton, Ibis, Hyatt, Announcer)

1	<u>MUSIC</u>	<u>SULTRY PIANO FADE IN</u>
2	<u>SFX</u>	<u>DOOR OPENS</u>
3	IBIS	(TO SELF) Well, look what we have here.
4	<u>SFX</u>	<u>FOOTSTEPS</u>
5	<u>SFX</u>	<u>CHAIR SQUEAL</u>
6	CARLTON	Hey Hyatt, pour me a double, straight up.
7	HYATT	Sure thing, Carlton.
8	<u>SFX</u>	<u>CORK PULL</u>
9	<u>SFX</u>	<u>LIQUID POURING</u>
10	CARLTON	Thanks, mac.
11	IBIS	Hello, Carlton dear.
12	CARLTON	Miss Ibis. How are you tonight, toots?
13	IBIS	Fine enough, I suppose. The club is dead tonight, if you couldn't tell. Such a shame. I always look forward to when I play at the hotel. I love showing off my most admirable asset.
14	CARLTON	I'd say you'd have TWO rather admirable assets, personally.
15	IBIS	I was talking about my PLAYING skill, dear.
16	CARLTON	Of course you were. You are right, though. This entire hotel has been a ghost town, since those actors checked in and promptly checked out last Thursday.

17 IBIS Oh, do go on dear. You KNOW how much I love
 it when you tell me your stories.

18 CARLTON Cases, doll. Not stories. I got nothing
 better to do tonight, anyway. You just keep
 playing and I'll tell you all about it.

18 IBIS You got yourself a deal, dear. What are you
 calling this one?

19 CARLTON I got this one filed under "T" for-

20 MUSIC PIANO OUT, ORGAN STING

21 CARLTON The Case of the Traitorous Troupe!

22 MUSIC THEME STARTS

23 MUSIC THEME UNDER

24 Announcer Brought to you Live from beautiful Los
 Angeles, California, Hotel Cornerstone!

25 MUSIC THEME UP

26 MUSIC THEME OUT

SCENE 1 - INT. HOTEL LOBBY - AFTERNOON

(Carlton, Waldorf, Fifi, Duffles, Ibis)

27 CARLTON It was last Thursday, around 6:30 pm. It was
 unusually brisk for a summer in Los Angeles.
 I was getting an earful from the big boss
 man himself, Mr. Waldorf. Something about
 sleeping on the job. Iunno. I was asleep.
 All I remember is waking up to --

28 WALDORF And don't let me catch you sleeping in my
 lobby again, you hear me?! I don't pay you
 to lay around!

29 CARLTON You don't pay me to begin with.

30 WALDORF I give you a room and that should be good enough for you! And furthermore, maybe if you started pulling your weight around here, I would pay you!

31 CARLTON Digby, Digby, Digby, look here. Someday, something's going to go down here and you're gonna wish you still had me, so don't go throwing me out on my ear just yet.

32 WALDORF You just stay out of trouble you hear? I'm going to my office if anyone needs me.

33 SFX FOOTSTEPS

34 WALDORF And that's Mr. Waldorf to you!

35 SFX DOORSLAM

37 FIFI Trouble with Monsieur Waldorf, mon cheri?

38 CARLTON Jiminy Hane, Fifi! How long have you been here?

39 FIFI Why, all this time. I was doing ze. . . how you say. . . dusting.

40 CARLTON Is dusting the french word for. . . how you say. . . eavesdropping?

41 FIFI (GIGGLES) Ah, I do apologize, Carlton. This. . . eavesdropping. It runs in ze family, no?

42 CARLTON Ah, skip it, Fifi. I can't stay mad at you.

43 SFX GLASS BREAKING

44 CARLTON Meanwhile, here's someone I CAN stay mad at. Duffles, what in the world did you do now?

45 DUFFLES Aw geez, Mr. Ritz! I was just changing the
light on this here lamp and the bulb slipped
outta my hand!

46 CARLTON Why are you --

47 DUFFLES Because the darn thing just plain wouldn't
turn on! Can you believe that?

48 CARLTON Actually I can, Duffles. That lamp isn't
even plugged in. See?

48 DUFFLES (BEAT) Well, what d'ya know about that? Life
sure is full of surprises, huh Mr. Ritz?

48 CARLTON Yeah, yeah, sure kid. Go find Ms. Holiday
here a broom to clean up this mess and stick
to hossin' the freight. And while you're at
it try not to burn the place down.

