

Iceberg Ahoy

A one-act play

by

Owen Morris

CHARACTERS

Lawrence Stanley	A distinguished looking English doctor in his fifties
Mrs. Stanley	Lawrence's older wife. A woman from money. She wears lots of makeup to hide her age.
Anna	A twenty-something girl that comes from a poorer background. Smart and cunning.
Captain Brown	The Captain of the Titanic, dresses and acts appropriately.
Inspector Derby	A Scotland Yard Inspector who is more interested in the theatrics of a crime and grudges than actually catching criminals.

~~At a table in the first class lounge of the Titanic, an older~~
At a table
a gentleman dressed conservatively and
with an aristocratic air. Seated
almost on his lap is ANNA HUNT, a
twenty-something innocent-looking but
very shrewd girl. Behind them is a
stocked bar. There are two curtains
covering a porthole. The play picks up
in mid-conversation.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

...Please just come stay with me once we reach New York.
I'll give you everything you've ever dreamed of. We'd be the
talk of society. I'd be the creme and you the de la creme.

ANNA

I don't know Mr. Stanley. Those are very strong words.
Especially from a man that's never even let me see his room.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh please Anna. Trust me. A bachelor's room is never a
pretty site, especially one aboard a ship. But in New York
you can stay with me all you want. We'll eat at the finest
restaurants and shop at the finest stores. Then when we sail
back to England you'll stay at my estate...as my wife. As my
wife Anna. I'm proposing to you.

ANNA

But we've only known each other a week!

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Love knows no time Anna.

(He attempts to pull Anna in to hug her
and she resists.)

ANNA

It's just curious to me Mr. Stanley how a man of your wealth
and age could stay a bachelor so long. Or do you propose to
every girl you meet while walking the halls of third class?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You're not questioning my...mental capacities...are you,
Anna? I may be older than you but I'm not slower than you.

ANNA

No, Mr. Stanley. Just your motives.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I assure you my motives are as just and pure as you are.

ANNA

I am going to need better than that.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Well how about this.

(Pulls out a large diamond necklace.
Puts it around Anna's neck.)

I hope you like diamonds?

ANNA

Why it's beautiful...except...No. I can't accept this. I don't own anything that can match its beauty.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You will dear. In due time. I promise. Please take it.

ANNA

It *is* lovely.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh Anna and you look so beautiful in it. We are going to be a happy couple. (beat) I can't wait any longer. Let's get married right now so we can act like man and wife.

ANNA

(hesitantly while holding on
tight to the necklace)

...How about perhaps?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Perhaps! Marriage is a yes or no sort of proposition. And let me tell you propositions like this don't happen everyday.

ANNA

I understand. It's just...

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Okay. Okay. I think I know the problem.

(Digs into pocket and gets out a ring.
Puts it on her right hand.)

You want a ring so you know I'm serious. I thought you might. Look, it's the only one like it in the world. Specially made with all real gold, and Oh! It fits you almost perfectly. Why it's a sign.

ANNA

(very hesitantly but wants the
ring)

Well...

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(getting angry and frustrated)

...Look. Look around you. The oak paneling. The silk red curtains. Girls from Leeds dreams are made of this. This isn't third class tart anymore. This is the stateroom. This is the retreat of royalty. Of the rich and famous. Not just anyone can come in here.

(On cue tries to grope and kiss Anna as
CAPTAIN BROWN comes running in. He is
panicked and breathing heavily. So is
Lawrence.)

CAPTAIN BROWN

Quick! Are there any women or children here?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Yes there is, but she's spoken for. Look chap, who do you think you are. You can't just come barging in here. This is a private room. This is the stateroom. This is the retreat of royalty. Of the rich and...

CAPTAIN BROWN

...We've hit an iceberg!

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Excuse me?

CAPTAIN BROWN

An iceberg. We've hit an iceberg!

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(bland)

How awful? (To Anna) I'm glad this ship is unsinkable.

ANNA

I feel sorry for that iceberg.

(Anna and Lawrence laugh)

CAPTAIN BROWN

(to Anna)

You have to leave immediately.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Not without me she's not.

ANNA

I don't understand. Why?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Is this some sort of practical joke? If it is, I'll report you to the captain.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I AM the captain.

ANNA

Why do I need to leave, Captain?

CAPTAIN BROWN

We're sinking.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Impossible. The ship is unsinkable.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Listen we're sinking...I don't have time to...(abrupt)
alright. Very quickly I'll explain. No one ever said the
ship was *unsinkable*. No, no, the term used was *virtually*
unsinkable. Okay?

ANNA

Oh. (beat) Well I'm glad it's virtually unsinkable.

CAPTAIN BROWN

No. I'm going to stop you there. Because their *is* a *bit* of difference between unsinkable and virtually unsinkable. Not a big difference, but still a difference none the less.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

So captain. Don't be shy. How bad is it?

CAPTAIN BROWN

I've told you. We're sinking!

ANNA

Virtually sinking?

CAPTAIN BROWN

No! Virtually doesn't work for sinking. It only works for unsinking.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I'm afraid I don't follow.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Let me put this way. We've hit an iceberg...

LAWRENCE STANLEY

...so you've said...

