

CHRIS

You can barely even make out the trees.

[Silence. Then CHRIS and MAX turn back downstage. As MAX continues with his next line ROBERT, TREVOR, ANNIE and JONATHAN continue to remove SANDRA, but more noisily than before. Vamp shouting at each other, yelling instructions on how best to carry SANDRA out. MAX and CHRIS shout their lines over them.]

MAX

What are you saying Inspector?

CHRIS

I'm saying Cecil that tonight would be the perfect night for you to murder your brother.

MAX

Inspector, please, me and my brother had our differences, but deep down we cared for one another.

CHRIS

AND YET YOU HAD AN AFFAIR WITH HIS FIANCEE?

[The group in the window drop SANDRA and start again.]

MAX

WHAT ON EARTH GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?

CHRIS

THIS LETTER I FOUND IN CHARLES' POCKET FROM MISS COLLEymoore TO YOURSELF.

MAX

YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

CHRIS

I DO! AS IT SEEMS... DID... CHARLES!!

[The others have managed to get SANDRA out of the window. ANNIE sharply draws the curtains.]

MAX

Well bravo Inspector! You've found out about Florence and I, but it proves nothing.

[Panicking, MAX begins to mime his speech as he says it, building faster and faster to a climax.]
We had nothing to do with Charles' murder, but Thomas Colleymoore does. Oh Inspector, he's a dangerously unhinged man, with a devil of a temper and Florence is
(MORE)

Start

MAX (cont'd)

his sister. Now I've said it once before and I shall say it once again; he couldn't stand the idea of giving her up to any man, let alone his old school chum. He saw them together at tonight's engagement party and he lost control and he lashed out at Charles. A crime of passion perhaps, but there it is!

[MAX strikes a pose.]

CHRIS

Thank you Mr Haversham you've been most helpful.

[If MAX's speech gets a round of applause MAX takes a bow and vamps, bowing as many times as he can and clapping himself until CHRIS bellows "Thank you Mr Haversham" and stops him.]

CHRIS

Thank you Mr Haversham! ...you've been most helpful Perhaps you could fetch Thomas Colley Moore. I'm going to have to follow more than one line of enquiry at a time to get to the bottom of this.

MAX

At once, Inspector, anything to help the progress of your investigation.

[MAX exits slamming his arm in the door.]

MAX

Argh!

[MAX withdraws his arm and closes the door.]

CHRIS

Hang it all Charles. Who could've killed you? Everybody under this damned roof seems guilty.

[CHRIS sits on the chaise longue.]

That's queer. There's something underneath these cushions. A ledger?

[CHRIS lifts up the cushions; there is no ledger. He begins to search for it around the chaise longue. CHRIS vamps to cover, repeating "A ledger" over and over, becoming more desperate. He calls offstage for the ledger, at first in fury then eventually in despair. There is sometimes a bit of audience interaction here. Often an audience member will shout "its underneath" or something similar to which CHRIS can respond: