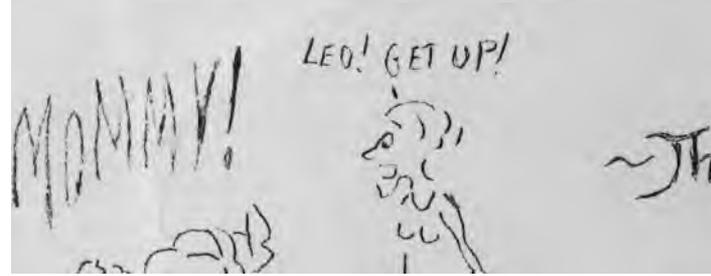
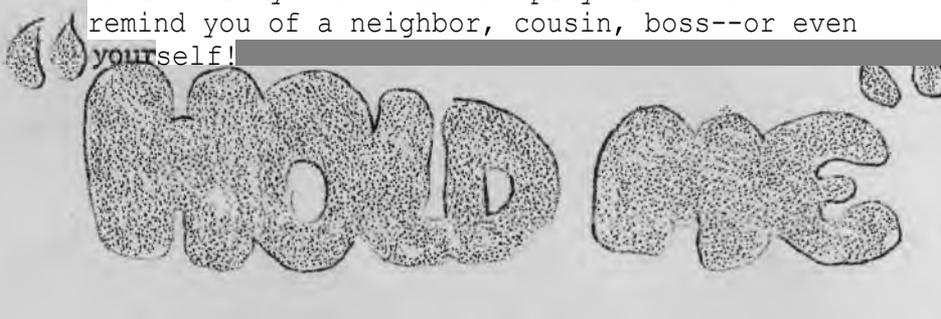


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ABBY: You knot) Izarfnatlywoll what I moan. I won't put up with yo14., much longer. I moan that I say, Lizzio. I know how I can hurt you.

LIZZIE: find I will not put up with your ways much longer. I also know just how I can hurt you, Mrs. Borden.

(1/0ICES FAOM OFFSTAGE, LEFT.)

EMMA: Hurry, Uncle Vinnio.

VINNIEs I have to pay the driver.

EMMA: I've already taken care of him.

ABBY:I'd bottor go upstairs and dross.

LIZZIE: That's a good idea. You wouldn't want Uncle Vinnio to think you yore slovenly. (Abby shakos her head at Lizzie's remark, exits right.)

EMMA: Lizzie is so ploasod you're paying us a visit.

VINNIE: (A laugh.) I'm pleased that she's pleased.

(Lizzie 'ooc to the door, unlocks the door.)

EMMA: Ho is hero at long last.

(Vinnie embraces Lizzio.)

LIZZIE: Uncle Vinnie. . . I have missed **you** so.

Vinnie: Lizzie, You look radiant as usual.

(No sec ono of the many changes that make up the complex personality of Lizzie 3ordon. With her uncle, she's warm, sincere, altogether likeable. Emma sets the suitcase **by** the firopladō.) C0/97R/qC - S'179 6c5 ,4.7/6

LIZZIE: You must be tired after such a long trip.

VINITIE: Not in the least, but I trill sit down. (Makes himself at home. Ho moves to the sofa, sits, looks around.) Place hasn't changed much.

LIZZIE: Like a museum.

EMMA: (Trying to soften Lizzie's sarcasm.) Father likes it this way. If you try to put up a new picture or move a chair, it upsets him terribly.

VINNIE: (To Lizzie) Andrew is as sot in his ways as the everlasting hills of Zion. That reminds mo . . . How is your Sunday school coming along?

EMA: Didn't you know? The church fellowship has put Lizzie in charge of all the classes.

VINNIE: ALL?

LIZZIE: I'm to supervise.

VINNIE: They must think a great deal of your abilities.

LIZZIE: I do my best.

ENNA: Don't listen to her, Uncle Vinnie. She's being modest. You know how humble Lizzie is. Lizzie can do anything she sets her mind to.

LIZZIE: In all fairness, I must say the Sunday school situation hasn't been all it might be. I think it's awfully important to keep the children's interest, to help make Sunday school something they look forward to. I've just put some of those ideas to work.

VINNIE: When I was a little boy, I always had trouble staying awake in Sunday school, but I didn't have a teacher as charming as Lizzie Borden.

LIZZIE: How long are you staying in Fall River ?'

VINNIE: I have some business matters to discuss with your father. The length of my stay depends upon your father's cooperation regarding business.

LIZZIE: (Curious,) OH?

V: That shouldn't take long, then the three of us will have a final visit. (Looks around the house.) Where's Abby?

LIZZIE: My father's wife will be down later. She isn't feeling well.

VINNIE: Nothing serious, I hope..

Ella: I think it's the heat. 01111.1,00. k

LIZZIE: I don't think Bridget was with us the last time you were here, Uncle Vinnie.

VINNIE: No, it **was** a girl named Maggie.

EMMA: Maggie went to Vermont. She's working in a cannery.

LIZZIE: 10111110, This is my dear mother's brother, Mr. Morse.

1111111111 (awkward curtsie.) Welcome, Sir. I just turned your mattress.

VINNIE: Thank you, Bridget. (He stands,) I'll go to my room and wash off some of the grime. Trains are so dirty.

LIZZIE: (Nods to luggage.) There is. Mr. Morse's suitcase. Al
(Picks it up.) I opened Marine's, but there's not much
left upstairs, (Bridget emits light. Vinnie follows.)

VINNIE: (Exiting.) I hate August. The heat rilwayo mnkos me feel 7tv, if something's hanging over me that I can't throw off.

ET A: It's goin-, to be so pleasant having Uncle Vinnie with us.

LIZZIE: I Ponder what business he had with Father?

Ilia: Probably something about Hother's estate.

LIZZIE: Yes, but after all these years.

EHMA: You're always so concerned about estates and Trills and businoss. You and Father make a fine pair.

LIZZIE: (Sarcastically.) liatch out for the pennies; Emma and the dollars vial take care of themselves.

Mink: Did you talk to him?

LIZZIE: Who?

gia: Father, of course. Did you talk to him about serving; docent meals?

LIZZIE: I'll take care of Father... There will be a' lot of changes around the Borden house . . . I will personally see to it. lie rill never live miserly again. Just be patient, Emma. Trust me. . . (Takes a locket from her pocket. Holds it up.) I saw this in the jeweler's window. The gem in the center is your birthstone.

FLEA: azzio, you're so kind and thoughtful. 0 thank you, Lizzie. You take such good care of me.

LIZZIE: rhko it, Emma.

ENNA: I r4ill always wear this.

LIZZIE: You'd better sco if you can make Uncle Vinnic comfortable. Too bad we don't have a garden of our oun. If only ot.c, father's wife didn't consider fresh flowers a foolishness. . . :tun along. See to Uncle Vinnio. (Still admiring the locket, Emma exits down right. Lizzie looks about the room, with the boat, sits at the table . . .)

SOUSA'S VOICE (From kitchen.) Sousa here!

LIZZIE: (i lithout breaking away from her clay dreaming.) Como in, Er. Sousa. It's quite alright.

SOUSA: (A moment passes and Sousa, the handyman, enters cautiously. He's ill at ease. In servile fashion, he takes off his cap.) Your father said he Panted to have the roof on the barn patched up.

LIZZIE: (Still doesn't look up.) He isn't hero at the moment. Ho will be back for lunch.

SOUSA: I don't think I can start till nant Tmek. Hrs. Churchill wants me to cut down some dead trees. That's hard. work, takoc A feu days.

LIZZIE: (3ored.) You can discuss that with *my* father.

SOUSA: You've rot a dead tree out back of the barn. It ought to come down,too.

LIZZIE: I'm sure my father will be agreeable if the price is rizht.

SOUSA: I've got a now ono that'll do the trick.

LIZZIE: (Still not paying mich attention to Sousa.) Now what?

SOUSA: (Fast exit out the kitchen door, returns immediately with chopping axe, the blade glistens. Ho holds it in both hands.) See . . . (Lizzie finally turns, stands and stares at the blade. Sousa holds the axe as if he wore offering some gift of raro value.) Nice, huh? Ole grins proudly)

Fade out.

SCENE TWO

AT RISE: That evening, Lizzie is conducting an informal meeting to discuss the question of Women's Rights. She stands between the sofa and the table, an open book in hand. Emma and Vinnio sit on the sofa. Alice Russell, a pleasant sort of young woman. Just before curtain, we hear the sound of applauding, the women responding to some comment made by Lizzie

LIZZIE: . . . 'mit, wait, there's more. (She reads.) 'Ile ia e the uture fortified only frith the lessons we have learned from the past. It is today that we must create the world of the future, in the very real sense". (Sighs, contented.) I derive a groat dual of strength from the writings of Hiss Anthony. She is a true pioneer and a model we women can look up to in thought and action.

EHHA: What do you think of women's rights, Uncle Vinnie?

VIrNIE: I must confess, I haven't given the matter much thought being a bachelor.

LIZZIE: That's the problem. If people don't give the matter much thought, we can hardly expect women to grow out of this servile position we have existed in for centuries. We must have action . . . now.

ALICE: Your mice has been an inspiration to all of us, Mr. horse. Oh, that isn't to say there hasn't been some criticism.

LIZZIE: (Moves behind Alice.) There are always peoAe who want to hold back progress. I agree wholeheartedly with the aims of the woman's suffrage movement. Like Susan 3. Anthony, I feel the American woman is close to being accepted as equal under the laws of our land.

41 ^{AU6a461 11,41)d'} 111111 (Perplexed.) Sho isn't now?

LIZZIE: Certainly not. Bridget, you ask the same questions every time we discuss the topic.

SW It's hard to understand. What'good's the right to vote for me?

ALICE: There's more to the subject than =rely the right to vote. Surely you have aspirations?

O WN I have.

ALICE: TWhat are they?

NW I would like to get another fifty cents a week.

VINNIE: (Laughs. To Lizzie:) I'm afraid you and Hiss Anthony hay: a long rough road ahead.

The tray I look at it, another fifty cents is as good as a vote any

LIZZIE: (Slams the book shut, moves right, laughs, stands by -Lilo fil-Qplnpo.) My uncle is quite right. You are simply hopeless, 3ridet.

OW I suspect I am, *St/ IT 110P, W. Frsty*

(MA AND ALICE laugh good naturedly, then Vinnie joins in. 3ridet beams at the light spirit. Andrew and Abby enter stage left, take in the scone, frown. Lizzie senses the freeze. Slowly the others turn around.)

ANDREW: I thought you'd be finished with this foolish discussion by this hour.

LIZZIE: We're almost finished with our discussion of woman's rights, Father.

(Ho takes out a pocket watch and studies the time. ~~3ridet takes the hint, stand~~

c-/tp .zy ac,r Cw7(I--Cil-Qcce

gra: I'll finish up i the kitchen. (

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ALICE: It was especially interesting tonight, Mrs. Borden. Lou should have joined our discussion this evening.

A33Y: (Taking off her bonnet, crosses down right.) Emma, if you and your sister stay up very late, make sure you lock all the doors before retirinr far the evening'. (She exits.)

ANDREI: (Continues to h&ld the pocket watch---making the women uncomfortable.) I didn't realize how late it is. Must be close to nine o'clock.

VINNIE: (Hint of sarcasm.) Imagine rine o'clock already.