49 DUFFLES Yes sir!

50 SFX RAPID FOOTSTEPS

51 FIFI I better make sure he finds his way safely,
no?

50 CARLTON That's probably for the best. Thanks in
advance.

51 FIFI It is how you say. . . No problem. Au
revoir, Monsieur Carlton!

52 CARLTON See ya later, doll.

53 MUSIC LOUNGE PIANO UNDER

54 CARLTON Yeah, just another Thursday at the Hotel
Cornerstone. However, just before seven, an
odd type of folk came walking through the
doors. I'm not talking about the type of odd
that gets you locked up at the funny farm.

I'm talking about the kind that makes you stick out like a sore thumb, especially in a town like Los Angeles. I'm talking about actors, Ibis. You know any?

55 IBIS I know a couple of B-list film stars but none you would know. Who were these guys?

56 CARLTON They were a small group of stage actors who called the Titanic Threesome.

57 IBIS An unfortunate name.

58 CARLTON You're telling me.

59 IBIS Do go on, dear.

60 CARLTON Right, so as I was saying. These three actors and their manager walked through the doors of our wonderful establishment. They had Wyndham to greet them, about as subtle as a train wreck. Per usual.

SCENE 2 - INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK - EARLY EVENING

(Lane, Gordon, Jessica, Preston, Wyndham, Duffles)

1 SFX BELL DINGING

2 WYNDHAM (DISTANT) Be right there!

3 SFX FOOTSTEPS

4 WYNDHAM Why, Hellooooooooooooo sirs and madam! Welcome to Hotel Cornerstone. Montgomery Fitzwilliam Wyndham the Third, at your service. How can we SERVICE you today?

5 LANE (QUICKLY) Yeah, yeah. Uh, four rooms please.

6 GORDON Make that three SUITES, Lane.

7 JESSICA (NERVOUSLY) No Lane, FOUR suites. I'd. . .
 feel better sleeping, uh, alone. The stress
 of the tour, you know. You DO understand
 right, Gordon, darling?

8 GORDON (RUFFLED) Well, I suppose tha-

9 JESSICA Well, then that will take care of things
 nicely. (NERVOUS LAUGH)

10 LANE (SIGH) What am I, a bank over here? Okay,
 four suites. On the double, make it snappy.

11 WYNDHAM Why, of course sir. Please allow me to SEIZE
 your keys. (BIG LAUGH) Just my little joke,
 sir.

12 SFX FOOTSTEPS FADING AWAY

13 PRESTON What a strange fellow.

14 JESSICA I simply can't stand people like that. I
 mean, that kind of behaviour attracts. . .
 Well, all the WRONG kind of attention.

15 PRESTON Whatever, I'm just a second banana. Hey,
 I'll take ANY attention.

16 GORDON (SARCASTICALLY) THAT much is quite clear,
 Preston.

17 SFX Footsteps Approach

18 WYNDHAM I'm back. I do apologize to keep you
 waiting. Now here are your keys. Rooms 235
 through 239. Now, if there's --

19 GORDON Wait, just one moment! Rooms. . .235 through
 239?

20 WYNDHAM Yes, sir. Does sir have a problem?

21 GORDON Well, I would say yes! Do you know who I am?
 I am Gordon Ashton, world renowned actor!
 The second floor! I simply will not be
 treated so. . . so common! I need fresh air!
 I will be outside if anyone should NEED me.