CAPTAIN BROWN

And we're sinking and you're going to drown if you stay here.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh I get it now Captain.

(Pause)

Very funny. You had me going.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Tell your daughter to come with me.

ANNA

I'm not his daughter.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

It's not what it seems.

ANNA

It isn't?

CAPTAIN BROWN

I don't care what she is sir. All women and children must evacuate immediately.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Don't worry Captain. We'll leave.

(He winks at Anna)

We'll play along for the sake of the other passengers.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I can take care of the other passengers. Please hurry.

Captain Brown runs off stage.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Right behind you Captain.

ANNA

We better follow the captain's orders.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh that Captain. Funny chap.

ANNA

He seemed very panicked.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I'm sure the Captain was pulling our leg. Captains are famous for that. It amuses them to see passengers frantic.

ANNA

I want to go.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I'm telling you we're in no trouble. Look outside, it is serene.

(Lawrence walks to the curtains and pulls them back.)

There is an iceberg covering the entire view of the window.)

On second thought. Maybe it'd be better if we go.

MRS. STANLEY (O.S.)

Larry. Larry. Larry!

(Lawrence and Anna leave stage. Only to rush back onto it after a second.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Right. I've decided that we should stay put for right now.

ANNA

Why? I thought we were sinking.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Yes, but it is much too dangerous to leave a ship when it's sinking.

ANNA

Now *I am* questioning your mental capacities.

MRS. STANLEY (O.S.)

Larry!

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Quick. Behind the bar.

(Lawrence grabs Anna and pushes out of sight behind the bar just as MRS. STANLEY walks onto stage. Lawrence pours himself a whiskey at the bar.)

MRS. STANLEY

Larry. Larry. There you are. I've been yelling your name up in down this ship for an hour.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I'm sorry, honey. I blocked out the sound of your yelling years ago.

MRS. STANLEY

(ignoring his comment)

I was worried for you. I almost went down to second class to see if you had wandered away into that abyss myself.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You shouldn't get so worried over my absences. I know I don't over yours.

MRS. STANLEY

I usually don't or I'd have died ten times over by now. It just seems I've seen about as much of you this trip as I have land.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

It's business, honey. Pure business.

MRS. STANLEY

How can a doctor do business in a bar? By himself?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

The medical practice has taken great steps of late.

MRS. STANLEY

Steps that apparently always involve whiskey. Well. I'm afraid this is no social call. I come bearing bad news. We're sinking and we must leave at once.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

That is bad news.

MRS. STANLEY

I've arranged a liferaft for us.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Together? That's worse news. I'll have to take a raincheck.

(Holds up a glass of whisky)

You see I need to finish my business.

MRS. STANLEY

Come. You can finish that drink on the liferaft.

Captain Brown enters

CAPTAIN BROWN

Are you still here?

MRS. STANLEY

I just arrived.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Not you ma'am. I was talking to your son.

MRS. STANLEY

I'm not his mother.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Really sir. Your taste runs the gamut.

MRS. STANLEY

I'm his wife.

(Anna lets out an audible gasp. It appears to the other characters that it came from Lawrence whom they turn around and face.)

CAPTAIN BROWN

Are you that surprised by your marriage, sir? I would have assumed that you had at least a small part in deciding it.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

A smaller part than I would have liked.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Your marriage is a private affair but people's safety is mine. Where is the girl that was in here with you.

MRS. STANLEY

What girl?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(seeing an out)

Yes Captain. What girl? I do not remember any girl.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Pardon my language but the one whose bosom was under your...

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(quickly cutting him off)

Oh yes...that girl. Yes. I told her to leave.

MRS. STANLEY

(sternly and slower)

Whose bosom was under your what?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

My uh...stethoscope....A patient of mine. I told you I was doing business.

MRS. STANLEY

A patient on board this ship?

CAPTAIN BROWN

So you're a doctor. I'm sorry doctor. I had assumed that you and the girl were....

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh no apology necessary Captain. It is not for the layman to understand the medical profession.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Well I hope it was nothing to serious.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Not to worry. While it is my stern rule never disclose information about my patients I can tell you in confidence that she seemed to have an attraction to me though I stated I was not interested. Also she was a liar and not to be trusted.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Where is she now?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

She left.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I was watching the door and she never left. She must have instead hidden around here.

(Captain begins to go over to bar and comes very near to discovering Anna.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(very nervously and blocking
the bar)

Uh. Actually Captain. You're right. She didn't leave.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Then why did you say she did?

MRS. STANLEY

Where is this woman?

CAPTAIN BROWN

Patient.

MRS. STANLEY

Women. Girl. Patient. I need a drink.

(Goes over to bar by Captain. Lawrence
quickly tries to direct them away.)

CAPTAIN BROWN

Why did you say she left doctor.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I meant she uh...left...uh...this realm. She died.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Died? At her age? Was it murder?

MRS. STANLEY

(screaming and false fainting)

MURDER!!!

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(Lawrence catches his wife)

No, it was not murder.

MRS. STANLEY

(pushing away from Lawrence)

Says the murderer!