ALICE: (Stands.) I must be getting along. (To :Lizzie) It is a shame Rev. Hr. JuA0 didn't come this evening.

4 AiLREW. Hr. Judd? I didn't know he shared my daughter's enthusiasm for women's suffrage.

VINNIE: Lizzie is a persuasive woman.

ANDPJN: Don't tell me she's persuaded you?

VINNIE: She has sot me to thinking.

ANDREW: I credited you with more sense, Vinnie.

VINNIE: No need to be rude, Andrew. I bol iove Lizzie is quite right. Women don't share equally in our society.

ANDREW: Why should they? They're sheltered, cared for, protected: especially Hiss Lizzie Borden.

LIZZIE: Yes, at the insistence of mon.

ANDREW: That stuff is nonsense. I hope you don't preach any of this rubbish in your Sunday school classes.

LIZZIE: I am a good New England God-fearing woman. I would never preach anything I didn't feel was right and good for all.

ANDREW: I am relieved to hear of your virtues, Lizzie Borden.

ALICE: (Feeling a bit uncomfortable.) It was a pleasure meeting you, hr. Morse. I must find my way back home. It is quite late. Good night, all.

VINNIE: I hope we can spend more time together during my stay.

ALICE: That would be quite lovely. Thank you, hr. Morse.
EMMA: Good night, Alice.

ALICE: I'll see you tomorrow, Emma. Don't forget we did plan a shopping trip.

LIZZIE: I am sure she won't. Good night, Alice.

ALICE: (Moving toward the door, er.) Good evening, Mr. Borden.

ANDREW: (Finally putting his pocket watch away.) Alice.

ALICE: (Turns to the others. Mr. Jubb has arrived.) It's Rev. Jubb.

JUBB: (Entering) I am sorry for being so late. I had to visit the hospital, and before I was through, the time had slipped away. . . Good evening, Mr. Borden.

ANDREW: (Barely a civil nod.) Mr. Jubb.

LIZZIE: Father, you look warm and uncomfortable. Could-^{*0*(444.} **k** u something to drink?

ANDREW: I would thank you. But I'll let Bridget get it. That's what She's paid for. (He exits to the kitchen.)

JUBB: Rave I come at a bad time?

LIZZIE: (Indicates a chair at the table) You should be used to Father and his ways by now. (Jubb moves to the table-Lizzie follows)

ALICE: I'll be on my way now. I'm sorry, Mr. Jubb I can't stay to visit with you. You haven't forgotten your dinner invitation tomorrow evening?

JUBB: No Alice I haven't. Tell your parents I will be there at 6:00. I'm looking forward to a pleasant evening at the Russells.

ALICE: Thank you. Good night.

EMMA: (Stands) Wait. Ill? walk you to the corner. (Emma crosses center, exits with Alice...Jubb looks to Vinnie.)

JUBB: I don't believe I've had the pleasure.

VINNIE: I'm NI-. Noroe, L17.ziels Uncle.

LIZZIE: I am sorry, Aaron. I thought you two had met.

VINNIE: Do sit down.

JUBB: Thank you. (He sits) How did this evening's conversation

LIZZIE: Mrs.. Churchill didn't show up.

JUBB: (Thoughtfully) I was afraid she wouldn't.

LIZZIE: Oh? (Jubb looks to Vinnie, meaning what he has to say might be considered "Private"...Vinnie takes the hint)

VINNIE: I could do with some warm milk. Helps me sleep.

LIZZIE: Don't let us run you off.

VINNIE: (Stands) I'll only be in the kitchen. Mr. Jubb may I get you something?

JUBB: (Stands) No. Thank you. You're very kind. (Vinnie nods, Exits into the kitchen)

LIZZIE: You are actin; rather mysterious. What seems to be the problem?

JUBB: It's Mrs. Churchill.

LIZZIE: What about her? (Lizzie crosses to the sofa, Jubb follows)

JUBB: I'm afraid she has been behaving badly.

LIZZIE: How do you mean?

JUBB: You are aware that Mrs. Churchill has taught the senior Sunday school class for many years?

LIZZIE: I am not likely to forget it. She reminds me of that fact every chance she gets. And may I add she reminds everyone else too!

JUBB: Yes...she is rather possessive about the post.

LIZZIE: I believe she feels she has the post for life!?

JUBB: (Embarrassed) The point is...what I mean to say let me see how I can best express it....

LIZZIE: (Lizzie watches him with an understanding smile. She is genuinely fond of him) Poor Aaron...what a task you have. Trying to keep everyone in the fellowship happy. I think I know what you are trying to say. (Direct, professional) Mrs. Churchill is upset that she wasn't appointed supervisor • ...That's the problem, isn't it?

JUBB: I admire the way you go right to the heart of any problem.

LIZZIE: I'm not exactly a diplomat, am I?

JUBB: I wouldn't say that. I've never doubted your abilities. You're so clever and dependable. And may I add a very intelligent woman.

LIZZIE: These are the virtues, I presume, that make me qualified to supervize.

JUBB: Absolutely..

LIZZIE: (Lightly) Mrs. Churchill doesn't see it that way, and she's making things rather unpleasant for you?

JUBB: Exactly.

LIZZIE: I'll see what I can do to unruffle her feathers. It's difficult enough having her for a neighbor. I don't want her for an adversary.

JUBB: You seem to have solved my problem with a minimum of effort. (Smiles) As usual, Miss Borden.

LIZZIE: (Smiles) Leave Mrs. Churchill to me, Mr. Jubb, I know how to handle a woman of her kind.

JUBB: Don't think me rude, but I must be on my way. I promised to stop off at the city jail. Seems there's need of a clergyman there.

LIZZIE: Your visits are never long enouiJl Mr. Jubb.

JUBB: Well, Lizzie I know how your father feels about me. I don't wish to cause you any unnecessary problems.

LIZZIE: Is father the reason?

JUBB: Please Lizzie, I don't wish to cause you,....'well....I don't know how to say this..

LIZZIE: You must tell me, Aaron!

JUBB: Well...Nrs. Borden..No I have said enough, I must go..(Lizzie understands what Jubb is trying to tell her She controls her anger)

LIZZIE: (Stands) I'll walk part of the way with you,

JIM: I'd like that,

LIZZIE: Uncle Vinnie! (Lizzie and Jubb move Center..Vinnie enters from the kitchen.)

VINNIE: It was a pleasure meeting you, Reverend,

JUBB: All you be staying long in Fall River?

VINNIE: That...that depends.

LIZZIE: I'll be back shortly.

JUBB: Goodnight, Hr. Horse.

VINNIE: Goodnight, Rev. Jubb. (They exit,,he sits at the table)

(stage lights fade) (spots remain downstage)

(Lizzie and Jubb proceed to platform)

JUBB: Lizzie, I am worried about the Congregation.

LIZZIE: Worried! Everything appears to be going fine.

JUBB: It's our finances. I desperatly need a sizeable donation to keep things going the way I see fit,

LIZZIE: (Wanting to help, yet knowing the vast Borden wealth is her Father's rather than hers.) I can talk to Father.

JUBB: No--you have done so much already for the Congregation. I can't ask you (He pauses wanting to add to the story:an after-thought) It's only when Church matters are in order I can ask the woman who is dearest to me----To be my wife...,.,But then I wonder!

LIZZIE: 'fonder!

JUBB: Wonder....if she will hk' free to ho my wife. I wonder if her father will wive oorinclit...

LIZZIE: (Amazed at the haphazard proposal she has just received--- she proceeds to plot as usual) Someday I will inherit a great sum of money...That day also gives me my freedom to choose, if I so desire, to marry the man of my choice. But what do I do until that day? (Jubb listens--thinks---)

JUDD: Maybe that day isn't too far away!

LIZZIE: (Ponders on Jubbs' statement) Maybe it isn't!
(A pause again...Lizzie appears to be plotting, she changes her mood to one of anxiety and fear.) Oh, Aaron, I have been so frightened lately. So many strange things have been happening here lately. Somebody has broken in the house...things have been missing. Father has been threatened by some man from the other side of town.

JUBB: Have you reported this to the police?

LIZZIE: Yes, but father wanted things kept secret. He told the police to drop the case. Actually, I shouldn't even be telling you this.

JUBB: I am your friend. You can trust me.

LIZZIE: Then, just yesterday, someone tried to poison Abby.... Something bad is in the air. I have the feeling something terrible is going to happen tomorrow.

JUBB: Lizzie, I'm sure everything will be alright..This awful heat is getting to you.

LIZZIE: Thank you for comforting me. Perhaps I shouldn't have told you all this. After all it is a family matter.

JUDE: You matter to me. Now go Let a good night's sleep. Good night Lizzie.

LIZZIE: Good night Aaron. (Aaron exits right through the audience- Lizzie exits left)

(Action on Main stage-full lights)

valz SITTING AT THE TABLEODGET ENT' CARRYING A 1111G OF 7ARM
TIMM

BRIDGET I put in a dash of einnnmnn. (Silo c1.osses to the table.. sets down the mrlG.)

VINNIE: Thank you Bridget. It looks good.

It's nice'n hot. (Looks around) Miss Lizzie gone out?

VINNIE: nth Rev. Jubb.

ALLIKGET: He didn't stay long did he?

VINNIE: I suspect he preferred to be alone with my niece.

BRIDGET: I'll be up in my room if you need anything...Mr. Borden will be down to double check all the doors are locked.

VINNIE: He certainly worries about locking up, doesn't he?

BRIDGET?, Every door in the house has a lock and key.

VINNIE: What's he afraid of?

DKpuippo There've been robberies in the neighborhood.

VINNIE: None here, I trust.

BRIDGET: Yes, but Mr. Borden doesn't wish anyone to talk about it.

VINNIE: Oh. I understand....Goodnight Bridget.

OM. Good night Sir. (She exits stage right)

ANDREW: (Enters as Bridget leaves) Rev. Jubb gone?

VINNIE: You didn't exactly make him feel very welcome, Andrew.

ANDREW: If he wants to visit my house, he may come at a decent hour. Anyway, There is something about that man I don't care for. For a clergyman I find him....There is something deceitful about him. I can't say what it just don't know.

VINNIE: (Knowing Andrew's dislike of everyone he meets, he ignores the latter half of Andrew's statement) Nine o'clock in the evening isn't exactly the hour before dawn.

ANDREW: Might as well be as far as I'm concerned. He shouldn't encourage Lizzie in her wild ideas.

VINNIE: Now I understand your dislike for the man. He shows interest in Lizzie.

ANDREW: NO, no it's not that. I just don't trust the man. Where are they?

VINNIE: Gone for a wal Lizzie said she'd be back shortly.

ANDREW: (S* on the sofa) I'll wait up for her.

VINNIE: There's no need, Andrew. She's a young woman capable of taking care of herself.

ANDREW: I prefer to wait until everyone's in the house for the evening.

VINNIE: So you can lock up.

ANDREW: Yes.

VINNIE: **You** haven't changed much over the years. You never were what some people might term "A trusting Man".

ANDREW: (Coldly, direct) Just why are you here?

VINNIE: (Now Vinnie begins a subtle change in character. His words take on a somewhat hard edge, as if he were playing a desperate game) For a visit.

ANDREW: That's all?

VINNIE: There's no sense in trying to deceive you, is there?

ANDREW: Say what you have to say.