22 SFX FOOTSTEPS

23 SFX DOOR OPENING

24 SFX DOOR SLAMMING SHUT

25 LANE (ASIDE) That man. . . That man is IMPOSSIBLE
 to work with. What I wouldn't give. . .
 (REMORSEFUL) Sorry 'bout that. Gordon. . .
 Gordon gets like that sometimes.

26 PRESTON (SARCASTICALLY) Sometimes. . .

27 WYNDHAM Why, it is not a problem at all! I do so
 love our more (BEAT) colorful guests.
 (CONFIDING) Quite a vice of mine, if I may
 be frank. Shall I put all of your rooms on
 the top floor?

28 LANE Yeah, that should FINALLY make everyone
 happy--

29 Jesscia (NERVOUS) No! (QUIETER) Uh. . . I mean, no
 thank you. I rather like the second floor.
 May I just keep that room now?

30 WYNDHAM That's perfectly acceptable madam. So. For
 the GENTLEMEN, here are your keys for the
 top floor, and for madam, Room 237. Alone on
 the second floor.

31 JESSICA I thank you.

32 WYNDHAM Not a problem at all! Now, if a may take a
moment of your time to direct you to our
establishment's wonderful amenities. To your
left is our bar. It has many rare an-

33 LANE Say no more. I'll catch up with you lot
later. Or maybe never.

34 SFX FOOTSTEPS AWAY

35 WYNDHAM (GIGGLE) Quite a character, I take it. Now,
to your right is our luxurious pool and spa.
A wonderful way to relax those muscles after
a long day.

36 PRESTON Well, that does sound a good way to put your
feet up after a long day on the road.
Coming, gorgeous?

37 JESSICA Preston. I AM married. (BEAT) And anyway,
all the same, I, uh, should unpack. I would
rather just go to my room for now. Alone.

38 PRESTON Well. . . suit yourself.

39 WYNDHAM The bellboy will help you with your bags,
milady.

40 SFX TWO DINGS OF A BELL

41 SFX FRANTIC RUNNING

42 DUFFLES Coming! Coming! I'm here!

43 WYNDHAM I can see that. Take our lovely guest's bags
up to Room 237.

44 DUFFLES Yes, sir!

45 SFX RUSTLING OF BAGS

46 DUFFLES Hup! Alrighty let's hit it!

47 PRESTON I'll see you at breakfast, Jessica

48 JESSICA Yes, quite.
49 SFX TWO PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS AND HEELS AWAY
50 MUSIC BRIDGE

SCENE 3 - INT. HOTEL LOBBY - EARLY EVENING

(Carlton, Gordon)

1 GORDON Ah, sir, a word, if I may?
2 CARLTON Did you mean me?
3 GORDON You are the, ah (SOTTO VOCE) house
detective, (UP) are you not?
4 CARLTON Hotel Cornerstone's best and only. What's
the rumpus?
5 GORDON Just this. (DRAMATICALLY) I have reason to
believe that, a member of my own cadre, a
veritable hambone, one who treads the boards
even as I have, perhaps an ingenue or a
soubrette, but certainly a fellow thespian
--
6 CARLTON (CUTTING HIM OFF) Skip to the end.
7 GORDON (RESUMING) Is trying to KILL me.
8 CARLTON (BEAT) No offense, but I'd have it in for
you too if you were calling me all those
names.
9 GORDON You don't understand, sir. Two weeks ago in
Chicago, I narrowly avoided a nasty
accident: a flying line had been severed and
I was nearly flattened by the scenery. And
then, last week in Denver, I was taken to
the hospital -- I had been POISONED!

Poisoned, I say! How can I be expected to
 ply my craft when my (DRAMATICALLY) very
 continued existence, on this stage and on
 this globe are threatened by villainous
 treachery? (BIG) Treachery from WITHIN?

10 CARLTON Sounds like something for the police. I'll
 give you Chief Marriott's number.

11 GORDON (MOANING) Oh, the police. We are never in a
 jurisdiction for long enough for them to
 effect an investigation. I tell you
 (SEARCHING) uh, Mr, uh --

12 CARLTON Carlton. Carlton Ritz.

13 GORDON (RESUMING) Mr Ritz, you ARE my only hope. Is
 there nothing you can do?

14 CARLTON Well, I can certainly keep my eyes open. And
 there's a few lunks around here I call my
 friends I think might be able to lend a
 hand. How long are you in town?

