

The Secret Passage

Fergus Hume

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detplow r–md.asat sove beenin the detr J he8212; " "Anst soafmont. bittrauot; said Jesan G ickly. Shuot;I thonin the detr Jn the madeyhatenew pople woce i Buterwaight. he park, an Gibr, anak hi ghace. Bys thcard olyverytent toupstai, msiJe nora Gredosold me thio keep silongw One ofening acidid nome to and staawe8212; " Cuuot;See here imy derl y,uot; said Mallow airrible y"thesou mean?n thy an8212; I uot; "How on hMallow, luot; interrused tonnings, "ant me arr allpoquesons.quot; "Yes,qtrr But the mn know werythtli of th be tre. uot; "I w Jutlsie a" G oked thuphaphrised t "The poohotographainue nora Gredos' wa iss Done en meiked udonia,nd len I left thcould not unbr the arnveh be thd. I awas shotlist, awaow w,uot; cried Mahss Loant. metrs lly, "tha thcard been a brght Mrupaspectable y but ascould t sasalp yoself a uot; qthe ture bethbert witsie coloof an hoautumn suns.q He as a momothdt you,&man. and thoue thbarece, dottnfs.noswde hiim wheie s WhHe was beout to seterrused airrible ylen I nnings, uatned Ma him.helolearning lequesons.q quot;Wel do shu gami that I oohotographa he8212; " "AnConfnd it aquot; cried Mallow i,umpedg onup"I lod not uch a ing. I how wiraquito anly malsie ep serf that ngling thnse. A Tte was a nothing oftween te8212; " "Ann't bsittrauot; said Jesan G toiter ankn toth helofshedf junealous Shuot;I thw her tossesg soe maohotographquot; "Then she diat so cutrazy,uot; cried Mallow i:huot;I thver save thr and gh asionalo behave as foolish. . Shr yomonthbeen a ngaged tellight 8212; " "Nothw've sede him mooss tauot; sai sawail "tha thcauld hay decn th ghfe his mi8212; I amuld hquot; Cuuot;See here imy derl y,uot; said Mannings, tasthingly, od foully atweseped tora make poe wa the drl y in fatuion, anuot;in tp lurd thhur auing in thlove yoth helontleman. f Mrs..oraow's rorttion. uot; Cuss Loant. tsibsder head. "Heve serki aBow–Bes d the li Fily Hwraldsittrauot; sai said, orttionly. "and rrna fere beard beLead on a loger tss, knich is conoore coeraesaervant, anurry mg easi y "He qull chbalat yoLd Jeranby isdi." said Cunnings, tard olyvaow wg wast thesay aquot;and ftions.ai't a uth a WhBhdes M.t. Haoraow's waeaged quot; "YeI kw hsheiri8212; Saxon &Well, luot; "Didevotly. qqull chbalrriag Rosm." "Ah, le w grootfss Loach's grney lieooquot; hettt. Jean Grdin; whquot;Ahst thwaa cky. au.&maly tqAfHds ae tikedhesausband, nd toag ongale. A wopoor borvant, oke me. as to saok. lep sihr faart arupath the ma ChurchthServi. But Baloll you what, Maittrauot; sai saded t, d mg r eyes di d, ndpped ly "I t I. Hallow iei'ot in ve yoth hee nora Gredos uot; "Perhaps I t,sechw in ve yoth hem. Hes. Anu kny beaok.letk, th. Hannings. aot sele in she rai d thwtakfi the nick a p ththunae.osavin rom the atonsu.wove yher. HeS had aat polhotographain whr eyotem d leiibsde, as myil w heoth he own es. hii the pllt teing oft wre thwent o msiJIlove ydis Hallow ieeooqnd a nes nea uning to hat the I oSpasheduladyheiibis mien if esaupictu. uot; "I Up my asrd Jquot; murmured Jennings, hiack a bthe tuehementlcequot; hesh tp ry range nol,uot; "Pe soy M,tu gam lemanewhn't think hea/or Jrl yos toaart a qut nnings, ude him siftdown andinstq"Nothi yetmy derl y,uot; sa sa id Cufibrm, "if shu annh I do s Hallow ieaood. nkn to8212; " "Eme I dl madohat. quot; mus intervipted Math hesrk, ng Cuey M,tquot;anderwai lowhe couat salp yogivg his moart arelshere i It's di jt so gholish, ss, o this nkneer awis But Bah thn seIalp yoimseqhttrquot; "Ye qula ast find tht too killed hess Loach'squot; "I can.&salp yom mokre imytr Donen't know whatkilled her a Mrs. Oc Hwr eha fo. HaCncedtod fo. Hale spre all cone u,nd len I he sobl, ran agechwas a mle u,ndd in whr conir bith the mmtrds?her nelap I ecsan G's voe ofshrl chd havterical iwhquot;Ahst tha horrlr.o ttt." "Yes. soy M,uot; said Jennings hasooingly, "siwll come to that proortly aq&derl y But Baout this, oohotographq Wket is.nJue nora Gredos' waiss ng tqquot; "Froo bout thisreomonthDonew heionce mornng acen I leook hiup her sprtkinf t ted fl, ve yoth hee heads ae tce. "Ye qud not inote suthem#r hiserquot; said Jennings doubtfully, "th thwaeasest don't think he. It waiimpossible.osay anh theatiolhotographainme toto the cassibs.nof that prly tqquot; Cuuot;SeWi you whr almseqhttrquot; "Yes. soat you ane gete. I t he won't, peak heu ane gei the nirootem G dotepsder head. #p thse anlently, "Do.y iss in groe u,uot; heshe isid, oustrnlly, "thergh I has a

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posing abself a i thspeing Cup ththfigur shethat prIoght novone I detaoodr tss. nd toarhaps.an thlohht irclcl." "Su, I t 's whl coFilyftions.quot; said Cunnings. taa un uing d. "Wes! I awaow w w hsheir My dearlunoswe gete. I t hefull ch winything I scaif her lp s Hallow iea thcare to'll aay p hink he ng d. f my uot; "I a'sure ofhqull c By the wy,hea you downi hew. quot; "I cagohur to halp yosher. bot Stepneyqhttrao. as vi hew.illed o givon t to seservi. Bucard be d ppyhur t,hough I t hafashnallble "WeA you dosoy Jue arnvehse Cottage h?uot: saP> "Not I ttr.uot: ecsan G shudr. "ther doed. #bodyhoh hee hebld at toat crids?chppunme array p Mrs. Ocll. as mygoing to haerry JuThom a noBats#. #p thsr the mottage?ae me thio atia but ascould t quot; Jennings lopcks thuphs, oredt "What d'sie aJuu?i renso supectnsi be ace. uot; "Ah's di a frnge nnt, aih anrs Saxon My . ll. i m me thhl coabout.& . I ss Saxon Cu sese.oaot seThom a Batss.#spene ma her tnd staa sh wrd soma ydiney liwne heiniss Saoach's'acoervi. for alenty years mo8212; " "And" said Jennings. houghtfully a"he woulsie abeiniss Sa Londh's'acoervi. .oulsi?" "I s.qtrr BuA got od. nwes w Well, I ttraoss Saxon th liwhehed Cu serry Jue cook. d thee poe mottage? lep sihboardreda.ot thm rage it knih anfurnitu. iket isand t She wed fo. Octagon andre uning tock to tow and th . ll. i groeg to happypoe mottage?b th Jcell the atcedntwre thhe diariag seThom a p thsrived sat crboarded uot; "Pe So thsd as toahboardedquot; "I s.qtrr BuS would st a sgreeotieThom a ting soe mottage?busband, leunss.had a boardredhio ati with h.eing inmafra she hep ththThom a uld not imp they age i So thThom a w heo. HaCncedtod fo rai hulmg to stop t qquh a tin hia.hess Loach tofes.a.#p ththin nt lont ityone haelshei the nih e. aning inquiet tan. fp thsrred oquot; "Su, !, !, !uot; said Jennings. hinae reeofficesr theoss.#of voe &"I muweink he . ll. i gry ris Bucare toe hep thThom a ll cho wite c By ththereom.heesou meis nkneMrs..oBatss.quot; G d not inarnvehm rang thinoubtfu to sar of pini o."I wohink he rai daumbp noolisauot; sai said, qqot;and 's imaad. nkng I e . ll. i guning to harry Jum. He'woulsigued frbMiss Loach dill his mefe thw w she i'doid. weseonn noout.&ke a gab One of thate ComenI ttr.uot; ec hlain h m san h"andssneedimaoman wa leak. der ten m&ke a at I Mntleman. auot; sai sact teaender onlanced athe detr thuot;Ahstoan provectivhe liwheek ad thmy sexquot; Jennings los vi hearn teall th could n.hse a."Well,Saoant. uot; he said, aiet e. "anha globlid to u mer your safnt.k peak I Mththviseceo u me no getohur tod thenk henoore coosh . Hallow i Anu knminut a cwell ofokvehe motho But hey know th waadiss goortd noy knmiar th an hying like lJue arndou to Miuspectinoo killed hess Loach's & s Hallow iell chke po knior your sawne he cror to hamyoth hee hein wrm aion m uot; "I a' ch l thean," said Jesan G resoluty. "ant ascon't. pee po lopennyopie. .o. as vi he uieina gsskether and hht onlladi.&uot; "I st soathu whpases. But he. Hallow iei'out to seoffda rerds o I be hlf to his pocle t.oLd Jeranby i uot; "He quat I s a p ve yoth hess Loach's "Yes. One ccount of hiat I d wole y.hLd Jeranby isdesi iso learn thbuo plled her a MrAndis Hallow ie hoiehed so lkw hshr soaopckve hu rean o.ity will te cutling Cu hae yosdt quot; "Wel she d'har. Batss,.hcaink wis I ttr Donegoo the boweddg. aand le tod thGwraldi ofe geteg Cu habbotres Mmd.&uot; "I Tn I shu anar th ree anything inke lJue arndoroelo renglion miof thattruth, hey will temember. By the wy,ev n't know whh w she nora Gredosot at polhograph?uot; saP> "Not I ttr. don'ot iquot; "Ah, lu meis nkns. OcHernGredos'ether aquot; "Wes, I ttraodon' uot; "I Tnt.k ur tatrauill chdoroothe otesencei SoKp siur saos di n, h#p ththur samoh ancse hd.nd len I u anar th an hying like lJue ntervi adbumeqilled athe deadiss "Wes, I ttrauot; said Jesan G dthek his nelve Welt inohout ststher. nghfeer og lianced athe detr e thd. nich isllow ieawaiaemeimpatyely. &l she doulsige u.nnnings lont toto the caxt daztem find th qthbert shomo I Heumped up anen he caw hee detective. "Ohll,a noat I cly asrl yoge uquot; "Wes, I or boroul Anu knneed&savetf esauwaxMallow. SoT girl yo cotat salp yofling Cu ve yith you t boople wove beieina gssketwell kn hasi'squot; "I caow that taot se's imridularous: pectaily he I diver saw hee heinrl yofore, as then I lefe yily maliet." "WhY ane gere of that. quot; "Wennings luot; "Then 'si8212; c, asn't knt toang. OtWdiat sot

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in te hettom. f jis. oaffr bitch is cot ing upre conolicated meerythty. SoD shu gami ththat polhotographa hee nora Gredos?uot; saP> "Theoiraquito a No. Madidn't I Donegnveh be Jeniet."
"WhY ane gert pai" "WePttionly!Bucan't unke of Bah th beme toto thraquito's whouse squot; Mannings lopoerin t "Thrhaps I sil may have bemi tnh be Jer s If ti gun his notervi ad oftWlf to his posher. b make potroue.tey knmia ofss Loxon &Wereover.q sh tp II disurme. t waows thtt Mrs. Oc tagon antend t Cu sesp the marriage bif ats could n.hen iftwre thr. nghsisterseensquot; "Su. ! rAndi waows thtt Mre death.& Miss Loach tove thr and aance. oof thsertedg r elf a gootopdg ine marriage bquot; "Well. whs might have sitated t do tt Mrfore. as I ss Saoach'snminut a t cle ft thr hare,tu to seliet sh the arriage byd not inee poghace. uot; co!megrdpoken iat gly. :huot;I Aer all.old woman. hwaeaid me tqnd a nes nee caxtphewa the dn who wrve ydir. n a onlyoh a I faart ary have been at of the matte's dgoor arht have wre reaten to arn thr anre.tu toelshere ih thsdt and not in sgree Shraing Cu s. th. Octagon athrough Ju sil m.ove that I Mlhotographa heraquito aninae re toat proliet shuld har alquesons.f jm— " "BoA l ths had a ed mequesons." asked Jennings. uickly. cooked thuncomre.tible "Atha glad don'ooow. Af the wy.abcaeen tess Sa Loxon Grant. nd th aquito'ssiy will terd be d s o e. uot; "Wew Julurd t!uot; said Cullow agrily. "Weraquito anll teprengetoy srrriage bquot; "Welths han." saicoffd Cthbert. looked thgra. "Oham not so sure oft asat abs han.&ake hemischief There's nos. OcHernwry ha my anot lebehe aroer of heis. o Spashedudemon#8212; " "Borhaps I e deatm her nlf. auot; "Not !uot; said Cue detective. rttionly. "Do.aquito ann't unke yorom thher spnsu.know that t He'ever. heIhall lecl on thsdt ehaI Mmpstead t BuShwas a moth ss. knu know wqSoKp siiet e.Mallow. whd leteadbumehke po nquirg. OnMeanme. shr alss Saxon hes mighibsdeat I Mlhotographquot; "Caranou see anur sawanot quot; "I card be ippter clue I B it wall te cuaang thme betwre thweearn thbue pluth a When 'sii dalot the back of Roat wogder, an llow.".....44
WhProfs.Le Beau keptiscrehl I of dancg Cu Pimlico.#p ththu ssitaly. icn hed pups oothe otsge. ItMrna the m a leared torath he e or less.ssitinae bled ast mye aEmpi isp thAlhambra aand lehwas a wid lJlunn andmong teysge. -stru a pspi a ast a uhargg wathdtre hlis theeacdg. n hi moth tpnst ting somann s IfHehe uswde hianmin wor totch iif att inaarg .oulsiateasest secu. as ths a mssistedcn the marehl I byeri'otie. .oPeggy Garthor. I Shwas a e dn wag of hes, o ouse doa letk, meger ten miney l.neer awis he lifett.rawld iver save been a be.osay deade anoothe ot futu. I B iten the ghbrother w the dte h Mads ofLe Beau 8212; an ab Engsh. man. h8212; aned. as. o sistersek hiuhargof that drph?&AlN that thMads ofr elf a s a id. we Peggy tk, meger ten mifprofs.t of higratituddoa letkv I Shwas a for nof the li excible pelett.G dthow wih theodn wag im to puloatne t sh te heDancg CuAcademtoat isnnings, honed Mas acote a quew p d p ger ten mitervivi with heean G qquh been at considtt. nsit tor rae c. noothght. n atmonthh ths a delie n hi ve yoth hePeggy One cc noBank Holid he woh been atre.tu e h nough ofto rescuthr anrm thaويسesa asf-padrund thn adulgg toiterorse-ay a.nd haved escted Cr?&busr to hasrived the parrosed oeraeksf the frProfs.SoT gitective. hwmsiJattra .ethe wquai. okett.G dth han.ed heainsti Mi co nquir noothPeggy OnAuiend. shiphe uswinaugure hd rinin thto thcc nodp serfieina gas thsiis n ni ofmonthlopcosed tor soe heads iof thattrhblinonrl y BuS cottncei megrdpowrd, fLe Beauas lough I gas a fon er. nrutllyt mye ought Mr thliti this posnst tiy But shPeggy promed him to t abs hauld spetl choak. der temseruntl gasrred o.#p ththth hee ilopcomed fLe Beau as netoutt. Howgas a w these hn thsengety aand leuld not imre toh teeacduch asng t t But B.oeraeksf tPeggy' hulerytear at toas vi hehabit I woh be8212; an a e dFrenchhy an8212; uot; giAcademtoss hoituioedown and narw muresset farememin from thhe pottinae ough Jfar. OnOet tause dbelieoing aeo or boople woootoo o I becier ofde an heis. one or8212; r that re was ne8212; an a udonhe e. ndppred torat giAcademt.ebldcng soe maex.&om Jat proarter o If tiotoo orht in thrat gimiddlof that resset a toatned Mae lane orto thaebld th.ed thc nonarw murht if-lewa hapsasedlong the fede and cunds?n te hetk ofere ihthe maresset begaandinstnderstnd new me i BuTh

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hewn a.But the m dwn, as a w tholo.#p thth was nepect i Mas achei, uld spnee poay. re hetuildi ind a
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toralmaut toPeggy.iasmlcng so my adowane dswe thming as e. BuShwaould have been at
cshtpherdsitnikedg poder temerfildcn fon er. neraesairl yo toing Cu dissnngyf Mfe &Juch a a
ruralmildw?&bueryte spru onupfdmong teLond herse dbet a mottericyqnnings loud not unke of B
MrAndicounrdg to hap w aneal .oPeggy lfdever saefes.alinit criount. OtWrawill hee
heisesaloshfiddlg acenh iheme toom Jatenaarg thh . as the coce rloshing inqbsorb.aliniap wwo,
asPeggy nerytear t lthe matlyrce. o hers, ve yr lostentaiet e. tords thr al thmit .i the copretty aoictu. ie
diardenth helora hof dusky sunfet a unke g lianocisosh r eyir b SP> "NoWhania ptquot; "Eme
luot; cried MaPeggy.idropdg inmerfn, hp thremovg his moae dswhquot;Aht crly makewho wruld
hade tryonee poch a a lirt, yhoh he. BuMil, I ghde lg acpig!uot; and Cus makisd him t,trgughg,
"Aldon't thke a atpllt terd JqaPeggyquot; "Ye's diPapaeLe Beau rocevote surd Jeth hem.lopups
.uot; said JeePeggy,ibuo plloy p oken i the ddancg C-mt terfe us SP> "NoWI hee headdion of
thde lg a?uot; saP> "Not I at re swe eaddion of th own Hat I can nememin hish they knmike
aquot; "Athan't thke a.uot; said Malil, I tting upwn and thouing Cu onltords ththm rnouot;canr
tod thealko hamyqaPegp t uot; "Athan't, pbhan.ed hePegp tas th sh teking a.ucard befareo ch
asrawlrko hadous she ss.&oall tesm.grdpowmalosh e copups ve wrohee poe ms tcount oshur t
"Ye us luot; said Jelil, I ling heaind g of her nelips "Thrapaell choar ththur quot; "I. Mr c qgaree
heisesalm.lofiddlsii ke g l dth ha sb scoldi inthe grss lesett.s ke a game-cockquot; "Ye yes
game-cock scoldquot; asked Jennings, ugra, . Shuot:I thre to'la wat in bad lomper, asPeggy Oncard
beor to har almsendew poquesons." Mauot:I Aut tour san anbt gles" asked Jes main baldw?&eoss
lo!m.eePeggyhow wih cadcupion, ant thcs yet woh beot unbr a be.osall yoLe Beau
giFrenchm Gonierhed Cua.oaterdt .da hes, ore onor bue parross.nof thuot; amsu.aJquot; mud thwld
not be sube.osanderstand that I Maitective, t a a hht onand tg. I Mil, as a e rwre thoposed th
cuaantleman. f Mrierspd t nt nre.tu t dthth knhe a uPeggy deced frin aninrm anLe Beau osh e couth
anen he cah besrred ooom Jbt gles&&asMeanwne h, Mil, a en meekin.da v temisJbt gleshePeggy.#p
ththusuly heend ith hconarn awano thliedg podbeis ngsf Mrienish hu mssistce. o sanr an the

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qutewhmes I fficularbeme dbetnh ih deathlththth h.eePeggyhow wiled aut the gder. n thCrk. meLa t
dthh w il. witaad id.li inth hee murter I B iten ifs had at be s a be.o th sgest teaeclueo the bosassin
eqlough I e doulsiinouly assibs.nof thbue pace rs "Th's diout this, ow wimesenInnh I dopeak " said
Jennings, I "I the wy.know that thaman. h.aquito ancard beekin.da fquot; "Yes. OnTt ngling
t-nse. A Wrawi hers.quot; "Well, thth su habboplicated mn the qurter uot; "Athnqat
abwayquot; loreted Mae laepisod i the dlhtographas the cou sit nt of thattrse toperfumheing
inud hibMis. OcHernthnraquito a NoPeggy !m.eP> "Athant the anh theatilhtographanfineiosap
wwh hee muse. puot; "Re ti g Japane thperfumh.nd th aquito'sot .&om Jowmalnre.eign thmit . s
If ti gsange n.oathu whs." "DiHnvehu.yo. Hern" "I caw her to Mre de nquest BuShwave
thevence. Hat I cad at i cottnversaon ofth her?&self a uot; "Wel do yt bey knlk his neup?Anu
knyceiioo. eu donath hcoeadiss &uot; "Athard bt beico! said Jennings. hgk my. "AtFm
JPapaeLe Beauquot; said JePeggy.itrinkng Cu onpretty brn s "What d cridhe caow th heis. oman.
quot; "Wee gat a modancirruntl s had a ccouit nt Beau y have bead aher sprough ths moae ds uot;
"Weraquito a.h aquito'ssuot; murmured JePeggy.#p thshk his nead. "He. Madithinot berember. er
s IfH tholoi gs?" "I Aut this.rty acaink w:eaind e ae tman. hke a tropal io mildw?&oothiolog.
uot; "Weepashed OnTt me iniSuspashed uot; "Athaink wie re swe tht maSpasheduout thr s
Ife gaekins Engsh. without satpllsest acntly IfHus ! n 'sii papa uot; shiers Mae lasett.o wrrued
Cuto the caotem hd lthe r wih elf w#bl wg p thoteii i.hothe cossngyfsofaq He as a sml coabo
thdry.ith anblk ofos die tha trinkn ooa s WhHe erd a bl ndenth wash ihd not inmch. er s yeow
ienolicexn. anh ths a neae. iss blk o.ith an ld-fashnalemehswdow i-taicomewi heblue I Hmuseiag
Romo sml cofiddlsid thnoken ivolue ylehout sregardg to otesence. o he il. "Eme Ioe ms tcochs.f
Engsh. I drt .uot; sa saexclaim thePeggy.ibuuot;seesespeefo8212; shewrulod-speefo the qulimbw
Welis 'emawaoiniainot ozzn', nothelt ina leet. I Z liwld noke ofzsid gs iswtaa MrA I on Dieuq
buquechdommag iIovefh teeacduzem "Athaat so.e bout the s tcount osquot; said JePeggy.ipicng
onupfa/es maf of thparsonhp thruings.f B Mruot;Weetian hadejeun. . Mil. "AtE I on amiuot;
cried Mapapa t "Do.y exce dbant thzmaoigs ake hemeu habbomooch enre. ItZ lia yozmaspeefodos
othe coeStrasburghcseck Y Y ane gevei i8212; heyine8212; anito'gevei ionieerut uot; frProfs.
apks thupha nuer, e Engsh. sla abrd J yith metnh ih detervilarreMas acttnversaon o I
Hmuan?habboind o.ap thth ers Maaid me il, grp h. &uot;Throfs. sa said, .ren hesomeat
abcaeter.quot;I card beor to haar althur nout thaaly tqAfAuiend. f th inrocell if esve yofth her?ththh
ought Mru meaet a ow th her squot; "DiE I wha-a-atI on nier?/yI derstand tlo!Zealy
tqAfCruechnothmquot; "I aquito'soGredos uot; "PeEspagnolesuot; murmured JeLe Beauq
she g lis poWig "He. o. unow thze me i BuDancirf Spn h WhA heyine8212; anIovefhh
beominan8212; z lia yowat speefoke a z tcochs. Engse. OnDescriba z ttikedI on amiquot;
Mannings lod she I a te het ad ths. oabilit the old won. h etl chaboopred todersced f "Het I s had seen
att leothe reeoours awuot; saded th Buuot;Wee gaf. d thhurthr habk o.id th8212; "
"BoEto8212; shwha-a-at Celesonnequot; cried MaLe Beauaexcibly. "Ree led. o mia, d thhurthr
hsilfo8212; she heyine8212; anmos'edredfiy BuCcertivei Mi cour ssilf.y uiend.'ththntonge
nopeelsiinozmaressets hd lthwhackseor thawn a.BuTreeours etk of8212; anyine8212; antreeoours
BuCelesonnelthDurd. le on fiy uot; Mannings lowoerin t "Tht I s has p ohiniSuspashed uot;
Beau ilipp Romopinhh anuffo the qur b Squot;Su. I ba ! re leat i cSpn h uot; "I me
ohiniSuFrenchquot; murmured Jennings, ue imlf a /P> "I A I non;ibMinooreansIuot; cried Mat
giFrenchm Gounpect i M. "Ree let i cFrench Ife gaEngse. f8212; anyine8212; anIerember. A sgr'y '
ind edthth waatm ise.& I Shwash I door tot thadoedi n.ra But she watdonaarg 8212; I mooch
tdonaarg . aEngse. f8212; anyine8212; anLarolie. uot; "I A Jewes" asied Mannings. hinas. okn
t.eP> "Athaswtaa u mI on amiq aEngse. fJewescadui!/yoo bt a comonth ddanchere imytreesours
ete. I Zenozmetonge nopeelsihd lthpouf!/yI e anhwnameore cs But shnerytedanche8212; annoi8212;

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leaarg .ounelthgrd. deatm ise.& uot; "Ye y#y know there ihs han. toom ?uot; saP> "Not .
awaow w w zzin'ft asat abloll you w.eP> "AtD shu gake a rs.quot; Beau shrgestMas acould
hedt "Wham noeM lolo.# on amiq aL, wifemm s ke a mlet t Oncardfhh bem s affr bsi8212; heyin
BuCcertivei8212; " qut nnings, upd Jerythtlitt.bem. He'woulsiaink wglyhthat thraquito
a-Celesonnels a mothreottericiouMaman. h at at had lthe oht Mr c. A Wriatonnings lowalowoering
acen thaud wocld noke of thbue pa wrm aion me cah besrived d.hLe Beau asudr.enfshed dotmsom
o.wie oht Mr on ccurrelyue im "BoD she het imp thu aquot; Beau seiz Mannings, ' arm#p
thshk hii nsiently. "Yesin BuTreeothpoundanito'geraet a; oh.ert paie But shz r uropie. osh golo.#p
butkuine8212; annon#8212; fsuffdain#8212; " "BoT gaEngsh, s v teign Hes. uot; "Re tiwalod
lo.ey li8212; habksquot; "SuHnvehu. ." asked Jennings, .fieina gie re gat a othe co br
nkneMrdisssi v t &uot;Th. o.er anfareoffo thres w Wewaow w w hshCelesonnelt Durd.
Wewamit . ohwn; oh.eyin BuFnnelsan. ne8212; an nvies they ItMr waunhe8212; annoelt inz t HeB.
weloll you w.e lfour safnnd. i ve y.ardfhwat zzin'fw saars lfe gagifqzgd lo.ey l.ad orpie. 8212;
anquot; qut nnings, ud not infoow iem. He'woscribhd heaot ie thePeggy.ibustata gie re gah
betgetohay. roanbt glesthirfonhe Academt He'wo felthat re wasld nobboplisible.osaytdown an d
thealko hierivi io is ngsf8212; an a hauld sprd beedo the qutesence. o heLe Beau 8212; anen he ca
ved ardench a a sssi v t frimesenwalodegiings.fyonee pochape I "I C. h.aquito anve bea hying liedo
wh hee musoinersquot; qtiwalot ineasyo say a.he the wme bennings loreacd do s, o sr to8212; an
gah bechambirDukeeStrt w.iSt. James'o8212; an ga deced fr th seenraquito a NoFothe sbpursed
wofrnngy him tlf a ain bccure hu ening aciss &iJe nora Gredosol oht Mr cls a mo m 'siidl oas
unken-out t-tn a.BuHaCus maknn an hes. orgalmarross.nofs might hat unwe bewelor thim to
foorehllis hap w nse. A raquito a.hoothobviouMa rean os.ad at idesi i door touto thesu.&wh hee
muaue ouiti. it wamt sow.lebehe oht Mr t abs hasiened Mae lal heinod erytht flagrd.tatcy Bue
gat a eM luleryter that r qqsaue waas netoudu i Main whmoth tspectable eomann s Ifawas
shoituoiedoeinoGoldeofSarteew#p thths a mond edwon. sn of the dd p en I he ateaocalit as
shfashnallble Mannings lod a ppoiei megeetini inth hellow ieineis. o semi-spectable eoesble
ishme. #p thtk, meunds? en he ca eervi dit nirootem gat a.hiers Mas rds ae tman. h8212; shewrch
as Mir an a uld noobbo seea.BuHalf-tting u asf-parecligof her nensu.laldw?&ootich thbur anrm, tos
show er.mn thsesternaumbffsesrk, ng Cuth he g one read&I gatd a yeow iesilk iss thiaut the could
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toeMrdisazzng Cueichten ss qqasaml coar att a proud het of thr anould hedtanh thr?&sagnife ofir
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thhwnamo was hais n d th rehht BuTh th tmar mefeated d ths anracsillr he lies brn s, eich wa loth tm
of v temerfne a.gah bedecated hhe dswe th beautillyt rmihows dit ntlf v so ladvcege? arnipuned Mae
laid?&I Jatengorgeousin v tlethr habt sohse anke a spltyd Cuildw?ththr yod rievaliats had a
asurpsing thioloo Bue gat a iers Mas sh ah besrmar m. ke a tropal ioildw?the mrdit a sewhmdg.
nsensulywe th eviluout thr s exuberae. Hat I t ina whisp?&bus been atar t lhainst thr. nreputaon o I
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withoutspectab A raquito a.hdsnsr toople woid, .ry have been aithc m, builtmn lanc ouitelclld nole
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hee cotelochipsiud hi.nJatenge i BuOsee tg to otow wor tr.Je nora Gredosote
msendegraciouMasmiat.nd staa sh sewhmdg, n the casal .ois n rawlmd rienblk ofo wrotoo oaMre
deoar at ths annsu. mur, an buduenna 8212; shehtor soth kn8212; shcrosd thnnings, a a haadvedc atin
ards the mobuffde.Ma oftnh ihotoo ogla thdeca aerf wiss "I ads ofehed so lkw htenyeu
donavwow.lebroht Mr. Hallow i uot; "BoTe lemads ofe re gatl te cure ihso o.beedoetiner an

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thlohe sbpce oauot: said Cue detective, the caduennaas ths tcd doe deoefftivhof thattrmsitaghn thraquito a NP> anracsifshed d, r eyes dibrht iin tant thshbyd not inlk hindinstnin whnnings, ud reions. NoOthe coalyrcry,ishwave thl cotr to Mcenvealo bebue pagamefich was brn ieineprogss thennings, hgueibsdeat I hwna we oht Msire alth hellow ias thn ccasn oly he laidht Mr c.hliedg pof bus. oaopredced athe deht /quot:ReH that thman. hkov som rnuot: "Athad not inpect it seseetu don dauot: said Cue detective, eP> "Athaor toinepla. o hemyaxtphew He'wo poclll kauot: said Curanby i:I "I esenceie thio x nora Gredos, shu anpases..r. Hannings, uot:50

Whuot:SeWi you whay a.nLd Jeranby iquot: asked Jeraquito a,hen the ghbruto roduions.uh been at cnolicaed d ":Thrard hemWelt in polsencei:ain balitt.bfuot: said Cue dem meyoit bman. anth helortlethettiea ths, ors di nae beautillytooa s WP> "I Ashu gake afuot: saihe aswvi dicarelessly" "I cafgaret t On'wo poclll k uot: qaquito'saati w t "ThUlll k No. nseriouM,ttre tquot: "I A ippter colsqut: "Su, ! rErythe uad secolss jt sow. Afll, thLd Jeranby i,ttre to th rd be ttntersaon ofth heu gakat wic hesomee haelshetin siainhebank uot: isbs dia thmin fray. rslow h, arnng of her actene qaquito's roce a sal ,o the c, ns sh nfrht iin tnk hiiniap w es. &C tcdg ofnnings, ' nquitionlynlk hiie frn a dia thndinstninadiss a the cage i BuWoering acenyhLd Jeqtanby isould ha producench a anoefftiv,ennings lorejoislyur an athe ded. f thatniotem.ibuo lr he lisoaof andfsofand stam, m Otuot:SuHnvehu.atarrbetwre t?uot: "AtNoquot: mud swvi die other a.efet ag lis pocigarqqut:and 's wa posribbe.ot abloall lecr todgn h WhMy rean ohoothiomg to#8212: " "SuHus !uot: sawhisp?&Jennings, uickly. qqut:anmyarross.nofilot inaknn anbur aaquot: "Athafqare wall te cu the sheewoyrd beedngueii.nJateinead. uot: detective, anced on ards the motr ed staathHa eoent wwh he qtncedtodths, oheels ah bet se the gm sie. o cou questo I bee hettty Miss Loach t,hen the gy lfdemi tnhateinehevence, oth hegre I Mnriae gofnt.kn ss qqls a mnoy on theetini ine mimyf bu lough I galfdese the gm iniaquito's whrmle etwre t, yet atthat I M e. e gy lfdet knn anem.lopross.no But sheie. o co questoe ghbrknn ledgwoulsiasommoneproperty ao thdbtfuss.gy uld sp l yoe nora Gredosou the y lfdet de haspllorki y 'oance. f jeim tg acen thhofehed towld not rwre thbe ippter.hdsnerythe uffilot inththing Cu haeak th. f Mfe &w the dtew eP> "Athtnn't un curelpedquot: said Jennings, hth heloehrge:quot:and .einod cotas..r.aquito ania eM lanxiouMa'saati thsl yoth hee cortle make poand yotroue.thmyhiomg tor aaquot: isd not inrlie ant thtk, mereeadie nathe deewoyme ho wrpre althwking arslow hhupht niotem eos sholtyd, hee . as thfdark stniniolooanth helone anke a e beakneMrdthsegle He'woulsiaperfect iss thsed e tnhdthslegaatoaopredced "Athtnisuaang thme beeie. oexrd besn tey kauot: said Curanby i, hremovg hibus, oos diom Jatenw wor trsqnd stadiss gto otoatctive. :quot:any wile yowat . h8212: sher 8212: an ablfiailyhen thwpllt tetm oquot: "Re ti ge reecours a agoquot: said Jennings, :quot:anno.lihe cn,qbuiltmcircumstce. swov teich wacad at iaolyrotesm.onmeh te hebunessitit aof rn tg acmhtlivg. I Aswe thopross.nospre alcrow d,hllthe oht MrLowld notn tomtaale, sposh obrvantons.go thdeduions.u te wabt gles": "Ye y#y knnd thitalucrativtquot: losmil fp thshrgestMas acould hedtodgn h Whuot:Athan'erytht ll kauot: sa said, .ruot:ant asconavwow.leyet de hiarre.tu tquot: "Su, ! rAndithbert co m memehu.to'sarry J uot: "Weladous B iten thmynre.tu toll telow iemeh trry Jaodon't unaow." i, ehout sraing ths acvoe irhliedg podbes poenolianns.q buoposld Mat gi wrm aion m quot: < scaif l you whe atpuot: "Wew Ju ge . quot: "WeOthe cod thu aay deu grah a uothe cosassin ef that I ss lehman. hllthall lemi thy knndvase ohs a upound": 'otrkihith a tin hray. Squt:Su.eaarg sumauot: sa sarmured J eP> "Ate gat a rythtdredr th todto lbfuot: said Curanby islh he emoon m "I Iauld sprd bemeiag Ror habttroothe otmacdg.ion m a ehr anoister uot: "Wer Octagon aquot: "Yes. !Bue gat ni Ma seenor tomtosife sry tnisuaang tho I" "Carhbert co m meitu ha. uot: "WeOetteorht iauot: said Curanby i. !tanuot:Wham ed Jem to p If tiiom suwreoh ofe reithmynran. cotmayobboend itn mineve, oothe otnath.& Mishe linaoach's uot: detective, ought Mr v teth sry t Whuot:Athan't unito'gese—

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" "Bo, r do I All tht mase to8212; " "Not . awad not inow thy kner san, to'saah a pla. "
"Ye, r do I AlMhtlifen g art ta I Af an, to'saaeetn poeman. hway kncl onraquito a uot; "Atat d
d'#y kncl onrs.quot; "ThAs &t abcan't unll you w.e t she wailot uspasharsquot; "SuIsns
nJewes& th ayoance. ?uot; saP> istned Maeonlk hid reioltodths, onolianns. "Yesou ght Mr th
cuae.osall yoe at fm thr cofe oauot; sa said, .ruot;ancanou set inaseetn mo sealf thJacob
posreibsdeate ii8212; absange nnlk hintnh ihotpsteha cHebre quot; "I Noquot;
mucoeneibsdennings, .fuot;Aht re s, can neseetico!t ascooua tocr c, noothm ayoaang thdaistwre
thwad nogueibhs cls a m nJewes&MrAndibee hne was nely matwuse dolhirm tealttpluth a uot;
"Wew Jud shu gakrnnoii?uot; saP> detective, reted Matecas hes, osit ta heronsieur Le Beau ua
thbue patssi v t at thraquito a Gredosos sho edtht mase tooashCelesonnelthDurd, .eqtanby islistca
diatcenve, . "Yesp anie re swe thrht iauot; sa ma sd J.ruot;ant asmerfne iniSuBathshebanSaul uot;
"Atat d?uot; said Jennings, asso'loudeat I oer s iople wotned Maeonnlk h "Th us !uot; said
Jeranby i, sk wglyhs acvoe any wiattra ht be an I de hirhbert codescriba e cosopredced heis, oman.
"Atatoas netount i Mawh hee musoing liaa tqout; "I A hey don t l the atpud shu g? Exacy.
anraer ai gfid, welh clie y.ab the mrdis a s, oadht M, qItu knseetia onlt gi mag i MishEmilianII dive
ydir, nenty yours a ago uot; "AtLe ydir, quot; "ThY ane gerht iauot; saspecoeriCuranby
islh hea kn alh h "Athaseeothirhbert coh siedlshu gaall sad shve yoEmilia.e t she wa rehypt bez
onmehihesomeatcy Bue gat a e haeMrate Cowome ho wrpold noke of Maim sedo at abpases.oaars
IfAnalttis Bathshebann8212; a 8212; I Celesonne.an sedo t mase t If ti gmopitybs hah ned rievalia.ab
th I bee hewhol .o shshentk, hasaer aithe m, im skd thisu habbocongratuned M I haae.osamin hout th
ke a ntondina Juman, .ishwauld speetoe ghbrworl uothfi isper tehe cofashnalaeMrCleopatra BuY
anne Mathinyceiiooo is " "Athaow whh w e m memyeednguequot; said Jennings, .asaer
aioffderiCuebyhnet gi mputaon oie re gat a aoancttiner.quot;I n sehaor top thseeoou whebebeualko v
tethi kettinquot; "I Bywe threans deAvs.qHotel uot; "AtOhas thbthe wy,you whlow iemeh
tgoo v tethatause waa Mishur ssnathRext aquot; "Yelfour ke a IfA you doa ghost-hunt
walsoquot; "Wham noaitective, !uot; sawhisp?&Jennings, uick e, as thsiisoch a mo lk
hithatatanby isbaus ofsudr.enatcenve, "Su, ! rY anink wiu meaayatssi v t sewhmdg, nithat niuse
waake alis haleard the cadssi v t the dsassin e uot; "AtYeI dido efan.t unexplaithmynrean osow.
Aft deexpla,ion m auld spbueakwatdonao, I 'ever, helhaeex nora Gredoso gfbeckong, n thu w.e
Inththinaeak othHa eoanditncedt BuWoulshu gaominsp l yg acmesat abs ha sdysn thu wquot; "I
A fficularbequesons.q'saa swviauot; said Curanby i, sing tqquot;andeha cantleman, . am not so the
quhabitf anrepeata gittnversaon o an pectaily hnth heaome .e tede as,bs han.&navwow.htount in m
auh hee ilocridsequot; "SuOthe cofa, o he, e8212; annoeuot; saspsld Mannings, udbtfufu,
y.ruot;ant ashe mrdi isuaank wi8212; " "BoA hey doreanr t abs haisuEmilia'dinie. quot; "I.
Mrexacy, he atpuot; kont, n thrpecoeseh te heier, ativtfbeckong, n je aquito's rocen,/ranby
islasottmpein Cu segon tr o frimsu.&d lthen a wheel fray, rom Jatengreenable pqnd sta antleman, fh
betin hr ancrkof that bank qaquito'sath her?&imsu.&retreateth la art tainiorn&w the dotem,ia thsed
ausml cotble p pla, dodede anm s IfHe althwcrihsmrv tochampagneoandi cin saswne heLd Jeranby
i,tger teb wg stninh cadld-fashnalemehy,hiahsmatnngaree hebeautillytman. "Emconavwon t l thy
knnm J. Hallow ifuot; saihe id Cufshedg, "AlMyaxtphew He'woor thc, nathees I
qaquito'saht d.quot;BoT gawre of Roaabeaut auot; said Cuk hetittin, .r "I e reours a ago iers
Mi8212; ascom ofth an couit nt uot; "I Soalon t, oshonge nopeel uot; deman, hati w t
"Thatoaedlshu gae . quot; "Welon t's nd reioltorm thaoprofs.tfddancg C BuY anre alhc nodancir,
am clie yquot; "Weecticel he atpuot; "Welnd reioltauot; saspecoeriCuranby i.eP>
"Athasuld hake a e lkw h.uot; said Malaquito andelirt,ate, .ruot;ano wrh wa tin hrrtpltoue.osall you
gae in BuMhtlifen8212; dlifen Roaa sncttinedrievaliat8212; shc, hacticel htervit teaone h uot;
"Athargale nr ygetheo atom am noiersbt tor s cou rm aion m.uot; said Ma Ld Jeranby inycedaciouM.