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Shut up crazy woman. You almost fainted...You are in no
condition to speak right now.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I care more about the death of this young woman than your wife's overacting.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

She had a phobia of ships and a weak heart. The two combined overwhelmed her weak self.

MRS. STANLEY

I thought you didn't reveal information about your patients?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I've decided to make an exception.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Where did you put her body?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(points at table)

I put it right...well will you look at that. It looks as if she already fully decomposed.

CAPTAIN BROWN

In a half-an hour?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

She was rather petite Captain.

MRS. STANLEY

I think I'm going to be sick. Where are my pills?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

They were on the table when I left. Between the Bible and the gin.

CAPTAIN BROWN

There didn't happen to be a body in the room did there uh...

MRS. STANLEY

Stanley. Miss Stanley for the time being. Now would you mind escorting me, Captain? I don't feel safe walking these halls now knowing there's killer on the loose.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

There's no killer.

CAPTAIN BROWN

If the killer was smart he'd be in a liferaft by now.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I agree with the Captain. Leaving the ship is our best option. We should go at once.

MRS. STANLEY

Not without my pills. I'd die. Come, Captain.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Something is not right. I'd like to stay and see if I can't find the girl.

MRS. STANLEY

Captain. Most patients of my husband are dead and any ones that aren't will soon follow. Besides I'm a first class passenger. FIRST CLASS! Now escort me to my room. Larry, I guess you should come too.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I'm just going to finish up my drink, honey. Be in the room in a moment.

(Mrs. Stanley and Captain Brown leave
and Lawrence gets Anna out from
hiding.)

Hurry. We must find a way to get you out of here.

ANNA

You're married!?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Marriage is a formality.

ANNA

And one that you wanted to engage in with me earlier this night.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Must you dwell in the past?

ANNA

You told them I was dead.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

What did you want me to say?

ANNA

The truth.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Impossible. If my wife finds out about you, she'll leave me. She's been looking for ways to leave me for years.

ANNA

So?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Have you any idea the price for unfaithfulness. I have no doubt she and the courts would find a way to leave me penniless.

ANNA

I'd rather be broke than die on a ship.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You've obviously never been broke.

(Pause)

All right. We'll need to work together.

(Anna takes this information in for a moment.)

ANNA

Fifty percent.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Of what?

ANNA

Your wealth.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

What? Are you crazy? I just gave you a diamond necklace you little tart and now...Forty percent.

ANNA

Forty-five.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(Thinks about it, disgusted)

Fine. Deal.

(They shake hands)

ANNA

Alright. Now let's get out of here before we have to swim out of here.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

We can't just leave. You're supposed to be dead. What if my wife were to see you? We need to cover the murder.

ANNA

But there's no one murdered.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(thinking)

Yes. Those are always the most difficult to cover.

ANNA

Any ideas?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I got it! Start undressing.

ANNA

Is that all you can think of right now?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

No. Not like that. There's an extra waiter's uniform at the bar. Put it on.

ANNA

And then...

LAWRENCE STANLEY

And then you can say you were a busboy that had fallen asleep or something like that.

ANNA

That's a terrible plan.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Well start taking off your clothes until you think of a better one.

(Starts undressing and handing Lawrence her garments. As she starts to get down to her underwear we hear the voices of Mrs. Stanley and the Captain getting closer and closer.)

CAPTAIN BROWN (O.S.)

Who are you?

MRS. STANLEY (O.S.)

I demand that you let go of me at once.

CAPTAIN BROWN (O.S.)

It was down this hall.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

My wife. She's coming back! Quick. Hide.

(Lawrence takes Anna and is going to hide her at the bar when he sees his wife coming in from the door. They quickly turn and thinking fast he hides Anna behind one of the curtains. Just as he is finishing covering her up Captain Brown and Mrs. Stanley enter being forcibly escorted by INSPECTOR DERBY.)

CAPTAIN BROWN

This is the room.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Are you sure?

CAPTAIN BROWN

Yes, now let me go.

(Lets Captain Brown go.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Who's this?

MRS. STANLEY

I don't know. He asked me in the hall if I was the one who had screamed "murder" and then he dragged both of us back here.

INSPECTOR DERBY

So you admit to screaming "murder"?

MRS. STANLEY

Yes and I'm about to scream again if you don't let me go.

(Inspector Derby releases Mrs. Stanley who promptly slaps him.)

I demand you tell me who you are this instant. I always insist on knowing a man's name when he grabs me like that.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Ma'am, telling you might endanger the whole ship.

CAPTAIN BROWN

The ship is sinking! The only thing endangering us right now is you.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Seeing as this is a special case and for the sake of time I shall reveal myself.

(theatrically)

My name is Richard Meyers. That is Inspector Richard Meyers as in an Inspector of the Yard.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Nonsense. If an inspector was aboard my ship I would know it.

INSPECTOR DERBY

I had strict orders from Yard superiors to work in the utmost secrecy and not to reveal myself to anyone, Captain, including you, unless it was absolutely and unavoidably necessary.

CAPTAIN BROWN

For what purpose, might I ask?

INSPECTOR DERBY

To enforce her majesty's law aboard the ship if need be.

MRS. STANLEY

Does keeping people aboard a sinking ship against their will constitute the majesty's law?