15 GORDON You see, that's just it, sir. One engagement
 tomorrow and then we pull up the proverbial
 stakes. But sir, I guarantee you an attempt
 will be made on my life -- and SOON!

16 MUSIC ORGAN STING

SCENE 4 - INT. HOTEL LOBBY - EARLY EVENING

(Carlton, Hyatt, Fifi, Duffles)

1 SFX WALLA WALLA

2 HYATT Better make it quick, Carlton, it's happy
 hour and thirsty don't wait.

3 CARLTON Okay, gang, settle in.

4 FIFI If I don't get to the third floor to turn
 over the rooms, Mr. Waldorf will kill me.

5 CARLTON If we don't figure out who's trying to off
 Gordon Ashton, the leading man in the
 theater troupe, it's not YOUR body we're
 going to have to worry about!

6 SFX WALLA WALLA OUT

7 DUFFLES I don't want ANY bodies.

8 CARLTON Nobody does, Duffles.

9 HYATT So what goes?

10 CARLTON Here's the play. Fifi, you stay on Preston.

11 FIFI Which one is he? Is he the cute one?

12 HYATT Feef, they all look cute to you!

13 CARLTON He's the understudy. Go where he goes. Do
 your (MIMICKING) how you say (BEAT) dusting.

14 HYATT And me? I can't follow anybody. I'm slingin'
 the suds.

15 CARLTON From the look of Lane Rudderforth, you won't
 have to. I could practically see his liver
 from across the lobby. Dollars to donuts
 he's bellied up to your bar right now. Keep
 your ears open.

16 HYATT And don't spare the horses?

17 CARLTON Right you are. Pour 'em heavy. Keep him
 talking.

18 DUFFLES What about me? I get to stay with you, Mr.
 Carlton?

19 CARLTON Tragically, no.

20 DUFFLES (SADLY) Okay. I guess I'm no good at this,
huh?

21 CARLTON You're not wrong, Duffles. Still, I'm going
to need you to keep an eye on the lady.

22 DUFFLES (BRIGHTLY) The LADY?

23 CARLTON The lady. Checking in, she looked nervous as
a turkey at Christmas. She's hiding
something. Find out what.

24 DUFFLES (REPEATING) I'll bring up her bags and find
out what.

25 CARLTON (TESTING HIM) Find out what WHAT?

26 DUFFLES (PUZZLED) What WHAT?. . . (BEAT) What?

27 CARLTON (PATIENTLY) Find out WHAT she's hiding.

28 DUFFLES (BRIGHTLY) In her bags!

29 CARLTON (SIGHS) Yes. Maybe in her bags. (TO ALL)
Meet me back here in the lobby at midnight
-- we'll see what we know. Okay, team, let's
go find some dirt!

30 FIFI (SHUDDERINGLY) Dirt. . . Ze horror. . .

31 MUSIC ORGAN THEME UP

SCENE 5 - INT. HOTEL LOBBY - LATE EVENING

(Lane, Hyatt)

1 SFX GLASSWARE

2 SFX WALLA WALLA

3 SFX GLASS ON BAR

4 HYATT Another?

5 LANE (GRUNTING) Did I say stop?

6 HYATT It's your nickel, bub.

7 LANE (MUTTERING) Nickel's about all I got.

8 HYATT How's that, Mr Lane?

9 LANE (SUSPICIOUSLY) How do you know my name,
barkeep?

10 HYATT (AFFABLY) Hyatt's the name, sir. And I make
it my business to know all those who enter
through my swingin' doors.