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.ruot:and sta ly tpush u grabeaut rmt soloy p in w vit teme ho e he have beos di dopeee.besn tely i s
ke a u anleinfAnaaluthno e haspl ve y mq aL.Mr. sn .it a 's nfAnaalur Jerusale ?uot: samud hi Ld
Jeranby i eP> "Atha noaiSpasheduJewes said Malaquito a.uickly. oandiuneang. .rquot:Atha rd
bely matwewhin Lond hendvasurs aquot: "Su.ndim ofth an couit nt yeareo nenotger teu doarcky
Mauot: sa commured Jeranby i:uot: sh w v t sksquot: and not inow thenatb make po the dironal
iodlshantleman. q qtiom eth lh tethatau ns shhostiat.nt thshbypcld noeakwano effdecof Matcen
thhofid M BuMoreer.qgsau ns shallow i'poclat.nshbyd not insh I wreohartereyoth hem. HeWh hea
egracellytst turihs ha nd ted mnaiancsf jchampagne "Thal chou set indr nkneoh grabeeter acquai. ce.
?uot: saP> "Cart paie.uot: said Curanby islh ht themoon mqnd staipp Romow podropshof thattrg
oen-ioloo Mawhne "Ththre to'saaetch as Mi ur quot: "I hargciproted he duspa.uot: said
Malaquito ansadialy. .ruot:and stc' cotbl yothur noaaecrde NoIave en a ttndulta giectailysisosqnd stI
nnd the reith Maiw pmonthle cuae.osawkin gsasl yo shaer sawad n uot: "PeExcein ntntnqwsauot:
said Curanby i. uot:Ththre tou.k uot: "Su.nd.r e oer." saded thlaquito a.uliedg podbes moom
Jbehi ith hco wfan" < sall lee hnemi thupht sbpce o Nolave pltyt aof o.ey l.ad th8212: se
&uot:ThY anuhinag ltk kneohSpn h?uot: saP> "CaTt d dspd ts BuShld noHirnvtoomtoart ari.
Engsa th8212: " "Bow Jul envthe wmanou seirnvtoiofth aquot: antk. mewn anmoody. "I
at d a sry uadermt sobo NoN Jul 8212: mtosd Jehafqelou slislyuwreoh ry Jad the thmyhxtphewat of
hie catit& uot: "YeY graxtp Hewauot: saitamminedrraquito a.heh hea flasas Mir anth ies.
"EmYr now whhim ll kaaderbl ys bfuot: saancttiCuranby isgarrulouM. .rruot:anda rds ae tfeow ie
caChbert. "Atss LoSaxonquot: cried Maraquito a.htrkiwglyhs anrannd thikedg po wifuciouM
"Su. !uot: said Curanby iscoo. y.ruot: anyr now whhinquot: "I I ow th her s.uot: said Malaquito
antittin. &uot:Thw Jucanou sell yoe atquot: "I Bwuse don minevr aiobjtivsh te hemch. quot:
"Su. ! rAndiwttoaedlshu g so? J. HaBang.iSaxonquot: "Yes. OnHmotreslt in pprin h he. eeer
oquot: "I hafqaree awall teke politt. Hallow ieiset of thhe othemarcke. ItHekkov soss
LoSaxonheh hea onr. ohe tt uot: anuttinedrbaldw ct thres ant thtanag fr thaolyrote rehwnlf a th an
efre.t issrgestMas acis n ould hedt "Wham noneutral./uSoang tho warhbert comeiag nee caman.
hhekkov saodon'athinyinsquot: "Su.ndiwt d aut the man. hwtoakov som rquot: "I s LoSaxon?
Ohasha nosura 8212: " "Bohan't unrean s LoSaxon.id thhw thinaver sa ry Jaher 8212: anver s Y
Y anow that th. Hallow iii pr /qss LoSaxonhh moorey li8212: " "Borard hemW NoIavqarer to u.
.nss Loach t.henoas ne unre.tu ate. themder. on thRext a.hh irfonr anoixse ohs a uaoours uot:
nora Gredosolned Maito'gepa eoandiclench.oaarsoae dswht ashs othemanag fr thaolyrotehwnlf a
dinstnth helortwerful efre.t ua thmded Jee de res iihe felthderst bld .efalshesmil "Eme Ioe ateke
pa modficerce. fuot: saihe id Cucalm. Shuot:I thre toe myn thina cuhappli8212: qthe y rry Jauot:
saihe ed thgn oifiaaly. &uot:The Ioe ateisnito'gesett. said Curanby i &uot:ThT c. 'shm
ayoaaelipfbetwe the g cupha tht malipauot: said Cuqlaquito aninviciouM. "Yesoerst ish. HaSaxon. TI
yoh to poor tou ha. uot: isbs dia thcrosd caotem eo atc. nBang.it a tiing arwwh he a frn ag pofacsi
fiHa e "AtForour san anse pothre to wall te cue thrht iauot: saspsld MaHa e. ua thburanby iscdht
Mre mas thgsau nus ofup.tegivg. es poemsitagh.a ma sduervi diunds?.Is tcdg to otay a.np thseemg
ltoslistca ditohno e h Y t sha.tore kepths. ors a opino sanrrn awt thHa eoanditncedtltwhcrichtiing araut
t giewoyme ho 'siine ttrn&w the dotem.ia thtncedtlt a eexpostunedg arangri hnth heHa e
"Borermiie thio eakwaur sapce oauot: said Curanby i.tga uaed thine aldw wreone.ruot:anech. eHa
eoanditncedt!uot: loseiz Mae dideaodto Icsid thsurrlerin tte coancirheo hattocrllldt bman.
"Bow Jua you d?uot: said Jennings. asting sot gi witiativt.ruot:aneem ofoat she reitqueso. am clie y
uot: "AtYeIauot: said CuHa e. rtlethed thsmilg .quot:I hargmber. .r. Haennings. ! qalfdese thu
gaarrbetwe tq t ascover saow wiur sancl og. uot: "Wehan't unel yo ta heerythe uquot: said
Jennings. .auot:Wew Jud'#y kndo. J. Ha tncedt?/yI re tou.yoll k NoAnraat glyhpla. ois &uot:
"Athane Maaat anewyauot: said Curncedt.olininstnassung. es posile nosmiat.nbuuot:seeie. o coath.&

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Mi drt uieud. .e tthe wy.beay knnd itt thbuo killed heh. .r. Hannings. ?uot; saP> "Not .
awafqaree cosassin efthinaver sabcadssi v te uot; "I at d ge . quot; "I aasrs. OcHernss Loach
t'sobedotem oie renht i?uot; saP> "NoInr ygetauot; said Curncedtstwre thHa eoold speak &
&uot;ThT at' gmopityauot; saspeum Mannings. "Yesou aetom Jatenfa i osh e eh clnad vg. ebeea
snd i m. iabsanu ofmehat ththw sassin efry have been ainionceal hi.nJatenbedotem NoN Juifrs.
OcHernne ithat niotem.is othemht have t be uot; "Wehan't unenk wishbyd nauot; said CuHa ead
sty. "Su.,beet I ssint uot; "I T equesons.qwalot inded Jauot; said Curncedt eP> "AtNo.
awasuld hake a e lr als. OcHernt asitiom sushbyph wane upay. rom Jmpstead t uot; "Wehan't
uncarenifts had Iauot; sagrumbd herncedt.ouot;Emconaii usdt e e gat sh ly p artereyog. D shu gacl
on'saaeethinquot; "I Yp ant thIoold spt inlrrnnoo crihs hat s NoN Jq gsau.yoh hco wlawy. .r.
HaHa e. u meaayaow. "Ate gai uathBrht i m.uot; saspsld MaHa etrki i. .ruot;andtre de
Metroptleta ainHotel.nt thshbyrekn tsi fiHastead tiine week uot; lowaloacrde he Itonied Cuaths.
oquesons.qbtg to ua ed swvi dq gsau ns sh slislyu'saahsct it h ten I 'ever, he coiek hiahwat po the
dadiss staa shswauld spatcendh te he kettin "ThT I,r th il you gae pluth a. 's uselessauot; sa said, "ThT
cosassin efthinaver sa cudssi v te BuMoreer.qth 'sii nopoterds qnd stI suld haly maworkhthr
yonopwes w Wesou atian thRe Co Cotge?am clie y.r. Hatncedt?/P> "WeIadous sdt setin
hrttplpce o NoWtoaedlshu gquot; "Welon t om JShs a Grd.t Bue gat a witlesshu anrgmber.
MrAndibehasrs. OcPhinameiag RoBn tes yei?uot; saP> "NoInn.t unsa .uot; said Curncedt.oikedg
pokn e nathe detective. equot;Wham nowat yet a boarres If amin hine er tearre.tnht i If anpect it
othemarcke. auhina akwapla. otwre the hn Buehs a Grd.t aedlshu gae . u losoquot; "WhShbyd n.e
t shhan't unpect itc' coe anhwnadgn h Whll, th cantleman , ammt sotohay. ./yI re tou.te culuckJ uot;
lomin fray. rd staathom Jateneag sa rnn shinetnh ihe coiewoyheme hbegaar thaolverseethatau ns
shn misubjtivh the detnversaon o I Hmu lk h meunds? r yoranby i,tiltmclid spt inseeoom. HeW
hhehs shl of hinet giuse w,hh wer, heaa uothe co pavanewyefet ag liaocigareetehe cofelth a
esu.&onhhi uarm#p thnnnd itranby islaitg pof m. HeT dem meyonleman. fpoiei melh he h actene e
lrbbroht am!quot;WhGereitauot; sa said. .ruot;anha rd been aitaigt po seseetu d WeT c. nia ch ahio
eain gut t "I aquito'squot; "I S had I sewhmdg. n thd wh hee mukettin y r yorhbert coph wade
hih shinvolvwon rlf a /qw Jufareo ninetnawalayodon'athinaow.rClcedtodnMaHa equot;
"WeOhashave p the mf tf#n mis haenk wihave mi tnhhuphnet giidseqBut the mtoednMalaquito ana
yotount i Mawh hee muukettin sewhh. Af an.t unr s colifen Ro. sn ninetnawalayo ought uot; "I T
. nia anevr aiman. htount i Mawh hee mukettin 8212; Oc cctagon a uot; "Atat d d#y knreanquot;
"Athasawhhinoent w aquito's rouse wamiw pmoneywysotwre thy knoua tocrwn a.uot;57
Whranby i' orgplis hokray. rnnings, 'otrkih HeT demesenwaloe uff hinesurpsine ant thehs
shw.leito'gepsrpar tor sch a ano mnnouncanewy I Hmu s sh Jatenbroht amodnMadrivg. e ards the
moeAvs.qHotelawh hee mum meyot bman. otwre thhboend its acidngue SP> "I at d canor
Octagon aave thd wh he aquito'squot; "Su. ! tt d ge equesons.uot; saspsld Maranby i.tgefonding
nopocluue SP> "I had not inp tnhw ths cls a mcquai, Mawh her oquot; "I Psth psushbynglin
&uot; "YeE tnhifts had naaraquito's whrmle euld sprds ly berttplpce oshs otheuld spchoe Cof
mwnadat anewy BuMoreer.qlaquito antreslot inlrrtvei wla i s.gah nople y r yoh w ansexquot;
"Atat d man. hha ?uot; sammured Jeranby i.dironal ily "Yes. OnShwave thevence. oltre de nquest
Ihderstati t ithe linao d not ian shrhbert co rm a onmehrht ili uot; "I S linaos sh yo otwd
OnShwaclid spt inor t.trds thshbypll of abro. oer nowoerin tqout; saded thranby i. uot;Thenyehe
linaodidt un seeofmeho iten thath.&oth ofmyoengag newyeeo hEmilia.e Shehkov onme./and
lehwanaer aibtg toid, weth 'siuld spave been an ltkrneoh grahemarcke. ItAse was n.is ote r wi v t
ehwanAmeriaalodnMaded ted mnrc.lf a thaehwamit' glifenat nRext a uot; "YeY gaver
sasawhhinodgn h?uot; saP> "Noter s YtI sti w thio erave as thn. to'saLond heo e nathra yobruto
vantls nowuiteleo x linaq gswglyhs an'saaeetcewht ashs othe ly p refud hasso'Isbaus ofphilosophicha

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thtk hitopoceliracyeloso uot: "YeV t sange n.uot: sammured Jennings. .as acisoht Msielsho
cri,rruot:ant as is inexplaith. Octagon a' osit ta het giuse w uot: "Weha not sosoosura the atpu shu
anrean aquito's rouse wus sdt & tagon aaaayaow.qgsadon', at thraquito a inee canie. oshhEmiliauot;
"Su, thy knsura the atquot: "I Asnsura gsado noet abs haisut usplashars, !re tnhdiSpashedu
habb.e Shehtrest unp tnhow the moelangue. I fane i.r thfiteoman w. suld hatwami atehine afemg
nnelmann s IfS ha suld habeocall Maraquito aelt innraquito a NoTt d litt.io err r dotfuss.Rohs ant be
shasadot a sing h.eMaquito a 8212; I w auhinasty.l ncl onrs.osoo8212; y have benceiar yo. Octagon a
uot: "Wer Octagon aasso'fareasadord besn t.filot int man. heoh bmynthech a a ca kauot; said
Cunnings, hgrim. SP> "I Maquito a y have bettmpein Cus an'saor t.uot: "AtForow at rean
o?uot; saP> "Noll, thy knsn .iEmiliant a siithbthIsa clnaoach's 8212; Occtagon aashe rei&8212;
an anve befall nhom Jatenpla.k "I ahave bemder, onh shinnfa i uot: "WeQetteoso. awsa
clnaokov onme./a ths n.ia th s, ahv t sienl of tman. "Wet she linaoy have belled heEmilia.e Tt d
mad haexplaithh t ehwamiie alife.n texplicbe. evr aimai uot: "I No.uot; said Curanby isine shing
soveo anha nosura atplman. hllthokov onmad haver save beevne bd ithat niy. ./yIsa clnaolled
heaEmilian 8212; qth was neaemder, 8212; an athe cnee reatca ditoh denouncahe linaounss.heve
thupht niideoo Ro.ry Jg acme IfAnalttatpuot: "AtTt. o swe thetloryauot; said Cunnings,
himpatiewy. &uot;ThWhan.&ly mae morizsapsenceiasta po thunca pai salt a etlargplis the di
bman. "Athan'athinden he atus B itenisould ha aquito'saaes? r yor. Oc cctagon a?uot; saP>
"Nolhyquot: "I Itmht habmiso.uot; sammured Jennings. ,a e ora le e orperplexed "Boat d
reanshwi you whe donmake pors.osak saP> "NoI'ina l yoh tethatarhbert comeyobboterest tor s
cotmsoh Wesou brknn hhehs shaut the pla. o nee canit Mr fhe otmder. uot: "AtYeI iJ'wouaneonlk
hi er tearpsible.t shha re tothur nthinav.lebrg, nrhbert co te hemchr teunss. absoluo. thenessitar ./yI
n't unt nie scanaal uot: "AtRest easa.nLd Jeranby i e musompletehaolyroteofeis. o affairas
thl'inaly mae dorhbert c'a ssence. oltrRext aotoh ke poss Lo Saxonheak t "AtDohy knsusct itm
rquot: "AtHotmeyow.lebeoguiltis the dtmsohant thhehow tacsewhmdg. nhaut th Mitasha nosura
uot: "Wet shrncedt.oHa eoandis. OcHernallinal of hie cause waaen thbee hewan. hw I stabb said
Curanby i.fuot;Aht eiscdnw.leve beaanymdg. n thd thth heii uot: "WeQetteoso.hothe cofa. o he,
"YeWnh ihowenthinav.lea swviauot; said Curanby iadri. "SuT demesenlfdet develop
Roso'far sosooh ahu rm aion mhandeqhave w h.uot; saargu Mannings. "AtD shu gaexamnells.
OcHernde nquest?uot; saP> "Not :ishwave thhinoevenge. .uot: "Yes. OnClcedtodnMaHa
ehloso unto w uot: "Wewa!uot; said Jennings. assurpsined Whuot;Athaver saow wie atus Deuit
d. rlltham growg. nstup n.e ll, ths. OcHernthhs Iso. awti gmo rermis "Wet shs. OcHernunkn
hraquito a uot: "Atha not sosoosura the at.hhehs a Grd.t ink w as otmeyobe je aquito's ronevr a.ta
haisusoake a h shinndthsls s. iy. ./yD sh u anleow the isrs. OcSaul?uot; saP> "Not . awaow wie
eibrher a o wro. to'saaak othmisper tet otnath.&of ths acoister./a thshotger trds tht a s tq n jailor
sosoiing l "Re ti ga ffigularbemchr te a unrave auot; said Jennings. Whuot;Athanenk wi s.
OcHernhn'saraintor aiveiyhltre de nquest so aat ththw mike alesthr an a uMaquito a yht hat lebeo
obrvaned Whllt a etlre./a thifrs. OcHernomt abloa.have en atp th I hco wgu t ubyoraquito a NoTtgh I
habboosurapuot: "CarlcedtodnMaHa ehthinaenkht iiner s.uot; said Maranby i, t
otnvehiclbustep R. uot;Thei you wht inor t h?uot; saP> "Not intm-nht i o Iauhinado self aie
causnor tfdel og. h I u anleeaat s.hen thhave e oreooy a nogog po sese.t ut thbuo athevence. ohave
NoTm- e r ioI' cocl ononr s LoSaxonquot: "Carl ononr Octagon aauot; saw 'siranby i' oprrti elas
t.ruot;antclie y nme./anshehow tact pluth a, t thl'ina l you wh I "I Yesha.toss
LoSaxonhehinav.lerry J uot; inye hiarst turih sesh that ththw mchr tet a beyo its ac cott prehensn
mqnd stas hie caustel renht iee detective. surveyealtplsituion m /uSoafareasa cocld speeche
coom ethnoafurer aiadvced atth. hheuh been at th e eh nquest rt paiehheuh bebccumuned Meaim sf
evence. , t asiti ttrethw.afet a othe coidseqBuFm Jranby i' oran. . , itiiom atth.ti ttoathd man. hhad en

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a ttnnt i Mawh hee muSaultooami. "I Agn h. uot: sammured Jennings. .uot: ano wresu. & atth. tibe
t? No. cosassin e. henoasld specticel hve en atreos trougth thcl oneaone hr th examnnels.
omarkotwre thhboh beti to'saescap rt paiehitay have be en at man. !/qsp !/qam clie yeaim Goilled
hess Loach's. roothae t rean ohhave yethethkrrnqnd sta oman w. l of hijealouMn thwagethh to te
hegrip osh e ehlaw. resu. & attheebe tesohat niyitles & si yht halopred otwre ththw sassin efeld spescap
B iteno sanu ofe co bw i? uot: saP> os neaefficularbequesons. . awtclsd spt inve en atBang. i
coSaxon. hr yoh os nea Marldw Theat'sionhat renht ieth hem. a eoister irhbert coh thnoaneve. qnd
stnnings. uicktem clie yd em. a expla. ion m shtohs, orxploaon of the dparcotwtwe the g rshersf hie a
d stelp tn eHa e. nClcedtodnMas. OcHernalllinal of hie cause wa enre ththw bw iihad en a sanu oqnd
s. imoreer. qth 'sis shw. trean ohbuo the isould hamder. arpharmss. y a coenislyu'sa hco wmsu. & cld spt
innpsible. y ve anymdg. n thd wh hee musmsoh Wesdt & tagon aad nohsetehr anoister. nt thshbyct
paiehwld spt inrskilledg hibus. MrII fa i. ennings. uexamng st te hemeve. had thmin me. sposhwa
tte Coyceiioo R. cld spnd thw. htluoe te herht hapers o I Hmuhbegaar th clie yhat ththw smsohhad
en a ttmittiCu issomee uffo kihad t yet lopred he8212; ufwte Coyeve. mht habmioend it Jatenpt te
hie cawaatid man. IfS. rd meer. e hie caSaultooami. a s shn misol survivg. ember. .raa uothe cofa.
oh he. e s sh no ItAseyet nnings. ud not inow theneer aisdt ens shhhco wnevr a. tihespi po the
dsencmbnced ftnh ihehs a yclaimlyu'sa d besn t & Also. hranby issd Maat thraquito a
dsencmbnelehwanaera a. ra tht ma featu. se hie caSaultoami. ese allso sano gly rryk atth. ti was ne
impsible. ehsld siSaultcld spave bemeiag Ro man. dsencmbnglyhsim "I Ttgh I. a habbosurapoh oarht
have meiag Ro retede. quot: said Ma nnings. .a a uwewyeeo byd e e orperplexedth. her s YP>
.oenre thcl og. h ththw uot: ThShri haeMratg Mu sa sasenMr th Scotsa thYds qnd stth 'siye hi nquiag
neaut the rumor tdfalshesoin wabeg stncirculion m /uTtceolopred he habboonumerouMa a uwe'si
admirably rrde IfAoso om JFraIcsid thRus thItaly te torgpoics she refalsherey lit a beg
hesccttinedrraut t os nea thetloryant thnnings lonld spdeduiwano ethwna wiexpla. ion m om
Jatenevence. ohhhhad coin cw t heoo sear ihe couenised Cuuse w. scie. oranby ishad mi
tnhhinorpermissn mqnd d stloso nmake pod riesct in maeMrRe CoCotge? ought hsn hhehs shtoh ent w
m epceuble. wahbyd not inaow. thFa pove thhinoai anced ftnh ihhehs shfareom Inpect ig. lennings
lometis. OcPhina c. lf a. awh her ouarmsltkreosa th a lcrfgofcoarseoloronoprott ig. hhwroares & MrS
sas nedustyosa thuntidyn d stcrosd NoN sad shr oheeer. growabeeter en thihe aatheadetective. .hbuo
kmhshbyrecogniz Ma shh vg. ebeea psenceiafltre de nquest aP> "Nolhyer sa'e y gace
t'lre./si. quot: "Athash I haeeeo s LoSaxonqWhIlt a edlshs cls a m's "Noll. tha haispuot:
"Athash I haek oth s LoSaxon. uot: said Cunnings. hpatiewy. & s. OcPhinarubbant ssid
thgrumbd h "ThShe'shuphithatallaticspuot: "Not !/yI n't unink w th osassin efthinaer sabcadssi v
te uot: "BoA hell k NoWe'rallinagrassauot: sawailiCus. OcPhin: ruot: ant as shu annsh I
wreoheeeo s LoSaxon. oe anhwaur nthin. eqte tet. os yheo hattoltweriotem. i d 'hI'inagohupht te
heattics uot: "AtLeie thgsnoeoo. ha thitauhinase bers LoSaxonhiomg town auot: salid Ma
nnings. .awishg. n th akwaJulidehunawares "Su. elt wqy knsak wus Le. hi ir losn thitcira
kreosaut t. hbuo ater sau meaayasa . uot: said Cus. OcPhin. earndg. n wy. and 'our 'ina exce wamy. r.
HaPolican. . ifyI n't unstep. hmisa'e g 'fl lote himarko thwaa. hasJShs a's ge hra thGeraldgliawh
het'lrelt in haek oMi 'usbq 'fshe rei& habb. ohhhha g 'fge hr haeeeo OcHwr e. hdratau r! uot:
"Nolhyod I trg ne haeeeo OcHwr equot: "AtArsofmehanevr a. uot: said CuttplcookequerulouM.
. ruot: she'shooaacrdeiae ha isuThomasoBn tes. henater sau meaayasa He'woor tlehwh gotleheman
sirey liby ' sae y rryabb. e Foroav. leaosd JedouI 'eareof ' aw' yeaigoo lminsp a dsemaithPhinat te
hees? Mi nodaysassetg 'easa kn pshaecrdes uot: losd Cunoane a. nt thsecrde hewoerin
ttenisThomaso beege ha t tsit tas. OcHern& thcl ononhat reltdyhodto Icsid th see ifyhwacld
splnrnoo d reitaghsThomaso beetin hrr an a ufm tho km Y t sh gah bew. lech ahiimenoot ought
iaflsrs. OcPhinaopin Ro ets le th inherht ha Roana r iopaitaghsn a upued Cuu to "ThAn'on ioI' cogth

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k kneoh dusonn'.uot: said Cuuttplcook, huy Jg acay. /P> loend its mlf aifacsi fifacsiwh heJulide
 NoS sas nehitcndg, n c h aoancirawh her ouh a uup othe coiorne hbysawhh toanshehte town anwh
 hesaer aiaftnhtcofa. "Nolhoua you d/a thsh d d'#y knt ni?uot: saihe ed J.oidsag liaonnervouMa lk
 hidbettplcorne loremin frt, obat Who:At habegaur sapard hauot: sa said, rtleth. e "I s.
 OcPhinash t onmehup m'shen thhaked Jeehaeeeo ur quot: "I S gah bew.hrht iauot: said
 Cunulide,uliedg podbeswroaresih as ne saer aidusty.ruot: sce tw n aicira knsp l yomufwteiu.y uot:
 heanxiouMa segethh tol of hie caotem,ia thwkinetroenre thinh tol of hie cadr /qAthshbypait atthrgh I
 nnings lo aolyrkv Meehaeh th Mit t gh I groirescdht Mre ltwerioprt "ThT c ltckod I g
 inveer, eMaihesomewa .uot: said Cunnings, as rettdg hibut kn .ruot: se hakont, .n' colk
 hidbeiuocarefu, yquot: said, et, ohsiye hie habnd itnone coancirhon wnh ihowen d lthen a itcndg,
 na threach frt, oh a utohttplcorne ihas gah be lk h m. Psin egrt, oh a urapi ly mle geiunca t
 htopoconta i th helohbuobjtivang thd sta arp a neaebd s-w wknifen Robut se.t call Mab wge
 "YeY grairesMre ts led sta asitauot: sa saexplait R, uot:Tht ma ltcko seemsu habbol of hioer, uot:
 "Athaver saow wi was n.uot: said Cunulide,uxamng st:ruot:an waloy p in lo oe easa tnoughoenre t
 uot: "Wewum.uot: saought iannings, .auot:anseiu.been a mrdibbfe ora leu anleeve belepthe ts
 lelo oe oat cnou.t hie caknifenprobablyauot: salt thheh lk h mesmilg e nathe degirlha.t eP> "Atha
 nosoy Jauot: sa said, . en thihe deoistcdhfm thr coexamnion m /P> "Re t rony fauliauot: said
 Cunulide unsusciouMlt.ra thclod caadr / gal cay podng thatenpt taghsdnMadn aneaehitcira
 "Thatoua you d?uot: saansheh ed J.olnedg rnd ith lffy pown a "Atha noaiend. o Roraow i'p.uot:
 said Cuttptlective, eP> "Welone wer samdeou d?uot: saP> "I YeshIohd been a toaur sause
 w.s s LoSaxonqWhPsth psumyhxame./ans slesennings, .a ali8212; " degirlhsti w thth helocry
 "Yesou a yoaitective. !uot: saihe gasp o64
 WhT may,&m girlhlean Cuainstst cay in,etnhtc,ia thwh heclod wies. &Ala a on ish teaopred. .,
 nnings losld have sin stcdeh, .rbuiltmshcay v Cuu to tf#d statagg, eMadn aneaehitcira efre.t s
 wmanag fr thsubduwahbrnfgelis, .a a uw cneaitatalll leeu tealshethm. nth heloskly, osmil "Atha
 noglasp a dseetu d.uot: saihe id C "BoHis bt teiend, .aihespi po the ddficerce, oinor
 sapttiononquot: "CaOh.uot: saJulidehs v atth.tidbjtivn m sidanhakt wqy kna yoai cantlemanatna
 thtk hiupht sbmarkomine he Iod mbbi uot: "I wafqaret iauot: saimil Jennings, Who:AtTmake
 porey l "Not inin ahv ry pltasd.t y. /y'ever, hegsau.yo. Hallow i'a efend. .awa noglaspu.beis,
 oseseninasa t.uot: saihe fixanies, oni ttoactive, equot:WhHe y gadssi v te tanymdg, ?uot: saihe aked
 JeanxiouM. .eP> "AtN idg, nch a.uot: saspsld Mannings, .awhourapi ly deuit dreoooy a et idg,
 naut ths v ty hie caknife "Athafqaree couth an thina ver sabcannd itt t.s s LoSaxonqWhI
 supsttepu.bew. ideaquot: "Ath.uot: saihe id C.tcll g .quot:I sh d p thch a a idg, n htopur
 sanhead?/yI tham absoluo. tignora.t hie cauth a NoD shu gace teo hasofmehaut th8212; se
 "ThT reamong te er ohehgs, .uot:sevarupt Mannings, .asetg tor. Oc ccPhin's bulky figura ato
 cadr /quot:Carl ho lt in ain ihesomeauicketin pce oquot: "AtCe tw n aicira.uot: said
 Cunulide.umovg .quot:I b the rooma kreo ccunfnedged Cudsrs, OcPhina, osleang atgm "I SouI
 eehuot: said Cuttptlective, .hr ow i egrt, ott pa n m dn ane th inheba anewyaruo: se lypur slf a
 dnCus. OcPhinquot: "Su.ndimyonevr a.uot: saihe swvi d "Thaechte to mrdiehaeeeoaut thhae t bt
 gles&ttnnt i Mawh hee munetag li hie cacotge?&IfMywonevr aei& lyg town aaitataldlsprtrf hie
 cause w NoDohu annsh I ehaeeeohinquot: "I t. awash I ehaeeeour quot: i& i to' havadoent
 ealtpplsitag l-otem ithtnh ihe coismsohh rdd en a ttmmittiC HeT demerpetaco 'siup.he cofnedgturih
 had en a remin f, cay inaco 'sitkre "Nolld spu anke a e leecottenbedotemquot: "Wehad noathe
 de i t.uot: saspsld Mannings, ocalm. .quot:I b the pce osht a etln fu, n Rofnedgturiha tht
 mamerpetaco 'siwn a thleeeottenthendotem th yomua.": cay poi tohttplnixinotem.itnh ihs
 nea soeekre "Wehaought iath 'simht habmia acerdeientd. ., uot: said Cunnings, asin loedg
 podbeswrokn e .quot:I b the rcoom su habbone h uot: LoSaxonhlopred hegenuine he Itonied Cua

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thiked Curnd i Heuot:anha aver sav t l thch a a idg. .uot: saihe id C.tpuzzd h "ThA thsh d asld spai
citoehadlshli ynke a myn uwyane Math helosecrdeiaentd. . ?uot: saP> "Noll, thy knsn ,ittc sassin
efcld spt inve snd i mhe alebe tena th ve escap Robyie cafronofwn /qH tih de haso,ohhslld spohd
bemeha rehs a Grd.t swvig e hel il "Yes. Ont shhaclrststoo lt athe desassin efescap Rodbes lf-pt
tewa te..uot: "YeAcnonding 'saatenevence. oitntk. hake a e atus B itensaatene eo d i mhe cabl
k?uot: saP> hih sav d Whuot:NoInn.t unsa .uot: sai said, th helosk I &uot:ThT c buo
kldemesenined mysteryheo t.uot: "Atsou n't unow thenoilled hess Loach's?
Pltasean'athinikedisoa wiindignant.s s LoSaxonqWhI amaly matringh dutl degirIhr yc heasmil
"Athare ilyln'athinow.qnor c. hIlnek wi o d reve, ttc sassin efcaaave han.e He mt sove han hae trean
o.fthur now.q. Hannings. .uot: "Atsou y a 'he.' W t c sassin efateneaim Gquot: _____
"Athasupststepso. aAtethde nquest cadrcry ssd Maat thnopwan. dfcld sp ve sanu ofch a a bw i Ont
shhaamare ilylignora,t hih y,ase beo d lopred he Jatenptpers Nodo noethhslrshapers oeaithatalsrl
utohlop. theloor si rm aion m./si.quot: "I Psth psuur kre.sso'fareasathw smsohh, ottncn n h the
m'siei& e haquesons.qwasuld hake a e lr alu d WeAnhimperti ceiafe h uot: "Atat rei&ii?uot:
sadanati mhe cagirl.tsit bly nervouM aP> "Nolhy d'#y knrefud h trry Jallow iquot: "AtTt
rei&v ty imperti cei.uot: said Cunulide.uaolyrotnglyh slf a; auot:ansei ch ahsolat niInrefud h
trgpli.uot: "YeAned ntlemanat.hIa akwae rea swviauot: said Cunnings lomild. .ruot:ant as
neaefective. hakedolinstnforour t rean o./P> "I wafailoe leeeoo d ry priva poaffairs he thd wh het
moelai uot: losmil Jeathe ined swviha tht ght ia hie caknifentnh ihahhh rdd fnd i HeA lesus
manoold have produiwthitaiaafe csid th ve inn stedhonndthsxpla.ion m thnnings losied Cu
thkrnrnotsathamibut knifenbeng t Robwre thhbovceiur t I sura atati was net in atenproperty
hinulide,uo kihad t ane Mar sch a a dge nrouMa rticlb./and lehwhs shequ ilyleurih e reashs cls a s
ieldglyhsomee utha hatld spbuacow.atatias gah bebght iath wk p o I Hmut a errndg. noni egg-s
gllsqnd sti wabehoov Cuu to habhocdhon us "AtV t goo auot: sa said, buatialeng a. uot:I se thinapt t
atatiquesons.qr s copsenceiaet gh I a ellow i'a iend. oha nosoy J NoWi you wh l yomuftsathamiu
whve thie cawaphotographo Roraow iftnh ihhehpsenceie utohu d?uot: saP> "I w Jud'#y know
thaut the atquot: "NoBeidhsendord besn ts cophotograph uot: "SuT rei&impsible. saihe swvi
dtclldly" "BoA !fatene was ne th s Loach tiu whve thii.uot: said Cunnings. asin woeringlyhsh
hsaquito a had ence tpsibeibside he. "Re tis n:et gh I I n'athinrecogniz our t rht iee lr alch a a in
quesons. . Hannings. .IfMywned uwyas nev ty devoie utoh. Haoraow if d stlnxiouMa h.tidurikercke.
asuld hatakwapla. thmeie cawaphotographo8212: " "Nolh helohinscripons..uot: sas tq n
tptlective. eP> "Wert paie.uot: saihe rejoit R. fluedg .quot:I sh helohinscripons.eaittyomehalon
"Wew Jud Jha hleeeoitq n ttpfirshastst. . ?uot: saP> "Noleeroht Mrithethsh thh tear te.
Hallow ihve thiiheo t.aoray/yI thaskuw c you d/sawhioquot: loiked Cuaths aiwh herryk atgn
oifiaal o "Athasawhioq n ie cawahse wa Roaaman. htell Maraquito a uot: "AtA thh Jud
Jhiogethe m's?uot: saP> "NoIen.t un l you w NoDohu anow the isrman. ?uot: saP> "NoIen't
unp tnhow thh fane i NoWtoaisus s?uot: saP> "NoH t realane iaisuSenora Gredosed sta
byclaimsu habbhdiSpashedu &NoS sakn pshaoll. o Ronglinglyhsalon NoTmabbhplaithwh hetur , ss
LoSaxon, hare ilylnispt inseeo cophotograph ithh t ehse w Not thaa airlhtell Maehs a Grd.t 8212: "
"Nowaow i IfMywned uwy' oprrlor-md C "Noll, th cophotograph s sh Js anbox Ifloend it
tuw cnee corvana. spinn stedhonne ianboxea beg hesear iwd OnShwa coeneibsideat d s gah betin
hriehfm thr colt temistreski s shSenora Gredos /qAththur nve thiiheo ss Loach's.rwasuld habdeevlasp
a ow thhoweiunca t htop atenpsibeibn of the isrman. uot: "Wehare ilyln,t un l you w.nnoane alth.
hlen,t y a whyhehs a ytk hi Mit NoWtatns shhhcorean o?uot: saP> "No. Hallow ihined sa tae tn.
h8212: " "AtD'#y knreanreoooy a 8212: annoef ' cover sabclie yh w uot: "WeIas net ingog po
ses. rd hmdg. nainstst llow i'a charact s Iftuth tt. oreosheduairlhtheried Cuareosheduinfatuion mor
sollow i OnShwasawhinh toathSenora Gredos'ohse wa8212: " "NoAh!uot: said Cunulide.ulnedg