INSPECTOR DERBY

No, but murder does and you admitted to yelling murder.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Now look here. Just because someone yells murder does not mean a murder happened.

INSPECTOR DERBY

What are you holding in your arms sir?

(Everybody turns and looks at Lawrence who is still holding Anna's clothes.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh these...these are...these are...

CAPTAIN BROWN

...They look like the clothes of the girl that was in here with you.

INSPECTOR DERBY

What girl?

CAPTAIN BROWN

The girl that died.

INSPECTOR DERBY

A girl died! So it was murder after all.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

It wasn't murder.

INSPECTOR DERBY

That is for me to decide.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

It seems as if you have already decided.

INSPECTOR DERBY

I find it helps me solves cases quicker.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Have you all forgotten that the ship is sinking. If we stay here, death is certain.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Death is certain no matter where you are, Captain.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Murder or no murder. I'm leaving.

(Inspector Derby blocks the door.)

INSPECTOR DERBY

I'm afraid I can't allow anyone to leave, Captain.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Bullocks. This is my ship.

INSPECTOR DERBY

This is a crime scene now. I have enough evidence to believe that a murder might have taken place right here on your very ship. Unfortunately, I cannot rule anyone out as a suspect yet Captain, including yourself.

CAPTAIN BROWN

You can't keep me aboard my own ship.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Any attempt to defy my order would be in violation of the law. Her majesty's law. To violate me would be akin to violating a member of the royal family.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I've violated a couple.

CAPTAIN BROWN

And I just helped a member of the royal family into a life raft. The royal family themselves have fled.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Precisely, since he's not aboard the ship, I speak for him.

MRS. STANLEY

So you're telling me we're trapped here.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Until I start getting some questions answered.

MRS. STANLEY

I have some of my own. Whose dress is that Larry?

INSPECTOR DERBY

I'm the one asking the questions here! Who's dress is that?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

What dress?

MRS. STANLEY

That dress.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh. This dress? The one in my hands?

MRS. STANLEY

Yes. Of course.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I want to be completely sure I know which dress you're talking about. You are referring to *this dress*?

MRS. STANLEY

Yes.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

The blue dress?

MRS. STANLEY

Yes.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

That I am holding in my hands?

MRS. STANLEY

(exasperated and yelling)

YES!!!

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Well now don't start yelling. There's no reason to panic.

(To himself)

Actually this is probably a good time to panic as any.

Right. I'm making a run for it.

(Starts running towards the door.

Inspector stops him and starts pushing him towards the curtains.)

INSPECTOR DERBY

Just answer the question, sir.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh this dress. I'm sorry. I thought my wife was referring to one of *her* blue dresses. Oh This blue dress. This belongs to the girl that uh died. There. Wasn't that simple. So as you can see, there's been no theft because here's the dress. Well! I'm glad that's settled. We should probably go now.

(Tries to run for it again. Inspector again blocks door)

INSPECTOR DERBY

How did she die, sir?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Excuse me.

CAPTAIN BROWN

The doctor said her heart failed due to her phobias of ships.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Yes. A weak heart and a closet full of phobias. I'm surprised she lived this long.

INSPECTOR DERBY

And how did you end up with her dress in your arms?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

She uh. Took it off. She was a regular Lady Godiva she was. Nymphomania it is called. I was trying to cure her of it when it happened.

INSPECTOR DERBY

You're a psychiatrist?

MRS. STANLEY

(bitterly)

No. Just a GP.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I dabble.

INSPECTOR DERBY

So? She was a nudist with a fear of water and a failing heart?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Among other things. Poor girl. She was making progress too.

CAPTAIN BROWN

She looked perfectly healthy to me.

INSPECTOR DERBY

When did you see her?

CAPTAIN BROWN

I came into this room to see if there was anybody still left here and she was sitting at the table with him examining her chest.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

She was so weak I had to get very close to find a pulse.

CAPTAIN BROWN

That's the last I saw of or as I know anyone saw of her.

INSPECTOR DERBY

How would you describe her?

CAPTAIN BROWN

There was a lot to examine.

(Inspector waits expecting more info)

INSPECTOR DERBY

And...

CAPTAIN BROWN

That's it.

INSPECTOR DERBY

You have an eye for more than just sailing Captain. Where's the body?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Of the girl?

INSPECTOR DERBY

Unless there are more.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I forget.

INSPECTOR DERBY

You forget?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I'm not a very detail-oriented person Inspector.

INSPECTOR DERBY

(to Mrs. Stanley)

Is he always this forgetful?

MRS. STANLEY

Whenever I ask him about girls he is. Sly bastard. Tough to catch.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Try to remember, sir.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

It's of no use.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Very well. I shall just have to start searching this room.

(Inspector starts going towards the curtains.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Wait. I remember now. I believe she is in the hallway.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I would have seen her.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I mean the hallway closet.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Why in the world is she in there?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Uh. I was trying to cure her fear of small places.
Closetphobia.

CAPTAIN BROWN

You mean claustrophobia?

INSPECTOR DERBY

So she had a weak heart, fear of water, was a nudist and
claustrophobic?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I enjoy a challenge.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Very well. I am going to check the closet. None of you
move.

