**ROBERT 3**

*Trevor hits the chime again. Chris opens the study door.*

CHRIS. *Trevor!*

**Start**

*Chris closes the study door.*

DENNIS. That was most ominous. *(Pronounced "omoo-noose.")*

ROBERT. Ominous indeed.

*Chris enters upstairs, holding a gun. He calls into the voice pipe.*

CHRIS. Study to lounge. Are you there, Colleymoore?

ROBERT. *(Calling up to Chris.)* Yes, Inspector.

CHRIS. Colleymoore, come up to the study quickly. I must speak with you.

ROBERT. At once, Inspector.

*Robert gets into the elevator carriage. We hear the elevator breaking. He falls out in a cloud of smoke.*

CHRIS. There you are, Colleymoore!

ROBERT. Yes, Inspector.

*Robert tries to climb up to the upper level.*

CHRIS. I must speak with you, Thomas.

ROBERT. Of course, Carter.

CHRIS. Are you sitting comfortably?

ROBERT. Most comfortably, Inspector.

*Dennis and Annie try to push Robert up.*

CHRIS. Before we speak, I must check no one else is in earshot.

ROBERT. No one else is here, Inspector.

CHRIS. Very well. Colleymoore, I have found the weapon that was used to kill Cecil Haversham.

*Robert manages to get up onto the upper level and takes the gun from Chris.*

ROBERT. Good Lord, where was it?

CHRIS. In the library, lying on the table. Muzzle warm and the barrel still smoking.

ROBERT. Someone killed Cecil with this?

CHRIS. Yes, less than half an hour ago.



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ROBERT. But who?

CHRIS. I was hoping you would be able to tell me that, Colleymoore. After all we are friends, aren't we?

ROBERT. I have no idea who killed Cecil, I was down in the kitchens when I heard the gunshots, fetching my sister some refreshment…

*Robert forgets his line.*

Line!

TREVOR. *(On his way out of his tech box.)* I don't know what page we're on, buddy!

ROBERT. I don't know what page we're on, buddy.

*Robert realises this isn't the line and looks to Trevor furiously.*

CHRIS. *(Prompts Robert.)* Besides why would I / want to…

ROBERT. Besides why would I want to kill my oldest friend's younger brother?

CHRIS. Perhaps because you found out about his affair with Florence. We all know you're a jealous man, Colleymoore; ruthlessly protective of your sister.

ROBERT. Protective! I approve of whatever makes my sister happy.

CHRIS. Don't play the fool with me, Thomas. You shot Cecil Haversham in cold blood and you know that wasn't the plan.

**Stop**

*Chris and Robert pose with their hands on their chins. Lights shift to downstairs. There is a heavy knock at the door.*

DENNIS. Who the devil could that be?

ANNIE. *(Searches through the pages.)* Err… I don't know!

DENNIS. You're probably right! Quickly, Miss Colleymoore, we must hide you out of harm's way. Charles had a secret passage built behind this bookcase. Stand back, I'll open it.

*Dennis pulls a book down from the bookshelf. Nothing happens. Dennis looks at the bookcase. It turns and swallows Dennis up.*

*(Off.)* Step inside, Miss Colleymoore.

*Annie steps in front of the bookcase, and it swivels again, swallowing her and spitting Dennis back out. Dennis goes around again. Annie follows around after him.*



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