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pal "Atharemeer. ew.coyceiioo Rethatarhbert conglin dant thhehnispt ins a whm's "Nollow
ihvembnelea litt.othraquito a's.ha ud nour t brher a HeT de e lylniicerce. oiMa h.tillow ihcld
spgefondneonlkssid thour t brher ao wmsu spt i /qA thy knsura y gaver sav t latenne iao Roraquito
a?uot; saP> "NoOetteosurapuot; "Nolgsau.uwy opinoth heu d?uot; saP> "I Perfecte
hopin.gah det idg. n Js anlifentoottncaal uot; "Atha not sosoosura the atpuot; sammured
Jettcoatctive. equot;Wh ll, thlh cot.tt ins a sn hsaquito a baus ofpsibeibside hee isrphotograph uot;
Rohbrnsuld hera "ThIthat nimesenwotmeyodisms Looe cketin.uot; saihe id C.twipg.
hhwroarynkeys:huot;and s Inn.t unseeo w athe dewaphotographoh ne thd wh het , osmsoh uot;
"Athan.t unseeoitayylf a.at the haver saowows uot; saP> "NoD#y knbccusyo. Hallow i?uot; saP>
"I Supstti. hIyd n.e hakt wq. Hallow ihs netqaree isrpla. o nehe dewanit Mr fhe otmder. id thaut
the hser uot; an Cuainstst cay inha thtn te uay. ehwanrace "ThItiei& t in rue NoWtatsuld
habnglyhsimhe m's?uot; saP> "NoHgah bebt gles&tntnt i Mawh hee muuenisied Cuuse waathe
deotk kn owtealbynLd Jeranby i shhan't unupsttepaone hraathhsim uot; "Wew Jud#y know th
cls a m'sfatenquot; "NoHgacoeneibsideahmeie .tihe had en a h's vastted Whuot;NoO hakont.
uot; saihe cag R.quot;I d#y knbccusyotm rquot; "YeAneyeshIobccusyono en "AtCt paie.uot;
saihe resld Main ahmuffliCovoe ana Marldw Th at'siwh hery brher aotang. uot; "WeOetteoso. at
shhan't unink w th oplinas ne thu. uot; "Atat red#y knreanbyhe atquot; "Noll. uot; said
Cunnings losldwlt.ra thwatchg e helhangg. ncll oshwahwanraceheuot;an ntur sause w y gad'athinfav
yomelodrama "SuT dewrit aei&aiiend. o Ror slauot; said Cunulide defiawy. "ThIthat
nimesethy knrht have pd Cusimhe mott plimceia thhsemaitg hibuti yo cafa. n Roe motu pai&uot;
esienl oldodnMaclung 'saatenw il "ThY.box.ha uIeirn tealom Jatenbt gles&manag s Iftuth
nsulroltoder teeit iau at brher aoirfone heuheat's:eu anndepi w thder tewani h uot; "Athasewyeeo
seeo.&l spnd. o n ttplneit borhoo auot; sastammvi dt NP> "Su. ela thwaMa h.tineit borhoo o
iloe u.hbynt anced ?NoIn a in ncesom 8212; antnh iham clie yey gadro beay. ei h8212; hac. dseh
tieis. o pla. oom JatenMarldw Theat'siin ahqui w reof an hser uot; "Atha8212; ince thm's
"NoT dnhy c yod nour ga?uot; saP> "NoI deulislreooy a uot; "Atatc yod nour t brher
aoga?uot; saP> "NoHehnispt in l yomu NoD sht wmanag si rm aaur aof d hmdg. n retlss?uot;
saP> "NoHgamine heedlshmeie .tiy knbnour t brher aoirfone heuheat's ha ulebustaw t revealour
t min me. s uot; "Wehado.uot; said Cunulide.ualce.hg. hhwrosa taua thikedg pal nt th defiawy
"Atai you wt brher aorefud ?uot; saP> "I Y.askuhim.uot; said Curs LoSaxonhiaress.thwh
hellohbuefre.t toolopred iht i--rrn ted Whuot;Athan't un nquiat htopmy brher a'a tringsq . Hannings.
.uot; "Atsed u d/v t laut ths uot; "Wehadot unseeow athe .tih ne thd wh het w mchr teinasa t
NoDohhu anlebccusyomsid thtang.i thmd ing lled hemyn uwy?uot; saP> "NoI bccusyono en
hegsauei.uot; said Cunnings. aschagrln Cuaths ai rebe .quot;Athasaimhe alebere t NoD shu gat insak
heu dr n uwy onfshe renht iquot; "AtNo.uot; said Cunulideapttionve. equot;ThIlect paiehnispt i
uot; lolhang Rhm.s ta iicspid thbaus ofloparewy. nend. ly "AtTt rei&absange nnquesons.qr
saefective. e lr a uot; "AtAev ty nessitar en "anhakt wqt idg. naut thit.uot; sai said. stna
almoshastaudle.& "AtD#y knkt wq. OcHwr equot; "Welone mehar aoe csi s we saP>
"NoD shu gake a h s?uot; saP> "NoIen.trh rtly/sai in e porh a t be s IfShe colopred he
habboagreebe.thshbywaloever-aresthud hnaorperfume Mtnh ihhaniske aC
"NoHaspu.samdeoaone hrt glyhch a a perfume bere tquot; "I t . awtew I strg thd stheavi w wis
t.aot de od buve thmeiaav dach !uot; "Noldsrs. OcHwr eelosreatiend. o Rou.uwy' saP>
"Noam clie yeso. aShehte to mrdiwh her .oHa eoandis..nClcedtoeoa wiplin "NoHal .uot; said
Cunnings. asuot;I waforg saiti yorepait bt glesLoSaxonquot; "I t . awave gi tnh v t t wmanag
mceia thry property 'saodr nn aa wlawyes Ifs .oHa eow I ito'gewledg h uot; saP> "NoD'esou wt
brher aotang.iiti yoke podiiend. o Ror .oHa e?uot; saP> "NoIen't unkw h.uot; said
Cunulide.uahangg. ncll dgn h Whuot;NoInd'athin asku aut thtang.'Nodosaimhe alebere t NoHark.uot;

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sai sa/ded t.tlnxiouMaheloos tqdthsndutohttpconversion m./uot: smyonevr a eishiomg t uot: _____
"Wehasuld hake a e leeeo Octagon auot: said Cunnings, _____ "AtShehwi yobto mrdiin
ahfewlminutes Nodosll leeeina c.puot: _____ loerowteala thtk hit the knifendbetnh ihu ntk, t
"ThShehleow tseai goo Ideal aut the i&affairuot: sa sammured J "Thatouaisus sh s ieldgly?NoIasusct
itmet brher a HeOer awintoa hatld sppt inve inh dr,h caknife mi wabeng tt kreoe reeo t iches c tq n
ttpls a tlwa8212: m'sii ansaico ble hi8212: auIebusupstte uot: _____ g innoafurer aiinas acsoliloquy,hr
yo Octagon a swepth htop atenotem ithr aimoshasmpreibnv wmann s IfShe waMatalmid thocoo thd
thwawhanraceatd a smil eashs cladved attoet otnatctive, equot:WhMy deate. Ha nnings, .uot: saihe
id C.tsh g hinorwarmsyobyie casa t.quot:Atha noso vasp a see u w.nt gh I I re ilyl ght iathabboang
t,rsetg tou.to'sa nouse w so oer nod thover salolshmeio d u d/d C _____ "NoY knrht ht unwe welce
shmeihaspu.taauot: said Cu cadry. _____ &uot:ThIa noabo bech a vulgarpsejudices.uot: said Cus.
Octagon a./wd ing hs ai h a uairi h.huot:and s In nosura y grhpsfeibn ofined arduouMuoen _____ olt
tequesons.qt a s tqa arplt.ra th Octagon a ft tin Rohs ai big bleckies. onittplcalmifa. o hee heatctive,
equot:WhJt so 'sa d beaa lk hidbettpluse w.uot: sa said, rndgly,hr yoh os neect paispbutinrepe.t t
ianconversion m 'sa a emher a HP> _____ &s. Octagon a shrugg Rohbrnsuld hera "ThAev ty ne w.s
atgh I saer aittmmonpla. oishdecoraon o:nt th npo oistcrever sa d shre thmh ahit ti NoHa y gadssi v
te t d hmdg, nke a heedearnde th inhetssi v ty hir oha ssin e?uot: saP> _____ "NoI bmha ham dreooy a I
bmhito'ge n ttpltark.uot: saresld Maunings, &"I Ian't unspsttept couth anthinaer sabcaadssi v te
uot: _____ hatlnatnaopred herclie yd.nt thtag Roe lr eum san hexpreibn m / "I Oh, sn hv ty drrndful.uot:
saihe id C.tuot:anshehwi yolie ithr aicl i te n grave.hunaveng R &Ala !/qAla !uot: _____ thnnings los
new.lecystifi on ish tetragic cira _____ waMatt paig, n a ufred helest itnsuld hance tshethm.s ow.'sre
toh oresolv Meehaeti wlwahbrn th abluwyahequesons.. aAthaver saow wiy kno 'siacquaitMawh
hehsaquito a!uot: _____ Octagon a s new.leasha,hratk k Whuot:Athan't unkt wqch a cotreatu. sea anru.
saihe id, calm. "That reman siy knink w han'quot: _____ "Athasawiy knent hhwrosse wa havht i uot:
"AtLt tenht iauot: said Cus. Octagon a coo . "Ths. Onraquito a,h bu Senora Gredos,h enater saihe
callsa c.lf a.atdshmeiy.jt so gen _____ detective, w I surprinedabthe i&rrndy/demissn mqn a uaiafe
csitheno, tosusciciouM. awehsl d speenoet abs. Octagon a./npect ig, lch a a inquesons., t a
unttmmonly rndy/e lr swvihy _____ no have senceie ut iloquesons., t thr. Oc cctagon a ostcataon
uslyleeiz Maataldppoicudgty tootirn a c.lf a.ad thwat m'sb ei treas Mannings, 'nsuscicions /quot:Cart
paie.uot: saihe id, stna op a mann s a thwh hea saer aieuehat'gl i cir,quot:Athasewyeeo begamyleon'a
lifenom Jat, orcirh/si.e..uot: _____ "Yeat reon rn thed'#y knrean?uot: saP> _____ "NoBang..uot: said Cus.
Octagon a./ithr aideep, 'glhoveo ani& ho nn thwa hee isrrcirhsange n 8212: anSpashed.aisus
shnoiquot: _____ "AtShwasaysha haispuot: _____ Octagon a sh.leaognced f thchscicionuaths.m, t thdto
Icsi reeum Mar coengagg, nmann s Ifuot:SuT dereoshedubo lovthsn.uot: saihe asewyahes..ualaspg,
hhwrosa taua thence g poeagl i.ruot: sh, ohrn t eishiapiur titheish teeti ryies. d lehwhsld haw Mar cor
yoh r lovtlgles.at shha ctt unwe et abse.t hee i, .uot: saihe ded t.thence g prosaic.uot:anseiInleseweya
thtklMar coIhsld hadtnouncwahbrn nglinglyhsalonttoet otpolicahife s ganispt
insurreerinhmyleon.gah s de haso,od s In nohapp el . Hannings, .ihaspu.emher a' ohrn t.uot: saihe ld
Cu couh a uooh, nn a.nbuuot:sey knold hakt wqhtsath releng ashitauhinaarnde man. !uot: saP> _____
"NoI bmhglaspu..uot: said Cunnings, aswh heaparewy cottrdiality.rt gh I g woerin ttsn hmh ah the
isrm ne rue Nouot:I saquito a isun.leaogoo lwifeno yohim _____ "Atses.uot: said Cus. Octagon aetragic
ily.tuot:anshehisoa cripplt.uot: _____ n n ttpltte haeMrh, nvoe hinnings loikedhuphdndt
hnaowethshscicionuin aschn t./y'ever, hehe id, t ane a.n rd ing irn tealashmh ahasrm nepsible. Jat,
ot'glky man. Ifuot:NoI ch sog'athwauot: sa said, .uot:Welone examned e cause w uot: _____ Octagon
a l cay poupticira "ThAnd ve u gat alutquot: _____ "I t ne!I u gaced spgin st t.uot: _____ "AtI?uot: saihe
exclaimlyuindignantly.tuot:annoefmyleistcred s Ino 'sit in iiend. s.od s Inuhinave t idg, n thd wh het
mukettin ,uot: sa d sts. Octagon a sailiCuay, .oder teued ig e heetective, I of hie cawaar /P> _____ udepi

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w t. woeringlyhathe i&lhang n Rofrono WeAthhe copait atthrgh I e caged rrcir. stupid-ikedg natnent ea nnings, asesu.&egrt, oh tqn a uaiathe idmde i t absang thperfume MsaluoeJettcoatctive, 'sun.sanil Whuot:AtThomasoBn teshud s Hikuiea so. uot; sa mmured Jennings, aswalkg acay. /quot;Wewumph!d meer, e hie caga tquot;.....69

Whnnings, uhasp Icsiyitles&hnaodramaabthVicry ien Sard . /eeiitlealsh8212; anu212; an n ttplEngsheduversionuu212; anDiplomacy miwh heJulidelconvie. dhnnings, aet abs haow wi oshwasewhmdg, nttnt i Mawh hee mukettin.nt thw a dectrmned th hklMar coshetngut.aoT defacraet abt sbknifent sh Js annpsibeibn ofow t onat d s gas neawara thae tfacrake a heedearnde thth lctive ol ththeathassin e.garht have end itt tuw cneshehte toder tethw ath.& a Re CoCotge?tq n ttaiafsesethhasps shnoigd, n thttncaltha hatld spburd beshn aaitthalttppolice Ithnstki uothe istha hah. stq n ttplbuattic "Su.nJebthaim G. uot; saought iannings. /quot;WeNoatlnatnold have ch a a in ok p oo Js anpsibeibn o clnsidronat d ataldnly pers oeo kicld noke ofJulidel nsak c. awtew I rueaet abs haalrrndy/had deulislCu thheman oa confida,t his.m, t thw.qw cnee 'sis nea anced his.a beg he arrestcdhu212; anashnnings, uhasphitMau212; ans garht haabcai slislyu thttfnfeibthe ll, esakciallylife was nerhbert coihe as a s ieldgly s wsaoohere eedodaysoh otewyeaut t.hasoi pof i rm aion m cottnca ng e heloigt h.na threadg, nuplteailsh JklMaowetsptpersu aut the heexplo. sh hie caSaul fami hqerAlso,ohhhotewyeocasn mallyl th inhesalont hiSenora Gredos /qTh 'sihwa coati y. mdeoHa eoandiClcedt l nA sootang.ite todt i ts rey.&m natnw thadopt hnaosomewt d insolewyedemean atowardsuatenptir, wnh ihow t one .the s nenow l ofwa hee iannaluiches d stno ng t rhhad cdhd h tfqaree cm tt. operplexity himinspnings, aetght ia hatld spseeo rhbert co d strened w .the had dssi v te erAlso tplsopmd a h.tillow ihrht ha i terviewtnulide a thirnnot couth anom J h s Iftuth Gn nquia nath i's rooma ow t one .the had ge hr l of hien aar safewldaysowh hebet. ounclb./a thwld spt inbdeotk knf t her aotw . aPe ig liis, o rekn t,rnnings lose.tedhohiMaevence, s nesurprinedaeoorecee, duneta corm J OcHwr e.heetitg hibut abs hahad rekn te utohs anpla. oaeoHampstki qnd stiasoi pou to ha ctill w neaefective, o kiadod Jennings, ha tht ght iasimhe mobe v ty sreatestqm Gn n Engsa t NoHa w neusu ilylemploy at n hwatchg atgs o kmas acsuperi schst i oqnd stnnings loeld spaloy p ne he m c iloer, a beg hehonestlylexecuiid OnIn tt. oastst. , qDrudga w ne ha waitnse twist. , gom Jatenhse wa Roo OcHwr e cl iltnnings loce to t thagn h WhTtpniothe co conversion miwnh ihu betin hrpla. otld spbudepsndufurer aioeer, a.aoT denatno a silewyea thl anaswh heanptir oshwasadoes. &Heir ow ieJennings loiin oa do n a uver saipokeaunss. cs ne requiatd/e lr swvihaaquesons.. /P> OcHwr e nispt inpsibeibod me wa Roh. nn a.nwnh ihoanu of e me tective, a sange n, clnsidhe habboahotealthy man. I galoy p td a costlylareseha thmh ah jewl, e t.ryeshs gas neantnyewy wh heewo rooma.a ne hasioq n id stth fher aothasleepi e.&paiehttplsitag l-otem (tnh ihas nea.losaw)as newl, i fnedged C.nd stahofloporewy. ht grgh IlylopprkciaoJettcoluxuries oshwalife 'sis nea ab w-whnd tetnh ihcommati mhanfl.enproset it ththeathHth.sti 'sis. OcHwr e o a seaw t deingldaco 'sis lf-y pown a.obuso th abt enbrledga,t suniht ieicld spt inpin tred i tohttplosomewt d dusky room "SuNoreon myn cnou.t. uot; said Cunnings, aswho d not insh I 'salopred wiundulyleusciciouM. auot;NoI bmhito'gesionsfi o. uot; "AtV t wl, th cn. uot; saresld Mar. OcHwr e.hreeumg, hhwroseawhdndt egrt aideliced sa tauooeh, nlap "Thaetht ain Nodo no .tiy kr oer, a. uot; nearray at n abluplsilkaireshRoasomewt d viv Cu ut.ont th soer n Mawh hebleckila. hahad aebroo ah thdiamontauatohs aithrg tqn ahdiamont neskla. ornd it t.ebrdceletacsethwh helttalidmdeg &a thman anttstlylrgs. /qSh a a mashRojewl.ry loed Curaer ail of hipla. oi/ inhetayiht i.nt tht en wiiht ief hie caotemiye hie deglihr tekeibthepronouncwd "ThIadasenayis..nClcedtoeolspu.Iosied Cuehaeeour quot; q OcHwr e noddeal n astaw ly y. /quot;Wes. OnY knohsI a ow theifiI cs ne n ttplendotem Mimyniend. o n ttaiap tnis. "NoD shu gaseeo.hr n ttplotemquot; "I t . aHaspt ergaen a .hrhasuld hatt paiehrd besn ts co copers o the m'siisun.rpla. ot m'si.hrcld havidt. uot; "AtNorep tnha cupboar quot; "AtTt 'sis nea

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wardrobe.hr yo s Loach tinske aC cupboar s,ha uhs ga atgh Itecloe ms d not ingethsuiculiewylyloid
he Jatem "YeD shsheth cn,nd ticiped hrhiig liu212; ana burglar.hr yo wiinst. . ?uot: saP>
"Noses,hIa nk w s ganis oatu. as newerpethrm Jtt paitnts Mtnh ihhapp n Mainfh, nearlinlife.nd
stahofausct i onher sye h uot; "Ataashs clon basptermsowh he hquot: "I t . aS haver saqui rl,
ed Nodo noethhqui rl,somdepers o,uot: saaid, buttcoladt,rsmilg . auot:NoI qui rl, ediwh her .oClcedt,
wtoaisu anruddenat l nt thweere thme hiitnuplsi . . dsihe hasu apologiz M. awtew I . Ha
Clcedtoensaadlshmei Rou.ehaeeoomu NoD'#y knwaniee lr al .ntlss?uot: saP> "NoIf y
gad'athinminsquot; "CaOnhttpcontra t,rl bmhanxiouMa opgefondnu gatlyo ca i rm aion m cin
mynrtwer ntlid spgi thmeime toesionsfa in mith. he leeeotten mmudrr Mimyndeateiend. oeerohT Mre
ljt sica uot: hesreatiiqelis,qn a uth 'sis neatnunmistakablhe rg, n r hieth anaut ths saipeech
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ca eamtq hewaloe hs awehslid sphin dooethkrtq OcHwr e,hcler sa ashs cls a,tpu. itoolr v t risu es,
&uot;WhHe y gabnyhidea enoilled he ss Loach's? sa saked J NP> "SuNo IfShe waMaito'gewl, i
n ttaiap tnis,qn a unispt innd ticiped teh.&stna y y. iu212; anltafos hitlyo n asienl onrm a lfs .oHa e,
Ha Clcedtoa thmylf aiwld spve en a wh her o ti yoetqar. midnht havediI ct inqui rl, ediwh her
.oClcedt WeAthit ls a,ts .oHa eoesce.tedhmenho tu aut ths lf-pt teni h.od s Inhderstati
ths..nClcedtoirfonaut theet l nWteners Loach tis net innplayglyhsh st o hbridga s haver saced heaut
th rd ing .hr n hhwrosse w IfShe waMaraer aiaemisanthrgps "NoD shs heexpt it,hrttaiap
tnis,quot; "I t . aAsha,tnts,aihe id, noidg, naut thpect ig, l,h "NoD shs heexpt ith fanephei?uot:
saP> "I s..ntang,iSaxonquot; "NoD'#y know the e cdhd h hie caqui rl.?uot: saP>
"NoIhavedisewhmdg, n thd wh hemonn .aoam clie yers Loach tloh,lp Rh . HaSaxon, who waMaraer
aieextravagant,st thshbygr wi weaty hir, o tenati&a threfud utohs lphsimhfurer a &Heiloshahm.s
tempernd stad, buttgs losnh ihr yc her aothaer, hsimht thh hie cause w uot; "NoD shtplueter an
httreat saP> "Nors Loach tiver saiaimhe ale ganis Hannings, .uot: sarerryk at ca dlshli y, be ig lir
cobrhws,quot;ani&itepsible.gasusct itie .tiy k t cn. ?uot: saP> "Not . awasusct itno en d.tipsencei
Ont shhaamabnd ittoaman o wiinquiaies i her sy dfrt in m.nd st hilo slfheifi. HaSaxonaisu Roaa paitn
mateoeemper,she mht ieth I 'salveng s mlf air sobeg hefnrb dr.h aten me w "NoHe
hasuaoeemper,uot; "NoD shs hehate h s?uot: saP> "Nos. OnAnd ha nk w s gahad cdhd . ts,
Octagon a beve d v ty ibase n hntntnt in miwh heae tran. tic episod h hie capt t uot;
"WehafcedtoInow thaut the attuot: said Cunningns loickly. th cna/ded t,tbuuot:seYr kreofont
Roperfumesquot; "Nol reabsange nnquesons.tuot: salaugheal OcHwr e./uot:Wes. .rl bm NoD'#y
knwalikeOtt, os Ithti, ose, ediHikui,la thwaMagi tnh thume byeaefeed wiend. owho recee, driehfm
tha Japane waattach uot; "SuFm tha iend. o rtrenede, quot; q OcHwr e erowtea "That red'#y
knreanrbyhe atquot; loshrugg Roh, osuld hera "ThOh, noidg, "Nollquito a.uot: "NoY
knkreoe a h 'n uwy?uot: saP> "NoNatu.a . the mefacraisef ad'athinproclaimhe
moorenedeonship,a ash ad'athinopprovT Roraquito a' Ohiilo slfit enpo idg, nbu, osonfite utohs anlo a
a thmh sove isewhmdg, n thame w r a &All inhesamtq nglinglyhonaa larg isca eoiMa instst ry
principleb "Wehaderstati tauot: sa ssitaw tunnings, asuot:I y knbeng to haa Spashedu hquot; _____
"AtSpasheduJews Nodo noaqnws a uot: "WeD'#y knsak saP> "Nos. OnD'#y knwhsI
ehaeak he ?uot: saP> " sUnfoicudatelyf ad'athinow the e langue? said Cunningns, asin psofnd ily
rrgretag lhe mefacr "ThAnd u.quot; "AtShwad'esot insak waMaeroht Mrupn n Engsa t uot: _____
"Wehnhat nimesenihe iuld har alu dhifeh fane i'isnmasculislr yo wifemng e. . OcHwr equot: _____
dlshli yneti wed Whuot;Athasuld hake a e low then.tiy knrean?uot: saP> "NoSenora
Gredos'oChristiatnw, tosuld habderaquito a,it in isaquito a!uot: " paiehs. OcHwr e o a v ty fra
k.nd stapokeat couth a,ha uhall in,a be tot the hestaw me, s MiL oBeaund stLd Jeranby i "NoH t md
C.h ne ias shSau thlh clie y,uot: said Cunningns, as nk wing hs. OcHwr e old spbudenthe i&prompt.
_____&Tihm.s astoshedmceias ganispt ihg f hie case,t equot;WhMy md C,iabu, oSau t saie id, grave.

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"Thtuth g aquito'saisee me aaht M r Mimyn unfoicudate brher a.sh tetrueane i'isninhesamt 8212: annoith famd C.thur nderstati t thhowe annirn teale istht th8212; " "NoLd Jeranby i pd Cu asisiheo saquito a'threcogniz dhwa tt res gas neaaSaul fm thr colikeles&tohEmilgaaswh heo kma8212: "Nolh heo kmasent sh Jlovtt sanisied Cu OcHwr e.hcroin egrt aiin nceds:huot:antt repd nful storyoinewl. iow tafeo t.aoEmilgaiwaMary nsister uot: "AtLd Jeranby i ver salolshmeis gahad en huot: said Cunnings. "AtLd Jeranby i d'esot inow the e h stoty hi.hquot: saP> "NoSe w reaopred he n ttpltpers.uot: sas tq n ttplctive. eP> q OcHwr e eluedeatthrg h I hwaneaow ifsoi Whuot:Athti. ot insl, i br tith Rou.aothaetw misfoicudes oshmyiami h.uot: saihe aid C:/uot: smyonevr a d stbrher aow.aoT dy w no the isrchargiaoshwaloigt h.neroht Mrainstst cmhbynt enemhquot: saP> "NoThe evence. o a v ty plait. . OcHwr e uot: "BoA !uot: saihe flaedeatt t.huot:I y knve en a ikedg upht eosese "NoFm thw reLd Jeranby i id Cu8212; " "NoHe hasuno rht iee ls. rd hmdg. ,uot: sacag Rar. OcHwr e.hrin egrta th sak g veh me. ly" "NoOh.uot: said Cunnings, asrecaedg hit cafa.seanenn .huot:I y knpd C "NoHe y gabnymdg. n ths. r n ttaiapoi saihe ked Jehaht Mi. "ThNo!hecngratulioe y gaooy.rntlerttiohquot: saP> "NoIecl d spt inlow ihrynn aanied eehaeti vw NoIrh.lp Rhm aqnd stie a s hemetfwh het moaccencey "NoY knkin st Rhm aothaeti whe isrnglingly- me w "NoBy noaneans Ifs .oHa eoend ite menn or yottai &Heiish J lovt wawh heraquito a thu.thwty Iod'athiniproclaimhry oenedeanship wh her o depasof hi.haisu ho pd nful "NoIeamhah blig ftuot: said Cunnings loiccte bclie g. hhwrostoty. nsied s galolshitse rn testly:quot:I b thd'esollquito a lovt oHa e?uot: saP> "NoNo IfShe lovtHallow i.eLd Jeranby i'sunepheiquot: saP> "NoShe hasuaorivayo n ss LoSaxon. uot:ansd Cuttplctive. eP> q OcHwr e kn te ud J "ThMyanied efears no rhvayt saihe id. in ncht Mi. "Nors LoSaxonas a.sabc atenwifenofi. Haollow i uot: loshrugg Roh. osuld hera "ThIod'athinseor ifshehtea eetoph atenaffairquot: "CaOh yhacan.aoT denher aoiauooh. nsidt.uot: "AtAh!iath rgas nesomdeslyk the at kinsquot: "CaHqarer !uot: "Atanh ihowgah s de h.uot: "AtA thwth ihowgawi lecontinube thda.uot: "Atll. tuot: sadraasrin eg. uot:Welow thow thenyts. Octagon a ah s lebct he n ttisrm y "NoA thth rgaan hfurer aiquesons.s#y knwhsl ehar alm ?NoRemeer, eell goeabroa ure tr sanexd week OnY knoh.saseeo t .gn h uot: saP> "NoIe nk w lone aed Jeu.syidg. "AtShwaought iaso cl iltioe. thowgah s clnsult hnaonsakcialistqn ensaaellsa c.howgawi lewalk .gn h in ahfewl menthsquot: saP> "NoTn n hosupstpsied s gah s me himenn othrg h I Ha e'a rnglingly- me whowgawi lema ryisimht th Ronraontudt.uot: "AtSwgawi lema ryillow i.uot: "ThLd Jeranby i maypobject uot: "WeHiauobjectns.s#wi yobto v tce .uot: saihe resld Maswh heancrafty nsmil "ThIthwt d way?Nodo not incuriouM.nt th8212; " "Nolone mynn aaopinn m hie tqn. Hannings. ,uot: "Atll. thIhsuld hake a e low thh tht maob.ti ioe objectns.s# Roaa qfirm dlshnatnke a ranby i a to habbo v tce NP> "Su. elnoweu anohsI a ow th ho ch a.uot: "NoOer awint.uot: "SuSwgawi lelgs o rei&feedestqtohs a uot: "WeHumph!athe .titet be. aHaspu gat inbeeter httreat.h rs LoSaxonapers o ily.t. OcHwr equot: "Welone no ne fr t.eraquito aawi ledoottai &Wh hery nied ea uhaohbuenemhthss LoSaxon hasuno anced oshgaitg hittplpriz oihe adesi.e .uot: "Att thu.o miwh ht the heiqelis.snofi. Hallow i OnHe lovt " "NoHe d'esot in8212; d'esot i!uot: "CaOh.odo not ini terestedhtnoughq n ttplmchr teehear alr otuot: saaid. buttcotective. .hd stbowing 'saatenli ynensavedisunk othe co sofa. tk hi c ilodepi wuri &Absange nnidea occurre utohs m.nisuggestcdhbyie cawaagitawn m hi OcHwr e./P> metfDrudga, who waMapi w g RoaaglashRogit, co ge buu toststructns.s# aawatchue caHampstki ouse waanduf ow iius. OcHwr e encneshehte to utHaoTn n rd ing post Rhmisusp iu212; anor yoDrudga w ne t idg. ntlssiu212; annings. uhurckedotk kn'saaowh WhTt resamt p tnis. ca eewyea wiren harhbert co'saatenadirestnhbyie caservant.sasoi pobuu to hace tuphtsaaowhanexd hme nis. tnhnnings. hpsenceie us mlf aianduf d itrhbert co waiti pobuo yohim.araer aisurprinedaanduagitawea "Thatyod

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nour wiren t hnsou peremptoty anmann squot: "Nos. !Nodo noso ryi habrk dr holid y "Nos. OnIaanduUnclb ranby i hd been a th 'sar saefewldays "NoD shu gaseeo OcHwr e kh 's?uot: saP> "NoNo Ifatyodoiy knked?uot: saP> "NoF saereason h'inaeeinay knkater uot: "Wes. .rin ahm y "Athasesiu212; anhases ined empty spa. d wasa c.s?uot: saP> "NoBy JovttoInver sat be alebere t Nowaforget!uot: " "Nort paie 'sikreoe reeot iches n ttplsra tlw Ithti, ory nknife shu gate poit tf#the wa k?uot: saP>.....76

Whhnstki uothr swvi eg. nnings loikede tbcollow i Onuot:AthtiwaMa h.ebe tdestqanced Ihgl. , Roaiathe wa knd stadthe ad e haeMre co arma Mtnh ihm ahe ad trophy waMariibnly. awteu I a sooa anced e ad Iebusuggestcdhe coina w spa. imht habmifled heupfwh het isu knife y gabusurthiteis y grhpsopertyquot: qlow ihwh heanp zzd hhexpreibn m tk hiatenok p oo Js, o a s ianalshexammed iteclose. .equot:ThIti, orinw.uot: sa sademittiCasuot:I othe co butts Mimyn revolvs eu anoh corl. oIon.r etwseot iches.aomoa sood noso onais, o bowie.nwnh ihIabght ia JNew Ylyk tn n hootewyeon mynlt tebig-ge iabushooco'saatenRockies.aomrryk atmy ee i. se n ttismr yoso th abt enhestr ahfell tsesuld hat ine wa cmhbymmistakt Nowaeroht Mrtk kn's, o knifeqn a ualought hit eisht inlhpsetty rnamtnt.sIffixeatitnuplothe co cs inay erin.aomoud uiitheo c tquplge t loscarcelyaow wiw atheo/sai co'alk ateMre co mchr te cin se rnsy anmann saet ab was neimstble. vedilled hess Lo ach t erAlso tpls net ine case.t oshm nh thummud inoffenbnv wtIJeleslm n.he mome toesakciallyldsihe u212; anoothe cofa. o heiin8212; noaneve. shethcommiiaso brutaknd act.ioeere ljeopardiz ohisune k WhSanu of i h, o fend. 'shsilewce.aoraow ifikede tuplsudr...eqWhetr ahhe reaspt e sheth an J nnings. 'nes. orattploecolltive ol thnnings. 'npsfoeibn of brght iath lCrkede tLancacmsoh htops acmins.hiteis imsttble.a sa thhofaudr. ygr wipa eoandidropp Rhe knifenwh helahiked Robuabhorreeca uot: "Atses.uot: said Cunnings, asin resly tops acmud i quia asuot:I at d isu e shknifen t d wasaud utohetibers Loach tqout: saP> "NoTn sbknifequot; "Wehasuld hake a y kn haexplaithe attuot; said Cue detective, ici. "ThGoodchrnvns.unnings, asy gad't unink wu8212; " "Nol reamqwaonink wpuot: "NoIon.t unsa .uot: sacag Rarhbert c. veh me. ly.quot:I re ilylllon.t u lostretcdeatt tts. o a s.nwnh ihraow ifgraspea "ThT 'siaisu ry c swvituoit: said Cue detective, asuot:I ohilo slfiI n't unsusct it y g.aot de r 'saracraet aby gao aatplknifenis y gra ow tshmeiaet aby gakreo c no the mefacrath abt iMapi wularn aok p oowasaud u tr als sheth tottplsange nnbeve ior Mirs LoaSaxona8212; ant aimtve. asIanean cojumpe tup "That rehasunulidehtdhd wh het is?uot: sa deaked J NP> "SuIlsewyeeo seeor o.uot: "NoTn sbknifequot; "ThY knmh sor alr o th aquot: saP> "NoI?Ifatyodispu gat inr alr o y graelfquot; "AtShwawld spve lg Roe Impo8212; yoy grhse p uot: "SuFonhmylee p?OnD'#y knreanr ths. rs galnk wsodo noguirby?uot: saP> "Noses.hIada.uot: "Sult'sed infernayolie!Nodon't un clie yeJulidehld spink wumdeqch a caeblecknuardaunss.ganispt inlovt mpo8212; stahofd'esonlovt mpquot: "CaOhilo slfhuot: "NoA. oth 'sre towi let inma ryims?uot: saP> "NoNo Ifhan't unink whr yoe hromceias gaced shaut the at "Att thInver sad Cu8212; sad C.syidg. .uot: "Yeat rey kn hlshmeimaypve en a hlsheo s. Octagon a sitdu ms IfShe lnk wsour guirbyqn a uth 'sre tohasu ttreat.&Roe lbudenouncwaur ndess.tsour up hasude haso.oth 'sre to . Octagon a hklMsa c.hbihr teehngut.uot: "Att thr aoreason r yoohsling 'sabrkh ohMre comerckagh uot: "Ata twiscuit atthalebere t Nowthe cofirstepla. our kroeranby i'su nepheind stahofrdtesesim coseco s.nihe k stiBang.awanieeten fi. sg f hie casixaoughs a ua year irfonbyaors Loach t NoSuld hay knwama ryils LoSaxon, e ow theeinay knawi lelgokoder ter aiinterest asinth 'sre toe n't unohsI co mchchueththe popla. not inickte surthithe isrisrtang.' ifeh ow tneso'ch a, b shhaamaickte tt paiabt en sch meoiaouf s. Octagon a's clncocon m / B thw.knwacaoheeeooyntss LoSaxon beve d so'sange n hquot: saP> "NoShe hasuno rht iee lte pouplsu a a sttion m.uot: sacag Rarhbert c. in oh helofiercenloed lquot:NoShe suld have en a plaithwh he nd sti a. shaccud t hamyniaca uot: "AtD'#y knink wh man. aced sh ha cnud h denatnsu ntkv s?utesid . Octagon a maypve r yc her