VINNIE: (S takes a step toward the sofa.) Andrew, before my sister died, she made it clear that the property she owned in New Hampshire should come to me. (He doesn't answer and this makes Vinnie uneasy) I've never pressed the point. Until now I've never felt the need.

ANDREW: Not legal, you know, unless it's in black and white.

VINNIE: We both heard her say it. You promised her that you'd see to her wish.

ANDREW: She was a sick woman. Her thoughts and actions were never sensible.

VINNIE: You would never allow her a doctor until it was too late to help her, and even her dying wish

ANDREW: (Doesn't allow Vinnie to finish his statement) What you're saying is....you want to hold me to the wish of a dying woman. She didn't know what she was saying half the time....

VINNIE: I've suffered some financial, setbacks. The truth of the matter is .I'm penniless.

ANDREq: You should learn to live frugally.

VINNIE: (His temper flashes) We can't all live the way you do Andrew..It takes talent to be a successful miser. (he gives him a withering look. Vinnie realizes he made a mistake) Forgive me. I shouldn't have said that.

ANDREW: It's the sort of thing I'd expect from Lizzie. I guess she gets her nasty attitude from her mother's side.

VINNIE: **I will** ignore that. I want the property. You will honor my sister's wish.

ANDREW: You have no claim on the property.

VINNIE: Legally, perhaps not. Morally, I am most assuredly entitled to it.

ANDREW: Why have you waited for so many years to bring this matter up?

VINNIE: Hoping that you would give me the deed without my asking. Having to come to you like this **it's** humiliating. I haven't pressed the issue before because I didn't need help until now.

ANDREW: If it's money you want...I will give you a small sum.

VINNIL: I have no wish to sell the property.

ANDREI'l: The property is not yours to sell, Vinnie, It's mine legally...which is the only right that matters.

VINNIE: You critilt believe that.

ANDREW: It's more important that you believe it. There is a certain "nuisance value" to your claim and with the money I shall give you. I trust that will cease.

VINNIE: (Stunned) Nuisance value?

ANDREW: I shall, of course, require you to sign a paper that the sum I pay relieves me of any financial responsibility toward you.

VINNIE: I can't believe what I am hearing.

ANDREW: Be sensible, Vinnie. I'm a businessman. I have no time for sentiment. What I propose is fair and just.

VINNIE: Sometimes I wonder what my sister ever saw in you.

ANDIRDAT: That needn't concern you:.

VINNIE: You were never this cold, never so grasping, never so selfish. I always thought you a man without much heart, but to deny your dead wife's wish...it's cruel, wicked. Don't think I don't know what's made you the way you are...Abby. She's done it. b11.41¹2 told you to hold on to every piece of land, hasn't she?

ANDREW: (Stands) I've never seen you this way, Vinnie. I don't understand you at all.

VINNIE: (He has been outspoken, almost uncontrolled, He breathes deeply) I'll ask you again, Andrew...Will you honor my sister's dying wish? Will you deed me the New Hampshire farm?

(Both men turn to the door, realize Emma is standing there.)

EMMA: (Enters left) Night time is as hot as daytime in Fall River. Not a hint of a breeze.

ANDREW: (To Vinnie) We'll talk about this later.

(VINNIE forces himself to hold back his anger, He picks up the mug-exits to the kitchen)

EMMA: Is anything the matter with Uncle Vinnie?

ANDREW: Family business. Don't concern yourself.

EMMA: I'm family, aren't I? (She moves downstage center, stands beside her father)

ANDREW: (Gently) Why trouble yourself with business affairs?

EMMA: Lizzie is right. You keep all matters regarding business a total secret. Father, we only wish to help. Someday some one must take over your business. You are not going to live forever.

ANDREW: Are you looking forward to the day of my death?

EMMA: Father, I didn't say I wanted you dead. I said Lizzie or myself should know how to handle your business affairs. Some one other than Abby should know how to carry on the mill and the bank. Some one in the family must take charge. You have worked hard for many years to establish yourself as a financial leader of this community, That stupid, elasslec-0 Abby will destroy the Borden family after you've passed on.

ANDRE: Now I understand. For years I have blamed Lizzie for the hate and confusion in this family regarding Abby. But Lizzie has been doing your dirty work. Sweet Emma, who wouldn't hurt any one When your mother died you were only twelve years old, and Lizzie two years. You mothered Lizzie. Took care of her every need. You taught her to read and write. ...Sweet Emma...the little Mother...taking care of your baby sister...My eyes were closed when you taught her to hate

EMMA: Father, how could you say these things. Now your sick distrusting nature has ontered irlto the fsholter of our home. You aro go very wr'ONT

po\TDRa;I: Am I, Emma?

LIZZIE: (Enters stage left, Emma and Andrew change the mood of their conversation. Moves towards her father and sister) Poor Aaron. He has such a good heart. People take advantage of him.

ANDREW: (Sits on the sofa) You have a good heart too, Lizzie. You should be careful people don't take advantage of you.

LIZZIE: (Surprised by this observation) I'll try to see that it doesn't happen.

EMMA: Are you sure I can't get you something from the kitchen?

ANDREW: No, my stomach is a bit upset. Perhaps dinner didn't agree with me....(Pauses, looks at both of his daughters--searching for a way to create some peace within his family...) What would you say if I told you I was planning on selling the house?

EMMA: (From Lizzie's and Emma's reactions Andrew may have said the wrong thing) SELLING THE HOUSE?

ANDREW: Uh-huh

LIZZIE: (Excited) Emma would disapprove, but I wish we could get rid of it. I have always hated it. It's a shabby, classless house.

EMMA: Where would we move?

ANDREW: I have no idea...Only a passing thought.

LIZZIE: Father, there are some wonderful new houses being built on the hill above the harbor. Let me show them to you. They even have indoor plumbing. ... I hate using the out house ... carryins down a slop pail every morning isn't condusive for our class...

JUST THEN ABBY ENTERS-STAGE RIGHT

ABBY: Indoor plumbing, is new-fangled, expensive, unnecessary.

LIZZIE: Some of us will always remain primitive.

ANDREW: That's enough.

LIZZIE: We WERE having a pleasant conversation until she waddled downstairs..

ABBY: Lizzie, I live here, too. I try not to get in your way. Why must you verbally abuse me?

ANDRE'l: JE MUST HAVE PEACE IN THIS FAMILY....

LIZZIE: The only way we will ever experience a peaceful existence in this house is....When the weeds are removed. (Turning directly to Abby with this statement)

ABBY: For once I agree with you Lizzie. The weed must be removed.

(Turning to Andrev)...Did you lock up?

ANDREW: I'll tend to it later.

ABBY: Go around and see to the barn door. We can't afford another robbery. (Andrew exits upstage right)

LIZZIE: Why doesn't father stand up to that peasant?

MIA: I think he's weary of arguing.

LIZZIE;: How could he marry such a woman after mother. *She's* petty and dull. (Speaking directly to Abby) Oh I forgot...stupid too!

ABEY: I have never known anyone who could get so much pleasure from being unpleasant.

VINNIE: (Enters from the kitchenlookinz somewhat angered)

LIZZIE: Uncle Vinnie, what's wrong?

VINNIE: (Totally out of control) Forgive me...But...I don't mean to...I can't help myself.

EMMA: ((Walks to Vinnie to console him) What is it?

LIZZIE: Please Uncle Vinnie, sit and relax.

VINNIE: (Crosses to the sofa, sits) I asked your father to help me. I asked him to give me the farm in New Hampshire.

LIZZIE: (Confirms) The one mother wanted you to have.

VINNIE- Yes...he won't do it!

EMMA: That was mother's wish!

VINNIE: The stock I counted on for divideiri qv'er gone down to nothing. I don't know what I am going to do.

LIZZIE: Why didn't you come to Emma and Me? Possibly, we could have talked to father..

VINNIE: I could live at the farm. I could rent out the land. I wouldn't have to depend on charity.

LIZZIE: You say Father refused you?

VINNIE: Yes. He refused.

EMMA: Why would he turn I-is back on mother's wish?

VINNIE: (Points an accusing finger at Abby) There's your answer. She has turned your father against me. She's the one...Before long she will turn Andrew against his own daughters. She is a heartless woman....Knows only of greed...Somebody better do something about that evil woman before she destroys you as she has destroyed me...

(EMMA AND LIZZIE LOOK TO ABBY, their expression hard and hostile.. ABBY doesn't flinch)

SLOW FADE OUT

CURTAIN

ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

AT RISE: Next Day... Andrew sits on the sofa reading the morning paper.

SOUSA'S VOICE (From the kitchen) Sousa. (Andrew looks Downstage Right, back to his paper, doesn't answer.) Sousa.

ANDREW: You may come Av_o.A0,4.6", CS_oO_{sn} nIgicky klteheni
doffs his cap, currying his axe, nods humbly) Well...what is it?

SOUSA: I chopped down the dead tree.

ANDREW: (P-A. or⁻ continues to read his paper) Sousa nervously
sl_rclt his weight from foot to foot)

SOUSA: Mr. Borden... Sir.. The...

ANDREW: What is it?

SOUSA: iir. 3orden could I have the money You owe me..

ANDREW: (Sighs puts aside the paPr) Sousa, if I give you people
too much money all at once y014.I'll spend it **foolishly**.

SOUSA: I did the wovt fast.. I did a good job.

ANDREW: I would expect no less. A true workman is worth 10 5 1'=re.
Always remember that..

SOUSA: Thon give me my money.

ANDREW: (lie dips into his pocket, comes on .k with a coin.) Here
you are..

SOUSA: (Crosses to Borden takes the coin-he finally has lost his
tumpor) Where is the :cost of it?

ANDREW: Each week I will give :rou a certain amount. That way
you'll be protected against yourself,

SOUSA: Mr. Borden you still owe me money from last month. I am
a poor man trying to make a living.

ANDREW: You people don't understand money. You will get what you
are owed, but in a sensible, businesslike fashion. Trust me
Sousa. It's for your own good.

SOUSA: (Stares at him angrily) I don't wish to beg. I am a
proud man just as you... I work hard, I expect to be paid for my
work. I have warned you once...

ANDREW: (Stunned) Don't take that tone with me.

SOUSA: I want my money, .Now!

ANDREW: (Stands) You'll get your money when I decide you deserve it. Now get out!

SOUSA: Don't talk to me as if I was a dog.

ANDREW: I'll send for the police. You know what they do to your people when there's a complaint. (They glare at each other--Sousa exits upstage left) No Sousa, the back door.

SOUSA: (Turns) No Borden the FRONT DOOR (Sousa exits upstage almost bumping Mrs. Churchill aside. She was about to knock)

MRS. CHURCHILL: (Indignant) Mr. Sousa, watch what you're doing. (She enters cautiously, a middled-aged woman, prim and proper, closes the door) Did you see that Mr. Borden?

ANDREW: I apologize, Mrs. Churchill. I suspect he's been drinking. You know how these foreigners are! I ran him off. He won't be working around here again. Please sit down.

MRS. CHURCHILL: (She moves to the sofa, sits -Andrew folds his paper, tucks it under his arm) Not safe to walk across the street anymore with all these foreigners around.

ANDREW: I'll deal with Sousa in my own way.

LIZZIE: (Enters center) Stiffling day isn't it?

ANDREW: You are up late this morning. Aren't you feeling well?