(Inspector leaves)

MRS. STANLEY

What is wrong with you?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

With me.

MRS. STANLEY

If you just confessed to murdering the woman, we could all
leave.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I didn't murder her and you are the one that caused this
entire mess by shouting

(Imitating her)

MURDER! If you had the sense to keep quiet, this entire
mess could have been avoided.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Excuse me.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Hold on one moment, Captain.

MRS. STANLEY

If you had just gotten into the lifeboats when I asked you, to we wouldn't be here.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Speaking of lifeboats, maybe we should be going while we have the chance.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I had business. Do you think I want to deal with this woman's passions of nature? That I want to hold this sultry, silky, see-through dress.

(He holds dress out and the diamond necklace falls to the floor. Lawrence picks it up very quickly)

MRS. STANLEY

What was that?

(Mrs. Stanley rips the dress away from him along with the necklace.)

Why it's my necklace.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Is this yours?

MRS. STANLEY

What do you mean is this yours? I told you three days ago I'd lost it.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

So that's why it looked so familiar.

MRS. STANLEY

Why do you have my necklace?

CAPTAIN BROWN

How queer.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I thought you said you were leaving?

CAPTAIN BROWN

The plot thickened.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Can you excuse us?

CAPTAIN BROWN

Nothing would please me more. I suggest you two argue on safer grounds.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

What about the inspector?

CAPTAIN BROWN

I'll take care of him.

(Captain leaves)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

There is a very good explanation why I have your jewels.

MRS. STANLEY

I'm waiting.

INSPECTOR DERBY (O.S.)

Hey. Let me out of here.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Did you hear someone yelling.

MRS. STANLEY

Stop trying to change the subject and give me those back.

(She grabs back necklace. We hear door crashing off stage)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Really, now you're being cross.

(Inspector Derby enters)

INSPECTOR DERBY

Someone locked me in the closet. Right as I heard someone yell murder? Very suspicious.

MRS. STANLEY

He yelled it.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Don't admit anything to him.

MRS. STANLEY

Did you find the girl?

INSPECTOR DERBY

No. Her death is beginning to be most irritating. Nevertheless I am not about to let a lack of evidence or facts get in the way of the case.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

The young and their games.

INSPECTOR DERBY

The Captain is gone.

(Mrs. Stanley and Lawrence only notice this fact now.)

MRS. STANLEY

He must have escaped.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Did he now?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You're not implying that *he* was murdered too.

INSPECTOR DERBY

A missing girl, a missing man and a locked up Inspector. Quite a suspicious coincidence.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Considering a ship is sinking I wouldn't consider it too suspicious.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Of course you wouldn't consider it too suspicious...if you were a killer!

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Now you're just being loony. Tell me Inspector if I was a killer then why would I shout 'murder'?

INSPECTOR DERBY

A good question. Why did you shout murder?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Because my wife was being a...because...because...my wife had just killed the Captain, that's why.

MRS. STANLEY

What! That's ridiculous.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I might as well come clean. There is no use in trying to cover up for her anymore. You were much too smart, Inspector.

INSPECTOR DERBY

You see. Now we are making progress.

(takes out notepad)

What happened to the Captain and the girl?

MRS. STANLEY

This is preposterous. I won't stand by your lies.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I thought the girl died from a weak heart but I cannot fully rule out poisoning. As for the Captain. I saw her kill him just now. She threw his body out the window.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Hmm. She is stronger than she looks. Probably the girl too.

MRS. STANLEY

Why you...

LAWRENCE STANLEY

...Sorry honey. It's of no use trying to play dumb anymore. You should have known that your game of lies would catch up to you. Always does.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Wise words sir. Unfortunately they come too late. I am going to have to detain your wife.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

It is probably better that way.

MRS. STANLEY

Where?

INSPECTOR DERBY

In the holding cell aboard the ship.

MRS. STANLEY

Isn't that in third class?

INSPECTOR DERBY

You should have thought about the consequences before the facts.

MRS. STANLEY

You don't have any facts.

INSPECTOR DERBY

But I do have a holding cell.

(Inspector grabs Mrs. Lawrence and starts carrying her away)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I will miss you honey. Oh Inspector. Wait.

(Lawrence runs over to Inspector and Mrs. Stanley. Takes back necklace from her and also removes the diamond earrings that she is wearing.)

I'm not sure where my wife got these. Maybe from another victim. I feel it is my duty to give them back to their proper owner.

INSPECTOR DERBY

You are a true gentleman sir. I regret trying to frame you for murder.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Water under the bridge Inspector. Or in this case, above it!

(Inspector and Mrs. Stanley groan)

MRS. STANLEY

Larry! Larry! I demand you tell him the truth this instant!
LARRY!

(Inspector and Mrs. Stanley leave.
Lawrence goes over to curtain and opens
them up. Anna is shivering.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You see I told you it would work!

ANNA

I'm freezing. How dare you stick me next to an open window.
I could catch cold and die. Give me my dress back.

(Anna takes dress and puts it on.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I'm so sorry honey. Maybe these will help make it up to you.

(Shows Anna the earrings)

ANNA

Where's the necklace.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Here.