11 LANE It was that fruitcake at the desk, wasn't
it?

12 HYATT He's got a mouth on him, that's for sure.

13 LANE (LAUGHING DESPITE HIMSELF) Talk about
swingin' doors, eh?

14 HYATT Ah, but he's harmless.

15 LANE Thinks a lot of himself, don't he?

16 HYATT I suppose. But then again, so does your Mr.
Ashton. What was it, Gordon?

17 LANE (VISCERALLY) You're tellin' ME. Pitched a
regular scene in the lobby, he did.

18 HYATT (COMMISERATINGLY) I heard that, too. Tough
to work with?

19 LANE (DERISIVELY) A two-legged chair would be
hard to work with. Gordon is pure misery.

20 SFX GLASS ON BAR

21 HYATT No chops, huh?

22 LANE Oh, he had 'em once. When I hired him. When
he was hungry. Then I had to go and give him
that FAT contract like I was some wet behind
the ears hambone manager.

23 HYATT He's got complacent?

24 LANE Ain't the word for it. Gordon's been mailing
 it in for months now. I'm at my wits' end.
 We barely even break even because he's
 hogging the receipts. Between that and
 (SARCASTICALLY) FOUR ROOMS, my overhead is
 killing me. Hit me again.

25 HYATT Sure thing.

26 SFX POURING

27 HYATT So renegotiate.

28 LANE (SNAPPING) You don't think I haven't THOUGHT
 of that? It's iron clad, and he's got the
 best lawyers MY money can buy!

29 HYATT That's a rough road, mister.

30 LANE With no end in sight, let me tell ya. Looks
 to me, he'll have this gig 'till he dies
 (BEAT) or until someone kills him!

31 MUSIC STING

SCENE 6 - INT. HOTEL SPA - LATE EVENING

(Preston, Fifi)

1 SFX HEELS ON TILE

2 FIFI (HUMS LA MARSEILLES)

3 SFX Water Sloshing

4 FIFI (WHISPERS, ASIDE) Oh my, what is zis?

5 PRESTON Oh, my achin' back. . . Ugh, That lucky
 duck. When's by big break coming? I went to
 Juilliard and for what? This?! Gordon is

nothing but a two bit fussy character actor!
 I'd do anything for just one shot!

6 FIFI (WHISPERS, ASIDE) How intriguing!

7 PRESTON Wait. . . who said that?

8 FIFI (WHISPERS) Sacre Bleu. . .

9 SFX HEELS ON TILE

10 FIFI Uh, Good evening sir! My name iz Fifi
 Holiday. You do need any towels or
 refreshments?

11 PRESTON No, nothing really. Just uh, scram will ya.
 I need to clear my head.

12 FIFI Of course, sir. Just call if you need
 anything Bonne Soiree!

13 SFX HEELS ON TILE

14 FIFI (ASIDE) Mon Dieu! I've never met a man so
 vile in all of my life! I think Monsieur
 Carlton needs to hear about this!

15 MUSIC SWELL AND OUT

SCENE 7 - INT. ROOM 237 - LATE EVENING

(Duffles, Jessica)

1 SFX KNOCKING ON DOOR

2 JESSICA (FRIGHTENED) Who's there? (MORE COMPOSED) I
 mean, who is it please?

3 DUFFLES (DISTANT) Bellboy ma'am. Duffles. I got the
 rest of your suitcasings.

4 JESSICA Oh! Um, just a minute please.

5 SFX ZIPPER ON LUGGAGE

6 SFX BAGS THUMP ON THE FLOOR

7 JESSICA Come in.

8 SFX DOOR OPENS

9 SFX FOOTSTEPS

10 DUFFLES (GRUNTING) They are so heavy! What in the
 world do you have in here? I think it's
 maybe a bunch of rocks! (CACKLING LAUGH)
 Oooof!

11 SFX BAG DROPS ON FLOOR

12 SFX PILLS SCATTER ON HARDWOOD

13 JESSICA (HORRIFIED) Oh NO!

14 DUFFLES (SORROWFUL) Oh lady, I'm so sorry. Duffles
 tripped on the rug. It wasn't purposeful on
 purpose.

15 JESSICA (HURRIEDLY) Yes, yes, of course, it was an
 accident.

16 DUFFLES (BRIGHTLY) An ACCIDENT! Yes. Here. I help
 you put them all back. All these. . . These.
 . . (STRANGELY) Pills?