LIZZIE: I just don't know what it is... I don't feel myself today. Goodmorning Mrs. Churchill.

MRS. CHURCHILL: (Coolly) Goodmorning Miss Borden.

ANDREW: You two probably want to talk church matters, I apologize again for Sousa, if you'll excuse me, Mrs. Churchill.

MRS. CHURCHILL: It's already forgotten. (Andrew exits)

LIZZIE: (Moving behind the sofa) What about Mr. Sousa?

MRS. CHURCHILL: He almost knocked me down.

LIZZIE: Doesn't sound like him. Mr. Sousa is usually so quiet about everthing he does.

MRS. CHURCHILL: I didn't make it up.

LIZZIE: I'm sure you didn't. May I offer you a cup of coffee?

MRS. CHURCHILL: No thank you.

LIZZIE: Tea?

MRS. CHURCHILL: Nothing.

LIZZIE: (Moves Downstage Center) I've been meaning to pay you a visit for some time.

MRS. CHURCHILL: I realize your time is valuable, and I do live so far away. Such a great distance to travel. • • Right across the street!

LIZZIE: I've been so busy. What did you want to talk about?

MRS. CHURCHILL: You know perfectly well, Miss Borden.

LIZZIE: (Friendly) Won't you call me Lizzie?

MRS. CHURCHILL: (Thoughtful pause, then) No.

LIZZIE: Can't we be friends?

MRS. CHURCHILL: That depends on you. (Lizzie and Mrs C. eye each other like birds of prey)

LIZZIE: You're upset because the church fellowship has appointed me in charge of the Sunday School classes.

MRS. CHURCHILL: You head so many other committees. You have so many other interests. I've devoted many years to my Sunday school teaching. I was teaching long before you got interested. The fellowship owes me something. I deserve the posi'ion you've taken from me.

LIZZIE: I haven't taken anything from you. I was offered the post- I accepted.

MRS. CHURCHILL: Of course, I don't contribute as heavily to the church as you do. I'm not wealthy.

LIZZIE: Nor am I.

MRS. CHURCHILL: You're not exactly penniless.

LIZZIE: Are you suggesting that I 'bought' the post?

MRS. CHURCHILL: I'm not as clever as you. I can't twist people around my finger. You have a champion in Rev. Mr. Jubb.

LIZZIE: What you've suggested is both inaccurate and insulting.

MRS. CHURCHILL: I should be in charge of the Sunday School department.

LIZZIE: Well, you're not. I am. What would you suggest I do?

MRS. CHURCHILL: Resign.

LIZZIE: (Stunned) You can't be serious.

MRS. CHURCHILL: (Admiringly) I am.

LIZZIE: I see. (Direct) I'll be just, t, andid with you. I believe I was selected because, for sometime, the results in the classes have been less than admirable. I've observed YAW methods and, frankly, I consider you a poor teacher.

MRS. CHURCHILL: (Incensed) How dare you!

LIZZIE: Not only will I keep my new post, but I shall do everything in my power to persuade Mr. Jubb to retire you to some 'less taxing' position with the Fellowship.

MRS. CHURCHILL: You'd take away the one thing that means everything to me?

LIZZIE: I'm concerned for the children, not for you. I know your feelings towards me. It would be impossible for us to work together.

MRS. CHURCHILL: (Weakening) If you take away my teaching what will I do?

LIZZIE: Have you considered becoming a Quaker?

(Furious, Mrs. Churchill rises, turns on her heel, Exits upstage left, Lizzie laughs. Abby enters from the kitchen carrying a bowl of pears--Crosses to sidetable and sets it down)

ABBY: Why, hello Mrs. Churchill. I didn't know you were here. (Mrs. Churchill Exits, Slamming the door) What's the matter with her?

LIZZIE: She's thinking of becoming a Quaker.

ABBY: A Quaker? (Lizzie laughs as she proceeds to exit Center Stage) Why are you laughing?

LIZZIE: Must be the heat. I can feel it baking my brain. I'll be up in my room, I must start planning.

ABBY: Planning what?

LIZZIE: (Continues to laugh) — AL

BRIDGET: (Enters Stage Right) Mrs. Borden, I think I ate something that didn't agree with me. I guess I just can't tolerate mutton soup for the fourth day. Would you mind if I went to my room just to res-----

ABBY: Would you mind starving to death because you were out of a job? No, I will not have you waste your time and my money. Wash all the windows inside and out.

41.:* But it's so bloody hot today. I'm just not feeling well.

ABBY: I give the orders. Now go outside and start washing these windows.

MIDGET; (Taking the buckets, mumbling under her breath) Some day you'll have to answer to God and I hope it's Z P, t-.; x77 j

ANDREW: (Enter Stage Right) I'll off now Abby. (Looking around) Where are the girls?

ABBY: Both are upstairs in their bedrooms.

ANDREW: Good. I have made arrangements with the lawyer regarding my will. You must meet me downtown at the bank at 10:00.

ABBY: What will I tell Lizzie if she asks where I am going?

ANDREW: I have arranged for a messenger to deliver a note saying your sister is ill, and she needs your assistance.

ABBY: Fine. I am glad you have finally seen things my way. Those girls will just squander away all your money and throw me out into the cold should anything happen to you. This way I have complete control over all your affairs. And Andrew, you know I will take care of your daughters, just as if I were their natural mother.

ANDREW: I know Abby. You have been such a kind wife all these years. I only wished that Emma and Lizzie would understand that you care.

ANDREW AND ABBY cross left to hat rack. Lizzie enters Center Stage

ABBY: By the way, have you told Lizzie about our other plan?

LIZZIE: Told me what? (Both are surprised by Lizzie's entrance)

ANDREW: Later.

LIZZIE: Tell me what?

ANDREW: It's not important.

4BBY: Tell her, Andrew. (Lizzie looks from Abby to Andrew sensing something's up)

ANDREW: Lizzie, your mother and I...

LIZZIE: She's not my mother.

ANDREW: Your mother and I think it would be best if you...

LIZZIE: If I what Father?

ANDREW: If you...

ABBY: (Cuts in) Take a short trip. Get away from the house for a few weeks.

LIZZIE: Just where would you like me to go?

ANDREW: You need a rest. You have been so unhappy lately. And well.. it's been hard on the rest of us.

A33Y: Never a kind word from you. You've turned Emma against me.

LIZZIE: If I choose to take a vacation from the people in this house.. My choice would be....A long vacation from Abby. Something permanent. It's Abby's absence that will bring peace of mind to me and the rest of the family.

ANDREW: You must get away. We've made arrangements for you to stay at Doctor Hale's summer cottage for two weeks.

LIZZIE: I don't know what you are up too I make my own decisions. I don't need Abby to suggest when I should take ay vacation. Next she will be throwing Emma and Me out of this house permenately.,

ANDREW: (Disturbed) Are you satisfied, Abby?

A33Y: I -won't be satisfied till there is peace in this family. That Lizzie Borden is crazy. She needs a doctor's help. Some day she is going to do something we all will be sorry for. And Andrew, you didn't stop her when there was still a chance.

ANDREW: Where are you going?

AT:33Y : To send the-otftn-ene-ou-her way. That oe s up to no good.
(She Exits Right)

ANDREW: (Weary with all the tension. Andrew sighs, looks down Left shakes his head) A sad house, when the hens do all the crowing. (Lizzie enters center crosses down right) Lizzie be reasonable. We cannot have this constant bidOing. Please go stay at Doc Hale's, for a few weeks of rest. Lizzie.... Please listen to me.... Lizzie

EMMA enters center-putting on a pair of gloves

EMMA: You still at home Father.

ANDREW: Hmmmm

EMMA: I thought you'd be at the bank by now.

ANDRE7: I've a few things to attend to here. Where are you off to?

EMMA: Alice and I are going shopping. Maybe I'll find something extra special to buy for you.

ANDREW: (His thoughts are still on Lizzie) That would be thoughtful, Emma. You run along and say hello to Alice for me. (Andrew is being unusually solicitous surprising Emma)

EMMA: Yes, Father, I will. You seem preoccupied. Are you all right?

ANDRE7: Yes, yes.. Go along.

EMMA: Awfully hot, isn't it?

ANDREW: It is, yes.

EMMA: I'll be back in time for lunch. (She exits ^{right} left)

VINNIE: (A moment passes and Vinnie, suitcase in hand, enters cc::•)--16-?) Tight) I'll be leaving now, Andrew.

ANDREW: There's no need.

VINNIE: You've made the need.

ANDREJ: I'll be happy to give you the small sum I mentioned.

VINNIE: I'm not one to be grateful for small favors.

ANDREW: Aren't you going to say goodbye to the girls?

/INDIE: Ihc,y'rc: not jrls, Amtreur. They're 'Voile'.') T
pref:3r to Write to my nisnef, l.z)ss avut:w0::a.

4141,4ev'. 1 .¹1 qsart 64t the tru~~w~~ drl, ye you 10⁴¹⁴ stp.ti.on
(Loves toward the door) io heed. (urns) 2Dio
you believe in the ,ami,.hty?

ANDIEW: :hat a l,rangc que'tion. ost **certainly I do, I**
always have, I always shall..

VINNII;1 Then you must realize you'll be punished. ;good
Andrell.

ANnr.EJ: (Calls after him) Le sensible Vinnie. Take ray cilsr.
(Enters from kitchen, composed, icy) ,here is
Uncle Vinnie

ANDRZI Oh, there you are, Lizzie. . here were you?

LILea:: Outside.

: Didn't you hear me call to you?

. you didn't answer me. ,here is **Uncle Vinnle**

AiqDHZ : He's leaving Fall Giver.

LI4,GIJ1 When?

Ai D1

T⁷ ZII¹;3 **Without** seyin,r, :pod-bye?

.AHDRL: s He's an ry with me. He'll come to his senses 'n
time. He said he^od write to you 3irls.

LIZZIE: ,.ore of your wife's doing.

AilDa.L,: Abby is rijlt. You've never riven her a chance..
I must o to the bank...I have a ve^ry important
appointment to keep. (He exits left)

IMO

(LIZZIE, exhausted and confused..enters the kitchen, goes to the stove, pouts herself a cup of coffe walks down stage to the taable. thinks...suddenly she discovers Sousa's Axe—She holds it up.. stares **suddenly breaks** into a haunting laugh.. THE LIGHTS SLOWLY FADE ..THE DRUM BEATS ...BLACK OUT.. Area left platform, Abby stands dusting ..from behind the murder comes out..beats Abby **to death...(STROB FLASHING)**

DRUM... COUNT OF TEN.....

CENTER STAGE..Lights up...To a pounding on the front door—Bridget enters from the kitchen to the front door...Lizzie standing in the stairway—CENTER STAGE)..continues her haunting laughter.....

(Mumbling about the Ooors always being locked during the

ANDREU: I forgot my keys.. Why is that door double locked during the eay?

: I don't know all the bloody answers to the strange goings o in is house. (EE is to lae kitchen)

AHDRE: That has gotten into that girl?

LIZZIE: Must be the heat.

ANiLREii: You just can't trust those foreigners. They change, they **turn on you. A33Y's right...we better** get rid of her before she does something strange.

LIZ; I:: Abby wants to get rid of all of us.,. infore we do something **strange...**

ANDREW: That's enough, Lizzie.. (Looking around) 'There is Abby?