(Anna grabs them both)

ANNA

All right. Come on let's go.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You're being abrupt. You sure you don't want a victory drink to celebrate our marriage.

(Lawrence picks up bottle of whiskey and glass and pours himself a drink but never drinks it)

You know I really feel that our marriage could be something special. That is as long as we never go near water again.

ANNA

You don't get it do you?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Get what?

ANNA

When we get to America you are going to give fifty percent of your assets to me and then we are going to go our separate ways.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

What? I thought you said I was everything you've ever wanted in a man?

ANNA

You were. Now you are fifty percent of what I want in a man.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Forty-five percent.

ANNA

That was when it was only one fictitious murder you had to cover. Now you have two on your hands.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You're nothing but a gold-digger!

ANNA

And you're nothing but a cradle robber. Now come on let's get out of here before I freeze to death.

(Anna starts walking towards the exit with Lawrence following behind. Lawrence still has whisky bottle in hand and smashes it over the back of Anna's head. Knocking her out.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Hmmm. Call me a cradle robber. Let's see you make it to a liferaft now.

(Lawrence leaves. Immediately comes back.)

Almost forgot the diamonds. Like I was going to let you keep them.

(Lawrence is leaning down to pick them off of her but before he has a chance Captain Brown comes back in and sees Lawrence standing over the girl.)

CAPTAIN BROWN

Dr. Stanley. Are you defiling a corpse?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Ahhhh! What are you doing here?

CAPTAIN BROWN

An odd question coming from a person that's hunched a corpse. I came back to rescue you and your wife. Crazy or not- I felt I could not leave you two- it is my duty to get everyone off the ship.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I can get off the ship just fine. You can go.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I find that hard to believe considering you've made just five feet progress since I last saw you. Where is your wife and the inspector?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

The Inspector is currently putting my wife into a holding cell for murder.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Of the girl?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Of you.

CAPTAIN BROWN

But I haven't been murdered.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You can never be too sure these days Captain. The Inspector doesn't seem to care either way.

CAPTAIN BROWN

So the Inspector found the girl's body.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Apparently it was here the entire time, we just never noticed it.

CAPTAIN BROWN

How did I not see it?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

It seems you have a lot of trouble spotting things.

CAPTAIN BROWN

(Looking at corpse)

She looks so peaceful. Almost as if she were only sleeping.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Don't let her looks fool you like they did me. I assure you she's dead, Captain. Touch her if you don't believe me.

(Captain bends down and touches Anna on the forehead)

CAPTAIN BROWN

Right you are doctor. The body has already gone cold.

(sniffs)

She smells like whisky.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

That's a sign of rigor mortis setting in.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I've never heard of that before.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

First year medical school knowledge.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Is it common?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Just among the Scottish.

(Inspector Derby enters. He is soaking wet)

INSPECTOR DERBY

Well sir, you're wife doesn't float very easily but I did manage...

(Sees Captain alive and well
and is startled)

AHHH! I thought you were dead?

CAPTAIN BROWN

Apparently that is a trend around here.

INSPECTOR DERBY

You said your wife killed him?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I thought she had. I guess my eyesight isn't quite what it used to be these days.

INSPECTOR DERBY

(pointing to Anna)

Is she dead?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Yes. I can tell you one-hundred-percent surely that she is dead.

INSPECTOR DERBY

How can I trust you and your shoddy eyes?

CAPTAIN BROWN

Don't worry, Inspector. I can vouch for the Doctor. I am alive and she is dead. You can see that is the truth with your bare eyes can't you Inspector?

INSPECTOR DERBY

I feel I have made a grave error in imprisoning your wife. I hope it is not too late.

CAPTAIN BROWN

The holding cell is not that rough.

INSPECTOR DERBY

When it is under water it is.

(Inspector runs off stage.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

She'll be fine. She wouldn't dare die in third-class.

(Beat)

Well Captain, we should go.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Without your wife?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I have a feeling she can find the water just fine by herself.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Your lack of care for a dead girl and an incarcerated wife is surprising.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I'm sure she would do the same for me.

CAPTAIN BROWN

All right. Help me with the body.

(Captain Brown goes over to Anna)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Excuse me?

CAPTAIN BROWN

The body. We need to take it with us. Rule of the sea- You never leave a body on a ship.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

No Captain! That's alright. Leave her alone. She wanted to go on the ship. Dying words.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I thought she was afraid of ships?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

She thought this might help overcome it.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Nonsense. I don't want her dying on this ship- it might get a reputation.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Really. Let her be. Just let me get the diamonds. (*beat*) To give to her mom. For her mom.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I'll get them for you Doctor.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

No that's alright...

(Captain bends down really close to Anna to start removing necklace and notices something and bends head further down)

I think I just heard her breathe Doctor.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Your mind has started to go strange from too many nights at sea.

(Anna starts murmuring and Captain lifts up the upper half of her body supporting her. Lawrence goes on other side of Captain. Grabs another whisky bottle and stands behind the Captain.)

CAPTAIN BROWN

Doctor Stanley she is alive! Doctor look at this.

(Looking around)

Doctor. Doctor?

(Lawrence bashes the whisky bottle on the back of the Captain's head, knocking him out. Anna starts to get up.)