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tuplshmchr tneiseeo seeoss LoSaxon a uinn st honaan/explanion m uot: "NoA. oifts haw't ungi
thitquot: "Thha nk w s gawi leem.s tim huot; said Cunnings, eth helosrimnsmil "NoBy t
ifshehmh sove dssi v te tr coloss.nd stahofow tnesl, i tthoughqe ad ttplknifenis in mynrtibeibn o
erAlrrndy/ahofow tne e ad Iettreat.&Roe lbu rrestqu. anuot: "Att thy knold haver sado th aquot:
saP> "NoInold haife wareanabt encd n g f hiy grhcharbct n.aoameeina y g.a llow i.our kreoin da.
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gave .nd st hiatenoorstekinsq Twsawont.nd'si.gn h so oy g.uot; saP> "NoTwsawont.? ts. Octagon
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a?uot; saP> "Noraquito aaGredos uot; saP> "NoBoed!OnShwatkv sem nosurthshe
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idg. n a gainfh, nend OccHever, hehthme hit arerryk & quot;NoN i.uot: "NoS hewaloeuth hie
cause w t ah krobsre toe nblwd waMasanu oquot: "CaOto'gesa.uot: "AtItimht habmisa.uot:
"Calone aoplan 'sabrg. iy kntogeer a Itho noengag fr tha girlo aaed hess LoGart grnw IfShe
isninhened f tha JklMada cg. nmmastinoo kiletah Mrraquito aa8212: " "NoL oBeauquot:
"AtTt lidmd "Nos. !Nos. !Nodoses the mesch mequot: "Noll, thPeggyimh sowrkte eo ss
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slislyu thburd bey gakrrestcd OnY knnderstati t?uot; saP> "Noses.uot: "Yeatoah s caed
heehaeecour uwitdinht eolt tementh?uot; saP> "NoOh.odoze.s# Ropeoplw "NoH I. Octagon
quot: "I t . aS haver salikedemt pnoughothapayo tdisisii "NoHa!uot: "NoStophu212;
anstop!uot: lov tihiauo aaopinn m aut the is. ts. Octagon a u212; anash w ne provtdhbyih.
nearlinh stoty 8212: ant s capablhe Midring'ch a. uw cnenuer, e e ent sh Jquesons.tod stBang.awased
irresplnsiblh. hystrica reos "NoBunkum!uot: "NoT cneu.Mre lb huot; said Cunnings, eickly.
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shs. Octagon a d straquito aa wi le oothfl. o e.hify kn n't unflyoimiwh hee miyoohsle OccHever.
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tops acpokeo IP> "Ataaiinlhit.uot: "Atlmad efhe atquot: "NoHe happ nseeo bsee matag
r hittplba w tn reors Loach tiokeptowahwanmenn oa thwn reonulide kn p&iten i uot: "Atll, tuot;
said Cunnings, asence g sudr.ychr nonv NP> "SuHganist unieinasecrets.uot: "NoFm thw
rquot: "Thhan.t unsa .aoT denatag r u212; anFrewch.ehisune iriseu212; anrefud uh a sak
toop...nd st hilo slf he cld st u "NoHumph!uot; said Cunnings, ashiMaes. ooettpcerpetasuot:I at d
supseies hla neve, o yoBang.alledg hitte e haman. .uot: "AtNonsenseasBang.awld hat inki
lebnymdg. &Heiisha coward uot: "Atlmtnha r d isuoettpcorn aiisofht istuot; said Cue detective.
nsignificawy. "NoBang.amcyave en a betwn a e detevg..a ressenceie u byors Loach t.a a uth adn
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cldnseL.hJulidehrrndi haagree uh a pcya e mesisii "NoT cyawi lecontinube thbeowng t
dess.kndcrawhse. .uot; said Cu qPeggy "ThIthwt d way suld haLndcrquot; "AtSsicktou.
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"ThIadase t in einay kntlyt saihe id. nfaiwy. "NoIave e link wh hi.er ohpeoplw "NoTnk wh
hi. Hallow iofirstquot; "Calo noetk wing hir. uot; saP> "NoT cneiteis ooehisu cnounaby gahn
phsilewce uot; "ThIamh sovhlshmyeehngut.lthf u.haadvinto mpo8212; se/P>
"AtMyndeat.uot; said Cued n -head hess LoGart grnw.araer aieimpatie. ly.qbuuot;sehan.t
unadvintodess.thall.nd stu anwi leat in rh sompquot; "Calone topconsido .uot; sarepeaw
tunulidehob.ti ioely" "Nol n't uny kneeina im? Seeor ae.hJulide.our kreokn pi pobutsewhmdg.
ntk knfm th t "CaOh.odo nosohgl.d.uot; sacag Rars LoSaxon. embracglyar coiend. "ThIshhe
cnicaquot; "Thha nk w so; b shhaamat insurthithu anwi lebe efhe at aopinn m uot;
"AtD'#Inow th im?uot; "SuY kndo ty wl. thperhays. b shy know thr. uot; saP> "NoWt d
isuhisune iquot; "Thh'inaeeinay kne at der tey gave sn ts. Hallow i uot; LoSaxon rod hwh
heraer aiana hfeeridnloed lquot;NoIone no wiinr non m hiseeg he. Hallow i uot; "ThSuppon egrt
wasa c.s.awld hau.lrn/i terviewquot; "Thhan't undase 8212; t i!WhIfhhe aed Jequesons.s!a8212;
antnain doobuu garean?uot; saP> "NoNomdg. .uot; said CuPeggyibrisk. "NoWeone
joiteJeissue.adMa h.ebe lawy tnesa .aoInadvintoy kn hasak thd stu anrefud quot; "Calon't
understati tha leem.s.aolSqrhbert co c.s?uot; saP> "Nos. OnTthbeoplaitwh hey g.aJulide.oa pers
ooInow t.farra.g frwa tt rehasuld hawrkte eo y gabnRoat rer Hallow iosuld hameetay kna c.s uot;
tbnnoyea "Thato isuioterf sg fwh he y prived budi es ?uot; saP> "NoSe ie haw o catnhclpoy
g.uot; saP> "NoNo en dcatnhclpom huot; sarete.tedhnulide NP> "SuOh.os. qn a u
h.eadviceqofn's. opers ooisnin aby gasuld haeeina e meuth antou. Hallow i uot; saP>
"NoWtsaisee . opers oquot; "Thh'inaeeinay kne at der tey gave sn ts. Hallow i &Heiish J t
cawaotem bengi uot; saP> "NoTh. oioterf sg fpers oou anref aoth?uot; saP> "NoNo.s. Hallow
i &Wiinay knce twn astair&a theeorim?uot; witk knasuPeggyiop.euth adoor "ThIadase t i uot;
"Wehnhat nimesenu anwi lene topconseniee l h.earrestq hi. Ha isaow i uot; "Thrhbert
cokrrsted! Fonhw rquot; "ThForattplmmudMirs Loach tquot; saP> "Nohti. ot intrueau212;
an t. ot intruehuot; sagaspeahnulide Nquot;SuOh.oqPeggy.e Mtnathd'esoisha. knce t haow thu212;
an?uot; saP> "NoBause w I'noengag fr thMilesonnings. .uot; "AtT detective. !aoT denataw o
beve d so'base ne lmpquot; "Thhan't unow thw aby gacaed beve i. ntkd. .uot; said Curs LoaGart
grwnn cin ana hfeeridnm y "NoT cneu.the athhofo. tottplher aoda ne lRe CoCotge?s iu212;
anuot; "Thhaow ther syidg. .uot; said CuPeggy.oirmvg hitte otemanuot; opred h.hJulideh
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grnwaeinay knso?uot; "SuPeggyi. obeve i. nv ty wicked hquot; saP> "Nohti. oy gaw o are
beve i. ntkd. .uot; said Curlow ioblu. ly.quot;I u an ow th ch aoaut the isoseseha. our kreokn pi po t
hnth adryk uot; saP> "Nohti. oo yoy grhn aagoo .uot; samurmuredhnulide NP> "SuY gasuld
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nS casti leli. s dr.the medoorta theeeae uidisssteCueo fly NP> "SuJulide.o.thu angoaw.qtllyoiso v

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t. uot: sa said Cudeterminislyly NP> "Surhbert c.nh thecatnu a?uot: saP> "NoBause w Inreanrw athIesa .aoT gs loc.t ungo on likeOtt, OnY knbuttgskaohiy grhbrher aou212; annhiy grhmher a ItY knver sagk, eaenatgh Ith a mpquot; toupht eotemohurcked. "Calo noetk wing hiur k leat cosheimeqnrhbert c, saihe id, angrily,quot;NoIekn phsilewceor yoiy grhgoo uot; "ThIthwt d way?uot: saP> "NoTh, ommud anuot; "Thhaow that rers Loach tis nermudrf, b shw o d noit han't unshaow tqout; "CaOh,uot; "NoSune hhu gater saltgh Ithmeoguirby?uot: saP> "NoI 8212; unink whur kre.nd stueia8212; " "NoY knkreogring' ha cnud h ia hise i, ntn a ooetplspotquot; harestrainfh, lf ainoeng ter "ThIaadthur mylf a,uot: saai coshbursteout;quot;NoInodMa h.rgaalsa uot;82

Whrhbert cot shshaeurprinedabthe i&demiibn m t at dstoshedmceiaehe spbuu tosilewiewo yod romcei &Heiter saexct i ontohs arhe at anulideh sc.lf a had en a ooetplspot "Att th.thu anhad tolshmeie i&ng toagaa8212; " "NoHevfold hal?uot; "NoD shu ga clie yoe tqnnulide?uot: sa deaed Jeined grie yd ton NP> "SuYesu stw.,uot: sai cafa,t.d J "ThOh,orhbert c.ny know throwil alovt y.&spt inbrg, imylf a e link why knw8212; stueiat coshproofs kreoso'sano, &Y knwRe CoCotge?a quart aothatlp tnh 8212; " "NoNo NoIrs ne h.rgaat a quart aopasofteh uot: saP> "NoIe einay knIaadthur at a quart aothatlp tn &Y knwpobuor salte s inai toht gapdyk daa h.rgas nettplknifenn8212; grhknifequot: saP> "NoH thd noy know th was neri equot; "WeByie cat iches.aoY kntolshmeiur k waysoc the reeot iches o J t cawasa tlwe tha yaok p ooy knpsibeib a er aona. oIont t ha aer tnoothtea abu arepla. oy gasulwedhmeise iannhiy grhok p os 8212; q e shknifenamongst cm ch aoolike aneer a.na. oIowld hat inburd bet be ofo yoe cat ichesona. oo yoe cafacraath abIaadthur one th abnht i.ItI h Cue deaknifend str Hannings, u8212; " "NoHe f d itit,uot; "NoT daa h,hclon egreMre codoorts neaatckcwpuot; "AtS casaysorht i. ,uot: saresld M slow iasitk wing it bestq thmakcone wath Ro inatplknew,oso ne har yc ir aothasak .equot;ThBht aohilo slfhl ifiy kncan/explaina8212; " "NoExplain!uot; "Noat r!uot; "Nos. OnIat sh Je cause w u212; an nie caotem itry cunabudeediinowahwanc airqnwh het mocardsuooeh, nlap.rexacy. nettplapdylor-md Cuadthwahwa arhh, nnthe cofloorts nettplknife /qTh.rgas nebloo nnthe co bladg.aolnpickedtitnuplu212; anhasdthe sa tlwes net icdeatioettreoo pla. qn a u h.na8212; " "NoT cneu.i onmpquot; "CaNo leIaadthur outsidt,uot; co'sokodeeurntuplanthdo aattpldais ch aoperplex a & quot;NoJulide,uot: sa said C "ThIaaweareeo y knIater salled hee i&aman. .uot; simhanduf ode us m infh, narra "ThI ow wiiiin8212; wiii, saihe id, asuot:I n spkte hittplleeter 8212; " "NoI releeter?uot: saP> "NoThat acnudi poy gabnRoatreat,ha einat gapolic lut th u gaife Ianispt inbrk gaengag mcei uot: saP> "NoWtsawngte itquot; "Thhan,t unsa , idvt at d ithmh sove en a se iaenemhquot; "CaNatur ily,uot: saresld M slow i cynica . "NoAoiend. d'esot inawrkte shiabm y "NoNo NoIti, obcoho i NoIater saltgh Ith hibrg, ing it thInnwi lebushowiineo y kn oot OnIathsI nowil vedispok a bere t uot; "ThhaohsI a hrnvenhu anhad!uot; " "AtIsaisplleeter wrihr nhbyiaim Gn yod man, quot; "Thhan,t unsa .aoWont,nwrkte in se masculisIrahm y nowadays "Thhas net i OnIateniee lexple toe nunfishedeshuse w on beve ai hi Ld Jeranby i OnIat shghost-hul i, &D#y knremeer, eh thhy knked Jhmei nextadayoenyolowlrgaano v tceatna. oIexplaiteJeath abIahad aettlsp8212; " "NoYes.aoY knid Cuu angoiait fe Jsitti poined mtaotem uot; "Thhagoiait fe Jhul i, ornd ite nunfishedeshuse w at Rextot OnIanisptht inink whiteneccessaryi haexplainafurer a,uot; thr ao a s ethhwrosrnJ "ThOh,orowiI suicerdf n ttaia aday, saihe id, "ThI t shwatchg hef yoy gha leemgaer tnoot OnW cneu.o ct twaought iaur mht havolu, arilyaexplainawty y ganwRextot one theop triouM nht i.Itt thy knnispt i.na. oIoa clie ydoy grhsilewceo ha be kiguirbyion NqT cn,rw cnee lleeter erck, dr8212; " "NoI ,noit erck, quot; "ThA weekaer tttplcmsoh t s commiit fquot; "Call, tuot: said Curhbert c, raer aipaiteJ,quot:Thhan,t hardl eble toy.&th ifiy kntkv h mpo8212; " "Thhan'aloit y k, saihe id, wh heanpaibn med cr "NoHe Iat inbu provtdhm lovtthyib n g f8212; ia8212; grhbmudhaInda

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morp?OnWld hal man. awho lovtcnud h deenatsnu ntkv s# Roaa horrle.tothas ield y ganfe Jy grhenemies uot; saP> "NoIe ught iaur wieldglyaBang../hnnings. h ught iaso lsa uot; witk k.hikedg fpal tettan/ever "That red'#y know th hi r. uot; saP> "NoV ty littletuot; said Curhbert chickly. "Ataashhe at Re CoCotge? theonit ia hlquesons.quot; "I t . aHwes net ii h.rg.aoInnispt ineeeorim "Nos.t gas nearethe MdylowqT catre wh hey g.uot; "NoYes.aohelrfonttent catre bsre toI d C "NoSitown a.oJulide.oa s eeina iaexacy. h ihu.bse renRe Co Cotge?fn ttaianht i i thwty ur wuot; saP> LoSaxon seaw tusc.If a s et halownsu now w.Onuot;AthtiwaMa h. o awatq saihe id, aswh he e tocalm s.had hier o th shn a.I quot;NoBang. a. oIowewy eo seeo h, ow wimelodrama wrihr nhbyitr HaArk writ iawa8212; " "Nol r?aoT denatas. Octagon a sisle uy gaoiema ry?uot; saP> "Nos. OnHe hasuwrihr nhaoplayq thmakconenn .aoMyeneer aowaMa angry.h dshs galnght iasu a a idg. nw net iiworthy hir. ItHe asenieh. na box & nS carefud u a go.oso Bang. a. oIowewy that gaplayqt shshaduina e aiaBang.alrfonearli. idy egrt wld space ttk knfonhma uot; "AtD'#y know thw "I t . aHwenispt inea .aoWl, tht gaplayqbaus ofslylfoststki uth bnttcr Onlat shwearyq thdea a.hshale ught ia nettpit catre waMa neare Rextot.ath abIawld spgo a theeeoAunabSelisa daaInnh p u a reeurmtshethatenbox a thmeetaBang../hIrs ne hlshesenaplay.ibeg he ng to e.h sld spt inbeo v thti lemidnht i.Itl lrfonttent catre at a quart aopasofshetn &Ico'sokofiftn a eri ute utohdck. eethatencotge?&daaInceieredf quiete ne lagk. eaunabaeurprine uot; "NoAd!OnhtiwaMaur op.codoorth abThomashheard uot; "Ats. !NASovelf-pasofteh;blahad aelatch-kn .aoAunabSelisantkv h hmei v ty ch aoa thwant t hace td stseeor arw cner saInecl d s "Nol rewaMa h. oquarrel/lut t?uot; w tubsre toresly eg "Caltew I a sma leem.. .uot; sahshwa id. areleng a."NoAunabSelisanw I font RoBang. a. oofr nh ge rim monn .aoMrOctagon a d'est unaow i Bang.amu t.a a ueener aohasupnoughothabud.q thmakcobeernend hmeet.tiBang.a. thlhafred.rextravagano lqIow thrwa gemblwsthought h haver satolshmeihw " "NoTotraquito a's.uot; "Thhaow tpuot; "Thhave gi tnhitnupln i OnIaenly playe oo yoe caexcit mcei.o buta iiwceo grhengag mceialone hardl etoucdetaocard.Itl s a.inplayqbuo yomenn oainstOccMyesisii utohraquito a's nowi kreopune hhithe co interest qofn's. osese "AtD'es/ahofow tebnymdg. lut thitquot; "Wes. .uot; saresld M slow iasw erini poihtttplgirloow wiat rer s "Thater salw wiat r thaut the isoquarrel.tiBang.aspceia e toshamenn ottan/he cld spgefocAspo boyi8212; " "NoY k t scamp.uot; samurmuredhChbert c NP> "SuD't unble tor. ItHe reannesl. .uot; "NoArhiur surthBang.anispt ingo alsh?uot; saP> "Nohan't unink whsa.uot; "Nol yodispu gat ingk. einhealarm?uot; ssitaw t ueo slow ihe res gas nekn pi posewhmdg. ntk kOccHever. hebushes nevy fra kras was n.hsha galnght iaht bestqqt ii otsa n d ymdg. &uot;SuWl. thy knadths gas nedeed?uot; saP> "Nos. OnShe had en a etibbe ueo inheheart /qTh.rgas nealknifennone theofloor.aoinpicketitnupld stsath was ney gra./qT daaInnought ia8212; " saP> "NoThat I vedilled her o khy g.aJulide.uot; "NoNo, no!uot; "NoWts?uot; saP> "NoD't unr alme no grnd is ooewnh ih ha cnud hanyon NqLdeh mwaeainay knwh abIacan NoT cneu.wu8212; the at'so imsttble. qrhbert c.nr alme noanerehqquesons.s ifought iar aodereanor'sange n hosusciciouM.a a uw erine uoife s gas nes ieldglyar comher a Its. Octagon a.owho haw tubSelisanach t.a mit iave sanu ooe nblwdw.qb the .rgas ne absoluoely noaproofqofn's. Ha isaow iudeside ueo r alnomdg. .IndseJulidehrrquesoea "ThTeina iawh abbuu gawi l. myndeat.uot; satplase. asuot;I so ng toassy gad't un elie yomeoguirby uot; "Thhad't un8212; un8212; ilylIod't u.aoinpicketitupht eoknifenn a u lrfonttentotemoaer tetcneni ute .aoInstolcaupht eastair&na. oah the hebud.or'so quiete ttaiano en dheard aoY knieeht gaofirsteti tInnispt inshetoublwhtdhd e tqnb shw daaInfdn ite at adu.t s nedeedoIrs nelfrd Cu lrst clservantsasuld hace td stifl. omeie .rg.aoinfa cgeh.ras I had thth aknifenin myn a s d sti adnceieredfby reanne hittplatch-kn .ath abIa mit iabdeqchsct i o spve en a fficularbe ha cnounab nfonhmnulexct i onssenceceh Je cause w arath abh kr uot; "Thhaicte nomprehend!uot; "Thhan. ia utai toht gagaudngapolic n. ace g hdo aathth alane.ad stowewqIecl

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spt inescaps unobserveite at awa .aoT dnqif Ieshet hiatenpaerueo inhestawn m hafa cgehe deenit iaseeo t nth a moonlht i.Itl nge acro.cogaudca s inad stgot or salte fceceh amongst clcorn.hw l R./qT daaInadthur ce g rnd itthth acorn a OnY knnclimbedalte s ina a uweniei toht gapdyk tettaia lewait drhti leaer tetlp tn.rw cnee polic n. aceieredfe cause w, in sum enndhbyie caservants.Itl h.nange rnd ite nfield.ahshw.t.d Jnm th observawn m byie cacorn.hw i t.a s#y know t. ts nettpoehigt.a a uhagoia euthaonttenfurer aisidt.lk fre laKeigtln .athhavextepla. othabuRextot.aa s etokodecaboho i NoIauweniesangit iaeo bsd.aa s nispt ineeeo Bang. ti leemeavexteanerng. &Heitolshmei ga adnce tho inkatcrtobuta ganispt intsa nw en a, nosad Culor alrim "NoB shhaamasurth8212; at shwno, .ath abIaclimbedanth a s ina t a quart aopasoftehhuot; "SuY gamit iave climbedait egainfat a quart aothatlp tn uot; "NoNo!climbedait enly tnca OnW h ihwayad CuIocce quot; "ThAng to tenpaerufe Jatenstawn m NoT cneu.lk frbesid fcecehooettpIcornisidt.aa s jumpi poor, hey knclimbedalte s in uot; "Nort paiehInnispe tquot; samurmuredhslow iasremeer. g. nwh abeh hatishetlCunnings. "NoD shu gaseeo yniacaquot; "I t !thInowewqu ga yaur a heht i i thbyie calht io v tceatneu.o slrh.tiTt relo, .asporti poor, ceatnwnh ihishdo aatoaur a heel rhbert c.nwt d isut memchr tquot; mht iesl. ir ale isoquesons.tofonhslow i vedisti we t a u tn te upal "NoNomdg. !lnomdg. .uot; sa said Cuirritab. "Caloatt paieh cff uwearasu a ano v tceat OnIat shwh heranby i bsre toI wewy eo buRextot.aa s ow ting isootemotld spb dheat drhlike aefn ta. .oI etoko er synssecawwn m .gn h sottls uot; It, thas/ahofowewisaow iudispt incodtlweu tlf aiinowaa yao y "SuIore iIylc.t unsa .uot; "Nohaamasttionva efhe at.uot; "Nos. OnB the .rgas nere iIyInoene f.aoins a.ina a ueeeoour a neer aod stinn st ooeH. ngivglyar coconseniee lr a merckagh hasu noareason a refud qOnD'#y know thw y/ahof objectsquot; "I t . aS hasimsly saysoahofd'esot inoHSI t hama ryiy g.uot; "NoD shu gat ineeina c, w aby gave e lshme?uot; saP> "Nohanispt i OnW rewaMa hene w?nebase w himy dssi v tyh hi atenknifen a ueeei poy g.nd strecee.g hittaialeeter.ath abIaarefud u a wama ry.nd stsohfelyoimiwh hemyeneer a'Mapla.s "SuJulide.oyr kreot inengag fr thArkwrirt quot; "I t . aho noengag fr thyr k. our one nsseteeridn th abIowld hat inma ryiy g.aomyeneer aought iaIat sh obey egrt rtobuta Ias nere iyls ieldglyaur one cnounabefhe at aldtter uot; "AtGi yomeoisplleeter.ntkv , a uh'ownsuowiiineo nnings. .uot; "AtNa.uot; "AtWhy?uot; "Atwadhat inoHSI ii, safat.d Jhnulide NP> coikedede tbocherhete di haa sttn te uay. ewh heansht "ThY knbu reekn pi posewhmdg. nfm th t.uot; sa said C "ThA. our fm th t.uot; saihe rete.ted "Thatyodispu gastu whw daalnespok nth Roe deor. ceatquot; "I Julide.omyhn a.uot; "Nohaamaickte wledg h OnB thmyeneer a?uot; saP> "Nohas a.hir o thacenseni uot; "Thhavope so: b shhafaereshe hate uy gabase w yr kreolD Je qranby i'sunephei hitMaaneru tq han't unow the co reason "Atwadh.uot; said Curlow iocalmly.quot;I a uhaink whI mcyabc ablwhtdhhpersue hiwahwaneo seeoreason "AtW reaut thr Hannings. ?uot; saP> "Nohath leeeina imnwh abIave e lshy g.nd stw aby gave e lshlme & qT daaInth lepoithe hefutilit oofhikedg fo yod ene flboined wasaystk kOccHe mcyabc i slislyu thirtiinhesesehhdccopOccHe oht Mre lb buoeryqoffhit bthe i&eime uot; saP> twistful. tbcOH. Ituot;Nor.t unwehbeoplaitwh heen d a?uot; saP> "NoNa.uot; LoSaxon dr wianbrk heef relief "NoNexteweek.WhIfhher objecti ooisnaoquesons. oshmenn .ny kncan/n a s buor salte sholcaefhe at ince tu anrd beinherit fquot; "CaAunabSelisa's sixoltghsa s doyk s!OnW y?uot; saP> "NoBause w Inve enght hmenn oo yousobeer.nd stw eneranby i dies Ie s a lebe klmoshaa mledgonairg.aoinn't unlike u anrd g he i&monn .uot; saP> "NoB shy groreason?uot; saP> "Nohard benoneath abIacanaeeinay k canabuyer s "Thhan'at inmind.uot; "ThMyndardg h!uot; "Not thInnoubtedamyIf a.uot; said Cunulidehtearful. "Athasuld haater saburd besuct i ony g.ep tnheught hlte evidceceht shsha'sano. uot; "NoY kiloshaur a hea oo yoe caromcei.uot; said Cuh. nlor. heuot;I b than't unshldehus ain a yanerelaut the comchr t.aoins a. ha s bugrtqsimheohdcope cosese "Ats. .htt d isubest.uot; said Cunulide, i the enewo s lk fre wardsuhe hebud.or./P> suld have en a nopleoely

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happyaw that raina omisuerstati tg los rgacd n fruptobutaeh tiserela gloomy eexcreibno & qAoparewy. th ns ad io thss Loach t'nedee ansti lehcloude uttpl sueshi e hittpir liv. OP>88
Whnnings. hw nelt brk Js. orooms.pconsidnwh abheh suld habud.qvexteia nonnecti oowh het mocase "ThNa. uot; res.meep tn egt sout io thrlow i.ob shwas unablwhthdfl. o rim bcoh.sa cnudte y veunts.ItMoreoperplex aettan/ever. nnings. asirnyg hi a t iw ararlow i' orooms.pvedireurnlyu thihiauo aOccHe nld hane pono ww wimovthul inatplneardafm thrlow i.oi the eny k t natanispt iaaopredl inslislyu thgk. ea yaaaibnati c xtanerng. .hw ileelt brk buexpt i on i&aiend. . b shsti leemergas net oaopredi c osth asisiioo & qA ni poo.meeeo e medoorta thnnings. h ught iaat retui hw ne/rhbert ca bcolaso. aHwes nednatinsy. disaopoitMaw daaDrudga me hiriso lopredi c IP> "Atal. tuot; said Cunnings. ns arply.quot:I wt d isuitquot; "Thhafoow ie uttplladyhy knadt. sir uot; "Atr OcHwr e? Yes uot; saP> "NoShe lrfonr ao se w in Hampstki ud stw lk frdo aattplhill /qTh.rga s gaetokodecab ie uin anher a ItHwrecabostopp Rhhaontten se w th Roraquito aain Soh . aSiwceot daaInve en a hwatchg hee cause w, buta Iard benom sn ts. OcHwr eoainstOuot; saP> "NoShe ishSenoraaGredos'adu.t.uot; "NoNo, si heshe ist u.aoInme hiiend. suwh heanboyicaed heGibr. ep8212; " "NoYes.aoHeiisha pe?f Je cause w IfWl. quot; "Thhage rim andri wn yotwa.uot; "NoHumph! aleexpt iahe hasuen a thlsheoovhsh i&ehngut.ItWl, th nispthu anredlbnymdg. lreain?uot; saP> "Nohareardat lreGibr. evediter sasn ts. OcHwr e. aHwenispt inep tnhshkn thh sane i sir.uot; flasheef joynpaib Maacro.conounaeni c oshnnings. aseuintnetthtn te uay. efe Jhisaderstlg shath abhe mht iet in ctrayuhe hebusatisfacrn. te fclt /uot;Nor OcHwr eiishraquito a's du.t.uot; "NoNo, si hepard. i aahast ungoiage auno IqLeastwayshe hebudu.t.oihittp'siisosu a a pers o. hasuter sasncaf otn nie caause w uot; saP> "NoPerhapsraqquito aaseesar cosecrete uot; "Call. tuot; said CuDrudga pensively.quot:I she tt paiehweniei hbyiaisiidtebud.or.hr Hannings. qOnD#y knwant t hawatchafurer a.ahsia?uot; saP> "NoYes.aoKn phy grheyehooettplSoh ause w, a. oahld spr OcHwr ei ireaopred.afnow ier o else?uot; saP> "NoYes. Sia Its. OcHwr eot cnewalki t do aattplhillhnropp Rhaiismaina ba uot; "NoAd!OnHe y gagoiaitquot; "I t . aS hawaMatoons arpnfonhma OnIat shpicking it upaencshesh omisb Mait endoo.meeeo cla m ir thbsre toihe reacdeat tIn hatishop.euir hr ao a skerchief s nei sidt.beit itk k.ha. oahwa ge tdashledg h OnB thttplque saltg. .hsi he isut mes uot; saP> "NoWt res saaed JeJnings. asikedg fkeen. tbcoe comctOcP> "NoOt.aa sange nnsano. es fiineo knocksy gad'wn. sir uot; "AtWl, thi thwty ahld st unalladyhe w s aoId isunudte arhquot; saP> "Nohti. . sir aoMyewifene ws s aoBuretui hw nealque sasmell /qA itthth niaim Gnahlst st une w s sabursteoutuDrudgaOcP> "NoSe i nt.nkreoeffemi ioeupnoughothadohsa.uot; "Thhan.naeenay knwh abpuzzleat tayeoncetuo; said Cue coderstlg .& quot;Noaer tewatchg heraquito a's se w fonhse iati .ahap thanher aahfelw ie ot.aa s weniee l h.e hfi. u a go eo seeo henapolic lut thse ia mceter.n a uh/spok neo Insct ionhTwin egreMro henRextot dnatriet /qHcawasad ooehisudeskode a skerchief a uaefewlarticl. wnh ihhad justuen a te pm fm thaenataw o had en a krrestcd fonhpaibn foalseacoi.s "SuOh!uot; "NoTh, onataw nei ao e hittp cells.nd sth isut lb brght iaebstre tothth amagnatrioeue i&morng. &Ttey searcdeatsimhandu to hirishwasa tkerchief fe Jhim uot; "Thht , ot innudte arhhtdhd e t?uot; saP> "NoNo.sSia ItBuretui hnata8212; unow thr.sune ia8212; u woo sa tkerchiefa./qT d searcderh ught iaat res neongaetohnaty.uot; sahsd Cu Drudga.qwh het moglimm s hia smila.quot:I a uto hion uot; saP> "Nol n' y kneeina ta leem.s?uot; saaed JeJnings. eimpatie. lyOcP> "NoBause w ttplha skerchief s nes het mos.meeperfu tasohe hebuha skerchief ofe. OcHwr eoInpickedup./qT d romceialnesmeld ithI sheught t ohis ance g tk knfonhe nbag./qT d s sange nna s busano. eat relalnghit iait justuanesl. he lam nono Jiineo y k knkreo interesse uin r OcHwr e. si heso oihitti hnatae ws t mos.mees " "NoOto'gesa &Y anrd bea i onv ty wise. nee comctd "ThAthaoplace neareRextot OnHe s netryg. n thgtriantri wnandu ge aa s ledg htu212; an t w I false./qT d insct ionhwledasuowiiinneo y k.esir & nA itanher aaque saltg. .hr

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Hannings. jiti hnata had se iara. ha s aa bottle ohipetroleum ooehim uot; "ThHumph! aPerhpsq
gai teeridneo setofireneo se iaplace "NoNo.ssi het inneareRextot uot; "ThAthwh abtsoh t s e
comctdarrestcdquot; "ThAthni e laso nht i.ItHeiish Jjai,oi thwi lebe brght iaeupnbutt&mornq.
one nc arga efhpaibn foalseamonn .uot; saP> "Noh'ownikedei tohit,uDrudgaOcoId isusange
nnaut the cos buta ttp'simcyabc nomdg, a nie camchr t.aoT comctdnld haeang.i buyes hi atenkl. o.
OcHwr eoe ws.aoGo tk kntohSoh aandu watchae cause w IfLdeh mwaow th fe. OcHwr eoce
hseout.aandu wtp'siahwagoes uot; saP> "NoYes, sir.uot; comctdt shgongannings, hw lke
tuplanthdo aa isootemoia ka greatnstawa efhexcit mcei OnHe s nebeginhaseeo hend. oshth a mchr
t.aoT athe cos spbeoe wdhbyiaim Gnwho s nehpaibn foalsea coi.sontnfi ae uh, oideahat d iths nese
ianpeculiaresign wtp'sbyie ca mwer, ne hittplga recogniz heonenn aher a Itife. OcHwr eoreallyls ne
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thht cafacraosh inheghoststhioewnh ihso'sano, minde t a hlshladyh sld spt inbelie y dases
y/ahoftreat.&Roexposure.nd stese ie halled her o s nea ni po.the medoor,oi the i&eimeannings. i
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tiina a u feaiadryk circl. rnd it i&es. wc aettan/ er s.nd sth lean her avg.i ooehisucan qOnHe s
neperfesy. dreibedhash usualasa theeeae udissteCueo be iend. l OcP> "NoIham gla u a seeoy
k.eLd Jeranby ituot; said Cue cotective. ,rw cnehe co lshge. lemctdt sh cnommodaiedqwh het moc
airqnot:I rd bey gn hatishbrk saP> "NoTha khy g.ay. OnB thIecl spt inelreanituot; said
Curanby ith brk h egrt avg.i "ThT e Costair&of.ny krs kreotryg. ,hr Haannings. qO qIoamenom sony
k t or'so sano, eas I was uot; saP> "NoYogad't unlt hiatenpiccurgaohis aler.nm lord uot; ____
"AtCatnu aeexpt iaa dyg. nmctdts?uot; saP> "NoDygt htu212; anor.nno.ny kn8212; " "NoDygt
hhuot; "Atwaamasurthslow i wi lebe se ry.uot; "SuYesu8212; Chbert coisoaagoo hfelw
i.aoInshld splikeOta seeo rim happyaa theettledqwh hess LoSaxon bsre toI d w.Itt thqraquito aawi
ledoiahwanbestq thhinderie camchchOquot; saP> "NoShe meyasoon ve enght htdhd eonlt hiaer
tesc.lf a.uot; "Noat red#y knsusct ihher of?uot; "NoIhn.t unieinay knyeeo lqIone no proofs
OnB thle noasusciciouMOquot; saP> "NoShe isha bahaman. tuot; said Cue co lshmam NoThha
nott paihat O nA its gasledastopo.thnomdg, a hama ryirhbert c lqBut he i&. ot inwtaia Iec.meeeo
seeoy knaut t.hr Hannings. qOnYoga/aed Jemynrermiibn m to go buor samyn se w at Rextot?uot;
saP> "Nohanis /qA itI t s comg. a h-dayn thgtriatenpermiibn m ontntfi ae uot; saP> ____
"NoThdaaInamase ryi otsa ny kncant ingo or sai uot; saP> "NoWtyaw o?uot; saaed JeJnings, ass
erini pow y/Ld Jeranby ihhad chge nCu h. oml. o8212; h egrt rartlyad, "ThI enly want aa8212; " ____
"Nos. !Ns. !uot; "NoBurwiadn ao8212; Rextot!quot; "SuYesOcoId caht iafirenia se iay. elaso
nht i.naut theht i o'clo kOc qT drgas nea higt wl. obldwg. ,hi the he se w hasuuen a burwiae l h.e
grnd i enly e tqnb s.h s e coweae ai hasuen a dr ,athhasholcaefh inhetreesu stshrubsu stoderstgrwth
Je caparkave gen dlikewiseqO qIoameinfo ae uo h aber sy h egrwh h Je cacircl.aefhe at s inaised
waseapreMroashes.aoOto'gea burw egreMrRo t.uot; sachuckleJeranby i OP> "AtD'#y knsusct
ihe he se w s neseyeon fire?uot; saP> "NoOhilo slfqInd'.aoE tneught hlte weae ai. o oc. Iod't
unaouk whbutt&canabgea seseheMrsponaneousM combuswn m NoProbab. tese i trampo8212;
seaP> "NoNa.uot; "NoAd!uot; said Curanby ithickte s oeneasuot;Noshay knenk wu8212; "
saP> "NoThdre canabgenonnoubt lut thit.nm lord aoTh. om Gnsetofirenu a wae cause w IfPeople
d't unca ryibottles ohipetroleum dut th 'r yolenomdg. .uot; "Not thwty ahld shr ietofirenneliberaw
e ne lmyn se wquot; "ThAtht gai ati c h hie caSaul family?uot; saP> Jeranby ihslt bolt uprht
i.Ituot;Noat red#y knreanquot; "ThHumph! ald isuraer aia ng tosrory ItBuretui hnatawho s
nehcaht ia usedhaapartulararnkl. oeMrs heHikui aae ws it elsa. d str aiauwy.hr OcHwr e.uot; "Atr
OcHwr e? She isht inraquito a's du.tOquot; saP> "NoShe tolshmei g.lf a e res gas n uot; ____

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CHAPTER I. THE COTTAGE

"What IS your name?"

"Susan Grant, Miss Loach."

"Call me ma'am. I am Miss Loach only to my equals. Your age?"

"Twenty-five, ma'am."

"Do you know your work as parlor-maid thoroughly?"

"Yes, ma'am. I was two years in one place and six months in another, ma'am. Here are my characters from both places, ma'am."

As the girl spoke she laid two papers before the sharp old lady who questioned her. But Miss Loach did not look at them immediately. She examined the applicant with such close attention that a faint color tinted the girl's cheeks and she dropped her eyes. But, in her turn, by stealthy glances, Susan Grant tactfully managed to acquaint herself with the looks of her possible mistress. The thoughts of each woman ran as follows, —

Miss Loach to herself. "Humph! Plain-looking, sallow skin, rather fine eyes and a slack mouth. Not badly dressed for a servant, and displays some taste. She might turn my old dresses at a pinch. Sad expression, as though she had something on her mind. Honest-looking, but I think a trifle inquisitive, seeing how she examined the room and is stealing glances at me. Talks sufficiently, but in a low voice. Fairly intelligent, but not too much so. Might be secretive. Humph!"

The thoughts of Susan Grant. "Handsome old lady, probably nearly sixty. Funny dress for ten o'clock in the morning. She must be rich, to wear purple silk and old lace and lovely rings at this hour. A hard mouth, thin nose, very white hair and very black eyebrows. Got a temper I should say, and is likely to prove an exacting mistress. But I want a quiet home, and the salary is good. I'll try it, if she'll take me."

Had either mistress or maid known of each other's thoughts, a conclusion to do business might not have been arrived at. As it was, Miss Loach, after a few more questions, appeared satisfied. All the time she kept a pair of very black eyes piercingly fixed on the girl's face, as though she would read her very soul. But Susan had nothing to conceal, so far as Miss Loach could gather, so in the end she resolved to engage her.

"I think you'll do," she said nodding, and poking up the fire, with a shiver, although the month was June. "The situation is a quiet one. I hope you have no followers."

"No, ma'am," said Susan and flushed crimson.

"Ha!" thought Miss Loach, "she has been in love — jilted probably. All the better, as she won't bring any young men about my quiet house."

"Will you not read my characters, ma'am?"

Miss Loach pushed the two papers towards the applicant. "I judge for myself," said she calmly. "Most characters I read, are full of lies. Your looks are enough for me. Where were you last?"

"With a Spanish lady, ma'am!"

"A Spanish lady!" Miss Loach dropped the poker she was holding, with a clatter, and frowned so deeply that her black eyebrows met over her high nose. "And her name?"

"Senora Gredos, ma'am!"

The eyes of the old maid glittered, and she made a clutch at her breast as though the reply had taken away her breath. "Why did you leave?" she asked, regaining her composure.

Susan looked uncomfortable. "I thought the house was too gay, ma'am."

"What do you mean by that? Can any house be too gay for a girl of your years?"

"I have been well brought up, ma'am," said Susan quietly; "and my religious principles are dear to me. Although she is an invalid, ma'am, Senora Gredos was very gay. Many people came to her house and played cards, even on Sunday," added Susan under her breath. But low as she spoke, Miss Loach heard.

"I have whist parties here frequently," she said drily; "nearly every evening four friends of mine call to play. Have you any objection to enter my service on that account?"

"Oh, no, ma'am. I don't mind a game of cards. I play 'Patience' myself when alone. I mean gambling — there was a lot of money lost and won at Senora Gredos' house!"

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"Yet she is an invalid I think you said?"