LIZZIE: She received a note frail a messenger, saying her sister was ill. She went to assist her.

ATRE.7: Oh! I will be in the sitting room. I want to retp&before lunch. (Takes of his coat, hangdP it on the coat rack—proceeds to the sitting room. stage right)

LIZZIE: Watches as he goes into the **sitting room...walks to the coat rack..soarches through Andrew's coat—discovers papers. She reads the papers cautiously...anger and rage take over her body.. she rips up the papers goes into the kitc*throd.W them into the stove.. BRIDGET IS surprised to see Lizzie so angry. Lizzie wishing to conceal her anger from Bridet...takes a deep breath trying to control herself...**

Mins Lizzie...

11111111

LIZZIE: (Distracted with hclr thou^,ht;)

11111111 idiss

(?2)

LIZZIE: Yes Bridget, what is it...

11: "ell... I'm junt not geeling well. Since Mrs. Borden is
11110 d. Mr. Borden is sleeping...Jould you mind terribly if I went
to my room.. I just need to rest for a while.

LIZZIE: Yes, go ahead.. I'll call you when you are neede(!

~~BRIDGET~~: Thank you Miss Lizzie.t N/. r

Ltnies (Stands down stage in the kitchen. .. lights begin to fade
as she starts in her laughter again...

BLACK OUT TO STROVE --drum starts again.... Murder enters Sitting
Room...Strikes Ur. Borden..

TRUii...COUNT OF TEN....Full lights....

LIZZIE: (Enters from the kitchen door--goes immediatiily to the
sitting room.... discovers her foather's body... call to n1:IA.7et)

BRIDGET....BRIDGET... BIRDGE ... (Bridget enters center)

11111111 Yes Nis,, Lizzie, is it?

LIZZIE: Go get help... Someone has killed leather--.

(Exits towards the kitchen... Lizzie:Following her. They
reach the kitchen door, nridget turns to Lizzie...) '.?here were you
Miss Lizzie when it happened?

LIZZIE: I was out back .. in Lhn ham. and. T. heard ."a⁴¹u.o.or.
Now hurry...2:0 70± help.

BLACK OUT

CURTAIN)

(32i)

ACT TWO
Scene One

AT RILL;: One week later. LornipL. et is at the
l,5aokesse, taking ou-t-velturruff dfia dūsti-n& the nhelves..
<'Ale hums. Door to the kitchen opens and a young policeman,
Officer Harriniton, sticks his head in.

HARRINGTOIA **CLERA)/AA**
Fssst.

4111111111 (turns) Are you a snake, Patrolman harrin:,ton?
Snakes hiss. Lien do not (She smiles flirtatiously)

IIARRII,GTON: (Steps into the room) I didn't want to come
in if Lass Borden was about.

almo She's in li-er room. Anyway, you come and ao as you
please, don't you? (she finishes up at th
moves down center)

S704.1

:11-IRRINGTON: Such a fine lady, she is. How could anyone
think she could do such a thinz?

People have wicked minds.

H-r2INGTOIis I admire the way she's kept her calm.

ems ri4e doctor gives her medicine. That helps.

HARAIIC-TON: How about you helping me to a cup of coffee?

WIMP The pot's on the stove.

HAUINGT01;: I like company.

LIL,ZIO: (Offstage) Bridget, are you talking to?

and HARRII4GTON look down left. LIthI. enters . .
stater, composed. The only thing that betrays her calm is
the nervous habit she has of washin' her hands with the other
from time to time. She wears a different dress.

It's Patrolman Harrin,Iton.

LI/iLIC: I imagine this past month has been dull duty for
you, i.ir. Harrin,ton.

HARRINGTOH: Not at all, is

LI LIE: liany curious people on the sidewalk this morninL?

HRRINGT011: Only a few.

Can't imagine why they come. Nathirks to **see** but the outside of this house. No. 92 2nd Stroet, Fall Rivver, LAssachutsetts.

HARaINGTONI I suspect they're hoping to catch a glimpse of you.

LIZzI-s Why?

HARRINGTON: Curiosity.

Not.that. They think I murdered my father and his wife. They want to tell their grandchildren they once saw a famous "murderess". Never mind if she's innocent.

N(Ahoo Vuha,

[REDACTED]

NOW, now Liss Lizzie. It's wrong of you to think and talk that way. They'll catch whoever done it.

Lii.T .1 (pits at the table) Alen? (LilIDG-1]T doesn't know how to ans'er this, looks bewilderedly to HaarINGT0,4)

HANflINGTON: Soon, Liss Dorden, **soon**.

LIZ2JE: It would be comfortin if I could believe that.

HAUINGTON: I'll outside and see that they don't come into the yard. (He exits riLht)

(411)111P- ^{itrr}rot f /i/i2-7 7 it sitz_4--z- hek CeN7Ay
- Are you goina to have breakfast? - / 'ti

No.

ANN'' You eat so poorly.

LIZZIT]: Not surprisinl, is it?

[REDACTED]

It's rood we've Lot police about. Those 1st days, when the mob gathered outside, I was fri,htened out of pe skin.

Liz4I: So was I. Terrified would be more like it. (sound of knocking) Dee who it is.

[REDACTED]

Are you seeing anyone?

LIZZIE: I'm fine.

TA-Lb ^{na}k_i^vAiAbAgS
I

[REDACTED]

(Goes to the Front door) . JI,NNING0, a lawyer, stands outside) It's Mr. Jennin,s..

LIZZIE: (Stands) Come in, i.Ir. Jennings. (JIiNING-;J enters, crosses down to the table and sets a briefcase)

4.0

you've brought food news, haven't you Mr. Jennings?

JENNINGS: All in food time, all in food time.

LIZ: Go alone, Dr. Jennings.

LIZ: Let me know if you need anything.

LIZ: I will, thank you. How are you feeling today?

LIZ: I'm feeling better today.

LIZ: One day is like another. (She sits on the sofa)

JENNINGS: (opens briefcase) You've seen the latest papers?

LIZ: I haven't seen the newspapers in over a week. Half seem to think I'm guilty as sin, the others see me as a victim of circumstances.

JENNINGS: You're quite a celebrity, Liss Borden.

LIZ: I wish only to be left alone.

JENNINGS: You must be prepared.

LIZ: Torment

JENNINGS: In case the tide should turn against us.

LIZ: Is that likely?

JENNINGS: We must consider the possibility.

LIZ: Dr. Jennings, don't think me ungrateful, but I find your services premature. You're here because the Reverend Mr. Jubb feels I need legal assistance. He is quite right.

LIZ: I understood his concern, it's common knowledge my father and his wife were not on the best terms with me or I with them. Therefore the popular assumption is that I murdered her in cold blood.

JENNINGS: Assumption is not proof of guilt, Liss Borden. If you are charged.

(Cut; in) Lionel, be absurd.

JENNINGS: If you are charged, the prosecution will bring up a far more damning motive than that which you have suggested.

LIZZI: Oh?

S

JENNIE4GS: Your father was a wealthy man.

and I are independent. We have money
from a trust administered by our mother.

JJMNIE: (Checks some papers) Your father's estate
is valued at close to a half million dollars. His
will states that it is to be divided into three equal
parts, wife and two daughters. Since Abby Borden
is deceased, her share falls to you and your sister,
Zama. You are the two wealthiest women in Fall
River. If you are charged, the burden of proof of
innocence will be on you. And me as your
counsel.

LIZZIE: You think it will come to that?

JRNHINC-3: I can only repeat that I think we should be pre-
pared. (Another document) In your deposition to
the City Marshall, you stated you saw a man running
from the backyard before you discovered your father's
body.

Yes. I called after him, but he kept on running.

JLFIUN : Did anyone else see this "man"?

LIZZIE: How many times must I go over this?

JANIN&S: As many times as I think necessary. These are the
same questions the prosecutor presents.

LIZZIE: Mrs. Churchill was sitting on her front porch. She
must have seen him.

She says not. (Pauses) Why would she lie?
LIZZIE's mind wanders. She doesn't seem to hear,
repeats that odd "handwashing" vesture) Miss Borden?

LIZZIE: Hmm?

JENPINGS: Why would Mrs. Churchill lie about a thing like
that?

LIZZIE: I don't know.

(sighs) Let that pass for the time being.
You came into the house. Briket Sullivan, your
hired girl, entered through the front door.

Yes

You suggested she go downtown.

LIZZIE: Yes, there was a sale on dress materials.

Then what happened?

LIZZIE: rxdicet said she wasn't feelinL, well.. ;he was
Loin,: to her room to take a nap. Then I went out
into the barn.

JENINC-: Ho⁻ Ton. were you in the barn?

LIZZI]: I think. . . 20 minutes . . . I went to look for
sinkers. I was planninL a fishin trip. I sa* in
the loft for a while, ate a few pears. Then I re--
turned to the house. That's when I saw the man
runniry from the house.

hat did you do?

LI I ran into the house . . . that's when I found father

JwLINC-): You stooped do⁻rn to examine the body . . .

LIZZITA That's how I _ot blood on my hands.

JIIINH62 If worst comes to worst, our stronLest point will
be that there was no blood on your dress.

LI Is that important?

SETTINGS: 1,1r dear idss ;orlon. One can hardly murder 2 people
with an axe . . . brutally . . . without some blood
splashin onto the killer's ;arment.

LIZZI:: i',xe? How do they know it was an axe?

JENEI : They don't. It could be any hard eded weapon.
wide of a shovel, an iron . . . almost anythin.s.
:hatever the weapon, they haven't found it.

LIZZIE: But you said axe.

JENNING. Only because i:A7. c:ousa said he left his axe in the
yard after choppily; down a dead tree. The -
axe has never been found.

(12nters. The too, looks distrau3ht) I thouc,ht I
heard you, hr. Jannin[s.

J,7;NNINGS: I'm glad you are here. Would you sit- down, hiss
.Aroma? (He indicates the table, she sits)

LIZZIE: You are not 7;01nz to bother her?

JEIININGS: (Checkin. statements) You've sworn you heard an
arLument early the morninL of the murders..

: I did.

JENNINGS: Your father arguing; with some man.

..IT MA Yes. The man sounded terribly angry.

JENNINGS: But you couldn't identify that man as ,;ouza?

El:11: I'm sure it wasn't i.tr. .3ouza.

JENNINGS: How can you be positive?

J]aa,11: I think I'm able to recognize the sound of fir. ,7)ouza's voice.

LLYZIE: Father was always argue with someone. had a morbid fear of foreigners.

JENNINGS: You mention that repeatedly.

LIZZIE: To father, anyone south of Fall Ave was a foreigner.

JENNINGS: If we could find that man, we miLht be able to end this ugly business immediately. CAuffs papers back into his briefcase) They've received your uncle's statement from New York.

17,111:A: Poor Uncle Vinnie. He would **have** to fall and break his hip just when we need **him. I really should go to him.**

J"]NirlisiGS: Your place is **here, Liss Borden.**

Yes, yes. You're right..

JENNINGS: The man at the post office said he saw your father at 10:30.. What time did he get **home?**

Mari]: **I told you before.** Father came home approximately 10150.

JENNINGS: We must convince the jury that what you say is true.

LIZZIE: Ah yes. . . the jury. 12 men. Also, a male judge and a male prosecutor.

JENNINGS: And a male defense lawyer.

LIZIII]: I am at the mercy of men it would seem.

