**Audition Scene 5**

**Scene Eight: Edinburgh Station. Day.**

**SALESMAN 1.** Wonder what won the two o’clock at Windsor.

**SALESMAN 2.** I’ll get a paper.

**SALESMAN 1.** I’ll go to the lavatory.

*(They get up. Squeeze round each other.)*

**SALESMAN 1.** Excuse me. Sorry. Sorry.

**SALESMAN 2.** Sorry. Sorry. **HANNAY.** Sorry.

*(***SALESMAN 1** *exits.* **SALESMAN 2** *sticks his head out of the window. Whistles through his teeth.* **SALESMAN 1** *immediately back on as a* **PAPERBOY** *in a flat cap.)*

**PAPERBOY.** Evenin paper! Latest news! Evenin paper! Latest –

**SALESMAN 2.** Evenin paper please?

**PAPERBOY.** Evening paper sir? Thankoo sir!

*(gives him a paper)*

**SALESMAN 2.** *(gives him a penny)* Thankoo.

**PAPERBOY.** Evenin paper! Latest news! Evenin paper!

Latest –

*(Exits. Immediately back on as* **SALESMAN 1***)* **SALESMAN 1.** Excuse me. *(Squeezes past.)* Sorry. Sorry.

**SALESMAN 2.** Sorry. Sorry. **HANNAY.** Sorry.

*(***SALESMAN 1** *sits down. He greets* **SALESMAN 2***.)*

**SALESMAN 2.** Hello!

**SALESMAN 1.** Hello!

**SALESMAN 2.** *(opens paper)* Good Lord!

**SALESMAN 1.** What is it?

**SALESMAN 2.** Been a woman murdered in a fashionable West End flat!

*(***HANNAY** *freezes.)*

**SALESMAN 1.** All these sex dramas. Don’t appeal to me! What won?

**SALESMAN 2.** What won what?

**SALESMAN 1.** The two O’clock at Windsor. **SALESMAN 2.** Two O’clock at Windsor?

*(Turns paper over. They read the back.* **HANNAY** *peers at the front.)* Bachelor Boy.

**SALESMAN 1.** Good.

**SALESMAN 2.** At seven-to-four on. **SALESMAN 1.** Not so good.

*(***SALESMAN 2** *back to front page.* **HANNAY** *sits back*

*quickly.)*

**SALESMAN 2.** Anyway where was we? Ah yes. *(reads)* Stabbed in the back she was. Portland Mansions. Portland Place.

**SALESMAN 1.** By the BBC? That’s the place to put someone to sleep!

*(They laugh uproariously. Wink at* **HANNAY***.)* What was she like? One of the usual?

**SALESMAN 2.** *(reads)* Well-dressed woman about thirty-five. *(looks up)* Terrible!

**SALESMAN 1.** Terrible!

*(They look at* **HANNAY***.)*

**HANNAY.** Terrible!

**SALESMAN 2.** *(reads)* The tenant Richard Hannay is missing.

**SALESMAN 1.** You do surprise me!

**SALESMAN 2.** Approximately thirty-seven. Dark wavy hair. Piercing blue eyes. Pencil moustache.

*(***HANNAY** *hides his moustache with his hat.)*

**HANNAY.** Excuse me?

**SALESMEN.** Yes?

**HANNAY.** Might I have a look at your paper?

**SALESMAN 1.** Certainly. **HANNAY.** Thank you.

*(***HANNAY** *takes the paper. Pores into it. Looks up to see both men staring at him. They grin unnervingly.)*

**SALESMAN 2.** Think I’ll pop out to the buffet car. Finished?

*(snatches paper from* **HANNAY***)* Fancy anythin’?

**SALESMAN 1.** No thank you. **HANNAY.** No thank you.

**SALESMAN 2.** Right you are.

*(He leaves the compartment. Squeezes past.)*

**SALESMAN 2.** Excuse me. Sorry. Sorry.

**SALESMAN 1.** Sorry. Sorry.

**HANNAY.** Sorry.

*(***SALESMAN 1** *glances out of the window.)*

**SALESMAN 1.** Good Heavens! Place is stiff with police! *(***HANNAY** *freezes.* **SALESMAN 1** *pulls down window.*

*Calls out.)*

Excuse me Constable! Caught the West End murderer yet?

*(***SALESMAN 2** *appears in a police hat.)* **POLICEMAN.** We’ll catch him, don’t you worry sir!

**SALESMAN 1.** That’s the spirit!

*(***POLICEMAN** *changes into porter’s hat.)*

**PORTER.** All aboard for the Highlands! Next stop the highlands!

*(Changes into PC hat.)*

**POLICEMAN.** Anything suspicious let us know sir!

**SALESMAN 1.** Oh yes. Don’t you worry!

*(PC changes into porter’s hat.)*

**PORTER.** All aboard! All aboard!

*(***SALESMAN 1** *puts on paperboy hat.)* **PAPERBOY**. Final edition sir? Final edition. *(***PORTER** *changes into* **SALESMAN 2** *hat.)* **SALESMAN 2.** No thank you!

*(***SALESMAN 2** *puts on porter hat.)* **PORTER.** All aboard! All aboard!

*(***PAPERBOY** *puts on salesman hat.)*

**SALESMAN 1.** Alright, alright!

*(***PORTER** *puts on policeman hat.)*

**POLICEMAN**. Keep your eyes peeled won’t you sir!

**SALESMAN 1.** Certainly will constable!

**POLICEMAN**. Don’t forget sir!

**SALESMAN 1.** No I won’t constable.

*(changes into paperboy hat)*

**PAPERBOY.** Read all about it!! Read all about it!!

*(***POLICEMAN** *puts on porter hat.)* **PORTER.** All aboard! All aboard!

*(***PORTER** *puts on police hat.)*

**POLICEMAN.** Anything suspicious, let us know sir. *(***PAPERBOY** *changes into* **SALESMAN 1***. )* **SALESMAN 1.** Will do, constable.

*(***POLICEMAN** *puts on porter hat.)* **PORTER.** All aboard! All aboard!