17 JESSICA (DEFENSIVELY) SLEEPING pills, yes. I carry a
 lot of -- SLEEPING pills. (LAMELY) To help
 me sleep.

18 DUFFLES You must sleep a LOT, lady. There must be
 hundreds of 'em! They're everywhere now. Is
 that one under the dresser over there?

19 JESSICA Look. I'll take care of it, okay?

20 DUFFLES (TO HIMSELF) I think there's one in my
 shoeses.

21 JESSICA It's FINE. I'll pick them up.

22 DUFFLES Okay, lady, if you're sure. (BEAT) (SADLY) I
 guess no tip for Duffles, huh.

23 JESSICA Here's six bits if you just LEAVE.

24 SFX COINS JINGLE

25 DUFFLES Hooray!

26 SFX FOOTSTEPS AWAY

27 DUFFLES (TO HIMSELF) But so many pills. For so many
 sleeps!

28 SFX DOOR CLOSES

29 DUFFLES (SUDDENLY) Wait! I know! Mr Carlton say he
 can't sleep good. Let me see. . . Did maybe
 one fall in my. . . Yes! One extra sleepy
 pill for Duffles to give to Mr. Carlton, and
 one extra tip for Duffles. . . not giving
 anybody!

30 MUSIC SWELLS AND OUT

INTERLUDE

SCENE 8 - INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MIDNIGHT

(Carlton, Gordon)

1 GORDON Oh Detective!

2 CARLTON Gordon. It's awful late on a school night
 for ya. Don't you have a show tomorrow?

3 GORDON Yes but I can BARELY sleep.

4 CARLTON (ASIDE) Tell me about it.

5 GORDON Danger around every corner, I tell you!

6 CARLTON Anybody try to push you down the stairs yet
 tonight?

7 GORDON Sir, I wish you wouldn't make fun. This is serious.

8 CARLTON I was being serious.

9 GORDON Ah. No. Nothing so far. (BEAT) Supposing the bouncer tries for me (DRAMATIC PAUSE) on the STAGE?

10 CARLTON That WOULD make good theater.

11 GORDON (REPROACHFULLY) Sir!

12 CARLTON All right, all right. I know. This is serious.

13 GORDON Quite. (CONTINUING) In the event that an attempt is made on my life (SHUDDERINGLY) on the STAGE -- I shall give you these free tickets to tomorrow's production. Will four suffice?

14 CARLTON It will. And thanks.

15 GORDON And you? Have you any information on who might be after me, and why?

16 CARLTON Nothing much. We each kept an eye on someone in your troupe tonight. Our chambermaid Fifi reports Your wife Jessica seems the nervous type. Tell me again why you're staying in separate rooms?

17 GORDON (STIFFLY) Not to be sordid, but of late the acrimony betwixt --

18 CARLTON Never mind. I think get it. She have trouble sleeping?

19 GORDON (PUZZLED) Never, no. . . Not that I know. Why?

20 CARLTON That's a rum thing. . . (BEAT) And Preston
 is skulking around the hotel like a weasel
 in a cheese shop.

21 GORDON Indeed. (CONFIDING) Some days I think he's
 after my leading position. I simply cannot
 trust that man.

22 CARLTON Everybody's trying to get ahead. The only
 one letting his hair down is Lane.

23 GORDON Ah, our esteemed manager. Tying one on, were
 I to hazard a guess?

24 CARLTON You hazard right. Tight as Dick's hatband.
 But making sense. He doesn't seem like he's
 in his dream job.

25 GORDON Between you and me, I believe our little
 threesome is in dire financial straits. I've
 not seen a raise in MONTHS, despite what my
 contract guarantees. I have a mind to call
 in my lawyer.