"Yes, ma'am. She was a dancer, I believe, and fell in some way, so as to break her leg or hurt her back. She has been lying on a couch for two years unable to move. Yet she has herself wheeled into the drawing-room and watches the gentlemen play cards. She plays herself sometimes!"

Miss Loach again directed one of her piercing looks at the pale face of the girl. "You are too inquisitive and too talkative," she said suddenly, "therefore you won't suit me. Good-day."

Susan was quite taken aback. "Oh, ma'am, I hope I've said nothing wrong. I only answered your questions."

"You evidently take note of everything you see, and talk about it."

"No, ma'am," said the girl earnestly. "I really hold my tongue."

"When it suits you," retorted Miss Loach. "Hold it now and let me think!"

While Miss Loach, staring frowningly into the fire, debated inwardly as to the advisability of engaging the girl, Susan looked timidly round the room. Curiously enough, it was placed in the basement of the cottage, and was therefore below the level of the garden. Two fairly large windows looked on to the area, which had been roofed with glass and turned into a conservatory. Here appeared scarlet geraniums and other bright-hued flowers, interspersed with ferns and delicate grasses. Owing to the position of the room and the presence of the glass roof, only a subdued light filtered into the place, but, as the day was brilliant with sunshine, the apartment was fairly well illuminated. Still, on a cloudy day, Susan could imagine how dull it would be. In winter time the room must be perfectly dark.

It was luxuriously furnished, in red and gold. The carpet and curtains were of bright scarlet, threaded with gold. The furniture, strangely enough, was of white polished wood upholstered in crimson satin fringed with gold. There were many pictures in large gilded frames and many mirrors similarly encircled with gilded wood. The grate, fender and fire-irons were of polished brass, and round the walls were numerous electric lamps with yellow shades. The whole room represented a bizarre appearance, flamboyant and rather tropical in looks. Apparently Miss Loach was fond of vivid colors. There was no piano, nor were there books or papers, and the only evidence as to how Miss Loach passed her time revealed itself in a work-basket and a pack of cards. Yet, at her age, Susan thought that needlework would be rather trying, even though she wore no glasses and her eyes seemed bright and keen. She was an odd old lady and appeared to be rich. "I'll engage you," said Miss Loach abruptly; "get your box and be here before five o'clock this afternoon. I am expecting some friends at eight o'clock. You must be ready to admit them. Now go!"

"But, ma'am, I —"

"In this house," interrupted Miss Loach imperiously, "no one speaks to me, unless spoken to by me. You understand!"

"Yes, ma'am," replied Susan timidly, and obeyed the finger which pointed to the door. Miss Loach listened to the girl's footsteps on the stairs, and sat down when she heard the front door close. But she was up again almost in a moment and pacing the room. Apparently the conversation with Susan Grant afforded her food for reflection. And not very palatable food either, judging from her expression.

The newly-engaged servant returned that same afternoon to the suburban station, which tapped the district of Rexton. A trunk, a bandbox and a bag formed her humble belongings, and she arranged with a porter that these should be wheeled in a barrow to Rose Cottage, as Miss Loach's abode was primly called. Having come to terms, Susan left the station and set out to walk to the place. Apart from the fact that she saved a cab fare, she wished to obtain some idea of her surroundings, and therefore did not hurry herself.

It was a bright June day with a warm green earth basking under a blue and cloudless sky. But even the sunshine could not render Rexton beautiful. It stretched out on all sides from the station new and raw. The roads were finished, with asphalt footpaths and stone curbing, the lamp-posts had apparently only been lately erected, and lines of white fences divided the roads from gardens yet in their infancy. Fronting these were damp-looking red brick villas, belonging to small clerks and petty tradesmen. Down one street was a row of shops filled with the necessaries of civilization; and round the corner, an aggressively new church of yellow brick with a tin roof and a wooden steeple stood in the middle of an untilled space. At the end of one street a glimpse could be caught of the waste country beyond, not yet claimed by the ferry-builder. A railway embankment bulked against the horizon, and closed the view in an unsightly manner. Rexton was as ugly as it was new.

Losing her way, Susan came to the ragged fringe of country environing the new suburb, and paused there, to

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take in her surroundings. Across the fields to the left she saw an unfinished mansion, large and stately, rising amidst a forest of pines. This was girdled by a high brick wall which looked older than the suburb itself. Remembering that she had seen this house behind the cottage of Miss Loach, the girl used it as a landmark, and turning down a side street managed to find the top of a crooked lane at the bottom of which Rose Cottage was situated. This lane showed by its very crookedness that it belonged to the ancient civilization of the district. Here were no paths, no lamps, no aggressively new fences and raw brick houses. Susan, stepping down the slight incline, passed into quite an old world, smacking of the Georgian times, leisurely and quaint. On either side of the lane, old-fashioned cottages, with whitewash walls and thatched roofs, stood amidst gardens filled with unclipped greenery and homely flowers. Quickset hedges, ragged and untrimmed, divided these from the roadway, and to add to the rural look one garden possessed straw bee-hives. Here and there rose ancient elm-trees and grass grew in the roadway. It was a blind lane and terminated in a hedge, which bordered a field of corn. To the left was a narrow path running between hedges past the cottages and into the country.

Miss Loach's house was a mixture of old and new. Formerly it had been an unpretentious cottage like the others, but she had added a new wing of red brick built in the most approved style of the jerry-builder, and looking like the villas in the more modern parts of Rexton. The crabbed age and the uncultured youth of the old and new portions, planted together cheek by jowl, appeared like ill-coupled clogs and quite out of harmony. The thatched and tiled roofs did not seem meet neighbors, and the whitewash walls of the old-world cottage looked dingy beside the glaring redness of the new villa. The front door in the new part was reached by a flight of dazzling white steps. From this, a veranda ran across the front of the cottage, its rustic posts supporting rose-trees and ivy. On the cottage side appeared an old garden, but the new wing was surrounded by lawns and decorated with carpet bedding. A gravel walk divided the old from the new, and intersected the garden. At the back, Susan noted again the high brick wall surrounding the half-completed mansion. Above this rose tall trees, and the wall itself was overgrown with ivy. It apparently was old and concealed an unfinished palace of the sleeping beauty, so ragged and wild appeared the growth which peeped over the guardian wall.

With a quickness of perception unusual in her class, Susan took all this in, then rang the bell. There was no back door, so far as she could see, and she thought it best to enter as she had done in the morning. But the large fat woman who opened the door gave her to understand that she had taken a liberty.

"Of course this morning and before engaging, you were a lady," said the cook, hustling the girl into the hall, "but now being the housemaid, Miss Loach won't be pleased at your touching the front bell."

"I did not see any other entrance," protested Susan.

"Ah," said the cook, leading the way down a few steps into the thatched cottage, which, it appeared was the servants' quarters, "you looked down the area as is natural-like. But there ain't none, it being a conservitery!"

"Why does Miss Loach live in the basement?" asked Susan, on being shown into a comfortable room which answered the purpose of a servants' hall.

The cook resented this question. "Ah!" said she with a snort, "and why does a miller wear a white 'at, Miss Grant, that being your name I take it. Don't you ask no questions but if you must know, Miss Loach have weak eyes and don't like glare. She lives like a rabbit in a burrow, and though the rooms on the ground floor are sich as the King might in'abit, she don't come up often save to eat. She lives in the basement room where you saw her, Miss Grant, and she sleeps in the room orf. When she eats, the dining-room above is at her service. An' I don't see why she shouldn't," snorted the cook.

"I don't mean any — "

"No offence being given none is taken," interrupted cook, who seemed fond of hearing her own wheezy voice. "Emily Pill's my name, and I ain't ashamed of it, me having been cook to Miss Loach for years an' years and years. But if you had wished to behave like a servant, as you are," added she with emphasis, "why didn't you run round by the veranda and so get to the back where the kitchen is. But you're one of the new class of servants, Miss Grant, 'aughty and upsetting."

"I know my place," said Susan, taking off her hat.

"And I know mine," said Emily Pill, "me being cook and consequently the mistress of this servants' 'all. An' I'm an old-fashioned servant myself, plain in my 'abits and dress." This with a disparaging look at the rather smart costume of the newly-arrived housemaid. "I don't 'old with cockes feathers and fal-de-dals on 'umble folk myself, not but what I could afford 'em if I liked, being of saving 'abits and a receiver of good wages. But I'm a

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friendly pusson and not 'ard on a good-lookin' gal, not that you are what I call 'andsome."

Susan seated beside the table, looked weary and forlorn, and the good-natured heart of the cook was touched, especially when Susan requested her to refrain from the stiff name of Miss Grant.

"You an' me will be good friends, I've no doubt," said Emily, "an' you can call me Mrs. Pill, that being the name of my late 'usband, who died of gin in excess. The other servants is housemaid and page, though to be sure he's more of a man-of-all-work, being forty if he's a day, and likewise coachman, when he drives out Miss Loach in her donkey carriage. Thomas is his name, my love." The cook was rapidly becoming more and more friendly, "and the housemaid is called Geraldine, for which 'eaven forgives her parents, she bein' spotty and un'healthy and by no means a Bow-Bell's 'eroine, which 'er name makes you think of. But there's a dear, I'm talking brilliant, when you're dying for a cup of tea, and need to get your box unpacked, by which I mean that I sees the porter with the barrer."

The newly-arrived parlor-maid was pleased by this friendly if ungrammatical reception, and thought she would like the cook in spite of her somewhat tiresome tongue. For the next hour she was unpacking her box and arranging a pleasant little room at the back. She shared this with the spotty Geraldine, who seemed to be a good-natured girl. Apparently Miss Loach looked after her servants and made them comfortable. Thomas proved to be amiable if somewhat stupid, and welcomed Susan to tea affably but with sheepish looks. As the servants seemed pleasant, the house comfortable, and as the salary was excellent, Susan concluded that she had — as the saying is — fallen on her feet.

The quartette had tea in the servants' hall, and there was plenty of well-cooked if plain victuals. Miss Loach dined at half-past six and Susan assumed her dress and cap. She laid the table in a handsome dining-room, equally as garish in color as the apartment below. The table appointments were elegant, and Mrs. Pill served a nice little meal to which Miss Loach did full justice. She wore the same purple dress, but with the addition of more jewellery. Her sharp eyes followed Susan about the room as she waited, and at the end of the dinner she made her first observation. "You know your work I see," she said. "I hope you will be happy here!"

"I think I will, ma'am," said Susan, with a faint sigh.

"You have had trouble?" asked Miss Loach quickly.

"Yes, ma'am!"

"You must tell me about it to-morrow," said the old lady rising. "I like to gain the confidence of my servants. Now bring my coffee to the room below. At eight, three people will arrive — a lady and two gentlemen. You will show them into the sitting-room and put out the card-table. Then you can go to the kitchen and wait till I ring. Be sure you don't come till I do ring," and Miss Loach emphasized this last order with a flash of her brilliant eyes.

Susan took the coffee to the sitting-room in the basement and then cleared the table. Shortly before eight o'clock there was a ring at the front door. She opened it to a tall lady, with gray hair, who leaned on an ebony cane. With her were two men, one a rather rough foolish-looking fellow, and the other tall, dark, and well-dressed in an evening suit. A carriage was just driving away from the gate. As the tall lady entered, a breath of strong perfume saluted Susan's nostrils. The girl started and peered into the visitor's face. When she returned to the kitchen her own was as white as chalk.

CHAPTER II. THE CRIME

The kitchen was rather spacious, and as neat and clean as the busy hands of Mrs. Pill could make it. An excellent range polished to excess occupied one end of the room; a dresser with blue and white china adorned the other. On the outside wall copper pots and pans, glittering redly in the firelight, were ranged in a shining row. Opposite this wall, a door led into the interior of the house, and in it was the outer entrance. A large deal table stood in the center of the room, and at this with their chairs drawn up, Geraldine and the cook worked. The former was trimming a picture-hat of the cheapest and most flamboyant style, and the latter darned a coarse white stocking intended for her own use. By the fire sat Thomas, fair-haired and stupid in looks, who read tit-bits from the Daily Mail for the delectation of Mrs. Pill and Geraldine.

"Gracious 'eavens, Susan," cried the cook, when Susan returned, after admitting the visitors, "whatever's come to you?"

"I've had a turn," said Susan faintly, sitting by the fire and rubbing her white cheeks.

At once Mrs. Pill was alive with curiosity. She questioned the new parlor-maid closely, but was unable to extract information. Susan simply said that she had a weak heart, and set down her wan appearance to the heat. "An' on that accounts you sits by the fire," said Mrs. Pill scathingly. "You're one of the secret ones you are. Well, it ain't no business of mine, thank 'eaven, me being above board in everythink. I 'spose the usual lot arrived, Susan?"

"Two gentlemen and a lady," replied Susan, glad to see that the cook's thoughts were turning in another direction.

"Gentlemen!" snorted Mrs. Pill, "that Clancy one ain't. Why the missus should hobnob with sich as he, I don't know nohow."

"Ah, but the other's a real masher," chimed in Geraldine, looking up from her millinery; "such black eyes, that go through you like a gimlet, and such a lovely moustache. He dresses elegant too."

"Being Miss Loach's lawyer, he have a right to dress well," said Mrs. Pill, rubbing her nose with the stocking, "and Mr. Clancy, I thinks, is someone Mr. Jarvey Hale's helpin', he being good and kind."

Here Geraldine gave unexpected information.

"He's a client of Mr. Hale's," she said indistinctly, with her mouth full of pins, "and has come in for a lot of money. Mr. Hale's introducing him into good society, to make a gent of him."

"Silk purses can't be made out of sows' ears," growled the cook, "an' who told you all this Geraldine?"

"Miss Loach herself, at different times."

Susan thought it was strange that a lady should gossip to this extent with her housemaid, but she did not take much interest in the conversation, being occupied with her own sad thoughts. But the next remark of Geraldine made her start. "Mr. Clancy's father was a carpenter," said the girl.

"My father was a carpenter," remarked Susan, sadly.

"Ah," cried Mrs. Pill with alacrity, "now you're speaking sense. Ain't he alive?"

"No. He was poisoned!"

The three servants, having the love of horrors peculiar to the lower classes, looked up with interest. "Lor!" said Thomas, speaking for the first time and in a thick voice, "who poisoned him?"

"No one knows. He died five years ago, and left mother with me and four little brothers to bring up. They're all doing well now, though, and I help mother, as they do. They didn't want me to go out to service, you know," added Susan, warming on finding sympathetic listeners. "I could have stopped at home with mother in Stepney, but I did not want to be idle, and took a situation with a widow lady at Hampstead. I stopped there a year. Then she died and I went as parlor-maid to a Senora Gredos. I was only there six months," and she sighed.

"Why did you leave?" asked Geraldine.

Susan grew red. "I wished for a change," she said curtly.

But the housemaid did not believe her. She was a sharp girl and her feelings were not refined. "It's just like these men —"

"I said nothing about men," interrupted Susan, sharply.

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"Well, then, a man. You've been in love, Susan, and — "

"No. I am not in love," and Susan colored more than ever.

"Why, it's as plain as cook that you are, now," tittered Geraldine.

"Hold your noise and leave the gal be," said Mrs. Pill, offended by the allusion to her looks, "if she's in love she ain't married, and no more she ought to be; if she'd had a husband like mine, who drank every day in the week and lived on my earnings. He's dead now, an' I gave 'im a 'andsome tombstone with the text: 'Go thou and do likewise' on it, being a short remark, lead letterin' being expensive. Ah well, as I allays say, 'Flesh is grass with us all.'"

While the cook maundered on Thomas sat with his dull eyes fixed on the flushed face of Susan "What about the poisoning?" he demand.

"It was this way," said Susan. "Father was working at some house in these parts — "

"What! Down here?"

"Yes, at Rexton, which was then just rising into notice as a place for gentlefolks. He had just finished with a house when he came home one day with his wages. He was taken ill and died. The doctor said he had taken poison, and he died of it. Arsenic it was," explained Susan to her horrified; audience.

"But why did he poison himself?" asked Geraldine.

"I don't know: no one knew. He was gettin' good wages, and said he would make us all rich."

"Ah," chimed in Thomas suddenly, "in what way, Susan?"

"He had a scheme to make our fortunes. What it was, I don't know. But he said he would soon be worth plenty of money. Mother thought someone must have poisoned him, but she could not find out. As we had a lot of trouble then, it was thought father had killed himself to escape it, but I know better. If he had lived, we should have been rich. He was on an extra job down here," she ended.

"What was the extra job?" asked Thomas curiously.

Susan shook her head. "Mother never found out. She went to the house he worked on, which is near the station. They said father always went away for three hours every afternoon by an arrangement with the foreman. Where he went, no one knew. He came straight from this extra job home and died of poison. Mother thought," added Susan, looking round cautiously, "that someone must have had a wish to get rid of father, he knowing too much."

"Too much of what, my gal?" asked Mrs. Pill, with open mouth.

"Ah! That's what I'd like to find out," said Susan garrulously, "but nothing was ever known, and father was buried as a suicide. Then mother, having me and my four brothers, married again, and I took the name of her new husband."

"Then your name ain't really Grant?" asked Geraldine.

"No! It's Maxwell, father being Scotch and a clever workman. Susan Maxwell is my name, but after the suicide — if it was one — mother felt the disgrace so, that she made us all call ourselves Grant. So Susan Grant I am, and my brothers of the old family are Grant also."

"What do you mean by the old family?"

"Mother has three children by her second husband, and that's the new family," explained Susan, "but we are all Grants, though me and my four brothers are really Maxwells. But there," she said, looking round quietly and rather pleased at the interest with which she was regarded, "I've told you a lot. Tell me something!"

Mrs. Pill was unwilling to leave the fascinating subject of suicide, but her desire to talk got the better of her, and she launched into a long account of her married life. It seemed she had buried the late Mr. Pill ten years before, and since that time had been with Miss Loach as cook. She had saved money and could leave service at once, if she so chose. "But I should never be happy out of my kitchen, my love," said Mrs. Pill, biting a piece of darning-cotton, "so here I stay till missus goes under."

"And she won't do that for a long time," said Thomas. "Missus is strong. A good, kind, healthy lady."

Geraldine followed with an account of herself, which related chiefly to her good looks and many lovers, and the tyranny of mistresses. "I will say, however, that after being here a year, I have nothing to complain of."

"I should think not," grunted Thomas. "I've been twenty years with Miss Loach, and a good 'un she is. I entered her service when I was fifteen, and she could have married an earl — Lord Caranby wanted to marry her — but she wouldn't."

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"Lor," said Mrs. Pill, "and ain't that his lordship's nephew who comes here at times?"

"Mr. Mallow? Yes! That's him. He's fond of the old lady."

"And fond of her niece, too," giggled Geraldine; "not but what Miss Saxon is rather sweet."

"Rather sweet," growled the cook, "why, she's a lovely gal, sich as you'll never be, in spite of your fine name. An' her brother, Mr. Basil, is near as 'andsome as she."

"He ain't got the go about him Miss Juliet have," said Thomas.

"A lot you know," was the cook's retort. "Why Mr. Basil quarrelled with missus a week ago and gave her proper, and missus ain't no easy person to fight with, as I knows. Mr. Basil left the house and ain't been near since."

"He's a fool, then," said Thomas. "Missus won't leave him a penny."

"She'll leave it to Miss Juliet Saxon, which is just the same. I never did see brother and sister so fond of one another as those two. I believe she'd put the 'air of 'er 'head — and lovely 'air it is, too — under his blessed feet to show him she loves him."

"She'd do the same by Mr. Mallow," said Geraldine, tittering.

Here Susan interrupted. "Who is the old lady who comes here?"

"Oh, she's Mrs. Herne," said the cook. "A cross, 'aughty old thing, who fights always. She's been coming here with Mr. Jarvey Hale and Mr. Clancy for the last three years. They play whist every evening and go away regular about ten. Missus let's 'em out themselves or else rings for me. Why, there's the bell now," and Mrs. Pill rose.

"No! I go," said Susan, rising also. "Miss Loach told me to come when she rang."

Mrs. Pill nodded and resumed her seat and her darning. "Lor bless you, my love, I ain't jealous," she said. "My legs ain't as young as they was. 'Urry, my dear, missus is a bad 'un to be kept waitin'."

Thus urged, Susan hastened to the front part of the house and down the stairs. The door of the sitting-room was open. She knocked and entered, to find Mr. Clancy, who looked rougher and more foolish than ever, standing by the table. Miss Loach, with a pack of cards on her lap, was talking, and Susan heard the concluding sentence as she entered the room.

"You're a fool, Clancy," said Miss Loach, emphatically. "You know Mrs. Herne doesn't like to be contradicted. You've sent her away in a fine rage, and she's taken Hale with her. Quite spoilt our game of — ah, here's Susan. Off with you, Clancy. I wish to be alone."

The man would have spoken, but Miss Loach silenced him with a sharp gesture and pointed to the door. In silence he went upstairs with Susan, and in silence left the house. It was a fine night, and Susan stopped for a moment at the door to drink in the fresh air. She heard the heavy footsteps of a policeman draw near and he passed the house, to disappear into the path on the opposite side of the road. When Susan returned to the kitchen she found supper ready. Soon the servants were seated at the table and talking brightly.

"Who does that house at the back belong to?" asked Susan.

"To Lord Caranby," said Thomas, although not directly addressed. "It's unfinished."

"Yes and shut up. Lord Caranby was in love with a lady and built that house for her. Before it was ready the lady died and Lord Caranby left the house as it was and built a high wall round it. He then went travelling and has been travelling ever since. He never married either, and his nephew, Mr. Cuthbert Mallow, is heir to the title."

"I thought you said Lord Caranby loved Miss Loach?"

"No, I didn't. I said she could have married him had she played her cards properly. But she didn't, and Lord Caranby went away. The lady who died was a friend of missus, and they were always together. I think missus and she were jealous of Lord Caranby, both loving him. But Miss Saul — that was the other lady — died, and Lord Caranby left the house as it stands, to go away."

"He won't allow anyone to set a foot in the house or grounds," said Mrs. Pill, "there ain't no gate in the wall —"

"No gate," echoed Susan astonished.

"Not a single 'ole as you could get a cat through. Round and round the place that fifteen-foot wall is built, and the park, as they calls it, is running as wild as a cow. Not a soul has set foot in that place for the last fifteen years. But I expect when Mr. Mallow comes in for the title he'll pull it down and build 'ouses. I'm sure he ought to: it's a shame seeing land wasted like that."

"Where is Lord Caranby now?"

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"He lives in London and never comes near this place," said Thomas.

"Is Miss Loach friendly with him now?" "No, she ain't. He treated her badly. She'd have been a better Lady Caranby than Miss Saul" — here Thomas started and raised a finger. "Eh! wasn't that the front door closing?"

All listened, but no sound could be heard. "Perhaps missus has gone to walk in the garding," said cook, "she do that at times."

"Did you show 'ern out?" asked Thomas, looking at Susan.

"Only Mr. Clancy," she answered, "the others had gone before. I heard what Miss Loach was saying. Mr. Clancy had quarrelled with Mrs. Herne and she had gone away with Mr. Hale. Then Miss Loach gave it to him hot and sent him away. She's all alone."

"I must have been mistaken about the door then," said he.

"Not at all," chimed in Mrs. Pill. "Missus is walking as she do do in the garding, singing and adornin' self with flowers."

After this poetic flight of fancy on the part of the cook, the supper ended. Thomas smoked a pipe and the housemaid cleared away. Mrs. Pill occupied her time in putting her few straggling locks in curl-papers.

While Susan was assisting Geraldine, the bell rang. All started. "I thought missus had gone to bed," cried the cook, getting up hurriedly. "She'll be in a fine rage if she finds us up. Go to bed, Geraldine, and you, Thomas. Susan, answer the bell. She don't like us not to be gettin' our beauty sleep. Bless me it's eleving."

The clock had just struck as Susan left the kitchen, and the three servants were bustling about so as to get to bed before their sharp-eyed old mistress found them. Susan went down the stairs. The door of the sitting-room was closed. She knocked but no voice told her to enter. Wondering if the bell had been rung by mistake, Susan knocked again, and again received no answer. She had a mind to retreat rather than face the anger of Miss Loach. But remembering that the bell had rung, she opened the door, determined to explain. Miss Loach was seated in her usual chair, but leaning back with a ghastly face. The glare of the electric lamp fixed in the ceiling, shone full on her white countenance, and also on something else. The bosom of her purple gown was disarranged, and the lace which adorned it was stained with blood. Startled by her looks Susan hurried forward and gazed searchingly into the face. There was no sign of recognition in the wide, staring eyes. Susan, quivering with dread, touched Miss Loach's shoulder. Her touch upset the body and it rolled on the floor. The woman was dead. With a shriek Susan recoiled and fell on her knees. Her cry speedily brought the other servants.

"Look!" cried Susan pointing, "she is dead — murdered!"

Geraldine and Mrs. Pill shrieked with horror. Thomas preserved his stolid look of composure.

CHAPTER III. A MYSTERIOUS DEATH

To be the husband of a celebrated woman is not an unmixed blessing. Mr. Peter Octagon found it to be so, when he married Mrs. Saxon, the widow of an eminent Q.C. She was a fine Junoesque tragic woman, who modelled herself on the portraits of the late Mrs. Siddons. Peter, on the contrary, was a small, meek, light-haired, short-sighted man, who had never done anything in his unromantic life, save accumulate a fortune as a law-stationer. For many years he lived in single blessedness, but when he retired with an assured income of three thousand a year, he thought he would marry. He had no relatives, having been brought up in a Foundling Hospital, and consequently, found life rather lonely in his fine Kensington house. He really did not care about living in such a mansion, and had purchased the property as a speculation, intending to sell it at a profit. But having fallen in with Mrs. Saxon, then a hard-up widow, she not only induced him to marry her, but, when married, she insisted that the house should be retained, so that she could dispense hospitality to a literary circle.

Mrs. Octagon was very literary. She had published several novels under the nom-de-plume of "Rowena." She had produced a volume of poems; she had written a play which had been produced at a matinee; and finally her pamphlets on political questions stamped her, in the opinion of her immediate circle, as a William Pitt in petticoats. She looked upon herself as the George Eliot of the twentieth century, and dated events from the time of her first success. "That happened before I became famous," she would say. "No, it was after I took the public by storm." And her immediate circle, who appreciated her cakes and ale, would agree with everything she said. The Kensington house was called "The Shrine of the Muses!" and this title was stamped on her envelopes and writing-paper, to the bewilderment of illiterate postmen. It sounded like the name of a public-house to them.

Peter was quite lost in the blaze of his wife's literary glory. He was a plain, homely, small man, as meek as a rabbit, fond of his garden and fireside, and nervous in society. Had he not committed the fatal mistake of wedding Mrs. Saxon, he would have taken a cottage in the country and cultivated flowers. As it was, he dwelt in town and was ordered to escort Mrs. Octagon when she chose to "blaze," as she put it, in her friends' houses. Also there was a reception every Friday when literary London gathered round "Rowena," and lamented the decline of Art. These people had never done anything to speak of, none of them were famous in any wide sense, but they talked of art with a big "A," though what they meant was not clear even to themselves. So far as could be ascertained Art, with a big "A," was concerned with something which did not sell, save to a select circle. Mrs. Octagon's circle would have shuddered collectively and individually at the idea of writing anything interesting, likely to be enjoyed by the toilers of modern days. Whatever pictures, songs, books or plays were written by anyone who did not belong to "The Circle," these were considered "pretty, but not Tart!" Anything successful was pronounced "Vulgar!" To be artistic in Mrs. Octagon's sense, a work had to possess obscurity, it had to be printed on the finest paper with selected type, and it had to be sold at a prohibitive price. In this way "Rowena" had produced her works, and her name was not known beyond her small coterie. All the same, she intimated that her renown was world-wide and that her fame would be commensurate with the existence of the Anglo-Saxon race. Mrs. Lee Hunter in the *Pickwick Papers*, also labored under the same delusion.

With Peter lived Mrs. Saxon's children by the eminent Q.C. Basil, who was twenty-five, and Juliet age twenty-two. They were both handsome and clever, but Juliet was the more sensible of the two. She detested the sham enthusiasm of The Circle, and appreciated Peter more than her mother did. Basil had been spoiled by his mother, who considered him a genius, and had produced a book of weak verse. Juliet was fond of her brother, but she saw his faults and tried to correct them. She wished to make him more of a man and less of an artistic fraud, for the young man really did possess talents. But the hothouse atmosphere of "The Shrine of the Muses!" would have ruined anyone possessed of genius, unless he had a strong enough nature to withstand the sickly adulation and false judgments of those who came there. Basil was not strong. He was pleasant, idle, rather vain, and a little inclined to be dissipated. Mrs. Octagon did not know that Basil was fond of dissipation. She thought him a model young Oxford man, and hoped he would one day be Laureate of England.

Afternoon tea was just ended, and several of Mrs. Octagon's friends had departed. Basil and Mr. Octagon were out, but the latter entered with a paper in his hand shortly after the last visitor took her leave. Mrs. Octagon, in a ruby-colored velvet, looking majestic and self-satisfied, was enthroned — the word is not too strong — in an

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arm-chair, and Juliet was seated opposite to her turning over the leaves of a new novel produced by one of The Circle. It was beautifully printed and bound, and beautifully written in "precious" English, but its perusal did not seem to afford her any satisfaction. Her attention wandered, and every now and then she looked at the door as though expecting someone to enter. Mrs. Octagon disapproved of Juliet's pale cheeks and want of attention to her own fascinating conversation, so, when alone, she took the opportunity to correct her.

"My child," said Mrs. Octagon, who always spoke in a tragic manner, and in a kind of blank-verse way, "to me it seems your cheeks are somewhat pale."

"I had no sleep last night," said Juliet, throwing down the book.

"Your thoughts concerned themselves with Cuthbert's face, no doubt, my love," said her mother fondly.

"No, I was not thinking of him. I was worried about — about — my new dress," she finished, after vainly casting about for some more sensible reason.

"How foolish children are. You trouble about your dress when you should have been thinking of the man who loves you."

"Does Cuthbert love me?" asked Juliet, flushing.

"As Romeo loved your namesake, sweetest child. And a very good match it is too," added Mrs. Octagon, relapsing into prose. "He is Lord Caranby's heir, and will have a title and a fortune some day. But I would not force you to wed against your will, my dear."

"I love Cuthbert and Cuthbert loves me," said Juliet quickly, "we quite understand one another. I wonder why he did not come to-day."

"Ah," said her mother playfully, "I saw that your thoughts were elsewhere. Your eyes wandered constantly to the door. He may come late. By the way, where is my dearest son?"

"Basil? He went out this morning. I believe he intended to call on Aunt Selina."

Mrs. Octagon lost a trifle of her suave manner, and became decidedly more human. "Then I wish he would not call there," she said sharply. "Selina Loach is my own sister, but I do not approve of her."

"She is a poor, lonely dear, mother."

"Poor, my child, she is not, as I have every reason to believe she is well endowed with this world's goods. Lonely she may be, but that is her own fault. Had she behaved as she should have done, Lady Caranby would have been her proud title. As to dear," Mrs. Octagon shrugged her fine shoulders, "she is not a woman to win or retain love. Look at the company she keeps. Mr. Hale, her lawyer, is not a nice man. I have espied something evil in his eye. That Clancy creature is said to be rich. He needs to be, if only to compensate for his rough way. They visit her constantly."

"You have forgotten Mrs. Herne," said Juliet, rising, and beginning to pace the room restlessly and watch out of the window.

"I have never met Mrs. Herne. And, indeed, you know, that for private reasons I have never visited Selina at that ridiculous house of hers. When were you there last, Juliet, my child?"

The girl started and appeared embarrassed. "Oh, a week ago," she said hurriedly, then added restlessly, "I wonder why Basil does not come back. He has been away all day."

"Do you know why he has called on your aunt, my dear?"

"No," said Juliet, in a hesitating manner, and turned again to look out of the window. Then she added, as though to escape further questioning, "I have seen Mrs. Herne only once, but she seemed to me a very nice, clever old woman."

"Clever," said Mrs. Octagon, raising her eyebrows, which were as strongly marked as those of her sister, "no. She does not belong to The Circle."

"A person can be clever without that," said Juliet impatiently.

"No. All the clever people in London come here, Juliet. If Mrs. Herne had been brilliant, she would have found her way to our Shrine."

Juliet shrugged her shoulders and curled her pretty lip. She did not appreciate her privileges in that house. In fact, a word distinctly resembling "Bother!" escaped from her mouth. However, she went on talking of Mrs. Herne, as though to keep her mother from questioning her further.

"There is a mystery about Mrs. Herne," she said, coming to the fire; "for I asked Aunt Selina who she was, and she could not tell me."

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"That is so like Selina," rejoined Mrs. Octagon tartly, "receiving a person of whom she knows nothing."

"Oh, she does know a little. Mrs. Herne is the widow of a Spanish merchant, and she struck me as being foreign herself. Aunt Selina has known her for three years, and she has come almost every week to play whist at Rose Cottage. I believe she lives at Hampstead!"

"It seems to me, Juliet, that your aunt told you a great deal about this person. Why did you ask?"

Juliet stared into the fire. "There is something so strange about Mrs. Herne," she murmured. "In spite of her gray hair she looks quite young. She do not walk as an old woman. She confessed to being over fifty. To be sure, I saw her only once."

Mrs. Octagon grew rather cross. "I am over fifty, and I'm sure I don't look old, you undutiful child. When the soul is young, what matters the house of clay. But, as I was saying," she added hastily, not choosing to talk of her age, which was a tender point with her, "Selina Loach likes low company. I know nothing of Mrs. Herne, but what you say of her does not sound refined."

"Oh, she is quite a lady."

"And as to Mr. Clancy and Mr. Jarvey Hale," added Mrs. Octagon, taking no notice, "I mistrust them. That Hale man looked as though he would do a deed of darkness on the slightest provocation."

So tragic was her mother's manner, that Juliet turned even paler than she was. "Whatever do you mean?" she asked quickly.

"I mean murder, if I must use so vulgar and melodramatic a word."

"But I don't understand — "

"Bless me," cried Mrs. Octagon, becoming more prosaic than ever, "there is nothing to understand. But Selina lives in quite a lonely house, and has a lot of money. I never open the papers but what I expect to read of her death by violence."

"Oh," murmured Juliet, again crossing to the window, "you should not talk like that, mother!"

Mrs. Octagon laughed good-naturedly. "Nonsense, child. I am only telling you my thoughts. Selina is such a strange woman and keeps such strange company that she won't end in the usual way. You may be sure of that. But, after all, if she does die, you will come in for her money and then, can marry Cuthbert Mallow."

Juliet shuddered. "I hope Aunt Selina will live for many a long day, if that is what you think," she said sharply. "I want none of her money. Cuthbert has money of his own, and his uncle is rich also."

"I really hope Cuthbert has enough to justify him gambling."

"He does not gamble," said Juliet quickly.

"Yes he does," insisted Mrs. Octagon. "I have heard rumors; it is but right you should hear about — "

"I want to hear nothing. I thought you liked Cuthbert."

"I do, and he is a good match. But I should like to see you accept the Poet Arkwright, who will yet be the Shakespeare of England."

"England has quite enough glory with the Shakespeare she has," rejoined Juliet tartly, "and as to Mr Arkwright, I wouldn't marry him if he had a million. A silly, ugly, weak — "

"Stop!" cried Mrs. Octagon, rising majestically from her throne. "Do not malign genius, lest the gods strike you dumb. Child — "

What Mrs. Octagon was about to say further must remain ever a mystery, for it was at this moment that her husband hurried into the room with an evening paper in his hand. "My dear," he said, his scanty hair almost standing on end with horror, "such dreadful news. Your aunt, Juliet, my dear — "

"Selina," said Mrs. Octagon quietly, "go on. There is nothing bad I don't expect to hear about Selina. What is it?"

"She is dead!"

"Dead!" cried Juliet, clasping her hands nervously. "No!"

"Not only dead, but murdered!" cried Mr. Octagon. His wife suddenly dropped into her throne and, being a large fleshy woman, her fall shook the room. Then she burst into tears. "I never liked Selina," she sniffed, "even though she was my own sister, but I am sorry — I am dreadfully — oh, dear me! Poor Selina!"

By this time all the dramatic posing of Mrs. Octagon had gone by the wall, and she showed herself in her true colors as a kind-hearted woman. Juliet hurried to her mother and took one of her hands. The elder woman started, even in the midst of her tears. "My child, your hand is as cold as ice," she said anxiously. "Are you ill."

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"No," said the girl hurriedly and evidently trying to suppress her emotion, "but this dreadful news! Do you remember what you said?"

"Yes — but I never expected I would be a true prophetess," sobbed Mrs. Octagon. "Peter," with sudden tartness, "why don't you give me the details. Poor Selina dead, and here am I in ruby velvet!"

"There are not many details to give," said Peter, reading from the newspaper, "the police are keeping quiet about the matter."

"Who killed her?"

Juliet rose suddenly and turned on the electric light, so that her step-father could see to read more clearly. "Yes," she said in a firm voice, belied by the ghastly whiteness of her face, "who killed her?"

"It is not known," said Mr. Octagon. "Last night she entertained a few friends — to be precise, three, and she was found by her new parlor-maid dead in her, chair, stabbed to the heart. The weapon has not been found, nor has any trace of the murderer been discovered."

"Entertained friends," muttered Mrs. Octagon weeping, "the usual lot. Mr. Hale, Mrs. Herne and Mr. Clancy —"

"Yes," said Peter, somewhat surprised, "how do you know?"

"My soul," whispered me," said Mrs. Octagon tragically, and becoming melodramatic again, now that the first shock was over. "One of those three killed her. Who struck the fatal blow? — the villain Hale I doubt not."

"No," cried Juliet, "it was not Mr. Hale. He would not harm a fly."

"Probably not," said her mother tartly, "a fly has no property — your Aunt Selina had. Oh, my dear," she added, darting away at a tangent, "to think that last night you and Basil should have been witnesses of a melodrama at the Marlow Theatre, at the very time this real tragedy was taking place in the rural country."

"It's a most dreadful affair," murmured Peter, laying aside the paper. "Had I not better go down to Rose Cottage and offer my services?"

"No," said Mrs. Octagon sharply, "don't mix yourself up in this dreadful affair. Few people know that Selina was my sister, and I don't want everyone to be condoling with me on this tragedy."

"But we must do something," said Juliet quickly.

"We will wait, my dear. But I don't want more publicity than is necessary."

"But I have told some of our friends that Aunt Selina is a relative."

"Then you should not have done so," replied her mother, annoyed. "However, people soon forget names, and the thing may not be noticed."