JENI,IGS: I must warn you a'ainst that sort of talk. It can only do you harm. Zbusy **with his briefaase) I shall be on my way. Let me caution you** against speakin,
iv -bha roportPrr.. TboYt11 **111t You PrIY-

1:11:11: I'll see that she doesn't meet them.

JENNINGS: Good clay ladies. I'll show myself out.

CialA: Good day, Ur. JenninLs. (He exits without closin
12111A turns to LI'LZI who is looking distant and
occupied. l]mma stands, moves behind sofa) Would you.
like me to et your medicine? The doctor said you
could take it as often as you like..

LIZZIE: The doctor's a quack. Thinks by dopinc me foolish,
I'll sit quietly and behave.

DEVIA: It miht help.

LIZZIE: I'd rather stay alert and feel pain. ,hen I feel pAJ.fl
at least I know I'm alive. (takes I:;iii A's hand) Oh,
Emma, I don't know what I'd have done without you,.
You've been such a comfott.

11;11A: Try not to worry. Trust in providence.

(RTX. JU2, J enters left, excited. ALICE is with him)

JUI1D: Lizzie, I've some wonderful news.

They've found the man?

JUITM Well, no, not that. (he moves clown to the table)

1,,222 What then?

JUDD: The Fellowship has passed a motion of support. vie
reaffirm our faith in you.

LT%,ZI'. That is Loocl news, Aaron. I wish I were more myself
Thoughts are racing in my head.

ALICE: Is it any wonder?

LIZ,]IT]: Please convey my appreciation to the fellowship eldes

JUDB: The idea that you could have done such an awful thin-,
it's unthinkable.

LL4;ZIJT: You've all been kind. I don't know what I can do to
repay you.

JUDD: civin[an interview to the press, but I had to sic?
by and tell you about the older's decision.

LIz.ZIE: Yes, it is wonderful. I thank you arain, Aaron.

JUDD: 2.)on't despair. jearo all prayinL for you. (exits _Left,

ALICE,3: (Loves to table) He worked so hard to get that motion,,

LIZZIE: Aaron is a friend, a true friend. I'm so fortunate to have so many. Like you, Alice (LIZZIE stands, moves down right) I'm going upstairs for a moment. (she exits center)

JANE: Poor thing. She is exhausted.

ALICE: (steps to table) It's all the town is talking about. The murders. Even the New York papers are full of it. There was a rumor they were going to charge Souse

EMMA: Because he quarreled with father?

ALICE: Yes.

ELLA! In that case, they'd have to arrest them all. Usually Fall River. Father fought over money.

CHUCK: It hasn't been much help. She's spreading all sorts of gossip.

ATL: I'm not surprised.

ALICE?]: She says if they bring Lizzie to trial, she'd buy her way out..

That's contemptible.

ALICE: I'm afraid there are a lot of people who don't like the Borden name.

Father and Abby weren't exactly likeable people, and Lizzie has offended so many with her manner. People that don't understand her.

ALICE: If only she could get away for a rest..

AS I've suggested that, but the City Marshal forbids it,

ALICE: What kind of justice is that? Lizzie isn't charged with anything. and yet they treat her like a common criminal.

The officials have been more than courteous. I don't think they want anything to do with the case. Fall River has never accused a woman of murder in all its history.

(Enters center, her "act one dress" in her arms.)

ALICE: hat have you Lot there?

LIZZIE: (crosses to kitchen) Just an old dress. It has paint stains on it. I can't .,.,et the stains out. (she • • enters the kitchen)

She says she doesn't take the medicine the doctor Lives her, but she does. It makes her muddled.

ALICE: asn't that the dress Lizzie wore the day of the murders?

rdlA: I didn't notice. LlthouLh I **do remember the fuss** she made over a dress she Lof paint'stains on several months aL:o.

!Ida]: I really don't think she should try to take stains out of any dress at this time. Especially with a police: man right **outside** the door.

Perhaps you're **riLht**. Lizzie. Lizzie.

LIZZIE: (enters) :hy are you shoutinL?

-idJA: The dress. .hat are you doin_ to the dress?

Liz,ZI!': It's ruined.

There have you put it?

LIZZI7;: I'm burnin- it in the stove.(L'ILA ALICE react in horror)

LILA: Lizzie, you didn'tl (darts into the kitchen)

LIZZIE: That's the matter?

ALICE: Lizzie, did the patrolman see you put the dress into the stove?

LIZZIE: Yes, he was standing rihtooutside **the** screen door.

ALIC23: (weak from shock she sinks to a chair at the table) What have you done?

LIZZIE: (steps in front of the sofa) 11ha::S Wong?

(returning from latches) I couldn't pull it out. i:ost of it is smothered in flame.

LIZZIE: Why is my dress so important?

adAA: Lizzie, 1,1r. JenninLs stressed it not more than a few minutes ago. he said **the** stronc:est defense you have is the fact there is no blood splattered on your dress

ALICC: Lizzie, what could you have been thinkin, of?

LIZIC: (suddenly the impact hits. she sits on the sofa, face in her hands) [hat have I done? . . . Emma, why didn't you stop me?

HARIZINCTOa: (enters down left) The city Larshall's coming; to the house. There's a crowd followin, _ him.

i;OVJIJ UP C2iiT12ol, .0001Z. LI42, Ie looks nervously to L'irLIA and then to ALICE.

aLICLA I'm sure it's somethins routine.

Perhaps it's more questions.

LIZI:=3: I'm sick of questions.

iiii_aIITTON: (calls back) The City .,arshall, hiss 2,orden.

(City harshall enters up center, nods to Aarrin ton, who tosses a lax salute, closes the door. LIZLIE doesn't turn)

(iiods hello) Ladies (ALIC1J stands, moves to fireplace)

Good of you to drop by, larshall,

(%. AaSKALL moves center, harrinL ton stands by ^{cr't A(} **bookoa4e**)

IIARELiALL: This isn't a social call.

LIZZI:: I didn't think it was.

ALICE: You've found the man Lizzie saw rennin; from the house*/

n!,:l HALL: No.

2,ida: Question Mrs. Chruchill. her why she's

LLX:DKALL: ;he insists she saw no one runnin from the yard.

(temper flarinL) ,hat does it matter: that does any of it matter?

MA moves to LILLIL: sits beside her, puts a comforting arm around her shoulder)

IainHALL: I didn't mean to upset you, idss Borden.

LIZZIE: (calms down) I'm sure you didn't. ForLive me . . .
my nerves . I've been under such a strain . .

ALICs Is it any wonder?

LAilLaiVE,LS You must understand this is a most peculiar case.
Y'see the killer had to be familiar with the house.

LIZZIL: Aly?

lAaSHALL: You were nearby, your hired Lirl was outside waehin,
windows and then nappin: upstairs in her bedroom. Your
uncle had just left the premises. The house wasn't
exactly deserted. The killer had to strike down
your mother . . .

LIZZI,A She wasn't my mother. he was my father's wife.

ilAa],iALL: Strike her down without makin a sound. The same
with your father. Then escape without beinc seen.

LIZZI3s I saw him.

MARSHALL: All this in broad dayli:,ht. Timed to the second,
no marlin for error. C3 V/66 7 co en 6: 3"7/9 iti.(7 '3y

LI2,ZIEs Am I . . . the "prime" suspect? 4/ 4/P 1 /1

HAARINGTOil: I wish it didn't point in that direction.

LIZZIE' I want to kmow the truth.

LIAR HALL: L ell, Liss Borden, yes; you are the prime suspect.
L_ /hcie"

ALICE (shocked) Oh, no

574, /1>S y G(TTtg'

Dut the man father fowht with? I heard him so clearly?

HARSHALL: We will continue our search. You see, it isn't a
question of the actuql killinc, alone.

LIZZE2: I don't understand.

MARSHALL: The autopsy. The findincs were brou:,ht before the
Grand Jury. There were some traces of arsenic
poi soninL.

(stunned) Arsenic?

43
~~none to front door~~

121A3HALL: Not enough to kill unless riven Ln ;Alfficient
doses over a prolonced period.

nLIC.0t **You're saying** someone tried to poic: on the Dordens?

ii.A=IALL: A roman visited the pharzacy about tllo months a_o
The pharmacist remembers, She made a fuss about _
sirninf: the re:•ister,

:17,11/1: :::hat woman?

!,calmly) I bouLht the arsenic for' tree rats, They
infest the barn.

OM That's rijlt, ^{5,1i4.0?} E, *Gixte*
They all ever the barn. I hate
to o in there. You mustn't te%e lass Lizzie.
You cant. *pL641)/A/6*

fal;ZIL7,1 hhh, Briket. (stands roc,;ally) Am I to Lo with ycle

7:71iRS7ALL: Yeq.

L-"ZIEa 1 as innocent, Earshall, hr; (:asn't answer)
411110 ZALICY;; look as if they mi,h4 break out into tear:D
, ta

v.31:11le I'll comarrith yea.

FAdSHALLf I'm afraid that's not allow ;larrincton.
(Harrilvton steps center. Opens the door)

LIZZIEI (\$oft lain h) I feel lik Lari
to the fuillotine. (lio one Laes
their tense ,;:,;:pressions),

C)C/C-- 7-47L4/4/2_;U

cuaTzu

- 1/7

g^sAO⁻ 4/4/4⁷

*kofe

ACT TO

.scene iii4zo rfiftgt

AT AIL': Weeks later. is showin(j in a reporter -
AMY ilo:AaT, enters lef ~~A~~ 'cens̄er.... .

40111110 Aiss 'imma is in the kitchen.. I'll tell her you're
here. . . uh, what was your bloody name main?

itobsart.. Amy Robsart. I'm Ath the .New York _Jun..

arm I should have remembered.. I Ake yourself at home.
(exits to the kitchen. A.,Y looks about the room,
mo en clown center. She sets her ba,r on the 2+aa table and o, y
takes out a pencil and notebook. 2iathi enters from kitchen cros ot
'ripinT flour from her hands) *F26626 i/v 707-c4/i) r_02416X7*

ELLA: lass IZobsart. (AiJY turns, extends her hand) I've been c-i,-
bakin'. Ly hands are sticky. 'e,"on't you sit clown?

AEYt Thank you. (Ally sits at table. Isii.11,A moves in front of
sofa) I was afraid you 'muldn't see me.

: ELLI3 You've been most sympathetic to nay sister. I
appreciate that.

I believe it's a question of empathy. I know of
your sister's work in the woman's ri[Znt movement..

: One of Lizzie's favorite causes.

ALY3 I'm quite active in the mcvement myself. idid you know
that?

No

AFY: I feel it's important that we stick tcether.

Yes

111:Y: All the attention has flowed to your sister.

.:EKA: I don't feel as if I've been i.rmored.

didn't mean it like that. I would like to hear what
you have to say.

sou mean about the murders?

Al.Y: I'm sure you'll agree that the police investigation was sloppy. even the Boston papers admit that.

I wouldn't know if the investigation was sloppy or not.

ATYs however murdered your father and stepmother had ample time to do away with evidence and heaven knows what else.

That's what people are saying, _.

Alas That could work in Lizzie's favor. she has many friends.

J22.A.: Many enemies, too.

Al.Y: Why do you suppose the authorities dared arrest your sister? I mean, considering the lack of hard evidence her social position in Fall River

W.H.J.A.: I believe I can answer that.