26 CARLTON Gordon. . . I can't understand why you're
 not more popular with people.

SCENE 9 - INT. THEATER STAGE - SHOWTIME

(Carlton, Gordon, Fifi, Actor 1, Preston)

0 SFX WALLA WALLA

1 HYATT (WONDERINGLY) Have you ever seen such a
 fancy place?

2 FIFI It makes our hotel look like a dump.

3 DUFFLES Is it time yet?

4 FIFI Look, ze show is about to start!

5 SFX CURTAIN OPENS

6 SFX APPLAUSE AND FADE

7 PRESTON Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

8 GORDON I do bite my thumb, sir.

9 PRESTON Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

10 GORDON No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you sir;
but I bite my thumb, sir.

11 PRESTON Do you quarrel, sir?

12 GORDON Quarrel, sir? No, sir.

13 PRESTON If you do, sir, I am for you: I serve as
good a man as you.

14 GORDON No better.

15 PRESTON WELL, sir.

16 SFX ROPE CUTTING

17 SFX WHIR OF PULLEY

18 SFX LARGE THUMP

19 SFX AUDIENCE GASP

20 SFX WALLA WALLA

21 GORDON STOP this SHOW! Someone tell me what is
going on. Which one of you dropped that
sandbag?

22 PRESTON Why, Gordon what on earth do you-

23 GORDON I KNOW it was one of you! This has been
going for far too long! I know one of you is
trying to KILL me!

24 MUSIC STING

25 SFX FOOTSTEPS

26 LANE Good lord, Gordon. What ever happen to the
show must go on?

27 GORDON Don't play coy with me, you miser! Someone
in YOUR group is trying to knock me off, and
I know exactly who it is! My (SARCASTIC)
DARLING wife, Jessica!

28 JESSICA Why darling, I haven't the faintest idea-

29 GORDON Don't you DARLING me, you wench. You've been
trying to poison me for weeks. I found those
bottles of sleeping pills in your suitcase!
I bet your putting pills in everything i
eat! You're the culprit!

30 CARLTON (DISTANT) Well, not quite.

31 SFX FOOTSTEPS APPROACH

32 PRESTON Who. . . Who are you?

33 SFX FOOTSTEPS STOP

34 CARLTON Carlton's the name. I keep the hotel in
order. And our Mr. Gordon Ashton is right
about two things. Someone IS trying to make
this performance his last and THAT someone
is part of this cast. But he wasn't right
about who it is.

35 GORDON You mean --

36 CARLTON Yes. Your loving wife, Jessica Ashton, is
not your killer.

37 GORDON But what about all those sleeping pills? Not
even the heaviest sleeper needs that many!
Surely they weren't all for her?

38 CARLTON Again. You're half right. Duffles gave me one because I was having trouble sleeping. So I took one the other night and, well. . . let's just say they did the opposite of help me sleep. Chief Marriott down at headquarters agrees, they aren't sleeping pills at all. (BEAT) They're dope.

39 GORDON What?

40 CARLTON Yup. Chief Marriott also showed increased activity of narcotics trafficking in Chicago and Denver in the last two weeks: the very cities your troupe passed through. If it isn't clear by now, the only thing your wife is guilty of is peddling dope like a 5 year old on a tricycle.

41 GORDON Then, if it wasn't her. . . It was Preston!

42 CARLTON That's what I thought at first too but it wasn't him, not exactly. Preston DID poison your soup, load real bullets in the starter pistol, however. . .

43 GORDON However, what?

44 CARLTON However, he was just a lackey for the real culprit! Lane Rudderforth, your manager!

45 MUSIC STING

46 GORDON Lane? But why?

47 CARLTON Lane knew he wanted a new lead, and knew he had to get rid of Gordon -- permanently. In exchange for doing his dirty work, he promised Preston the lead. But, much like

his acting, Preston was sloppy and underperformed, so tonight Lane took matters into his own hands.

48 GORDON Is this true, Lane?

49 LANE Of course it's true, come to your senses man! You've been awful for ages! You and your demands of raises have nearly ruined me. I've had to take money out of Jessica's and Preston's paycheck to satisfy your needs!