ANNA

(groggily)

What happened?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I hit you over the head with a whisky bottle.

ANNA

You what?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I accidentally hit you over the head with a whisky bottle. The bottle slipped, it was a terrible accident.

ANNA

So then what happened to him?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

He was also hit over the head with a whisky bottle.

ANNA

Accident?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

What are the odds?

ANNA

Oh my head hurts.

(Lawrence goes behind Anna and picks up a whisky bottle and is raising his arm to smash it on her head when she turns around and he hides the bottle behind his back)

What are you doing?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Uh. Nothing.

ANNA

Do you have anything for headaches.

(Lawrence takes whisky from behind his back and gives her the bottle.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Uh. Yes. Whisky?

ANNA

Are you sure?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

No. Probably shouldn't even be holding the bottle.

(Lawrence takes back bottle Captain starts to groan and get up Lawrence drops whisky bottle right onto the Captain knocking him back out and helps Anna up.)

The best thing for you would be to stay here until you feel better.

ANNA

I remember something about the ship sinking?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Uh not anymore. The Captain managed to save it.

ANNA

But isn't that the Captain right there?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

He has odd work-habits.

ANNA

(touches head)

Ow. Doctor do you know if there is there any ice around here?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh I think you can manage to find some somewhere. When you do put it on your head and just stay until I get back.

ANNA

Why?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

So I can get help.

ANNA

Where are you going?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(leaving)

England.

(Anna goes behind the bar and bends down to grab some ice. Lawrence comes running back in followed immediately by the Inspector with Mrs. Stanley. Both are soaking wet.)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Hello honey. How nice to see you again.

MRS. STANLEY

Come here.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I'd rather not. I don't want to get wet, might catch cold or something you know.

MRS. STANLEY

COME HERE!!!

(Lawrence goes over to Mrs. Stanley. Mrs. Stanley proceeds to start beating him with Lawrence yelling out.)

INSPECTOR DERBY

Stop it! You're going to murder him.

MRS. STANLEY

That's the point.

INSPECTOR DERBY

STOP IT!

(Inspector Derby grabs Mrs. Stanley off of Lawrence)

Now. Mr. Stanley you certainly have a lot of explaining to do.

(Notices Captain)

What the...he's dead. I thought he was...

(Anna appears from behind the bar with ice pack against her head. Inspector screams when he sees her)

AHHH! You...you...you're alive? I'm losing my mind. You are alive aren't you? No. You're supposed to be dead...

ANNA

...What?

INSPECTOR DERBY

...The Captain is the one that's supposed to be alive. But the Captain is dead. Am I?... hallucinating? Doctor what's going on?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You're suffering from delusional attacks.

ANNA

He knocked me out.

INSPECTOR DERBY

The dead Captain?

ANNA

No. The doctor with a whisky bottle.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(making drinking motion towards Anna)

I told her that whiskey would be her downfall.

ANNA

You bastard...I didn't drin...

LAWRENCE STANLEY

(interrupting very loudly)

...I believe she is still drunk.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Is he dead?

(Inspector goes over to
Captain, kicks the Captain.
Captain groans)

I think he's just knocked out too.

(Notices whisky bottle and picks it
up.)

INSPECTOR DERBY

Hmmm. More whisky. This ship is reaping what it sows. Come
on get up you louse.

(slaps the Captain. The Captain groans
and starts coming too.)

CAPTAIN BROWN

I just had a terrible dream. The ship was sinking...
(Pointing to floor)
what's that?

MRS. STANLEY

That's water.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Why is there water all over the floor?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Isn't the captain supposed to know these things.

(From this point on it should be
assumed that water is filling the room
at an alarming rate and the characters
should start acting progressively
wetter and colder.)

CAPTAIN BROWN

(realizing it's not a dream)

We're sinking. I must save the women and children! Quick, I
need to leave.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Hold on Captain. They're already off the ship.

CAPTAIN BROWN

(slowly coming to senses)

They are? Then why are we here?

INSPECTOR DERBY

We are here because of a murder.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Murder? Aboard my ship? The murder of who?

INSPECTOR DERBY

The murder of...the murder of...of...of...

ANNA

...Of me.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Yes. The murder of her.

ANNA

Anna.

INSPECTOR DERBY

Anna.

CAPTAIN BROWN

She was murdered?

INSPECTOR DERBY

Well no. She is alive.

CAPTAIN BROWN

I must still be dreaming.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

That would explain a lot.

ANNA

No Captain you aren't dreaming. This man, here. Dr. Stanley. He forced me to fake my death so that his wife, she wouldn't find out about our affair...

MRS. STANLEY

...Your what?...

ANNA

...I felt threatened so I went along. In fact Dr. Stanley had been threatening me this entire trip...

LAWRENCE STANLEY

...I what?...

INSPECTOR DERBY

(taking out a wet notepad)

Yes. Keep going.

ANNA

(breaking down and crying)

...He forced himself upon me.

MRS. STANLEY

You bastard. Have you no soul?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

...This is sheer lunacy. Inspector as a respected doctor...

MRS. STANLEY

There's nothing respectable about you...