Alas Please do. (She is ready to write)

W.H.J.A.: You must understand what I say is only a theory. My own

LILY: Go on.

W.H.J.A.: I believe the police had to find a "murderer" to save face.. After all, this case is the most 'ao' shall I put it? "spectacular" . . . they've ever had. They couldn't find the man father was ruined, with that morning, and if they didn't come up with something, they would look foolish.

AIX: You are saying your sister was chosen because she was available?

EiLA: I'm not sure I would put it quite that way, but I do think the police made an assumption and did everything in their power to make the facts fit.

Al.Y: May I quote you?

W.H.J.A.: If you wish.

AIX: You and your sister were close. Very close.

Yes..

Al.Y: Your mother died when you were a teenager and Lizzie was quite young.

W.H.J.A.: Yes. I brought Lizzie up . . . I was like a mother to her.

Could you say she admired you?

Very much... but I admired her even more... there T: Hasn't
anythinr **Lizzie** Dalidn't do once she set her mind to
it. If I had a problem, she solved it. If I wae
ill, she played nurse. **If** I' was lonely, she took
co7ay the loneliness /ith companionship. Dever since
I can remember, Lizzie has been there ten I needed
her.

Ai n You share handsomely in your father'_,

..Li A I wish I'd never heard of it. If the will didn't exist
the authorities 'ouldn't have the one motive they can
understami. iurdor for profit.

.li ms's ;.it true you and your-eirter took your meale separately
from your father and etepmother?

e never ate at the table with my stepmother.

y choice?

That was the way Lizzie wanted it.

ILLY: You didn't dispute the point?

.2.:

fiLY: Did you hear that the y..CA ha,e established a fund to •
help in your eister'e defense?

7es,_I. know that. many have been so kind.

Len hate. admittin they're -erong.

;;el-ll-ti. • The police have had thing e pretty much their crTn "eay.'
J; however, they've been considerate. I've taken many
of Lizziel's personal _thin' to her cell. e;ven her
vanity and dressin 4agPil,

AT.71's You make it sound a2 if the were an Actress preparin
for a role. (puce, then...) ehat will you do if
the jury finds your eistea.-

~~ELIA:~~ Guilty?

=.:• Innocent.

I'll thank Cod.

you remain here in Fall ,eiver?

I haven't :iven thou,ht to anything beyond each day
and :that it brinLe.

(el.7.f nods theu,lltfully, eritee. cHur)cIaLL enters
eta: a, left 7ithout knock in,: , exmitable)

CIX. •;:C:ILL: I must speak to you, eeiraa.

didn't hear you Imock,

14113..ciaitcl-aLLg Now.

(ALY senses the tension, decides to leave, zits) Perhaps we can finish this later in the day.

ELEA: Please stay, hiss aobsart. Can't you see I'm busy, Churchill?

1.RS. CKURCHILL: (folds arms defiantly) I'm not leavinL..

12.13iAs (to ALY) Perhaps another time will be better.

Allr: You've already been more than helpful. thank you again, lass Borden. (,he nods to nits left)

ChTAA You have no richt to come into this house.

Lilt,,. CHUaChILL: (moves center) People are turninE, away from me in the street. They think I'm deliberately lyin about not seeins a man runnin: from the yard. Oh, alma, you've known me for a long time. jo you think I 'rould like about somethin: as serious as that?

'CLZ,A: I know you hate my sister.

1,1b. CHUaHILL: I don't hate her. I admit Lizzie and I didn't et alon. I admit we had harsh words. I admit I was anry about her new position in the fellowship.

Laadu A position you wanted.

I aL. CI:UaCIaLL: Yes, I admit that, too. Lilt that has nothin: to do with the murders. I saw no one. I'm bein punished for what I didn't see.

:hy don't you tell the truth?

CHUaCI=Ls I am telling the truth.

'j111;711: :hy don't you tell me you hate Lizzie so much you'd do anything, to see her hurt, punished.

I .CHUaCHILL: (expl0dez.)* All riLht, I do hate hers I hate hers (emotionally exhausted, iirs. Churchill sits at the table) There. You heard me say it. (pause) Odd.

ELEA: What?

clamcHILLI SeeinL you standing there with your back so straic ht, so smu, co composed...you remind me of yo);r sister.

People chanre.

CHUaCIaLL: I hate Lizzie, but I'm not lyinL. I swear tc you. I saw nothin.

that what you wanted to tell me?

UM, CHUCHILLs ,Eiraa, I have to live in this town. I have place else to „so. I'm bein: treated as an outcast.

al₁ The traces of arsenic...that's dama,r_7in5 evidence
isn't it?

It's one of the prosecution's stroncest points. That
and Lizzie burniry the dress.

[REDACTED]: Alat I mean is...if they didn't find thee arsenic
traces it wouldn't look so bad for lAss Lizzie,
could it?

:LIL A; hat are you drivin at, Lrid',et? You haven't been
yourself for /:reeks.

[REDACTED]: (visibly upset, lets her words out in an impulsive
ush) I dan't /**rant anythin to'appen to Lizzie**
Because of me...she was arrays my friend...I didn't
know they'd be murdered...I didn't know it would come
to that...you must believe me, hiss .2rnma.

MYFull: (looks at DRIJJC12,T bewildered, stands) Bride ...what
are you sayin:?

411111 I I put the arsenic in **their food**, not lass
Lizzie.

Dridet;

IOW (sinks into a chair at the tabl) I only wanted to
make them a little sick. Your stepmother was always
threatenin to dischar'e me, **and your father** never
had a kind word. It was Iron- of me, I know, God
will punish me • I shouldn't have done it.

(moves to tablo) You said nothin: to the police. Why?

IOW I was afraid they'd think I did the
(,,he begins to sob)

LILA: (Controlled) You did a terrible thin:, Drid_et.

Mir I know, I know.

i71j: Too late to worry about that.

[REDACTED]: :hat am I coin.:, to do?

You must co **to hr.** Jennincs at once. Tell him exactly
what you've told me.

IIIIPIrs I can't. They'll think I did it.

111J.,g If you don't do it, they'll ha/IL my sister.

1111111's noi

Er/!1A2 You have nothing to fear.

411110 They'll put me in prison.

EMTA: I'll see that they don't. Do as I tell you, Bridget.

4111111110 (Stands, hesitant) You don't hate me, Miss Emma.

171 MA Dever mind about that. rihat are you standing there for?
Go to Mr. Jennings. I'll go to the jachl to **see** Lizzie.

Yes, yes, I'm going to see flr. Jennings. 4 y/7- 0? (6:-//7-

Er1rm- (Stands at the table trying to sort out her thoughts.
To herself, aloud) I must get Reverend Jubh
must be careful how we break the news to Lizzie

(CARLOTTA enters cautiously from the kitchen. She's young,
dark complexioned, fiery, poorly dressed)

CARLOTTA: I put the eggs on the table.

EMA (Turns) Oh, firs. Sousa. I forgot you were waiting.

CARLOTTA: She tried to kill them with poison, huh?

EmMA- Listening at the door?

CARLOTTA: I heard;

EMMA: She didn't try to kill th7m, she wanted to make them ill.
A stupid, childish prank. You'd better keep quiet
about what you heard.

CARLOTTA: (Steps to center) Why do you buy things from me?

MIN: What are you talking about?

CARLOTTA: You buy eggs from me when you he chickens in the
barn. You let me take your laundry when BriOget
could do it.

E!iiA If you'd rather not have my business, I suppose I can
find someone else. I just thought with all the trouble
your husband's had it would be a neighborly thing to do.

CARLOTTA: We're not your neighbors. live on the other
side of the tracks. roreigners Mo one wants to
help us.

EMMA: That not true.

CARLOTTA: You know what saves his neck? You. Other people say it was Sousa, Sousa". But you say the man you heard arguing with your father was not Sousa. You save his life. . Miss Emma.

EMMA: All I did was tell the truth.

CARLOTTA: Did you? (Nervous, EMMA moves down right center washing one hand with the other) You know what the little children sing?

"Lizzie Borden took an ale
Gave her mother forty whacks,
When she saw what she had done . . .

EMMA: (Flat) "She gave her Father forty-one.

CARLOTTA: I warn you, Miss Emma .

EMMA Warn me?

CARLOTTA: I think you wait and then . . . change your story.

EMMA Why would I do something like that?

CARLOTTA: Because people in this town don't want your sister to hang. You stick together. She's one of you. They'll grab at anything that helps prove her innocent

EMMA: You resent that?

CARLOTTA: I've watched you carefully, Miss Emma. You've become quite strange. You can even say a line from that song the children sing and not choke.

EMMA: That doesn't mean I don't loathe it.

CARLOTTA: Like a cat. That's you. When it looks as if there's no escape for you- sister, you'll change your story. Everyone in Fall River will be grateful. After that, they'll come for my husband.

EMMA. Why would I wait so long to change my story?

CARLOTTA Because you're clever. People believed it was your sister. At first. Now they're not so sure. They'd like to blame someone else.

EMMA: You think I'll hand them your husband.

CARLOTTA Yes.

(Calmly) Get out . . .

IHM1,0j!TAI-Like a cat. That's you. Ilhe, its looks as if there's no escape for yoU,,sister, you'll change 4ur story. Everyone in Fall R]-ger will be grateful. You'l say it was Sousa..Sousa! And then they'll will come for m unand.

EWA: \illy would I wait so long fo change my story?

CARLOTTA: Because you"- clever. People believed it was your sister at first.. Now they're not so sure...They'd like to blame someone else The whole town wants to beleive it was a foreigner.

EiTIA: And you think I will blame your husband.

CHARIO Yes

ED (Calmly) Gat-outi.

CARLOTTA: Know something else I think?

EAMA: I told you to get out of my house!

CARLOTTA: I think you know things you haven't told the police.

EMMA: Get out, I sayLeave this house.

CARLOTTA: ,:hy do you do that?

EMMA: Do what?

CARLOTTA: '.:ash one hand with the other... without soap and water?

(ENIA SmOi-S THE gesture, not realizing what she's been doing.)
Some things you can't wash away, Miss Emma.... You can't wash away the SLOOP OF MURDER.

CURTAIN

(53)

ACT TWO

SGPTE 4

LT RISE: An afternoon in late spring. Alice stand in eLe open Occrway Up Center, Rev. Juba sits at the table going over a stack of mail. Amy stand. Down Left sherkLne, material in her noebook.

TUBB:..,,.all these telegrams and letters. rAd yor ever see se amny?

\LY: Lizzie ³Jorden is a celebrity :she will go do:-n in hi,tort' You'll have to remember that Rev. Jubb.

JUBB: It not likely to forget.

AMY: (To Alice) Any si9hof thew?

\LICE: Not yet. (Steps Center) Mayyba we should have mc't at the coprthouse.

AMY: No, there's just too many people there. Anyway, Mr, Jenninr:::i aid it would be better if we waited here.

,TUBB He put up a masterful defense.

Al'in When you come right down to it. they had nothing againr-,t Lazzje but circumstantial evidence. (Pauses)...Mht hb.vc. been easier if the killer had robbed the house. That way, Lizz:e 'ould neve.: ' have been suspected.

The important thing is that she free. Pound not this has 'len se; :19.6 on

JITID: I t hash" t been easy for Emma, °Innz'.