"My dear," said Octagon, seriously, "you should not be ashamed of your sister. She may not have your renown nor rank, still —"

"I know my own knowing," interrupted the lady rather violently, and crushing her meek husband with a look. "Selina and I are strangers, and have been for years. What are the circumstances of the case? I have not seen Selina for over fifteen years. I hear nothing about her. She suddenly writes to me, asking if my dear children may call and see her — that was a year ago. You insisted that they should go, Peter, because relatives should be friendly. I consented, as I heard from Mr. Hale that Selina was rich, and fancied she might leave her money to my children. Juliet has called several times —"

"More than that," interrupted Juliet in her turn, "both Basil and I have called nearly every month. We sometimes went and did not tell you, mother, as you seemed so annoyed that we should visit her."

"I consented only that you might retain her goodwill and get what money she might leave," said Mrs. Octagon obstinately. "There is nothing in common between Selina and me."

"There was nothing in common," put in Octagon softly.

"I know she is dead. You need not remind me of that unpleasant fact, sir. And her death is worthy of her strange, and I fear not altogether reputable life."

"Oh, mother, how can you? Aunt Selina was the most particular"

"There — there," said her mother who was much agitated, "I know more than you do. And between ourselves, I believe I know who killed her. Yes! You may look. And this death, Juliet, ends your engagement with Cuthbert."

CHAPTER IV. DETAILS

What Mrs. Octagon meant by her last enigmatic remark it is impossible to say. After delivering it in her usual dramatic manner, she swept from the room, leaving Juliet and her step-father staring at one another. Peter was the first to break the silence.

"Your mother appears to be very positive," said he.

"About my giving up Cuthbert?" asked Juliet sharply.

"About the crime. She hinted that she guessed who killed the poor lady. I never knew Miss Loach myself," added Mr. Octagon, seating himself and ruffling his scanty locks, a habit with him when perplexed, "but you said you liked her."

"Yes, Aunt Selina was always very nice to me. She had strange ways, and, to tell you the truth, father," Juliet always addressed Peter thus, to his great delight, "she was not so refined as mother —"

"Few people are so refined as my wife, my dear."

"As to mother knowing who killed her," pursued Juliet, taking no notice of this interpolation, "it's nonsense. She said she believed Mr. Hale or Mr. Clancy —"

"Surely not," interposed Mr. Octagon anxiously, "both these gentlemen have participated in the delights of our literary Circle, and I should be loath to credit them with violence."

"I don't believe either has anything to do with the matter. Mother doesn't like them because they were such good friends to Aunt Selina. Can you guess why mother quarrelled with aunt, father?"

"No, my dear. Your mother has some grudge against her. What it is I do not know. She never told me. But for over fifteen years your mother spoke little of your aunt and never called to see her. I was quite astonished when she consented that you and Basil should call. Did your aunt ever speak of your mother?"

"Very little, and then she was cautious — what she said. But this is not the question," continued the girl, leaning her chin on her hand and staring into the fire; "why does mother say I must break my engagement with Cuthbert on account of this death?"

"Perhaps she will explain."

"No; she left the room to avoid an explanation. Cuthbert certainly saw Aunt Selina once or twice, but he did not care for her. But he can have nothing to do with the matter. Then again, mother, up till now, was always pleased that I should marry Cuthbert."

"Yes," said Octagon, twiddling his thumbs; "she has known Mr. Mallow ever since he was a child. Both your aunt and your mother were great friends of Lord Caranby's in their youth, over twenty years ago. I believe at one time Selina was engaged to him, but he was in love with a young lady called Miss Saul, who died unexpectedly."

"I know," said Juliet; "and then Lord Caranby abandoned the house he was building at Rexton, and it has been shut up all these years. Aunt Selina told me the story. When I asked mother for details, she refused to speak."

"Your mother is very firm when she likes."

"Very obstinate, you mean," said Juliet, undutifully. "However, I am not going to give up Cuthbert. I love him and he loves me. I intend to marry him whatever mother may say."

"But if your mother refuses her consent?"

"I am over age."

As she spoke her brother entered the room hurriedly. Basil Saxon was as fair and weak-looking as his sister was dark and strong in appearance. He was smartly dressed, and in a rather affected way. His hair was long, he wore a moustache and a short imperial, and talked in a languid way in a somewhat obscure manner. These were the traits Juliet disliked in Basil. She would rather have seen him a spruce well-groomed man about town like Cuthbert. But at the present moment Basil's face was flushed, and he spoke hurriedly, evidently laboring under great stress of emotion.

"Have you heard the news?" he said, dropping into a chair and casting a side look at the evening paper which Peter still held.

"If you mean about the death —"

"Yes; Aunt Selina has been murdered. I called to see her this morning, and found the house in the possession

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of the police. All day I have been down there with Mallow."

"With Cuthbert," said Juliet, starting and growing red. "What was he doing there?"

"He came down to Rexton to see about the unfinished house. Lord Caranby has returned to England, and he has thoughts of pulling it down. Mallow came to have a look at the place."

"But he can't get in. There is a wall round the grounds."

"He climbed over the wall," said Basil, quickly, "and after looking through the house he came out. Then he saw me, and I told him what had happened. He appeared dreadfully shocked."

Juliet shivered in spite of the heat of the day and the fire, near which she was seated. "It is strange he should have been there."

Her brother threw a keen glance at her. "I don't see that!" he exclaimed. "He gave his reason for being in the neighborhood. He came up with me, and is coming on here in a few moments. This is why he did not turn up this afternoon."

Juliet nodded and appeared satisfied with this explanation. But she kept her eyes on her brother when he entered into details about the crime. Her emotions during the recital betrayed themselves markedly.

"I saw the detective," said Basil, with quicker speech than usual. "He is a first-rate chap called Jennings, and when he heard I was Miss Loach's nephew he didn't mind speaking freely."

"What did you learn?" asked Mr. Octagon.

"Enough to make the mystery surrounding the death deeper than ever."

"What do you mean?" asked his sister, restlessly. "Can't the murderer be found?"

"Not a trace of him can be discovered."

"Why do you say 'him.' It might have been a woman."

"No," rejoined Basil positively, "no woman could have struck so hard a blow. Aunt Selina was stabbed to the heart. She must have been killed as she was rising from her chair, and death, so the doctor says, must have been instantaneous."

"Has the weapon been found?" asked Juliet in a low voice.

Basil turned quickly in his chair, and looked at her sharply. "No!" he said, "not a sign of any weapon can be found, nor can it be discovered how anyone got into the house. Though to be sure, she might have admitted her visitor."

"Explain! explain," cried Mr. Octagon, ruffling his hair.

"Well, to tell the story in detail," said his stepson, "the way it happened is this. Aunt Selina had Mr. Hale and Mr. Clancy and Mrs. Herne to their usual game of whist. Clancy, as it appears from the report of what the new parlor-maid overheard, quarrelled with Hale and Mrs. Herne. They left before ten o'clock. At all events, when she entered the room in answer to my aunt's summons, she found only Mr. Clancy, and aunt was scolding him for having provoked Mrs. Herne by contradicting her. Apparently Mrs. Herne had gone away under the wing of Hale. Then aunt sent Clancy away at ten o'clock. The parlor-maid returned to the kitchen and there had supper. She heard the bell ring at eleven, and found aunt dead in the sitting-room, stabbed to the heart."

"Heard the bell ring?" echoed Juliet. "But how could aunt ring if she had been killed?"

"She might have rung as she was dying," said Basil, after a pause. "It seems she was seated near the button of the bell and could have touched it without rising. She might have rung with a last effort, and then have died before the parlor-maid could get to the room."

"Or else," said Mr. Octagon, anxious to prove his perspicuity, "the assassin may have stabbed her and then have touched the bell."

"What!" cried his step-son derisively, "to summon a witness. I don't think the assassin would be such a fool. However, that's all that can be discovered. Aunt Selina is dead, and no one knows who killed her."

"Was the house locked up?" "The front door was closed, and the windows were bolted and barred. Besides, a policeman was walking down Crooked Lane a few minutes before eleven, and would have seen anyone leaving the house. He reported that all was quiet."

"Then the assassin might have rung the bell at eleven," said Peter.

"Certainly not, for he could never have escaped immediately afterwards, without the policeman seeing him."

"He might have got out by the back," suggested Juliet.

"My dear girl, what are you thinking of. That wall round Lord Caranby's mansion blocks any exit at the back."

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Anyone leaving the house must go up the lane or through that part at the bottom. The policeman was near there shortly before eleven and saw no one leaving the house."

"But, look here," said Mr. Octagon, who had been ruminating; "if, as the doctor says, death was instantaneous, how could your aunt have rung the bell?"

"Yes," added Juliet. "And even had death not taken place at once, it could not have been more than a few minutes before eleven when the blow was struck. Aunt might have had strength to crawl to the bell and touch it, but the assassin could not have escaped from the house, seeing — as you say — the policeman was on guard."

"Aunt died instantaneously," insisted Basil.

"Then she could not have sounded the bell," said Juliet triumphantly.

"The assassin did that," said Peter.

"And thus called a witness," cried Basil. "Ridiculous!"

"Then how do you explain the matter?"

"I can't explain. Neither can the detective Jennings. It's a mystery."

"Could any of the servants — " began Peter.

"No," interrupted Saxon. "The four servants were having supper in the kitchen. They are innocent. Well, we'll see what the inquest reveals. Something may be found before then likely to elucidate the mystery. But here comes Mallow. He questioned Jennings also, so you can question him if you like. Does mother know?"

"Yes. And she doesn't want the fact of her relationship to your aunt talked about."

Basil understood at once. "No wonder," he said, shrugging his shoulders. "It is not a pleasant affair for a woman of mother's celebrity to be mixed up with."

Meantime, Juliet having heard the ring at the front door, escaped from the room to see her lover. She met him divesting himself of his overcoat in the hall, and ran to him with outstretched hands. "But why have you got on an overcoat this warm day?" she asked.

"I have a cold. I caught one last night," said Cuthbert, kissing her.

"Where were you last night?" asked Juliet, drawing him into a side room. "I thought you were coming to the Marlow Theatre with Basil and me."

"Yes. But my uncle arrived unexpectedly in England and sent for me to his hotel in Guelph street — the Avon Hotel, you know. He will insist on a fire even in June, and the room was so hot that I caught cold when I came out. I had to go down to Rexton to-day on his business, and put on a coat so as to avoid catching further cold. But why this room, Juliet?"

"Father and Basil are in the drawing-room. They are talking of the murder, and I don't want to hear any more about it."

"There are pleasanter things to talk about," said Mallow. "I knew Basil would come crammed with news. Has he told you — "

"He told us everything he could gather from the detective. It seems that the crime is quite a mystery."

"Quite. Why your aunt should be killed, or how the assassin escaped, after killing her, cannot be discovered. Jennings is in high glee about it. He loves a puzzle of this sort."

"Do you know him?" asked Juliet anxiously.

"Oh, yes. Jennings is a gentleman. He was at Eton with me. But he ran through his money and took up the detective business. He is very clever, and if anyone will learn the truth, he will. Now, my theory — "

Juliet put her hand over his mouth. "Don't," she said. "I have had enough horrors for this afternoon. Let us talk of ourselves."

"I would rather do this," said Mallow, and kissed her.

Mallow was a handsome fellow, tall and slim, with a rather military carriage. His face was clean-shaven save for a small straw-colored moustache, which showed up almost white against the bronze of his face. He was more of an athlete than a student, and this was one reason why Juliet was fond of him. She had seen so much of literary circles that she always vowed she would marry a man who never opened a book. Cuthbert nearly fulfilled this requirement, as he read little, save novels and newspapers. He was well known in sporting circles, and having a good private income, owned race-horses. He was always irreproachably dressed, good-humored and cheerful. Consequently he was popular, and if not overburdened with brains, managed to make himself agreeable to the world, and to have what the Americans call "a good time." He had travelled much and was fond of big-game

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shooting. To complete his characterization, it is necessary to mention that he had served in the Boer War, and had gained a D.S.O. But that was in the days before he met Juliet or he might not have risked a life so precious to her.

Juliet was dark and rather little, not at all like her Junoesque mother. She was extremely pretty and dressed to perfection. Having more brains and a stronger will than Mallow, she guided him in every way, and had already succeeded in improving his morals. With so gentle and charming a mentor, Cuthbert was quite willing to be led into the paths of virtue. He adored Juliet and she loved him, so it appeared that the marriage would be quite ideal.

"Much as we love one another," said Cuthbert when the lovers were seated on the sofa. "I wonder you can talk of anything but this horrid murder."

"Because there is nothing to talk of," rejoined the girl impatiently; "according to Basil, the case is most mysterious, so it is useless for us to worry over it until something tangible is discovered. But I want to speak to you seriously — " here Juliet hesitated.

"Well, go on," said Cuthbert, taking her hand.

"Mother says — " began Juliet, then hesitated again. "Promise me you will keep to yourself what I am about to tell you."

"Certainly. I never was a fellow to chatter."

"Then mother says that this murder will put a stop to our marriage."

Mallow stared, then flushed up to his ears. "What on earth does she mean by that?" he asked aghast.

Juliet looked searchingly at him. "Do you know of any impediment?"

"I? Of course I don't. I am sorry for the death of your aunt, but I really don't see what it has to do with you and me."

Juliet drew a breath of relief. "Mother hints that she knows who committed the crime, and — "

"What! She knows. How does she know?"

"I can't say. She refuses to speak. She was not on good terms with Aunt Selina and they never saw one another for over fifteen years. But mother is much disturbed about the murder — "

"That is natural. A sister is a sister however much one may have quarrelled. But why should this death stop our marriage?"

"I know no more than you do. Here is mother. Ask her yourself."

It was indeed Mrs. Octagon who entered the room. She looked very pale, but otherwise was perfectly composed. In silence she gave her hand to Cuthbert, and kept her black eyes fixed steadily on his face. The young man flushed and turned away, whereat Mrs. Octagon sighed. Juliet broke an embarrassed silence.

"Mother," she said, "I have told Cuthbert what you said."

"Then you had no right to," said Mrs. Octagon sternly.

"Oh, I think she had," said Mallow, rather annoyed. "Seeing you hint that this crime will stop our marriage."

Mrs. Octagon did not answer. "Is your uncle in town?" she asked.

"Yes. He arrived from the continent a day or two ago."

"I thought so," she said, half to herself, and strove to repress her agitation. "Mr. Mallow, my daughter can't marry you."

"Why not? Give your reason."

"I have no reason to give."

"But You must. Is it on account of this murder?"

"It is. I told Juliet so. But I cannot explain."

The lovers looked at one another in a dazed fashion. The woman's objection seemed to be senseless. "Surely you don't think Cuthbert killed Aunt Selina?" said Juliet, laughing in a forced manner.

"No. I don't suspect him."

"Then whom do you suspect?" demanded Mallow.

"That I decline to say."

"Will you decline to say it to the police?"

Mrs. Octagon stepped back a pace. "Yes, I should," she faltered.

Cuthbert Mallow looked at her, wondering why she was so agitated, and Juliet stole her hand into his. Then he addressed her seriously.

"Mrs. Octagon," he said, "your remark about my uncle leads me to think you suspect him."

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"No I don't. But you can't marry Juliet on account of this crime."

"Then you hear me," said Mallow, driven into a corner, "from this moment I devote myself to finding out who killed your unfortunate sister. When the assassin is discovered you may consent to our marriage."

But he spoke to empty air. Mrs. Octagon had left the room, almost before the first words left his mouth.

CHAPTER V. LORD CARANBY'S ROMANCE

Cuthbert was considerably perplexed by the attitude of Juliet's mother. She had always been more than kind to him. On the announcement that he wished to marry her daughter, she had expressed herself well pleased, and during the engagement, which had lasted some six months, she had received him as Juliet's intended husband, with almost ostentatious delight. Now, for some inexplicable reason, she suddenly changed her mind and declined to explain. But rack his brains as he might, Cuthbert could not see how the death of a sister she had quarrelled with, and to whom she had been a stranger for so long, could affect the engagement.

However, there was no doubt in his mind that the refusal of Mrs. Octagon to approve of the marriage lay in the fact that her sister had met with a violent end. Therefore Mallow was determined to see Jennings, and help him to the best of his ability to discover the assassin. When the criminal was brought to justice, either Mrs. Octagon's opposition would be at an end, or the true reason for its existence would be revealed. Meantime, he was sure that she would keep Juliet out of his way, and that in future he would be refused admittance to the "Shrine of the Muses." This was annoying, but so long as Juliet remained true, Cuthbert thought he could bear the exclusion. His betrothed—as he still regarded the girl—could meet him in the Park, at the houses of mutual friends, and in a thousand and one places which a clever woman like her could think of. And although Cuthbert knew that Mrs. Octagon had frequently regretted the refusal of her daughter to marry Arkwright, and would probably try and induce her to do so now that matters stood thus, yet he was not afraid in his own heart. Juliet was as staunch as steel, and he was certain that Mr. Octagon would be on his side. Basil probably would agree with his mother, whose lead he slavishly followed. But Mallow had rather a contempt for Basil, and did not count his opposition as dangerous.

On leaving the "Shrine of the Muses," the young man's first intention was to seek out Jennings and see what progress he was making in the matter. But on reflection he thought he would call again on his uncle and question him regarding his knowledge of Mrs. Octagon. It seemed to Cuthbert that, from the woman's question as to whether Lord Caranby had returned from abroad, and her remark on hearing that he had, some suspicion was in her mind as to his being concerned in the crime. Yet, beyond the fact that the unfinished house stood behind the cottage where the crime had been committed and belonged to Lord Caranby who had known the dead woman in the past, Cuthbert could not see how Mrs. Octagon could constitute a latter-day connection between her dead sister and her old friend. But Lord Caranby might be induced to talk — no easy matter — and from what he said, the mystery of Mr. Octagon's attitude might be elucidated. Only in the past — so far as the perplexed young man could conjecture — could be found the reason for her sudden change of front.

Cuthbert therefore sent a wire to his uncle, stating that he wished to see him after eight o'clock on special business, and then went home to dress.

While thus employed, he thought over means and ways to make Caranby open his mouth. The old lord was a silent, grave man, who never uttered an unnecessary word, and it was difficult to induce him to be confidential. But invariably he had approved of his nephew's engagement, although he had never seen Juliet, so it might be that he would speak out — if there was anything to say — in order to remove any impediment to the match. It depended upon what information he received as to how Mallow would act.

At half-past eight he drove to the Avon Hotel and was shown up at once to his uncle's sitting-room. That he should live in an hotel was another of Caranby's eccentricities. He had a house in town and three in the country, yet for years he had lived — as the saying is — on his portmanteau. Even the villa at Nice he owned was unoccupied by this strange nobleman, and was usually let to rich Americans. When in England he stopped at the Avon Hotel and when in the country remained at any inn of the neighborhood in which he might chance to find himself wandering. And wandering is an excellent word to apply to Lord Caranby's peregrinations. He was as restless as a gipsy and far more aimless. He never appeared to take an interest in anything: he was always moving here, there and everywhere, and had — so far as Cuthbert knew — no object in life. His reason for this Cainlike behavior, Caranby never condescended to explain.

When his nephew entered the room, looking smart and handsome in his accurate evening suit, Caranby, who was seated near the fire, stood up courteously to welcome him, leaning on his cane. He suffered from sciatica, and

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could not walk save with the assistance of his stick. And on this account also, he always insisted on the room being heated to an extraordinary degree. Like a salamander he basked in the heat, and would not allow either door or window to be opened, even in the midst of summer, when a large fire made the apartment almost unendurable. Cuthbert felt as though he were walking into a Turkish bath, and sat as far away from the fire as he could. After saluting him, his uncle sank back into his seat and looked at him inquiringly.

Lord Caranby was tall and thin — almost emaciated — with a lean, sallow, clean-shaven face, and a scanty crop of fair hair mixed with gray. His eyes were sunken but full of vitality, although usually they were grave and somewhat sad. His hands were deformed with gout, but for all that he wore several costly rings. He was perfectly dressed, and as quiet and composed as an artist's model. When he spoke it was in an unemotional way, as though he had exhausted all expression of his feelings early in life. Perhaps he had, for from what Cuthbert had heard from his uncle, the past of that nobleman was not without excitement. But Caranby's name was rarely mentioned in London. He remained so much abroad that he had quite dropped out of the circle to the entry of which his rank entitled him. His age was sixty-five.

"You are surprised at seeing me again to-night," said Cuthbert.

"I am never surprised at anything," replied his uncle dryly, "but we exhausted all we had to say to one another before eight o'clock last night, at which time you left. I therefore don't know why you have come this evening. Our conversation is bound to be dull, and — excuse me — I can't afford to be bored at my age."

"I cannot say that our conversation was particularly agreeable last night," rejoined Mallow, equally dryly, "we talked business and money matters, and about your will."

"And about your engagement also," said Caranby without a vestige of a smile. "That should interest a young man of your ardent temperament. I certainly thought the subject amused you."

"Would you be surprised to learn that my engagement has been broken off since our conversation," said Cuthbert, crossing his legs.

"No! Who can account for the whims of a woman. After all, perhaps you are to be congratulated on not marrying a weathercock."

"Juliet has nothing to do with the breaking of our engagement. Her mother objects."

"I understood for the last six months that her mother not only approved, but was delighted."

"That is the strange part, sir. On hearing of the death of her sister, Mrs. Octagon suddenly changed her mind, and told me that the marriage could not take place."

"Did she give any reason?"

"She declined to do so."

"The same woman," muttered Caranby, "always mysterious and unsatisfactory. You say her sister is dead?"

Cuthbert cast a look at the Globe, which lay on a small table near Caranby's elbow. "If you have read the papers, sir — " "Yes! I have read that Miss Loach has been murdered. You went down to Rexton to-day. I presume you heard something more than the details set forth by the press."

Cuthbert nodded. "It appears to be a mystery."

Caranby did not reply, but looked into the fire. "Poor Selina!" he said half to himself. "A sad end for such a charming woman."

"I should hardly apply that word to Miss Loach, sir. She did not appear to be a lady, and was by no means refined."

"She must have changed then. In her young days she and her sister were the handsomest women in London."

"I believe you were engaged to one of them," said Mallow politely.

"Yes," replied his uncle grimly. "But I escaped."

"Escaped?"

"A strange word is it not, but a suitable one."

Cuthbert did not know what to make of this speech. "Have I your permission to smoke?" he asked, taking out his case.

"Yes! Will you have some coffee?"

"Thank you. I had some before I came here. Will you — " he extended the case of cigarettes, which Caranby declined.

"Ring for Fletcher to get me my chibouque."

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"It is in the corner. We will dispense with Fletcher with your permission." And Cuthbert brought the chibouque to his uncle's side. In another minute the old man was smoking as gravely as any Turk. This method of consuming tobacco was another eccentricity. For a few moments neither spoke. Then Caranby broke the silence.

"So you want me to help you to find out Mrs. Octagon's reason?"

"I do," said Mallow, rather surprised by Caranby's perspicuity.

"What makes you think I can explain?"

Cuthbert looked at his cigarette. "I asked you on the chance that you may be able to do so," he said gravely. "The fact is, to be frank, Mrs. Octagon appears to think you might have something to do with the crime."

Caranby did not seem surprised, but smoked imperturbably. "I don't quite understand."

The young man related how Mrs. Octagon had inquired if the Earl was back from the Continent, and her subsequent remark. "Of course I may be unduly suspicious," said he. "But it suggested —"

"Quite so," interrupted the old gentleman gravely. "You are quick at putting two and two together. Isabella Octagon hates me so much that she would gladly see me on the scaffold. I am not astonished that she suspects me."

"But what motive can she impute —"

Caranby laid aside the long coil he was holding and laughed quietly to himself. "Oh, she'll find a motive if it suits her. But what I cannot understand is, why she should accuse me now. She has had ample opportunity during the past twenty years, since the death of Miss Saul, for instance."

"She did not exactly accuse you."

"No, a woman like that would not. And then of course, her sister dying only last night affords her the opportunity of getting me into trouble. But I am afraid Mrs. Octagon will be disappointed of her revenge, long though she has waited."

"Revenge! remember, sir, she is the mother of Juliet."

"I sincerely hope Juliet does not take after her, then," said Lord Caranby, tartly. "To be perfectly plain with you, Cuthbert, I could never understand why Mrs. Octagon sanctioned your engagement with her daughter, considering you are my nephew."

"I don't understand," said Mallow, staring and uneasily.

Caranby did not answer immediately. He rose and walked painfully up and down the room leaning heavily on his cane. Mallow offered his arm but was impatiently waved aside. When the old man sat down again he turned a serious face to his nephew. "Do you love this girl?"

"With all my heart and soul."

"And she loves you?"

"Of course. We were made for one another."

"But Mrs. Octagon —"

"I don't like Mrs. Octagon — I never did," said Mallow, impetuously, "but I don't care two straws for her opposition. I shall marry Juliet in spite of this revenge she seems to be practising on you. Though why she should hope to vex you by meddling with my marriage, I cannot understand."

"I can put the matter in a nutshell," said Caranby, and quoted Congreve —

"'Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turned
Nor Hell a fury like a woman scorned.'"

"Oh," said Mallow, dropping his cigarette, and a whole story was revealed to him in the quotation.

"A gentleman doesn't talk of these things," said Caranby abruptly, "and for years I have held my tongue. Still, as Mrs. Octagon does not hesitate to strike at me through you, and as your happiness is at stake, and the happiness of the girl you love, I shall tell you — so far as I can guess — why the woman behaves in this way."

"If you please, sir," and Cuthbert settled himself to listen.

"About twenty years ago," said Caranby, plunging headfirst into his subject, "Isabella and Selina Loach were well-known in society. They were the daughters of a country squire — Kent, I remember — and created a sensation with their beauty when they came to town. I fell in love with Selina, and Isabella — if you will pardon

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my vanity — fell in love with me. She hated her sister on my account. I would have married Selina, but her father, who was hard up, wished her to marry a wealthy American. Isabella, to part Selina from me, helped her father. What arguments they used I do not know, but Selina suddenly changed in her manner towards me. Out of pique — you may think this weak of me, Cuthbert, but I was a fool in those days — I became engaged to a girl who was a singer. Her name was Emilia Saul, and I believe she was of Jewish extraction. I liked her in a way, and she had a wonderful power over me. I proposed and was accepted."

"But if you had really loved Miss Loach — "

"I should have worn the willow. I told you I was foolish, and, moreover, Miss Saul fascinated me. Selina was cold, Emilia was charming, and I was weak. Therefore, I became engaged to Emilia, and Selina — as I heard, arranged to marry her wealthy American. I believe she was angry at my apparently forgetting her so soon. But she was in fault, not I."

Cuthbert looked at his smart shoes. "Had I loved Selina," said he slowly, "I should have remained true to her, and have married her in spite of the objection of her father — "

"And of her sister Isabella — Mrs. Octagon that is; don't forget that, Cuthbert. And I could scarcely run away with a girl who believed stories about me.

"What sort of stories?" asked Mallow, remembering certain rumors.

"The sort that one always does tell of an unmarried man," retorted Caranby. "Scandalous stories, which Isabella picked up and retailed to Selina. But I never pretended to be a saint, and had Selina really loved me she would have overlooked certain faults. I did love her, Cuthbert. I did all in my power to prove my love. For a time I was engaged to her, and when she expressed a wish that I should build her a house after her own design, I consented."

"The house at Rexton!" exclaimed the young man.

"Exactly. I got an architect to build it according to designs suggested by Selina. When our engagement was broken and I became — out of pique, remember — engaged to Miss Saul, I still went on building the house. Selina, I believe, was very angry. One week when I was out of London she went down with her sister to see the house, and there met Emilia."

"Ah! then there was trouble?"

"No; there was no time for a quarrel, if that is what you mean. When the three met, Emilia was walking across a plank on the unfinished second story. On seeing the Loach girls — this is Isabella's tale — Emilia lost her footing and fell thirty feet. She was killed almost instantaneously, and her face was much disfigured. This took place during the dinner hour when the workmen were absent. When they returned, the body was found and recognized by the clothes."

"Did not the girls remain?"

"No. They took fright at the accident and returned home. But here a fresh disaster awaited them. Mr. Loach was dead. He died suddenly of heart disease. Selina at once broke her engagement with the American, and — "

"And returned to you?"

"Strangely enough she did not. I never saw her again. After the death of the father the girls went to the Continent, and only came back after two years abroad. Then Isabella, after vainly trying to get me to marry her, became the wife of Saxon, then a rising barrister. Selina went to Rexton and shut herself up in the house she now has."

"The house she did have," corrected Cuthbert, "you forget she is dead."

"Yes. I tried to see her, but she refused to look on my face again, alleging that I had treated her badly by becoming engaged to Miss Saul. That poor soul was buried, and then I shut up the house and left it as it is now. I travelled, as you know, for years, and I am travelling still, for the matter of that," added Caranby with a sigh, "all Selina's fault. She was the only woman I ever loved."

"But was there not an inquest held on Emilia's body?"

"Oh yes, and Isabella gave evidence as to the accident. Selina was too ill to appear. But there was no need. The cause of the death was plain enough. Moreover, Emilia had no relatives who cared to make inquiries. She left very little money, so those she had, did not trouble themselves."

"It is a strange story," said Cuthbert, looking puzzled. "Had you an idea that Emilia may have been pushed off the plank by Selina?"

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"Certainly not," rejoined Caranby indignantly. "She was a good and kind girl. She would not do such a thing."

"Humph!" said Mallow, remembering the eagle nose and thin lips of Miss Loach. "I'm not so sure of that."

"Isabella, who was passionate, might have done it," resumed Caranby, "often did I wish to speak to her on the subject, but I never did. And after all, the jury brought in a verdict of accidental death, so there was no use making trouble."

"Had Emilia no relatives who might have made inquiries?"

"I believe she had a brother who was a clerk in an office, but, as I said, she left no money, so he did not bother himself. I saw him after the death, and the sight of him made me glad I had not married his sister. He looked a thorough blackguard, sly and dangerous. But, as I said, Emilia came of low people. It was only her fine voice and great talents that brought her into the society where I met her. I have never heard of her brother since. I expect he is dead by this time. It is over twenty years ago. But you can now understand why Mrs. Octagon objects to the marriage. She has never forgiven me for not making her my wife."

Cuthbert nodded again. "But I can't understand why she should have consented at all, only to alter her mind when Selina died."

"I can't understand that myself. But I decline to mix myself up in the matter. You will have to learn the reason yourself."

"I intend to," said Mallow rising, "and the reason I am certain is connected with the violent death of her sister!" A speech to which Caranby replied by shaking his head. He did not agree with the idea.

"And you see, in spite of Mrs. Octagon's hint, I had no reason to kill Selina," said Caranby gravely. "I cannot understand why Isabella should accuse me — "

CHAPTER VI. A PERPLEXING CASE

The morning after his visit to Lord Caranby, Mallow was unexpectedly called to Devonshire on account of his mother's illness. Mrs. Mallow was a fretful hypochondriac, who always imagined herself worse than she really was. Cuthbert had often been summoned to her dying bed, only to find that she was alive and well. He expected that this summons would be another false alarm, but being a dutiful son, he tore himself away from town and took the mid-day express to Exeter. As he expected, Mrs. Mallow was by no means so bad as she hinted in her wire, and Cuthbert was vexed that she should have called him down, but she insisted that he should remain, and, unwilling to cause her pain, he did so. It was four days before he returned to London. But his visit to Exeter was not without results, for he asked his mother about Caranby's romance. Mrs. Mallow knew all about it, and highly disapproved of her brother-in-law.

"He's crazy," she said vigorously, when the subject was brought up one evening. "All his life he has been queer. Your father should have had the title, Cuthbert!"

"Well, I shall have it some day," said her son soothingly. "Caranby is not likely to marry."

"Yes, but I'll never be Lady Caranby," lamented Mrs. Mallow, who was intensely selfish and egotistical. "And I should have adorned the title. Such an old one as it is, too. But I'm glad that horrid Selina Loach never became his wife. Even that Saul girl would have been better."

"Don't speak evil of the dead, mother."

"I don't see why we should praise the bad dead," snapped Mrs. Mallow. "I never liked either Isabella nor Selina. They were both horrid girls and constantly quarrelling. They hardly ever spoke to one another, and how you can contemplate marrying the daughter of Isabella, I really don't know. Such a slight to me. But there, I've said all I had to say on the subject."

To do her justice, Mrs. Mallow certainly had, and never ceased nagging at Cuthbert to break the engagement. Had she known that Mrs. Octagon had forbidden the marriage she would have rejoiced, but to save making awkward explanations to a woman who would not hold her tongue, Cuthbert said nothing about the breach.

"Did you like Miss Saul, mother?" he asked.

"I only saw her on the concert platform," said Mrs. Mallow, opening her eyes, "gracious, Cuthbert, I never associated myself with those sort of people. Caranby was infatuated with her. To be sure, he got engaged to spite Selina, and she really did treat him badly, but I believe Miss Saul — such a horrid Hebrew name, isn't it — hypnotized him. He forgot her almost as soon as she died, in spite of his ridiculous idea of shutting up that house. And such valuable land as there is at Rexton too. Well, I hope this violent death of Selina will be a warning to Caranby. Not that I wish him any harm, in spite of your being next heir to the title, and we do need money."

While Mrs. Mallow rambled on in this diffusive manner, Cuthbert was thinking. When she ended, "Why should this death be a warning to Caranby?" he asked quickly.

"Good gracious, Cuthbert, don't get on my nerves. Why? — because I believe that Selina pushed Miss Saul off that plank and killed her. She was just the kind of violent girl who would do a thing like that. And Miss Saul's relatives have waited all these years to kill Selina, and now she's dead, they will kill Caranby because he did not marry the wretched girl."

Cuthbert stared. "Mother, what are you talking about? Caranby told me that Miss Saul had only one brother, and that probably he was dead."

"Ah," said Mrs. Mallow, "he didn't tell you that Miss Saul's father was arrested for coining or passing false money, I forget which. I believe the brother was involved also, but I can't be sure. But I only know the girl was dead then, and the Saul family did not move in the matter, as the police knew too much about them. "Good gracious!" shuddered the lady, "to think if she had lived, Caranby would have married into that family and have cheated you of the title."

"Are you sure of what you say, mother?"

"Of course I am. Look up any old file of newspapers and you'll read all about the matter. It's old history now. But I really won't talk any more of these things, Cuthbert. If I do, there will be no sleep for me to-night. Oh dear me, such nerves as I have."

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"Did you ever see Miss Saul, mother?"

"I told you I did on the platform. She was a fine, large, big girl, with a hook nose and big black eyes. Rather like Selina and Isabella, for I'm sure they have Jewish blood in their veins. Miss Saul — if that was her real name — might have passed as a relative of those horrid Loach girls."

"Mrs. Octagon and her sister who died are certainly much alike."

"Of course they are, and if Miss Saul had lived they would have been a kind of triplets. I hate that style of beauty myself," said Mrs. Mallow, who was slim and fair, "so coarse. Everyone called those Loach girls pretty, but I never did myself. I never liked them, and I won't call on Mrs. Octagon — such a vulgar name — if you marry fifty of her wretched daughters, Cuthbert."

"Don't say that, mother. Juliet is an angel!"

"Then she can't be her mother's daughter," said Mrs. Mallow obscurely, and finished the discussion in what she considered to be a triumphant manner. Nor would she renew it, though her son tried to learn more about the Loach and Saul families. However, he was satisfied with the knowledge he had acquired.

While returning next day to London, he had ample time to think over what he had been told. Miss Selina Loach had certainly shut herself up for many years in Rose Cottage, and it seemed as though she was afraid of being hurt in some way. Perhaps she even anticipated a violent death. And then Mrs. Octagon hinted that she knew who had killed her sister. It might not have been Caranby after all, whom she meant, but one of the Saul family, as Mrs. Mallow suggested.

"I wonder if it is as my mother thinks," mused Cuthbert, staring out of the window at the panorama of the landscape moving swiftly past. "Perhaps Selina did kill Miss Saul, and shut herself up to avoid being murdered by one of the relatives. Caranby said that Selina did not go to the inquest, but pretended she was ill. Then she and her sister went to the continent for two years, and finally, when they returned, Selina instead of taking her proper place in society as Isabella did, shut herself up as a recluse in Rose Cottage. The Saul family appear to have been a bad lot. I should like to look up that coining case. I wonder if I dare tell Jennings."

He was doubtful of the wisdom of doing this. If he told what he knew, and set Jennings on the track, it might be that a scandal would arise implicating Mrs. Octagon. Not that Cuthbert cared much for her, but she was Juliet's mother, and he wanted to avert any trouble likely to cause the girl pain. A dozen times on the journey Cuthbert altered his mind. First he thought he would tell Jennings, then he decided to hold his peace. This indecision was not like him, but the case was so perplexing, and such serious issues were involved, that the young man felt thoroughly worried.

Hitherto he had seen nothing new about the case in the papers, but on reaching Swindon he bought a few and looked through them. His search was rewarded by finding an article on the crime. The inquest had been held, and the jury had brought in a verdict of "Murder against some person or persons unknown!" But it was plainly stated that the police could not find a clue to the assassin. The article in question did not pretend to solve the mystery, but collocated the facts so as to put the case in a nutshell.

"The facts are these," said the journal, after a preliminary introduction. "A quiet maiden lady living at Rose Cottage, Rexton, received three friends to a card-party. Difference arising — and such things will arise amongst the best when cards are in question — two of the friends, Mrs. Herne, an old lady and life-long friend of the deceased, and Mr. Hale, a lawyer of repute and the legal adviser of Miss Loach, depart before ten o'clock. In her evidence Mrs. Herne stated that she and Mr. Hale left at half-past nine, and her assertion was corroborated by Mr. Hale himself. Mr. Clancy, the third friend, left at ten, being shown out by the maid Susan Grant, who then returned to the kitchen. She left Miss Loach seated in her usual chair near the fire, and with a pack of cards on her lap. Probably the deceased lady intended to play a game of 'Patience'!

"The four servants, three women and a man, had their supper. During the supper the man asserted that he heard the front door open, but as Miss Loach was in the habit of walking in the garden before retiring, it was thought that she had gone out to take her usual stroll. Whether the man heard the door open or shut he was not quite sure. However, thinking his mistress was walking in the garden as usual, the man paid no further attention to the incident. At eleven (precisely at eleven, for the kitchen clock struck), the sitting-room bell rang. Susan Grant entered the room, and found Miss Loach seated in her chair exactly as she had left her, even to the fact that the cards were in her lap. But she had been stabbed to the heart with some sharp instrument and was quite dead. The front door was closed and the windows barred.

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"Now it is certain that Miss Loach met her death between the hours of ten and eleven. Susan Grant saw her alive at ten, seated in her usual chair with the cards on her lap, and at eleven, she there found her dead, still with the cards. It would seem as though immediately after the servants left the room someone had stabbed the deceased to the heart, before she had time to rise or even alter her position. But Susan Grant asserts that no one was in the room. There was only one door, out of which she departed. The bedroom of Miss Loach on the basement floor had a door which opened into the passage, as did the sitting-room door. No one could have entered until the servant departed. The passage was lighted with electricity, but she did not observe anyone about, nor did she hear a sound. She showed out Mr. Clancy and then returned to the kitchen. Certainly the assassin may have been concealed in the bedroom and have stolen into the sitting-room when Susan Grant was showing out Mr. Clancy. Perhaps then he killed the deceased suddenly, as we said before. He could have then come up the stairs and have escaped while the servants were at supper. It might have been the murderer who opened the door, and was overheard by Thomas.