LAWRENCE STANLEY

...This girl's story is totally false. She has no evidence. No witnesses.

ANNA

Wait. I can prove it. He gave me some jewelry if I promised not to tell. I didn't want to take them but he forced me too. Oh the pain.

(Shows diamonds to Inspector)

MRS. STANLEY

Those are my diamonds! You little...you stole the diamonds from me to give them to this winch?

INSPECTOR DERBY

This is very troubling news to me, Doctor.

CAPTAIN BROWN

Those diamonds look familiar. It's starting to come back to me now. (*beat*) Am I the only one freezing?

(Everyone ignores him)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Inspector. You must not believe...she stole them from me. Yes.

(Grabs Anna)

Here Inspector is your real criminal. I would like to report the theft of my diamonds by this girl.

INSPECTOR DERBY

I thought you said the diamonds were not yours?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Did I say that?

INSPECTOR DERBY

Yes.

MRS. STANLEY

They're not his. Their mine and I'd like to report a theft also. By my husband of my diamonds.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I can't steal my own diamonds.

INSPECTOR DERBY

You already said they were not yours.

MRS. STANLEY

I'd also like to report a divorce.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Of who?

MRS. STANLEY

Of you.

INSPECTOR DERBY

I can take note of the theft but divorces are out of my jurisdiction, although in this case I might make an exception.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Oh this is wonderful. This is absolutely wonderful. Abso-bloody-lutely wonderful.

(Lawrence goes behind bar and grabs bottle of whisky. Pours himself a drink.)

MRS. STANLEY

I can't believe you. Forcing yourself on girls. Behaving like a third-class dandy. I don't know what I ever saw in you.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

You never see anything besides jewelry. Diamonds have blinded you.

MRS. STANLEY

This is so embarrassing. My social life will be ruined.. I'm leaving. The minute you step off this ship you won't have a shilling to your name Larry!

ANNA

I'm afraid Mrs. Stanley most of your husband's wealth already belongs to me.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Yes! I forgot. Another crime Inspector. This woman exhorted me out of forty percent of my wealth.

ANNA

Fifty percent.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Forty-five.

MRS. STANLEY

I'll talk money once we're on dry land. This water is almost to my waist and I'm starting to get dreadfully cold. Anna? That is your name. First. I apologize for calling you a winch and I apologize for my husband or my EX-husband. I will allow you to keep the diamonds as reward for putting up with him but give them to me right now and I'll put them in their case for you.

ANNA

Thank you Mrs. Stanley.

(Anna hands the diamonds to Mrs. Stanley who starts leaving. Her departure should take several minutes though since the water is so high.)

INSPECTOR DERBY

Did you say Dr. Stanley that she made you promise fifty percent of your wealth?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Forty five and not a penny more.

(Inspector goes over to Anna grabs her right hand and inspects it)

INSPECTOR DERBY

Right the game's up.

(To Anna)

You're under arrest by order of her majesty.

ANNA

I'm under arrest?

CAPTAIN BROWN

That's right. You were an Inspector. I remember now. You said you were on board for...I'm sorry my mind is still a little foggy.

INSPECTOR DERBY

I actually never said why I was on-board this ship. The reason being I didn't want to scare any passengers. The truth be known, Scotland Yard had gotten word Poison Pam was on this ship.

(Lawrence takes a drink of the whisky)

CAPTAIN BROWN

Poison Pam?

INSPECTOR DERBY

A murderer that goes around to aristocratic gentleman, seduces them and then poisons their drinks.

(Lawrence spits the whisky back out)

Yes. She is England's worst. Me and my partner were hoping to catch Poison Pam in the act.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Where is your partner?

INSPECTOR DERBY

He was poisoned.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

By who?

INSPECTOR DERBY

Pam.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

I should have seen that one. Isn't that a shame. Well I hope you catch her.

(starts to leave)

INSPECTOR DERBY

I just did. This is Poisonous Pam.

ANNA

(vicious)

Where's your proof? You have no proof?

INSPECTOR DERBY

That gold ring you're wearing was my partners.

ANNA

(Pointing to Lawrence)

He gave it me.

(Mrs. Stanley should exit right at this moment from stage)

INSPECTOR DERBY

(shocked)

You? You sir are Poisonous Pam?

LAWRENCE STANLEY

No. No. Nothing of the sort. I'm an honest man. I simply stole the ring from wife.

(They all look around for Mrs. Stanley who is now gone)

INSPECTOR DERBY

Heek. I'm afraid I've let her escape!

(Inspector starts trudging towards exit. Finally he swims to exit quicker)

ANNA

She has my diamonds!

(ANNA starts exiting too by swimming. Both should be totally gone before Lawrence speaks)

LAWRENCE STANLEY

My wife is a murder, my mistress a swindler, all of my belonging are under water and I can't feel my lower half any more.

CAPTAIN BROWN

At least it can't worst.

MRS. STANLEY (O.S.)

(screaming)

What do you mean no more life rafts.

LAWRENCE STANLEY

Looks like we're sunk.

(Trumpet rimshot. Lawrence pours himself another shot of whisky drinks it and then smashes the bottle over his head. He falls on the bar.)

CURTAIN