50 PRESTON Lane, you did what to make this stuck-up whiner happy?

51 GORDON Jessica, how did I not know all this about you?

52 JESSICA Maybe if you took your head out of the Times once in a while, reading your reviews like the egomaniac you are, and bothered to wake up and smell the coffee. I was forced to do take this path Gordon. You're more in love with yourself than you are with me!

53 PRESTON Yeah and furthermore --

54 LANE Oh shut up Preston! It wouldn't matter if you weren't such a terrible shot. The only thing you're worse at than acting is killing people.

55 DUFFLES (DISTANT) Golly, this is better than theatre! Encore, Encore!

56 FIFI (DISTANT) Sit down you!

57 DUFFLES (DISTANT, SAD) Yes, Ms. Holiday. . .

58 LANE I've had enough of this and all of you!

59 SFX RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

60 CARLTON Lane, you're not going anywhere. Hyatt, he's bolting to the front door! Get him!

61 HYATT You got it, mac! HEY YOU!

62 SFX TWO PAIRS RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

63 HYATT Get down, bub!

64 SFX TWO BODIES HITTING THE FLOOR

65 SFX WRESTLING

66 CARLTON Nice one, Hyatt. Run track at USC?

67 HYATT (BREATHLESS) All-American.

68 LANE Let me go, you lout!

69 CARLTON Yeah, yeah. Save it for Chief Marriott. Come along gang. Let's let the cops close the curtain on this case.

70 DUFFLES Sure thing Mr. Carlton, but uh. . . just one thing.

71 CARLTON What is it, kid?

72 DUFFLES When does intermission start?

73 MUSIC JAZZ CHORD

SCENE 11 - INT. HOTEL LOBBY - LATE NIGHT

(Carlton, Gordon, Waldorf, Hyatt, Fifi, Duffles)

1 CARLTON And that was that. The Titanic Threesome was no more. Gordon was overwhelmed and met up with us back at the hotel.

2 SFX WALLA WALLA

3 SFX DOOR OPEN

4 GORDON Hello my friends!

5 CARLTON Well, look who graces us with his presence.

6 GORDON Hello, Mr. Carlton! I can never thank you
enough for what you did tonight! Come here
you!

7 CARLTON Hey, Hey! Get your mitts off me! Hugs are
only for my ma!

8 GORDON Why, yes. . . Of course. How childish of me!
Now if you may excuse me I simple must rest.
I'll see where the road takes me tomorrow!
Ta ta!

9 SFX FOOTSTEPS AWAY

10 CARLTON Yeah. Good night, kid.

11 SFX FOOTSTEPS APPROACH

12 WALDORF Well, Carlton I must hand it to you. You
certainly solved that case very elegantly.
Here's your paycheck.

13 CARLTON 50 bucks? Aw, Digby your too kind.

14 WALDORF MR. Waldorf! Now if you keep that kind of
work up maybe we do have a place for you
here. Good night, Carlton.

15 CARLTON Good night, Mr Waldorf.

16 WALDORF (HAPPY) That's more like it!

OUTRO

(Carlton, Miss Ibis, Announcer, Hyatt)

1 MUSIC LOUNGE PIANO IN

2 CARLTON And there you have it Ibis. The whole kit
and kaboodle.

3 IBIS Such ashamed about those bums. You almost
feel sorry for them.

4 CARLTON Yeah, yeah. I'm gonna get some shut eye. You
gonna be here next week?

5 IBIS Same place, same time, sweetheart.

6 CARLTON Great. Maybe something will come along next
week that I can tell you about.

7 IBIS Here's hoping.

8 CARLTON Goodnight Ibis

9 IBIS Night, dear.

10 CARLTON Night Hyatt.

11 HYATT Night, mac.

12 CARLTON Good night (BEAT) Hotel Cornerstone.

13 MUSIC THEME UP

14 Announcer This episode of Hotel Cornerstone is written
by Kieran Best and Lucien Holmes. Our fine
performers this week are:

15 MUSIC THEME OUT