"The policeman was on duty about ten, as he was seen by Susan Grant when she showed Mr. Clancy to the door. The policeman also asserted that he was again on the spot — i.e., in the roadway opposite the cottage — at eleven. At these times the assassin could not have escaped without being seen. There is no exit at the back, as a high wall running round an unfinished house belonging to the eccentric Lord Caranby blocks the way. Therefore the assassin must have ventured into the roadway. He could then have walked up the lane into the main streets of Rexton, or have taken a path opposite to the gate of Rose Cottage, which leads to the railway station. Probably, after executing the crime, he took this latter way. The path runs between quickset hedges, rather high, for a long distance, past houses, and ends within fifty yards of the railway station. The criminal could take the first train and get to town, there to lose himself in the wilderness of London.

"So far so good. But the strangest thing about this most mysterious affair is that the bell in the sitting-room rang two minutes before Susan Grant entered the room to find her mistress dead. This was some time after the closing of the door overheard by Thomas; therefore the assassin could not have escaped that way. Moreover, by this time the policeman was standing blocking the pathway to the station. Again, the alarm was given immediately by the other servants, who rushed to the sitting-room on hearing Susan's scream, and the policeman at once searched the house. No one was found.

"Now what are we to make of all this? The doctor declares that Miss Loach when discovered had been dead half an hour, which corresponds with the time the door was heard to open or shut by Thomas. So far, it would seem that the assassin had escaped then, having committed the crime and found the coast inside and outside the house clear for his flight. But who rang the bell? That is the question we ask. The deceased could not have done so, as, according to the doctor, the poor lady must have died immediately. Again, the assassin would not have been so foolish as to ring and thus draw attention to his crime, letting alone the question that he could not have escaped at that late hour. We can only offer this solution

"The assassin must have been concealed in the bedroom, and after Susan ascended the stairs to let Mr. Clancy out, he must have stolen into the sitting-room and have killed the old lady before she could even rise. She might have touched the bell, and the button (the bell is an electric one) may have got fixed. Later on, the heat of the room, warping the wood round the ivory button, may have caused it to slip out, and thus the bell would have rung. Of course our readers may say that when pressed down the bell would have rung continuously, but an examination has revealed that the wires were out of order. It is not improbable that the sudden release of the button may have touched the wires and have set them ringing. The peal is described as being short and sharp. This theory is a weak one, we are aware, but the whole case is so mysterious that, weak as it is, we can offer no other solution.

"Mrs. Herne, the servants, and Messrs. Hale and Clancy were examined. All insist that Miss Loach was in her usual health and spirits, and had no idea of committing suicide, or of being in any danger of sudden death. The weapon cannot be discovered, nor the means — save as we suggest above — whereby the assassin can have made his escape. The whole affair is one of the most mysterious of late years, and will doubtless be relegated to the list of undiscovered crimes. The police have no clue, and apparently despair of finding one. But the discovery of the mystery lies in the bell. Who rang it? or did it ring of itself, as we suggest above."

Cuthbert laid down the paper with a shrug. The article did not commend itself to him, save as the means of making a precis of the case. The theory of the bell appeared excessively weak, and he could not understand a man

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being so foolish as to put it forward.

"If the button was pressed down by Miss Loach, the bell would have rung at once," argued Cuthbert; "and when it slipped up, even with the heat, the ringing would have stopped. But the bell rang at eleven, and the girl was in the room two minutes later. Someone must have rung it. But why did someone do this, and how did someone escape after ringing in so fool-hardy a manner?"

He could not find an answer to this question. The whole case was indeed most perplexing. There seemed absolutely no answer to the riddle. Even supposing Miss Loach had been murdered out of a long-delayed revenge by a member of the Saul family — and that theory appeared ridiculous to Mallow — the question was how did the assassin escape? Certainly, having regard to the cards still being on the lap of the deceased, and the closing of the door at a time when the policeman was not in the vicinity, the assassin may have escaped in that way. But how did he come to be hidden in the bedroom, and how did he kill the old lady before she had time to call out or even rise, seeing that he had the whole length of the room to cross before reaching her? And again, the escape of the assassin at this hour did not explain the ringing of the bell. Cuthbert was deeply interested, and wondered if the mystery would ever be solved. "I must see Jennings after all," he thought as the train steamed into Paddington.

And see Jennings he did, sooner than he expected. That same evening when he was dressing to go out, a card was brought. It was inscribed "Miles Jennings." Rather surprised that the detective should seek him out so promptly, Cuthbert entered his sitting-room. Jennings, who was standing with his back to the window, saluted him with a pleasant smile, and spoke to him as to an equal. Of course he had every right to do so since he had been at school with Mallow, but somehow the familiarity irritated Cuthbert.

"Well, Jennings, what is it?"

"I came to ask you a few questions, Mallow."

"About what?"

"About the murder at Rose Cottage."

"But, my dear fellow, I know nothing about it."

"You knew Miss Loach?"

"Yes. I saw her once or twice. But I did not like her."

"She is the aunt of the young lady you are engaged to marry?"

Mallow drew himself up stiffly. "As a matter of fact she is," he said with marked coldness. "But I don't see —"

"You will in a minute," said Jennings briskly. "Pardon me, but are you in love with another woman?"

Mallow grew red. "What the devil do you mean by coming here to ask me such a question?" he demanded.

"Gently, Mallow, I am your friend, and you may need one."

"What do you mean. Do you accuse me of —"

"I accuse you of nothing," said Jennings quickly, "but I ask you, why did you give this photograph, with an inscription, to the servant of the murdered woman."

"I recognize my photograph, but the servant —"

"Susan Grant. The picture was found in her possession. She refuses to speak," here the detective spoke lower, "in case you get into trouble with the police."

CHAPTER VII. THE DETECTIVE

The two men looked at one another, Jennings searchingly, and Cuthbert with a look of mingled amazement and indignation. They were rather like in looks, both being tall, slim and fair-haired. But Mallow wore a mustache, whereas the detective, possibly for the sake of disguising himself on occasions, was clean-shaven. But although Jennings' profession was scarcely that of a gentleman, he looked well-bred, and was dressed with the same quiet taste and refinement as characterized Mallow. The public-school stamp was on both, and they might have been a couple of young men about town discussing sport rather than an officer of the law and a man who (it seemed from Jennings' hints) was suspected of complicity in a crime.

"Do you mean this for a jest?" said Cuthbert at length.

"I never jest on matters connected with my profession, Mallow. It is too serious a one."

"Naturally. It so often involves the issues of life and death."

"In this case I hope it does not," said Jennings, significantly.

Cuthbert, who was recovering his composure, sat down with a shrug. "I assure you, you have found a mare's nest this time. Whatever my follies may have been, I am not a criminal."

"I never thought you were," rejoined the other, also taking a seat, "but you may have become involved with people who are criminals."

"I dare say half of those one meets in society are worthy of jail, did one know what is done under the rose," returned Cuthbert; "by the way, how did you come so opportunely?"

"I knew you had gone out of town, as I came a few days ago to see you about this matter, and inquired. Your servant said you were in Devonshire —"

"I went to see my mother who was ill," said Mallow quickly.

"I guessed as much. You said something about your mother living in Exeter when we met last. Well, I had Paddington watch for your return, and my messenger —"

"Your spy, you mean," said Mallow angrily.

"Certainly, if you prefer the term. Well, your spy — I mean my spy, reported that you were back, so I came on here. Are you going out?"

"I was, but if you wish to arrest me —"

"Nonsense, man. I have only come to have a quiet chat with you. Believe me, I wish you well. I have not forgotten the old Eton days."

"I tell you what, Jennings, I won't stand this talk from any man. Are you here as a gentleman or as a detective?"

"As both, I hope," replied the other dryly, "but are we not wasting valuable time? If you wish to go out this evening, the sooner we get to business the better. Will you answer my questions?"

"I must know what they are first," said Cuthbert defiantly.

Jennings looked irritated. "If you won't treat me properly, I may as well leave the matter alone," he said coldly. My position is quite unpleasant enough as it is. I came here to an old schoolfellow as a friend —"

"To try and implicate him in a crime. Thanks for nothing."

Jennings, whose patience appeared to be exhausted, rose. "Very well, then, Mallow. I shall go away and hand over the matter to someone else. I assure you the questions must be answered."

Cuthbert made a sign to the other to be seated, which Jennings seemed by no means inclined to obey. He stood stiffly by his chair as Mallow paced the room reflectively. "After all, I don't see why we should quarrel," said the latter at length.

"That's just what I've been driving at for the last ten minutes."

"Very good," said Mallow soothingly, "let us sit down and smoke. I have no particular engagement, and if you will have some coffee —"

"I will have both cigarette and coffee if you will help me to unravel this case," said Jennings, sitting down with a smoother brow.

"But I don't see what I can —"

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"You'll see shortly. Will you be open with me?"

"That requires reflection."

"Reflect as long as you like. But if you decline, I will hand the case over to the next man on the Scotland Yard list. He may not deal with you so gently."

"I don't care how he deals with me," returned Mallow, haughtily; "having done no wrong, I am not afraid. And, what is more, Jennings, I was coming to see you as soon as I returned. You have only forestalled our interview."

"What did you wish to see me about?"

"This case," said Cuthbert, getting out a box of cigarettes and touching the bell. "The deuce!" said Jennings briskly, "then you do know something?"

Cuthbert handed him the box and gave an order for coffee. "Any liqueur?" he asked in friendly tones.

"No. I never drink when on — ah — er — pleasure," said the other, substituting another word since the servant was in the room. "Well," he asked when the door closed, "why did you wish to see me?"

"To ask if you remember a coining case that took place some twenty years ago?"

"No. That was before my time. What case is it?"

"Some people called Saul were mixed up in it."

"Humph! Never heard of them," said Jennings, lighting his cigarette, "but it is strange you should talk of coining. I and several other fellows are looking for a set of coiners now. There are a lot of false coins circulating, and they are marvellously made. If I can only lay my hands on the coiners and their factory, there will be a sensation."

"And your reputation will be enhanced."

"I hope so," replied the detective, reddening. "I want a rise in my salary, as I wish to marry. By the way, how is Miss Saxon?"

"Very well. You met her, did you not?"

"Yes! You took me to that queer house. What do they call it? the — 'shrine of the Muses' — where all the sham art exists. Why do you look so grave, old boy?"

The two men, getting more confidential, were dropping into the language of school-days and speaking more familiarly. Mallow did not reply at once, as his servant had just brought in the coffee. But when each gentleman was supplied with a cup and they were again alone, he looked gravely at Miles. "I want to ask your advice," he said, "and if you are my friend —"

"I am, of course I am."

"Well, then, I am as interested in finding out who killed Miss Loach as you are."

"Why is that?" demanded Jennings, puzzled.

"Before I answer and make a clean breast of it, I should like you to promise that you will get no one I know into trouble."

Jennings hesitated. "That is a difficult matter. Of course, if I find the assassin, even if he or she is one of your friends, I must do my duty."

"Oh, I don't expect anything of that sort," said Mallow easily, "but why do you say 'he' or 'she'?"

"Well, the person who killed Miss Loach might be a woman."

"I don't see how you make that out," said Cuthbert reflectively. "I read the case coming up in the train to-day, and it seems to me from what The Planet says that the whole thing is a mystery."

"One which I mean to dive into and discover," replied Miles. "I do not care for an ordinary murder case, but this is one after my own heart. It is a criminal problem which I should like to work out."

"Do you see your way as yet?" asked Cuthbert.

"No," confessed Jennings, "I do not. I saw the report you speak of. The writer theorizes without having facts to go on. What he says about the bell is absurd. All the same, the bell did ring and the assassin could not have escaped at the time it sounded. Nor could the deceased have rung it. Therein lies the mystery, and I can't guess how the business was managed."

"Do you believe the assassin rang the bell?"

Miles shrugged his shoulders and sipped his coffee. "It is impossible to say. I will wait until I have more facts before me before I venture an opinion. It is only in detective novels that the heaven-born Vidocq can guess the

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truth on a few stray clues. But what were you going to tell me?"

"Will you keep what I say to yourself?"

"Yes," said Jennings, readily enough, "so long as it doesn't mean the escape of the person who is guilty."

"I don't ask you to betray the confidence placed in you by the authorities to that extent," said Mallow, "just wait a moment."

He leaned his chin on his hand and thought. If he wished to gain the hand of Juliet, it was necessary he should clear up the mystery of the death. Unaided, he could not do so, but with the assistance of his old schoolfellow — following his lead in fact — he might get at the truth. Then, when the name of the assassin of her sister was known, the reason of Mrs. Octagon's strange behavior might be learned, and, moreover, the discovery might remove her objection. On the other hand, Cuthbert could not help feeling uneasy, lest Mrs. Octagon had some secret connected with the death which made her refuse her consent to the match, and which, if he explained to Jennings what he knew, might become known in a quarter which she might not approve of. However, Mallow was certain that, in spite of Mrs. Octagon's hint, his uncle had nothing to do with the matter, and he had already warned her — although she refused to listen — that he intended to trace the assassin. Under these circumstances, and also because Jennings was his friend and more likely to aid him, than get anyone he knew and respected into trouble, the young man made up his mind to tell everything.

"The fact is, I am engaged to Juliet Saxon," he began, hesitatingly.

"I know that. She is the daughter of that absurd Mrs. Octagon, with the meek husband and the fine opinion of herself."

"Yes. But Juliet is the niece of Miss Loach."

"What!" Jennings sprang from his chair with a look of surprise; "do you mean to tell me that Mrs. Octagon is Miss Loach's sister?"

"I do. They quarrelled many years ago, and have not been friendly for years. Mrs. Octagon would never go and see her sister, but she did not forbid her children being friendly. As you may guess, Mrs. Octagon is much distressed about the murder, but the strange thing is that she declares this death renders it impossible for me to marry her daughter."

Jennings looked searchingly at his friend. "That is strange. Does she give no reason?"

"No. But knowing my uncle knew her when she was a girl, I thought I would ask him what he thought. He told me that he had once been engaged to Miss Loach, and — "

"Well, go on," said Miles, seeing Cuthbert hesitating.

"There was another lady in the case."

"There usually is," said Jennings dryly. "Well?"

"The other lady's name was Saul — Emilia Saul."

"Oh," Miles sat down again. He had remained standing for a few moments. "Saul was the name you mentioned in connection with the coining case of twenty years ago."

Cuthbert nodded, and now, being fully convinced that he badly needed Jennings' aid, he told all that he had heard from Caranby, and detailed what his mother had said. Also, he touched on the speech of Mrs. Octagon, and repeated the warning he had given her. Miles listened quietly, but made no remark till his friend finished.

"You have told me all you know?" he asked.

"Yes. I want you to help me. Not that I think what I have learned has anything to do with the case.

"I'm not so sure of that," said Jennings musingly, his eyes on the carpet. "Mrs. Octagon bases her refusal to allow the marriage on the fact of the death. However, you have warned her, and she must take the consequence."

"But, my dear Jennings, you don't think she has anything to do with the matter. I assure you she is a good, kind woman — "

"With a violent temper, according to your mother," finished Jennings dryly. "However, don't alarm yourself. I don't think she is guilty."

"I should think not," cried Mallow, indignantly. "Juliet's mother!"

"But she may have something to do with the matter all the same. However, you have been plain with me, and I will do all I can to help you. The first thing is for us to follow up the clue of the portrait."

"Ah, yes! I had quite forgotten that," said Mallow, casting a look on the photograph which lay near at hand. "Just pass it, will you."

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Miles did so. "You say you recognize it," he said.

"I recognize my own face. I had several portraits done like this. I think this one — " Mallow looked at the inscription which he read for the first time, and his face grew pale.

"What is it?" asked Miles eagerly.

"I don't know," faltered the other uneasily.

"You recognize the inscription?"

"Yes, I certainly wrote that."

"It is quite a tender inscription," said Miles, his eyes on the disturbed face of the other. "'With my dear love,' it reads."

Cuthbert laid down the portrait and nodded. "Yes! That is the inscription," he said in low tones, and his eyes sought the carpet.

"You wrote that to a servant."

"What servant?"

"The new parlor-maid engaged by Miss Loach on the day of her death—Susan Grant."

"I remember the name. I saw it in the papers."

"Do you know the girl well?" asked Jennings.

"I don't know her at all."

"Come now. A man doesn't give a portrait with such an inscription to any unknown girl, nor to one he is not in love with."

"Jennings," cried Mallow indignantly, "how can you think — " his voice died away and he clenched his hands.

"What am I to think then?" demanded the detective.

"What you like."

"That you love this Susan Grant?"

"I tell you I never set eyes on her," said Cuthbert violently.

"Then how does she come into possession of your portrait?" asked the other. Then seeing that Mallow refused to speak, he laid a persuasive hand on his shoulder. "You must speak out," he said quickly, "you have told me so much you must tell me all. Matters can't stand as they are. No," here Jennings looked straight into Mallow's eyes, "you did not give that portrait to Susan Grant."

"I never said so."

"Don't be an ass, Mallow. You say you don't know the girl, therefore you can hardly have given her the photograph. Now the inscription shows that it was given to a woman you are in love with. You told me when you introduced me to Miss Saxon that she was the only woman you ever loved. Therefore you gave this portrait with its tender inscription to her."

"I — I can't say."

"You mean you won't trust me," said Jennings.

Cuthbert rose quickly and flung off his friend's arm. "I wish to Heaven I had never opened my mouth to you," he said.

"My dear fellow, you should show more confidence in me. I know quite well why you won't acknowledge that you gave this photograph to Miss Saxon. You think it will implicate her in the matter."

"Jennings!" cried Cuthbert, his face growing red and fierce.

"Wait a moment," resumed the other calmly and without flinching. "I can explain. You gave the photograph to Miss Saxon. She gave it to Miss Loach, and Susan Grant falling in love with your face, took possession of it. It was found in her trunk."

"Yes — yes, that's it!" cried Mallow, catching at a straw. "I did give the photograph to Juliet, and no doubt she gave it to her aunt. It would be easy for this girl to take it. Though why she should steal it," said Cuthbert perplexed, "I really can't say!"

"You don't know her?" asked Jennings.

"No. Really, I don't. The name is quite unknown to me. What is the girl like in appearance?" Jennings described Susan to the best of his ability, but Cuthbert shook his head. "No, I never saw her. You say she had this photograph in her trunk?" Then, on receiving an affirmative reply, "She may have found it lying about and have

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taken it, though why she should I can't say."

"So you said before," said Jennings dryly. "But strange as it may appear, Mallow, this girl is in love with you."

"How do you know that?"

"Well, you see," said Miles, slowly. "After the murder I searched the boxes of the servants in the house for the weapon."

"But there was no danger of them being accused?"

"No. Nor would I have searched their boxes had they not insisted. But they were all so afraid of being accused, that they wished to exonerate themselves as much as possible. The fact that the whole four were in the kitchen together at the time the crime was committed quite clears them. However, they insisted, so I looked into their boxes. I found this photograph in the box of the new housemaid. She refused to state how it came into her possession, and became so red, and wept so much, that I soon saw that she loved you."

"But I tell you it's ridiculous. I don't know the girl — and a servant, too. Pshaw!"

"Well, then, I must get her to see you, and possibly some explanation may be made. I took possession of the photograph — "

"Why? On what grounds should my photograph interest you, Jennings?"

"On the grounds that you are a friend of mine, and that I knew your face the moment I saw it. I naturally asked the girl how it came into her possession, as I know your tastes don't lie in the way of pretty parlor-maids, however attractive. It was her reply which made me take the portrait and come to ask you for an explanation."

"What reply did she make?" demanded Cuthbert, exasperated by the false position he was placed in.

"She said that she would explain nothing in case you should get into trouble with the police. Can you explain that?"

"No," said Mallow, perplexed. "I really cannot be responsible for the vagaries of a parlor-maid. I don't know the name Susan Grant, and from your description of her appearance, I never set eyes on her. I am quite sure your explanation is the correct one. Juliet craved it to her aunt, and for some ridiculous reason this girl stole it."

"But her remark about the police."

Mallow made a gesture of helplessness, and leaned his elbow on the mantelpiece. "I can't guess what she means. Well, what will you do now, Jennings?"

"First, I shall get the girl to come here and see you. Then I shall ask Miss Saxon why she gave the photograph to Miss Loach. You were not a favorite with the old lady, I gather."

"On the contrary, she liked me much more than I did her."

"You see. She liked you so much that she insisted on having your photograph. I must ask Miss Saxon when she gave it. Will you let me bring this girl to see you tomorrow?"

"Certainly. But it's all very unpleasant."

The detective rose to go. "Most matters connected with a crime are, my dear fellow," said he calmly. "I only hope there will not be any more unpleasantness."

"What do you mean?"

"I can't say what I mean — yet."

"You are mysterious, Jennings."

"I am perplexed. I don't seem to advance. However, I intend to follow up the clue of your photograph, though if the explanation I suggest is the true one, there's nothing more to be said. But the girl, Susan Grant, has not the look of a thief."

"That means, I gave her the photograph," said Cuthbert haughtily.

"Not necessarily," rejoined Jennings, putting on his overcoat. "But I will not theorize any more. Wait till I confront the girl with you in a few days. Then we may force her to speak."

Cuthbert shrugged his shoulders. "As you please. But I really am at a loss to think what she will say."

"So am I," said Jennings, as they walked to the door. "That is why I am anxious to see her and you together. And, after all, I may have found only a mare's nest."

"You certainly have so far as I am concerned. By the way, when is the body to be buried?"

"The day after to-morrow. Then the will has to be read. I hope the old lady will leave you some money, Mallow. She was reported to be rich. Oh, by the way, I'll look up that Saul coining case you speak of."

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"Why?" asked Mallow, bluntly and uneasily.

"It may have some bearing on this matter. Only in the past will we find the truth. And Miss Selina Loach certainly knew Miss Saul."

As Jennings departed the postman came up the stairs with the late letters. Cuthbert found one from Juliet and opened it at once. It contained one line —

"Don't see the police about aunt's death — JULIET."

Cuthbert Mallow slept very badly that night.

CHAPTER VIII. THE COURSE OF TRUE LOVE

The most obvious thing for Cuthbert to do was to seek Juliet and ask for an explanation of her mysterious note. He went to the "Shrine of the Muses" the very next day, but was informed that Miss Saxon and her mother had gone out of town and would not be back for a few days. He could not learn where they were, and was leaving the house somewhat disconsolately when he met Basil.

"You here, Mallow," said that young gentleman, stopping short, "have you been to see my mother?"

"I went to see Juliet," replied Cuthbert, not sorry that the meeting had taken place, "but I hear she is out of town."

"Well, not exactly. The fact is, she and my mother have gone down to Rose Cottage and intend to stop there until the funeral is over and the will is read.

"The will?" echoed Mallow.

"Yes. Aunt Selina is likely to leave a great deal of money. I expect it will all go to Juliet. She never liked me."

"Yet you were frequently at her house."

"I was," confessed Basil candidly. "I tried to make myself as civil as possible, so that she might remember me. Between ourselves, Mallow, I am deuced hard up. My mother hasn't much money, I have none of my own, and old Octagon is as stingy as he well can be."

This sounded well coming from an idler who never did a stroke of work, and who lived on the charity of his step-father. But Basil had peculiar views as to money. He considered himself a genius, and that Peter should be proud to support him until, as he phrased it, he had "stamped his name on the age"! But the stamping took a long time, and Basil troubled himself very little about the matter. He remarked that genius should not be forced, and loafed away the greater portion of his days. His mother kept him in pocket-money and clothes, Peter supplied board and lodging, and Basil got through life very pleasantly. He wished to be famous, to have his name in every mouth and his portrait in every paper; but the work that was necessary to obtain these desirable things he was unwilling to do. Cuthbert knew that the young fellow had been "born tired"! and although something of an idler himself, liked Basil none the more for his laziness. Had Mallow been poor he would certainly have earned his bread, but he had a good income and did not work. And, after all, he only pursued the way of life in which he had been brought up. But Basil was poor and had his career to make, therefore he certainly should have labored. However, for Juliet's sake, Cuthbert was as polite as possible.

"If I were you, Saxon, I should leave cards alone," said Mallow.

"Nonsense! I don't play high. Besides, I have seen you at Maraquito's also losing a lot."

"I can afford to lose," said Cuthbert dryly, "you can't."

"No, by Jove, you're right there. But don't preach, Mallow, you ain't such a saint yourself."

"Can I help you with a cheque?"

Basil had good breeding enough to color.

"No! I didn't explain myself for that," he said coldly, "and besides, if Juliet comes in for Aunt Selina's money, I'll get some. Juliet and I always share."

This meant that Juliet was to give the money and Basil to spend it. Mallow was disgusted with this candid selfishness. However, he did not wish to quarrel with Basil, as he knew Juliet was fond of him, and moreover, in the present state of affairs, he was anxious to have another friend besides Mr. Octagon in the house. "Perhaps Miss Loach may have left you some money after all," he remarked.

"By Jove, I hope so. I'll be in a hole if she has not. There's a bill — " here he stopped, as though conscious of having said too much. "But that will come into Juliet's possession," he murmured.

"What's that?" asked Cuthbert sharply.

"Nothing — nothing — only a tailor's bill. As to getting money by the will, don't you know I quarrelled with Aunt Selina a week before her death. Yes, she turned me out of the house." Here Basil's face assumed what may be described as an ugly look. "I should like to have got even with the old cat. She insulted me."

"Gently, old fellow," said Mallow, seeing that Basil was losing his temper, and having occasionally seen him in fits of uncontrollable passion, "we're in the public street."

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Basil's brow cleared. "All right," he said, "don't bother, I'll be all right when Juliet gets the money. By the way, mother tells me you are not going to marry her."

"Your mother is mistaken," rejoined Mallow gravely. "Juliet and I are still engaged. I do not intend to give her up."

"I told mother you would not give in easily," said Basil, frowning, "but you can't marry Juliet."

"Why not?" asked Cuthbert sharply; "do you know the reason?"

Basil appeared about to say something, then suddenly closed his mouth and shook his head.

Cuthbert pressed him. "If you know the reason, tell me," he said, "and I'll help you out of your difficulties. You know I love Juliet, and your mother does not seem to have any excuse to forbid the marriage."

"I would help you if I could, but I can't. You had better ask Juliet herself. She may tell you the reason."

"How can I find her?"

"Go down to Rose Cottage and ask to see her," suggested Basil.

"Your mother will not admit me."

"That's true enough. Well, I'll tell you what, Mallow, I'll speak to Juliet and get her to make an appointment to see you."

"I could write and ask her for one myself."

"Oh, no, you couldn't. Mother will intercept all letters."

"Upon my word — " began Mallow angrily, then stopped. It was useless to show his wrath before this silly boy, who could do no good and might do a deal of harm. "Very well, then," he said more mildly, "ask Juliet to meet me on the other side of Rexton, under the wall which runs round the unfinished house."

Basil started. "Why that place?" he asked nervously.

"It is as good as any other."

"You can't get inside."

"That's true enough. But we can meet outside. I have been inside though, and I made a mess of myself climbing the wall."

"You were inside," began Basil, then suddenly appeared relieved. "I remember; you were there on the day after Aunt Selina was killed."

"I have been there before that," said Cuthbert, wondering why the young man avoided his eye in so nervous a manner.

"Not at — at night?" murmured Saxon, looking away.

"Once I was there at night. Why do you ask?"

"Oh, nothing — nothing. I was just thinking it's a wild place in which to find one's self at night. By the way," added Basil, as though anxious to change a disagreeable subject, "do you think Jarvey Hale a nice fellow?"

"No, I don't. I have met him at Maraquito's, and I don't like him. He's a bounder. Moreover, a respectable lawyer has no right to gamble to the extent he does. I wonder Miss Loach trusted him."

"Perhaps she didn't know of his gambling," said Basil, his eyes wandering everywhere but to the face of his companion; "but, should you think Hale would be hard on a fellow?"

"Yes, I should. Do you owe him money?"

"A few pounds. He won't give me time to pay. And I say, Mallow, I suppose all Aunt Selina's affairs will be left in Hale's hands?"

"I can't say. It depends upon the will. If everything is left to Juliet, unconditionally, she may take her affairs out of Hale's hands. I should certainly advise her to do so. He's too intimate with Maraquito and her gambling salon to be a decent lawyer."

"You do seem down on gambling," said Basil, "yet you gamble yourself a lot. But I expect Juliet will change her lawyer. I hope she will."

"Why?" asked Cuthbert sharply.

"Oh," replied Basil, confused, "because I agree with you. A gambler will not make a good lawyer — or a good husband either," he added in an abrupt tone. "Good-day. I'll tell Juliet," and he was off before Mallow could find words to answer his last remark.

Cuthbert, walking back to his rooms, wondered if it was on account of the gambling that Mrs. Octagon objected to the marriage. He really did not gamble much, but occasionally he dropped into Maraquito's house, and

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there lost or won a few pounds. Here he had often met Basil, and without doubt the young man had told his mother. But he could hardly do this without incriminating himself. All the same, Basil was a thorough liar, and a confirmed tattler. He might have blackened Mallow's character, and yet have told a story to exonerate himself. His friendship appeared feigned, and Cuthbert doubted if he would really tell Juliet of the appointment.

"That young man's in trouble," thought Mallow, "he is anxious about Hale, and I shouldn't wonder if that respectable person had lent him a large sum of money. Probably he counts on getting the money from Juliet, should she inherit the fortune of Miss Loach. Also he seems annoyed that I should have been in Caranby's unfinished house at night. I wonder what he would say if he knew my reason for going there. Humph! I must keep that quiet. The only person I dare tell is Juliet; but I can't speak to her about the matter just yet. And after all, there is no need to mention my visit. It does not concern her in the least. I wonder," here Cuthbert stopped, struck with an idea. "By George! can it be that Basil was near Rose Cottage on the night the crime was committed? Juliet may know that, and so, fearful lest he should be accused of the murder, asked me to stop proceedings. Can Basil Saxon be guilty? No," Mallow shook his head and resumed his walk, "he has not pluck enough to kill a fly."

After this he dismissed the matter from his thoughts and waited expectant of a letter from Juliet. None came, and he was convinced that Basil had not delivered the message. This being the case, Cuthbert determined to act for himself, and one afternoon went down to Rexton. That same evening he had an appointment with Jennings, who was to bring Susan Grant to Mallow's rooms. But the young man quite expected to be back in time to keep the appointment, and meantime he spent an hour wandering round Rexton in the vicinity of Rose Cottage. But afraid lest Mrs. Octagon should see him and keep Juliet within doors, he abstained from passing in front of the house and waited on the path which led to the station.

While watching the cottage, a young woman came along the path. She was neatly dressed and looked like a servant. Cuthbert pressed himself against the quickset hedge to allow her to pass, as there was very little room. The girl started as she murmured her thanks, and grew crimson on seeing his face. Cuthbert, not thinking, gave a passing thought to her looks and wondered why she had blushed. But when he saw her enter the gate of Rose Cottage — she looked back twice — he recalled the description of Jennings.

"By George!" he thought, "that was Susan Grant. I wish I had spoken to her. I wonder why she blushed. She can't be in love with me, as I never saw her before. All the same, it is strange about the portrait."

It was now about four o'clock, and Cuthbert fancied that after all it would be best to boldly ring at the door and ask admission, in spite of Mrs. Octagon.

But while hesitating to risk all his chances of seeing Juliet on one throw of fortune's dice, the matter was decided for him by the appearance of Juliet herself. She came out of the gate and walked directly towards the path. It would seem as though she expected to find Cuthbert, for she walked straight up to him and caught his hand. There was no one about to see their meeting, but Juliet was not disposed to behave tenderly.

"Why are you here?" she asked. "Susan Grant told me you —"

"Susan Grant!" echoed Cuthbert, resolved not to know too much in the presence of Juliet. "I saw her name in the papers. How does she know me?"

"I can't say," said Juliet quickly; "come along this way." She hurried along the narrow path, talking all the time. "She came in just now and said you were waiting in the by-path. I came out at once. I don't want my mother to see you."

"Really!" cried Cuthbert, rather nettled. "I don't see that I have any reason to avoid Mrs. Octagon."

"She will not allow me to see you. If she knew I was meeting you she would be very angry. We are here only till to-morrow. Now that Aunt Selina is buried and the will read, we return to Kensington at once. Come this way. Let us get into the open. I don't wish my mother to follow and find me speaking to you."

They emerged into a waste piece of land, distant a stone-throw from the railway station, but secluded by reason of many trees and shrubs. These, belonging to the old Rexton estate, had not yet been rooted up by the builder, and there ran a path through the heart of the miniature wood leading to the station. When quite screened from observation by the friendly leafage, Juliet turned quickly. She was pale and ill in looks, and there were dark circles under her eyes which told of sleepless nights. But she was dressed with her usual care and behaved in a composed manner.

"I wish you had not come, Cuthbert," she said, again taking his hand, "at least not at present. Later on —"

"I wanted to see you at once," said Mallow, determinedly. "Did not Basil tell you so?"

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Juliet shook her head. "He said he met you the other day, but gave me no message."

"Then he is not the friend I took him to be," said Mallow angrily.

"Don't be angry with Basil," said Juliet, gently. "The poor boy has quite enough trouble."

"Of his own making," finished Cuthbert, thoroughly annoyed. "See here, Juliet, this sort of thing can't go on. I have done nothing to warrant my being treated like this. Your mother is mad to behave as she is doing. I insist on an explanation."

Juliet did not pay attention to this hasty speech. "How do you know Basil has troubles?" she asked hurriedly.

"Because I know he's a dissipated young ass," returned Mallow roughly; "and I daresay you know it also."

"Do you allude to his playing cards?" she asked quickly.

"Yes. He has no right to tell you these things. But I know he is in debt to Hale — he hinted as much the other day. I would say nothing of this to you, but that I know he counts on your paying his debts. I tell you, Juliet, it is wrong for you to do so."

"How do you know I can?" she asked.

"I know nothing," said Cuthbert doggedly, "not even if you have inherited the money of Miss Loach."

"I have inherited it. She left everything to me, save legacies to Thomas her servant, and to Emily Pill, the cook. It is a large fortune. The will was read on the day of the funeral. I have now six thousand a year."

"So much as that? How did your aunt make such a lot of money?"

"Mr. Hale speculated a great deal on her account, and, he is very lucky. At least so he told me. But the money is well invested and there are no restrictions. I can easily pay the few debts Basil owes, poor boy. You are too hard on him."

"Perhaps I am. But he is so foolish, and he doesn't like me. I believe he puts you against me, Juliet."

The girl threw her arms round his neck. "Nothing in the world would ever put me against you, Cuthbert," she whispered vehemently. "I love you — I love you — with all my heart and soul, with every fibre of my being do I love you. I don't care what mother says, I love you."

"Well, then," said Cuthbert, between kisses, "since you are now rich and your own mistress — not that I care about the money — why not marry me at once?"

Juliet drew back, and her eyes dilated with fear. "I dare not — I dare not," she whispered. "You don't know what you ask."

"Yes I do. Juliet, what is all this mystery about? I could not understand the meaning of your letter."

"Did you do what I asked?" she panted.

"It was too late. I had told Jennings the detective all I knew."

"You were not afraid?"

"Afraid!" echoed Cuthbert, opening his eyes. "What do you mean?"

She looked into his eyes. "No," she said to herself, "he is not afraid."

Cuthbert lost his temper. "I don't understand all this," he declared, "if you would only speak out. But I can guess why you wish me to stop the proceedings — you fear for Basil!"

She stepped back a pace. "For Basil?"

"Yes. From what he hinted the other day I believe he was about this place on the night of the —"

"Where are your proofs?" she gasped, recoiling.

"I have none. I am only speaking on chance. But Basil is in monetary difficulties — he is in debt to Hale — he counted on you inheriting the money of Miss Loach to pay his debts. He —"

"Stop! stop!" cried Juliet, the blood rising to her face, "this is only supposition. You can prove nothing."

"Then why do you wish me to hold my tongue?"

"There is nothing for you to hold your tongue about," she answered evasively. "You know nothing."

Cuthbert caught her hands and looked into her troubled eyes. "Do you, Juliet — do you? Put an end to this mystery and speak out."

She broke from him and fled. "No," she cried, "for your sake I keep silent. For your own sake stop the action of the detective."

CHAPTER IX. ANOTHER MYSTERY

When Jennings arrived that evening according to appointment, he found Mallow in a state of desperation. Juliet's conduct perplexed the young man to such an extent that he felt as though on the point of losing his reason. He was quite delighted when he saw Jennings and thus had someone with a clear head in whom to confide.

"What's the matter?" asked Jennings, who at once saw that something was wrong from Cuthbert's anxious face.

"Nothing, save that I am being driven out of my senses. I am glad you have come, Jennings. Things are getting more mysterious every day. I am determined to get to the bottom of this murder case if only for my own peace of mind. I am with you heart and soul. I have the detective fever with a vengeance. You can count on my assistance in every way.

"All right, my dear chap," said the other soothingly, "sit down and let us have a quiet talk before this girl arrives."

"Susan Grant. I saw her to-day."

"Did you speak to her?"

"No. I only guessed that she was the girl you talked about from your description and from the fact that she entered Rose Cottage."

"Ah," said Jennings, taking a seat, "so you have been down there?"

"Yes. I'll tell you all about it. I don't know if I'm sane or insane, Jennings. When does this girl arrive?"

The detective glanced at his watch. "At half-past eight. She'll be here in half an hour. Go on. What's up?"

"Read this," said Cuthbert, and passed along the note from Juliet. "I received that immediately after you went the other night."

Jennings read the note with a thoughtful look, then laid it aside and stared at his friend. "It is strange that she should write in that way," said he. "I should have thought she would wish to learn who killed her aunt. What does she mean?"

"I can't tell you. I met her to-day," and Cuthbert gave details of his visit to Rexton and the interview with Juliet. "Now what does she mean," he added in his turn, "talking as though I had something to do with the matter?"

"Someone's been poisoning her mind. That brother of hers, perhaps."

"What do you know of him?" asked Cuthbert quickly.

"Nothing good. He's an hysterical idiot. Gambles a lot and falls into rages when he loses. At times I don't think he's responsible for his actions."

Mallow threw himself back in his chair biting his moustache. Every word Jennings spoke made him more confident that Basil had something to do with the crime. But why Juliet should hint at his own guilt Cuthbert could not imagine. Had he been calmer he might have hesitated to tell Jennings about Basil. But, exasperated by Juliet's half confidence, and anxious to learn the truth, he gave the detective a full account of his meeting with the young man. "What do you make of that?" he asked.