LICE: She's held up amazingl7/.

AMY: Sometimes ;)eople find a ro-,ezve5r of st2enj,th %rying

JUD³: As usual...Emma stands in Lizzie's shadow,

ALICE: Beyond all that has haDpeno0; Lizzie does have a stole.). ;:eisonality than Emma.

1-JAY: I 'think I might do an article on the two of them. "TH7 LOVING BORD3N SISTERS STANDING TOGETTIER IN TH7 FACE OF TRAGEDY" .., that sort of thing.

071713. 1 su)pose such articles 'Til? go on forever about 7"-o)orders of P111 Rtver

.A Y: It'd unavoidable. The public has a thirst for sensat:,_ora-littt

JUB Hore's the pity.

LPY: I'm certain there are some people who won't approve of 11-;
31. T guilty verdict.

JLTY7: **Some people are vindictive. HoYever, Lizzie and Emma** can't waste their time and energies on such people.

ALICE: I hope there won't be **any** unpleasantness.

AZ.Y: People forget quickly. In time, Fall River will forget too.

JITIB:) (Doesn't think so) Perhaps.

ALICE: It will seem strange for Lizzie...coming back to this house.

oUTI: must all try to get things back to **normal. She'll** need out help. She's been through such a terrible experience.

ALICE: How she's hold. up all these months is beyond me..I would. have had. a nervous **breakdown.**

AMY (Moves toward the sitting room) I **wonder if** they'll ever find. the real killer?

JUBB: I'm sure they will in time, and when they do the authorjtJr- will have to make a public apology to Lizzie. They hounded her as if she was a Salem .itch.

ALICE: But they didn't have a **strong** enough case to convince the jury.

JUT:3: Thank Ged.

TAMA: (Enters from kitchen) Jould anyone hike some tea/

JIM: None for me, thank you, a,mma

ALJCE: No (Ala:shakes her hoax'.

2171A: Lithout 3ridget I'm at a loss. I didn't realize how much I had relied on her.

JUTE: I think could have stayed until Lizzie got se ll in.

:LIMA: I couldn't persuade **her. She's convinced my** sister will never forgive her.

,I(JrTh That's not true. Lizzie has a f'n.giving nature. Especially towara 7ridget, they were rathir .closeThat is considering Bridget was merely a servant.

)

ITIMik: I don,t think 3ridget could look her in the face. An way she's gone. Packed up this morning and took the train to "Boston I'm going to miss her.

Why are they taking so lon?

J'_79: Technicalities.

7:IAA: That's what the law is....a mass of technicalities.
(Lucks at the table) Is this the morning mail?

JUM Yc,, All expressing the hope that Lizzie will 'le aequitteel

, JALiA: All?

,ell, there are the usual one or two hatefule letters.

ivkIA: Unsigned, naturally.

AMY: Naturally.

LPI.iA: I've grown weary annmiveri_n-"the waail. Lizzie can deal wit:t 'ht.s batch herself.

JUT: T. trust Lizzie will plan a long holiday now that this all over.

>LICE:))o you think sho'll travel, Emma?

..7,11;iA: I never try to 'ocond-oueqs my gister.

..ENNING: (Entering throrcrb the awl:lc:nee) They're in waiting
(a. you, 115.89 7orden.

LIZZI93: (Following Jennings) hurryirg.

Theyy're here!

JUG". (,)tands) e must try not to mention the ordeal.

3EMA: That won't be easy, Aaro1.

alNiTINGS: She's home safe. (rause, Lizzie enters)

LIZL.TE: (Enters) Emmai

EMU: (Lioves to her) elcoAllo home, Lizzi

Jit973: (Crosses to Lizzie) Welcome hom-).

LIZZI17: (Takes his hand) Thank you, Aaron. You've been such a source o strength. Juch a good rriend. I don't know what I would Yavc, done without your "upport!

ALICE: Oh, Lizzie, we've missed you so.

LIZZIE: (Steps to Alice), embraces her) I've missed you, too.

ALICE: You'd better sit down and rest a while. You must be exhausted.

LIZZIE: I am.. Completely.. (Lizzie sits on the sofa. Positions at this point should be: Lizzie down Right. Jennings behind the chair, Alice right of sofa, Amy left of sofa, Emma Center,)
I can't believe I'm home. You don't know the nights I've spent tossing on my cot, wondering if I would ever see this place again.

JIM: Try not to think about it.

LIZZIE: You mustn't spare my feelings, Aaron. I'll never be able to put this nightmare out of my mind.

ALICE: But you must, Lizzie. You must try.

ALICE: These tidings take time.

LIZZIE: You've been most kind, Miss Rolmart. I've read every word you've written. I shall never be able to thank you properly:

ALICE: Your acquittal is my thanks.

LIZZIE: Not you, Mr. Jennings.

JENNINGS: You owe a great deal to Bridget. If she hadn't come forth and confessed to her part in the food poisoning....

LIZZIE: (Interrupts) Where is Bridget? ("silence) Something wrong?

He's gone, Lizzie!

LIZZIE: Gone?

This morning. She took the early train to Boston.

LIZZIE: Why?

ALICE: I couldn't stop her. She was so afraid you would never forgive her.

LIZZIE: Where in Boston? Did she leave an address?

ALICE: No, nothing.

LIZZIE: Poor Bridget. She has no friends but us Emma. I must find her.

*Emma: Please Lizzie just rest for now. I will find Bridget. I have nothing else to worry about.

TEENINGS: The questions is... will they find the man you hearm
arguing with your father..

410 11&IA: In time.

JUBB: I pray so. (To the ethers) We must let Lizzie rest.

aeuld you mind terribly? In a few days I'll be
quite myself, I'm sure.

ALICE: qe wanted to be here for a moment when you came home.

jUBB: wanted. to ^lelceme you home, Lizzie.

LIZZIE: I appreciate that. So very much. (Touches her fore⁹
head.) All I seem to hear are the words the clerk said tote
4ury... I can't get them out of my head, "To each count of which
indictment Lizzie Andrew Borden, the prisoner at the bar, has
heretofore pleaded and said that thereof she is not guilty....
'l.lch archaic wording. One would think Massachusetts was medievLli
England.

JENNINGS: I think we should allow mis⁸ Borden some privacy.

JUT¹³: You're quite right.

JENNINGS: There are some matters I must speak to you about,
Miss ⁷³orden..but they can wait.

LIZYJIE: Thank you, Hr. Jennings.

JUBP: Come along, Alice, idiss Rob:,art.

A victory,..total victory, iiiss Borden. Nothing lc^{ss}.

JUB³: (Motions towards the door) Come along, come along.
(Jonni_ngs, Alice,Amy exit left, followed by Jubb.)

LIZZIE: (Looks to Erma.) It's a wonderful fooling to knoq ono
has friends.

EIVEA: Do you want anything to eat?

LIZZIE: No. Bridget can fix me something later...oh, I forgot.

EIZIA: There's no one here but the two of uc, Lizzie. We're
all alone...

LIZZIE: (Conscious that ⁷mma is staring at her) '.:hy are you
staring at me?

EMEA: You don't know?

LIZZIE: If I know I wouldn't bo asking. Como, sit beside me.

EMMA: NO.

*A^{ZZ}TY: shy?

(::)

214A: :X- 4oh't vOpt 470.

LZZIC: nun., 4o'ithS > .yoteire-acted so 5;;-r. ntre, Tl. '•
a: :lls⁴ t knotil hovi)xreSz .iota h.:Avan't

014A: do•I't 'hat 701{ 7Lre ta:I.V.17, abort .

LIZZI.: I owe you lauc'l.. Your testi.on7* \fib. ! ;h.; 1'Dy Th.ctor
;II lay dofer.b. Mr Jerlin, li have bot.7A los+ ', '? .Thou:
1.'ou were so wonderful on the stand. You never wavered. You were
so strong and self assured. I was so proud of you.

1X;IA: Lizzie, you need not play those games with me. I know you
better than you know yourself. Remember I'm your quiet sister
Alma. Always in the background—observing. As far as my
testimony, I felt I owed you that.

LIME:: (Doesn't understand) Owed me? You, tole the truth,
that's all.

Did I tell the truth?

LIZI;IE: Yes, of course you did. You heard someone arguing with
father, that awful morning.

7ll TA: No, Liasie. I did. not'.

LIZZIE: Emma, why are you doing this? t'hat is wrong with you.
We are finally f roe to be ourselves. Freed from the hateful
existance we survived in for so many years

17;11As Are we really free?

LIZZIE: Not if you are going to question my innocence. ..
You heard father arguing that morning.... You
know hew so many people hated father....As far as Abby..her death
was our blessing... She wanted father to send me away. . She
wanted. .father to take our names off his will. You always
hated hers more than merely did your talking for you...
cogrld you think I would be responsible for such cruel, barbaric
aetionc4.

1361 MA: (Emma goes to the fireplace, reaches up in the chimney
and takes out ousa's axe, which has been hidden there. Lizzie
tenses. Emma holds the axe in her hands, moves down donter)
YAZzie, Remember how we used to hide things when we were little
7irls? In the space in the chimney... Our secret place..No
'ne knew about it but you and I. I found the axe the Osy of the
7durdur.

LIZZI: And you think I did it.'

Those are your words.

LIZZIE: Lut there was no blood or my dross.

EMMA: You chan7e0 your dress beviteun the time you sent 7!ridget for help anti.it arrived. .nridget didn't notice.

That not true. Emma you know it's not true, Why are you turning against me? I am all you have I have you changed.

EMMA: Yes, I have changed. I am no longer innocent about lift.. never want to see or hear from you again.

ITZZIE: nmia, no... I nRed you.. I always have.. I always will wred only things Lizzie Borden needs am wealth and nopolularity, You now have both. I will not stand in the shadow e.17 such a popular firgure. I will take my share of the inheritanoJ and Leave Fall River. You can have the house...I want no part this bdlood stained. property.

LIZZIE: This house.. I hate it... I will sell it.

altdA: No, yea won't, -izzie. I know you too well for that. you'll keep the house and live in it, if only to prove to the God People of Fall River, you ^{1a}0 nethina to hide. (lault-in a haunting manner.) Isn't it funny the way things work out? Pve always liked, this house, but I am leaving.... You have always hated it, hut you -ill bo-,;ao a prisoner in this Douse en Second. Avenue (coninues to lavn)

YouH&T can you sway these thin to mo and mean theJi? arc not talkinp; to Atby...(pauses) :mma; the hate you had for ' ;by has turned to hate for ple....hat is wrong Kfth you?

CLMA: (Puts the axe on the tablo) Churchill sui3 1 ad become like you. Cold and hard. I'll never forgi7a for that Liz7,ie, I'm leaving... send fo:: my bclongings.

!LZZ:: (7motionally out of control) Em^aa, you lied because you know I was inooocent....

(mores to the door) I 15,od because I knee; yoi' wore guilty n.nd. I fait I had to save you. ¹Gooct-lye Lizzie

Llama, you know who really killed father anC 7(011 can't rynn from the truth... (Emma closes th.: door) I mma.. ma.. T]; ma don't leave me alone... Emma I'm so afraid. (she ,urns, sees she is quite alone in the house. Her eyes move toward the axe. She picks u12, the axc)...I am innocent.. I am innocent... an innocent....

L:_GHTS SLOLY JAD71'

.CURTAIF

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