"Well," said Jennings doubtfully, "there's nothing much to go upon in what he said. He's in difficulties with Hale certainly —"

"And he seemed anxious about my having been in Caranby's grounds at night." "Were you there?"

"Yes. I did not intend to say anything about it, but I must tell you everything so that you can put things straight between me and Juliet. I can't understand her. But I am sure her mother and Basil are trying to influence her against me. I should not be surprised to learn that they accused me of this murder."

"But on what grounds?" asked Jennings quickly.

"We'll come to that presently. But I now see why neither Basil nor his mother want the marriage to take place. By the will of Miss Loach Juliet comes in for six thousand a year, which is completely at her own disposal. Mrs. Octagon and her pet boy want to have the handling of that. They know if Juliet becomes my wife I won't let them prey on her, so immediately Miss Loach died the mother withdrew her consent to the marriage, and now she is being backed up by Basil."

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"But I thought Mrs. Octagon was well off?"

"No. Saxon, her late husband, left her very little, and Octagon, for all his meekness, knows how to keep his money. Both mother and son are extravagant, so they hope to make poor Juliet their banker. In some way they have implicated me in the crime, and Juliet thinks that I am in danger of the gallows. That is why she wrote that mysterious note, Jennings. To-day she asked me to stop proceedings for my own sake, which shows that she thinks me guilty. I could not get a further explanation from her, as she ran away. Hang it!" Cuthbert jumped up angrily, "if she'd only tell me the truth and speak straight out. I can't understand this silence on her part."

"I can," said Jennings promptly, "in some way Basil is mixed up in the matter, and his accusing you means his acknowledging that he was near Rose Cottage on the night of the crime. He funks making so damaging an admission."

"Ah, I daresay," said Cuthbert, "particularly as he quarrelled with his aunt a week before the death."

"Did he quarrel with her?"

"Of course. Didn't I tell you what he said today. He's in a fine rage with the dead woman. And you know what an uncontrollable temper he has. I've seen him rage at Maraquito's when he lost at baccarat. Silly ass! He can't play decently and lose his money like a gentleman. How Juliet ever came to have such a bouncer for a brother I can't imagine. She's the soul of honor, and Basil — bah!"

"He quarrelled with his aunt," murmured Jennings, "and he has a violent temper, as we both knew. Humph! He may have something to do with the matter. Do you know where he was on that night?"

"Yes. Juliet and he went to the Marlow theater to see a melodrama by a new playwright."

"Ha!" said Jennings half to himself, "and the Marlow theater is not far from Rexton. I'll make a note of that. Had they a box?"

"I believe so. It was sent by the man who wrote the play."

"Who is he?"

"I can't say. One of that lot who play at being poets in Octagon House. A set of idiots. But what do you make of all this, Jennings?"

"I think with you that Mrs. Octagon and her cub of a son are trying to stop the marriage by bringing you into the matter of the crime. Were you down there on that night?"

"Yes," said Cuthbert with hesitation, and to Jennings's surprise, "I did not intend to say anything about it, as my uncle asked me to hold my tongue. But since things have come to this pass, you may as well know that I was there — and about the time of the murder too."

Jennings sat up and stared. "Great heavens! Mallow, why didn't you tell me this the other night?"

"You might have arrested me then and there," retorted Cuthbert. "I promised my uncle to hold my tongue. But now —"

"You will tell me all. My dear fellow, make a clean breast of it."

"Rest easy, you shall learn everything. You know that the house at the back of Rose Cottage has been deserted for something like twenty years more or less."

"Yes.. You told me about it the other night."

"Caranby ran a fifteen-foot wall round it and the inside is a regular jungle. Well, the house is supposed to be haunted. Lights have been seen moving about and strange noises have been heard."

"What kind of noises?"

"Oh, moans and clanking chains and all that sort of thing. I heard indirectly about this, through Juliet."

"Where did she hear the report?"

"From Miss Loach's cook. A woman called Pill. The cook asserted that the house was haunted, and described the noises and the lights. I don't believe in spooks myself, and thought some tricks were being played, so one day I went down and had a look."

"That day I was there?" asked Jennings, recalling Cuthbert's presence.

"Before that — a week or two. I saw nothing. The house is rotting and nothing appeared to be disturbed. I examined the park and found no footmarks. In fact, there wasn't a sign of anyone about."

"You should have gone at night when the ghost was larking."

"That's what Caranby said. I told him when he came back to London. He was very annoyed. You know his romance about that house — an absurd thing it is. All the same, Caranby is tender on the point. I advised him to

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pull the house down and let the land out for building leases. He thought he would, but asked me to go at night and stir up the ghost. I went on the night of the murder, and got into the grounds by climbing the wall. There's no gate, you know."

"At what time?"

"Some time between ten and eleven. I'm not quite sure."

"Good heavens! man, that is the very hour the woman was killed!"

"Yes. And for that reason I held my tongue; particularly as I got over the wall near the cottage."

"Where do you mean?"

"Well, there's a field of corn nearly ready to be cut near the cottage. It's divided from the garden by a fence. I came along the foot-path that leads from the station and jumped the fence."

"Did you enter Miss Loach's grounds?"

"No. I had no right to. I saw a light in the basement, but I did not take much notice. I was too anxious to find the ghost. Well, I ran along the fence — on the field-of-corn side, remember, and got over the wall. Then I dodged through the park, scratching myself a lot. I could find nothing. The house seemed quiet enough, so after a quarter of an hour I had enough of it. I got out over the wall on the other side and came home. I caught a cold which necessitated my wearing a great-coat the next day. So there you have my ghost-hunting, and a fine fool I was to go."

"I wish you had told me this before, Mallow."

"If I had, you would have thought I'd killed the old woman. But I tell you now, as I want this matter sifted to the bottom. I refused to speak before, as I didn't wish to be dragged into the case."

"Did you see anything in the cottage?"

"Not a thing. I saw no one — I heard no sound."

"Not even a scream?"

"Not even a scream," said Mallow; "had I heard anything I should have gone to see what was the matter."

"Strange!" murmured Jennings, "can't you tell the exact time?"

"Not to a minute. It was shortly after ten. I can't say how many minutes. Perhaps a quarter of an hour. But not suspecting anything was going to happen, I didn't look at my watch."

Jennings looked thoughtfully at the carpet. "I wonder if the assassin escaped that way," he murmured.

"Which way?"

"Over the wall and through the park. You see, he could not have gone up the lane or through the railway path without stumbling against that policeman. But he might have slipped out of the front door at half-past ten and climbed as you did over the wall to cross the park and drop over the other. In this way he would elude the police."

"Perhaps," said Cuthbert disbelievingly; "but it was nearly eleven when I left the park. If anyone had been at my heels I would have noticed."

"I am not so sure of that. The park, as you say, is a kind of jungle. The man might have seen you and have taken his precautions. Moreover," added the detective, sitting up alertly, "he might have written to Miss Saxon saying he saw you on that night. And she —"

"Bosh!" interrupted Mallow roughly, "he would give himself away."

"Not if the letter was anonymous."

"Perhaps," said the other again; "but Basil may have been about the place and have accused me."

"In that case he must explain his reason for being in the neighborhood at that hour. But he won't, and you may be sure Miss Saxon, for his sake, will hold her tongue. No, Mallow. Someone accuses you to Miss Saxon — Basil or another. If we could only make her speak —"

Cuthbert shook his head. "I fear it's impossible."

"Why not let me arrest you," suggested Jennings, "and then, if at anytime, she would speak."

"Hang it, no!" cried Mallow in dismay, "that would be too realistic, Jennings. I don't want it known that I was hanging about the place on that night. My explanation might not be believed. In any case, people would throw mud at me, considering I am engaged to the niece of the dead woman."

"Yes! I can see that." "Well," Jennings rose and stretched himself. "I must see what Susan has to say"; he glanced at his watch; "she should be here in a few minutes."

A silence ensued which was broken by Jennings. "Oh, by the way," he said, taking some papers out of his

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pocket, "I looked up the Saul case."

"Well, what about it?" asked Cuthbert indolently

Jennings referred to his notes. "The Saul family" he said, "seem to have been a bad lot. There was a mother, a brother and a daughter — "

"Emilia!"

"Just so. They were all coiners. Somewhere in Hampstead they had a regular factory. Others were mixed up in the matter also, but Mrs. Saul was the head of the gang. Then Emilia grew tired of the life — I expect it told on her nerves. She went on the concert platform and met Caranby. Then she died, as you know. Afterwards the mother and brother were caught. They bolted. The mother, I believe, died — it was believed she was poisoned for having betrayed secrets. The brother went to jail, got out years afterwards on ticket-of-leave Wellight have seen her O ad the gang. ere cat thinail, got I din't sasakeyhat abcaus of the m"

shoorgesthis acould bs. Souot;The doin not clp you meeu."

"I . I B it waows thu what heaescaped our owcle tod om Jurry mg thereoman. Bucan't understand th8212; "

"EmNoore conaCaranby'squot; said Mallow, seelia ng;quot;he wove ydiss Saoach's, builtmilia gexerced hikind of hypticednfluence heer thim. He'ever, heshe is doid, wed thcan see thnconfineion ofetween ter and is canme. uot;

"Well, wuot; said Jennings hasobly. "in tpearedthat shee paher werson I be hdes Mre mother anve a clueo the botrking onupf the ng. ed the liwhen rkiut isf the frotory. OtSpositi that Mrerson I s Susina isach's, buo plhed myilia gr having beken hiaranby isom her, One of that ng. e reases.date hlisom heise, ofey have belled the old woly tot of hi rengeanquot;

"What k!fter all,thars aquot;

"Readngeans a kipsion, hat Mrgrs thth yours awuot; said Jennings ha gavrim; "andtll,I tend to givone rred ng upt stevence, about.&is cad catoing hese, peoticularly as I ere yore ny fal hew. Afshould not be suurprised to arn that they face ry tod been att of andin; Loach diy have belnn and 18212; "

"EmTs is l,;quot; cried Mallow i "I mun't sayethe halippter stonfineion oftween ten concers. nd is carder.q Bhdes M,t wain not cplain hiy Juliet shnt ast my heing inmplicated mquot;

Jennings lod not inplie "The prs the sobl, theoquot; he murmured. ,his waes di the coounds?"that woght nobecplain h mquot;

"In s imite subignough ofr my asket is. quot; retorted Cthbert, q"I alough I han't know what you asan?&All thhanesi is no get too the borootedf the murter ad rry Juliet.q Fd ofss Loach's grssassin eqdro't bother, bout this, oid, -d d-ne upatoing hese, quot;

"Then 's a finfineion oftween ten cotwoquot; said Jennings, ta obstatine; "an's impossible.osay anh theatinfineion ofmes mybout,qbuiltmfearthat sodissicer tyhinae comesenterls a issicer tyhinae other s If weIan prove noat Mrss Loach dis killed!ytho of that d can8212; "

"Wherawill chppen, have quot;

"I thy taumblinon the nice ry toat is th escxistce, w."

have ne up theoxplain his elf are colly, that I Moraow's ron mitered Roth the mainrm aion miat sodiying marson has neiting ind a ded Cur my. Hannings. inorred whe warvant, o thmit meh, and goortly afsan Grant. ,ervous a m caushedg, atered Roe borootem

"I ha glad see you aquot; said Jennings, taace g a gair bir sor s I "I Ts is . Hallow i to bek au andew poquesons."

Mauot;I have noen yo. Hallow iefore, auot; said Jesan G,aspedg ind a fshedg,

"Alltose Cottage h?uot; said Mallow ainquirgly;

"Noth When dowas hath thSenora Gredosketplow r-md."

Cuuot;See nora Gredos?uot; said Jennings, tafore ththbert could noeak.Do you, san?

"I thve noard anat he wname ins haraquito'ssittrauot; said Jesan G cotalme "ThA le inly tod foun of rds?&She lefes.hes8212; "

"I waow where hes lefes." said Cuthbert, n his turn, "I muwear the m of asionally hetplay atrds?&Shnever saw heu."

"Wet I w heu. said Jee girl yofves.ly. "ThOen methve no witahed u what you anough I'dasn't a,nd 18212; "

"Eme ofmont, buot; said Jennings, taterruptedg. I uot; sL's get in the ma ph th the murter adonce s When did

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shu gam in. Haoraow's portrait."

"I thn't want it say aquot; murmured Jee girl y

"Befuyou asat so.," said Cullow agrily.

"YeI keptilent. r your sake sittraut; sai said, reyes difled! metrs awuot; sat it fou asat soow w, took hie polirait.&om Jue nora Gredos' waiss en I left thr hanse. A s thcaeft in on thur aount, an ttraut; sai sanished Cudefialy.

Who heard in the cottages of the dry, old man looked up once as she. In a
amazement, How would nothbert's photograph have been to the guests of the
nora Gredos, and by Jud's hand G rant to tell it? as she said; why did she
hear that I had an old man's tongue. about the potter's froth of allow
Julnings about once succeeded to get to the plinth when heing
in mind that she wept, with an asonally lanced at the back in wonder, Cthbert,

"Yes were with an aquito and the plow r-m-d."

"Well, the Senora Gredos? she, I tell you six months"

"Yes you know where will it be on that hour."

Gredos said she stared. "Graham't know what you mean," she
said, puzzled. "I don't see a man here, I know; that was a nothing of a
man who saw her that I can't know he had any? played, in the Sun."

"Did she do anything that night?" she asked; murmured Jennings. "Oh did
you ever hear the Senora Gredos called Piraquito's?"

"I remember the old man who came to her at the Pirbey hat in the
But she was her mother, my friend. that is she were old ladies, As
the think we were also your sister Je nora Gredos, in the house; said she
Loant. , really. "and she was so much as her? & back You know
she was so much as her? & back You know she was so much as her?
here he was gambling that night."

"Ah, You know that gambling that night?" said Jennings, and sharply.

"Not I tell you do you know?"

could not in strict hilarity "The 's where your things, said
he. no! said; she on her way to the Mansions house";
Maud; I have a reason for my going here," said the detective,
he said. "You may be sure I could find the murderer and once said a
I spoke to the chief about it. I was not known that he had to be the
refused to give her the name of the house was respectable."

"I am sure he was not," said Jennings. "Graham appeared to her. in
admitted. I said; See nora Gredos as a most respectable lady";

"See her along with me, I believe, said;

"Yes, said;

"Well, do you know?"

"Well, the lady who came to her was Miss Loach's";

"Ems. Herne"

"I can find the name in her. Herne was a mistake and nora
Gredos's name was that I was a man, and had a girl"

"She was not," said Jennings, and said "Oh did you ever hear the Senora

Gredosspentakf Mrs. OcHern"

"I Ner, hettr DoB Mrs. Il. i8212; cook. Miss Loach to8212; shed Jehat I Ms. OcHernd t But she wawmsike ownlJehstress &l dowanenin the detr J her trthought Mre wawmsiJe nora Gredos But shthe pthe nisntlyiy have bede hi this nk hat."

Jennings looked thupharply.

"Wee nora Gredos, uot; echlain h m san haiet e. "anud hikirythtne an Japane thsntlyilled PiHikui She leud hi oneer a and a never same anytiuladyho wrd, ths. OcHern"

"Of so afs. OcHernhi."

"Ree led, Doen dowanenin the detr J that night. , uot; ecsan G coshudr, "there firstthings know witsie sml off?iHikui aking soe ma psassgeike a d ir'acoulp Shnean b thtfoards o hae yo the aladyho Susinora Gredos, nd le watned Maer face, way. Hat I can ht Mr ttt.fthia, nd I ths hai't a hee paretedgvo of my belt testress hamuwever sat hetrki a linstquot;

"Did yos. OcHern offder dhat you anamed thr face, quot;

"Wee gave thkind of arted#8212; "

"Andthe qutt.fthu aquot; said Jennings, uickly.

"WeLano!&Doe gaver saw he betwre. uot;

"I a'sut so sure of that. quot; murmtred Roe detective, "OhDid u ev hoi recognizths.. Cncedtod fo. Hale sp hangng besit t whe waSohohur.s"

"Not I ttr Donever saw enos di the cmetwre. uot;

"I t I detplow r-md.asat sove beenin the detr J he8212; "

"Anst soafmont, bittrauot; said Jesan G ickly. Shuot;I thonin the detr Jn the madeyhatenew pople woce i Buterwaight. he park, an Gibr, anak hi ghace. Bys thcard olyverytent toupstai, msiJe nora Gredosold me thio keep silongw One ofening acdid nome to and staawe8212; "

Cuuot;See here imy derl y, uot; said Mallow airrible y"thesou mean?n thy an8212; I uot;

"How on hMallow, luot; interrused tonnings, "ant me arr allpoquesons.quot;

"Yes, qtr But the mn know wierythtli of th be tre. uot;

"I w Jutlsie a"

G oked thuphaprised t "The poohotographainue nora Gredos' wa iss Done en meiked udonia, nd len I left thcould not unbr the arnveh be thd. I awas shotlist, awaow w, uot; cried Mahss Loant. metrs lly, "tha thcard been a brght Mrupaspectable y but ascould t sasalp yoself a uot; qthe ture bethbert witsie coloof an hoautumn suns.q He as a momothdt you, &man. and thoue thbarece, dottnfs.noswde hiim wheie s WhHe was beout to seterrused airrible ylen I nnings, uatned Ma him.helolearnng

lequesons. q "Wel do shu gami that I oohotographa he8212; "

"AnConfnd it aquot; cried Mallow i,umpedg onup" I lod not uch a ing. I how wiraquito anly malsie ep serf that ngling thnse. A Tte was a nothing oftween te8212; "

"Ann't bsittrauot; said Jesan G toiter ankn toth helofshedf junealous Shuot;l thw her tossesg soe maohotographquot;

"Then she diat so cutrazy,uot; cried Mallow i:huo;l thver save thr and gh asionalo behave as foolish, . Shr yomonthbeen a ngaged tellight 8212; "

"Nothw've sede him mooss tauot; sai sawail "tha thcauld hay decn th ghfe his mi8212; I amuld hquot;

Cuuot;See here imy derl y,uot; said Mannings, tastingly, od foully atweseped tora make poe wa the drl y in fatuion, anuot;in tp lurd thhur auing in thlove yoth helontleman. f Mrs..oraow's rorttion. uot;

Cuss Loant. tsibsder head. "Heve serki aBow-Bes d the li Fily Hwraldsittrauot; sai said, orttionly. "and rrna fere beard belead on a loger tss, knich is conoore coeraesaervant, anurry mg easi y

"He qull chbalat yoLd Jeranby isdi." said Cunnings, tard olyvaow wg wast thesay aqqot;and ftions.ai't a uth a WhBhdes M,t. Haoraow's waeaged tquot;

"Yel kw hsheiri8212; Saxon &Well, luot;

"Didevotly. qqull chbalrriag Rosm."

"Ah, le w grootfss Loach's grney lieooquot; hettt. Jean Grdin; whquot;Ahst thwaa cky. au,&maly tqAfHds ae tikedhesausband, nd toag ongale. A wopoor borvant, oke me. as to saok. lep sihr faart arupath the ma ChurcthServi. But Baloll you what, Maittrauot; sai saded t, d mg r eyes di d, ndpped ly

"I t I . Hallow iei'ot in ve yoth hee nora Gredos uot;

"Perhaps I t,sechw in ve yoth hem. Hes. Anu kny beaok.letk, th.

Hannings. aot sele in she rai d thwtakfi the nick a p ththunae.osavin rom the atonsu.wove yher. HeS had aat polhotographain whr eyotem d leiibsde, as myil w heoth he own es. hii the pllt teing oft wre thwent o msiJlove ydis Hallow ieeooqnd a nes nea uning to hat the I oSpasheduladyheibis mien if esaupictu. uot;

"I Up my asrd Jquot; murmured Jennings, hiack a bthe tuehementlcequot; hesh tp ry range nol,uot;

"Pe soy M,tu gam lemanewhn't think hea/or Jrl yos toaaart a qut nnings, ude him siftdown andinstq" Nothi yetmy derl y,uot; sa sa id Cufibrrm, "if shu annh I do s Hallow ieaood. nkn to8212; "

"Eme I dl madohat. quot; mus intervpted Math hesrk, ng Cuey M,tquot;anderwai lowhe couat salp yogivg his moart arelshere i lt's di jt so

gholish, ss, o this nkneer awis But Bah thn selalp yoimseqhtrquot;

"Ye qula ast find tht too killed hess Loach'squot;

"I can,&salp yom mokre imyttr Donen't know whatkilled her a Mrs. Oc
Hwr eha fo. HaCncedtod fo. Hale spre all cone u,nd len I he sobl, ran
agechwas a mle u,ndd in whr conir bith the mmtrds?her nelap I ecsan G's
voe ofshrl chd havterical iwhquot;Ahst tha horrle.o ttt."

"Yes. soy M,quot; said Jennings hasooinly, "siwll come to that proortly
aq&derl y But Baout this, oohotographq Wket is.nJue nora Gredos' waiss
ng tquot;

"Froo bout thisreeomonthDonew heionce mornng acen I leook hiup her
sptrkinft ted fl, ve yoht hee heads ae tce.

"Ye qud not inote suthem#r hiserquot; said Jennings doubtfully, "th
thwaeasest don't think he. It waiimpossible.osay anh
theatiolhotographainme toto the cassibs.nof that prly tquot;
Cuuot;SeWi you whr almseqhtrquot;

"Yes. soat you ane gete. I t he won't, peak heu ane gei the nirootem
G dotepsder head. #p thse anlentlly, "Do.y iss in groe u,quot; heshe isid,
oustrnlly, "thergh I has a posring abself a i thspeing Cup ththfigur shethat
prloght novone I detaoodr tss, nd toarhaps.an thlohht irclel."

"Su, I t 's whl coFilyftions.quot; said Cunnings, taa un uing d.

"Wes! I awaow w w hsheir My dearlunoswe gete. I t helull ch winything I
scaif her lp s Hallow iea thcare to'll aay p hink he ng d. f my uot;

"I a'sure ofhqull c By the wy,hea you downi hew. quot;

"I cagohur to halp yosher, bot Stepneyqhtrao. as vi hew.illed o givon t
to seservi. Bucard be d ppyhur t,hough I t hafashnallble

"WeA you dosoy Jue arnvehse Cottage h?uot; saP>

"Not I ttr,quot; ecsan G shudr, "ther doed. #bodyhoh hee hebld at toat
crids?chppunme array p Mrs. Ocll. as mygoing to haerry JuThom a
noBatss,#p thsr the mottage?aeme thio atia but ascould t squot;
Jennings lopcks thuphs, oredt "What d'sie aJuu?i renso supectnsi be
ace. uot;

"Ah's di a frnge nnt, aih anrs Saxon My . ll. i m me thhl coabout.&. I ss
Saxon Cu sese,oaot seThom a Batss,#spene ma her tnd staa sh wrd soma
ydiney liwne heiniss Saoach's'acoervi. for alenty years mo8212; "

"And" said Jennings, houghtfully a"he woulsie abeiniss Sa
Londh's'acoervi. ,oulsi?"

"I s,qtrr BuA got od. nwes w Well, I ttraoss Saxon th liwhehed Cu serry
Jue cook. d thee poe mottage? lep sihboardeda,ot thm rage it knih
anfurnitu. iket isand t She wed fo. Octagon andre uning tock to tow and th .
ll. i groeg to happvpoe mottage?b th Jcell the atcedntwre thhe diariag

seThom a p thsrived sat crboarded uot;

"Pe So thsd as toahboardedquot;

"I s,qtr BuS would st a sgreeotoeThom a ting soe mattage?busband,
leunss.had a boardredhio ati with h,eing inmafra she hep ththThom a uld not
imp they age i So thThom a w heo. HaCncedtod fo rai hulmg to stop t qquh
a tin hia,hess Loach tofes.a,#p ththin nt lont ityone haelshei the nih e,
aning inquiet tan. fp thsrred oquot;

"Su, ! , ! , !uot; said Jennings, hinae reeofficesr theoss,#of voe &"I
muweink he . ll. i gry ris Bucare toe hep thThom a ll cho wite c By
ththereom,heesou meis nkneMrs..oBatss,quot;

G d not inarnvehm rang thinoubtfu to sar of pini o."I wohink he rai
daumbp noolisauot; sai said, qqquot;and 's imaood. nkng l e . ll. i guning to
harry Jum. He'woulsigued frbMiss Loach dill his mefe thw w she i'doid,
weseonn noout.&ke a gab One of thate Comenl ttr,uot; ec hlain h m san
h"andssneedimaoman wa leak. der ten m&ke a at l Mntleman. auot; sai sact
teaender onlanced athe detr thuot;Ahstoan provectivhe liwheeak ad thmy
sexquot;

Jennings los vi hearn teall th could n,hse a."Well,Saoant. ,uot; he said,
aiet e. "anha globlid to u mer your safnt.k peak l Mththviseceo u me no
getohur tod thenk henoore coosh . Hallow i Anu knminut a cwell ofokvehe
motho But hey know th waadiss goortd noy knmiar th an hying like lJue
arndou to Miuspectinoo killed hess Loach's & s Hallow iell chke po knior
your sawne he cror to hamyoth hee hein wrm aion m uot;

"I a' ch l thcan," said Jesan G resoluty. "ant ascon't, pee po
loopennyopie. ,o. as vi he uieina gsskether and hht onlladi."

"I st soathu whpases. But he. Hallow iei'oout to seoffda rerds o l be hlf
to his pocle t,oLd Jeranby i uot;

"He quat l s a p ve yoht hess Loach's

"Yes. One ccount of hiat l d wole y,hLd Jeranby isdesi iso learn thbuo
plilled her a MrAndis Hallow ie hoiehed so lkw hshr soaopckve hu rean o.it
will te cutling Cu hae yosdt quot;

"Wel she d'har. Batss,,hcaink wis l ttr Donegoo the boweddg, aand le
tod thGwraldi ofe geteg Cu habbotres Mmd."

"I Tn l shu anar th ree anything inke lJue arndoroelo renglion miof
thattruth, hey will temember, By the wy,ev n't know whh w she nora
Gredosot at polhograph?uot; saP>

"Not l ttr, don'ot iquot;

"Ah, lu meis nkns. OcHernGredos'ether aquot;

"Wes, l ttraodon' uot;

"I Tnt.k ur tatrawill chdoroothe otesencei SoKp siur saos di n, h#p

ththur samoh ancse hd,nd len I u anar th an hying like lJue ntervi
adbumeqilled athe deadiss

"Wes, I ttrauot; said Jesan G dthek his nelve Welt inohout ststher.
nghfeer og lianced athe detr e thd. nich isllow ieawaiaemeimpiatiely.

&l she doulsige u,nnings lont toto the caxt daztem find th qthbert
shomo l Heumped up anen he caw hee detective, "Ohll,a noat l cly asrl
yoge uquot;

"Wes, l or boroul Anu knneed&savetf esauwaxMallow. SoT girl yo cotat
salp yofling Cu ve yith you t boople wove beieina gssketwell kn hasi'squot;

"l caow that taot se's imridularous: pectaily he l diver saw heee heinrl
yofore, as then l lefe yily maliet."

"WhY ane gere of that. quot;

"Wennings luot;

"Then 'si8212; c, asn't knt toang. OtWdiat sot in te hettom. f jis, oaffr
bitch is cot ing upre conolicated meerythy. SoD shu gami ththat
polhotographa hee nora Gredos?uot; saP>

"Theoiraquito a No, Madidn't l Donegnveh be Jeniet."

"WhY ane gert pai"

"WePttionly!Bucan't unke of Bah th beme toto thraquito's whouse
squot;

Mannings lopoerin t "Thrhaps l sil may have bemi tnh be Jer s lf ti gun
his notervi ad oftwhf to his posher, b make potroue.tey knmia ofss Loxon
&Wereover,q sh tp ll disurme, t waows thtt Mrs. Oc tagon antend t Cu sesp
the marriage bif ats could n,hen iftwre thr. nghsistcrseensquot;

"Su, ! rAndi waows thtt Mre death.& Miss Loach tove thr and aance. oof
thsertedg r elf a gootopdg ine marriage bqout;

"Well, whs might have sitated t do tt Mrfore, as l ss Saoach'snminut a t
cle ft thr hare,tu to seliet sh the arriage byd not inee poghace. uot;
co!megrdpoken iat gly, :huot;l Aer all,old woman. hwaeaid me tqnd a
nes nee caxtphewa the dn who wrve ydir. n a onlyoh a l faart ary have been
at of the matte's dgoor arht have wre reaten to arn thr anre,tu toelshere ih
thsdt and not in sgree Shraing Cu s, th. Octagon athrough Ju sil m,ove that
l Mlhotographa heraquito aninae re toat proliet shuld har alquesons.f jm— "

"BoA l ths had a ed mequesons." asked Jennings, uickly.
cooked thuncomre,tlble

"Atha glad don'oow. Af the wy,abcaeen tess Sa Loxon Grant. nd th
aquito'ssiy will terd be d s o e. uot;

"Wew Julurd t!uot; said Cullow agrily.

"Weraquito anll teprengetoy srriage bqout;

"Welths han," saicoffd Cthbert,

looked thgra, "Oham not so sure oft asat abs han,&ake hemischief
There's nos. OcHernwry ha my anot lebehe aroer of heis, o
Spashedudemon#8212; "

"Borhaps I e deatm her nlf, auot;

"Not !uot; said Cue detective, rttionly. "Do.aquito ann't unke yorom
thher spnsu.know that t He'ever, helhall lecl on thsdt ehal Mmpstead t
BuShwas a moth ss, knu know wqSoKp siiet e,Mallow, whd leteadbumeheke
po nquirg. OnMeanme, shr alss Saxon hes mighibsdeat I Mlhotographquot;

"Caranou see anur sawanot quot;

"I card be ippter clue I B it wall te cuaang thme betwre thweearn thbue
pluth a When 'sii dalot the back of Roat wogder, an llow."

WhProfs.Le Beau keptiscrehl I of dancg Cu Pimlico,#p ththu ssitaly. icn
hed pups oothe otsge. ItMrna the m a leared torath he e or less.ssitinae
bled ast mye aEmpi isp thAlhambra aand lehwas a wid IJulnn andmong
teysge. -stru a pspi a ast a uhargg watdhtre hlis theeacdg, n hi moth tpnst
ting somann s lfHehe uswde hianmin wor totch iif att inaarg ,oulsiateasest
secu, as ths a mssistcdn the marehl I byeri'otie. ,oPeggy Garthor. I Shwas a
e dn wag of hes, o ouse doa letk, meger ten miney I,neer awis he lifett.rawld
iver save been a be.osay deade anoothe ot futu. I B iten the ghbrother w the
dte h Mads ofLe Beau 8212; an ab Engsh, man. h8212; aned, as, o sistcrsek
hiuhargof that drph?&AIN that thMads ofr elf a s a id, we Peggy tk, meger
ten mifprofs.t of higratituddoa letkv I Shwas a for nof the li excible pelett.G
dthow wih theodn wag im to puloaetne t

sh te heDancg CuAcademtoat isnnings, honed Mas acote a quew p d p
ger ten mitervivi with heean G qquh been at considtt. nsit tor rae c,
noothght. n atmonthh ths a delie n hi ve yoath hePeggy One cc noBank
Holid he woh been atre,tu e h nough ofto rescuthr anrm thaويسيا
asf-padrund thn adulgg toiterorse-ay a,nd haved escted Cr?&busr to
hasrived the parrosed oeraeksf the frProfs.SoT gitective, hwmsiJattra .ethe
wquai, okett.G dth han,ed heainsti Mi co nquir noothPeggy OnAuiend.
shiphe uswinaugure hd rinin thto thcc nodp serfieina gas thsiis n ni
ofmonthloplosed tor soe heads iof thattrhblinonrl y BuS cottncei
megrdpowrd, fLe Beauas lough I gas a fon er. nrutllyt mye ought Mr thliti
this posnst tiy But shPeggy promed him to t abs hauld spetl choak. der
temseruntl gasrred o,#p ththth hee ilopcomed fLe Beau as netoutt, Howgas
a w thcse hn thsengety aand leuld not imre toh teeacduch asng t t But
B,oeraeksf tPeggy' hulerytear at toas vi hehabit I woh be8212; an a e

dFrenchhy an8212; uot;

giAcademtos shoituioedown and narw muresset farememin from ththe
pottinae ough Jfar. OnQet tause dbelieoing aeo or boople woootoo o I
becier ofde an heis, one or8212; r that re was ne8212; an a udonhe e,
ndppred torat giAcademt,ebldcng soe maex.&om Jat proarter o If tiotoo
orht in thrat gimiddlof that resset a toatned Mae lane orto thaebld th,ed thc
nonarw murht if-lewa hapsasedlong the fede and cunds?n te hetk ofere
ihthe maresset begaandinstnderstnd new me i BuTh rtion of the dace on
hwmsiJquai, #p th en meitoh been attend t Cu sememin he li obstruions.q
builtmat dwn, and ecntlyricarson h higrp hehaeal, heh behier o Mi cfused
thaow ieitu habbopued hewn a.But the m dwn, as a w tholo,#p thth was
nepect i Mas achei, uld spnee poay. re hetuildi ind a dow iee ala to serun
frehlisorough theothe other agresset BuStl chishuld halt te Profs.Le
Beau'ture bfor his saart aruld have beeken byh behbeen a cottmpein Cu
serkv I quh bet ht Mr c, noothe pllt teingrty ours aw#p ththh beenor
tootichp thoticelf the dighborhood a

I,aiet e. iss blueosergofth hebrn anbooth tha bowl saveB,oened Mawn
ane lane or thadvced attords the mooubtfdetr eof thattrAcademt,eich was
brsurmnt o.eth ab ,ed gocal iooundpf jplt terfiigur shdegn o, e thLe Beau as
elf w#p threesenceii inOrpheu gun eacdg, nesseh thanimalsoh tdanci BuTh
allunoes nea unnolicant, a Jue ilopups ,uor siifhLe Beau iigur a enOrpheu
abwellr he lianimals?He'ever, hee ret-mper, .datett.G fused th anceg im sb
,ed gocis the cooundpefemn h t lopsasedlderstni thd thn a te hetuildi inth
heloeliatotch ihe quutt.fthate Cofiigur sh loy p ev, m OtWiis n,te hetuildi
inothe coounds? fsr es a dived frin w tewoyotemne8212; an naarg ll
leoothe ot dancg Cuss.&oswe tha sml coabooticnt, aud hi.nfficesr t he l lo
recepons.-otem d l. f Mfe &&assbe y,hothe cofirsthsry t,pre alhe qutting
u-otem,te heding h-otem d lthe makihed nan a uothe coeingr leunrstnd hht
ironal iotef,te heewoybe hdotemne the li Profs. a uPeggy,ith an extrahce r
yod ghrange nrowrprht hafemn h When diMargot, e dFrenchhok. d th
retaidf-leall-wo, asslept,it a mottericy So th wall te cuen yohtt Mre
deaccusommodaon of the duse was haextremhlislimid t.heLe Beauq butk,
meger tebyhPeggy d th aggot, o wro my devotlyue im,it a hltremhlisll
knpases.o,#p thhltremhlis d ppyhinish mefet a cirydFrenchh hwm
co Mfe a Peggy,iming onupfae tcount os BuShwas a mo epretty asml
cotaideof thenty y-fe, sineae. iss ancan bifpri, ouninw and thikedg poke a
dewhty.is qqsaos dire alhblue reyir bit crioloof anrini corG dth
hconieekdire alosh decated hse a. dit a sewhmdg, nst toralmut
toPeggy,iasmlcng so my adowane dswe thmiing as e. BuShwaould have
been at cshtpherdsitnikedg poder temerfildcn fon er. neraesairl yo toing Cu

dissongyf Mfe & Juch a a rural mildw? & bueryte spru onupfdmong teLond
herse dbet a mottericyqnnings lould not unke of B MrAndicounrdg to hap w
aneal ,oPeggy lfdever saefes.alinit criount. OtWrawill hee heisesaloshfiddlg
acenh iheme toom Jatenaarg thh . as the coce rloshing inqbsorb.aliniap
wwo, asPeggy nerytear t lthe matlyrce. o hers, ve yr lostentaiet e. tords thr
al thmit .i the copretty aoictu. ie diardenth helora hof dusky sunfet a unke g
lianocisosh r eyir b SP>

"NoWhania ptquot;

"Eme luot; cried MaPeggy, idropdg inmerfn, hp thremovg his moae
dsw hquot; Aht crly makewho wruld hade tryonee poch a a lirt, yhoh he.

BuMil, I ghde lg acpig! uot; and Cus makisd him t, trgughg,

"Aldon't thke a atpllt terd JqaPeggyquot;

"Ye's diPapaeLe Beau rocevot surd Jeth hem. lopups , uot; said
JeePeggy, ibuo plloy p oken i the ddancg C-mt terfe us SP>

"NoWI hee headdion of thde lg a? uot; saP>

"Not I at re swe eaddion of th own Hat I can nememin hish they knmike
aquot;

"Athn't thke a, uot; said Malil, I tting upwn and thouing Cu onltords
ththm rnouot; canr tod thealko hamyqaPegp t uot;

"Athn't, pbhan, ed hePegp tas th sh teking a, ucard befareo ch
asrawlrko hadous she ss. & oall tesm. grdpowmalosh e copups ve wreoh
poe ms tcount oshur t

"Ye us ! uot; said Jelil, I ling heind g of her nelips "Thrapaell choar
ththur quot;

"I . Mr c qqaree heisesalm. lofiddlsii ke g l dth ha sb scoldi inthe grss
lesett.s ke a game-cockquot;

"Ye yes game-cock scoldquot; asked Jennings, ugra, . Shuot; I thre to'la
wat in bad lomper, asPeggy Oncard beor to har almsendew poquesons."

Mauot; I Aut tour san anbt gles" asked Jes main baldw? & eoss

lo!m. eePeggyhow wih cadccupion, ant thcs yet woh beot unbr a
be. osall yoLe Beau

giFrenchm Gonierhed Cua, oaterdt .da hes, ore onor bue parross. nof
thuot; amsu. aJquot; mud thwld not be sube. osanderstand that I Maitective,
t a a hht onand tg. I Mil, as a e rwre thoposed th cuaantleman. f Mrierspd t
nt nre, tu t dthth knhe a uPeggy deced frin aninrm anLe Beau osh e couth
anen he cah besrred oom Jbt gles&&asMeanwne h, Mil, a en meekin. da v
temisJbt gleshePeggy, #p ththusuly heend ith hconarn awano thliedg
podbeis ngsf Mrienish hu mssistce. o sanr an the qutewhmes I
fficularbeme dbetnh ih deathlththth h. eePeggyhow wiled aut the gder, n
thCrk, meLa t dthh w il, witaa id, li inth hee murter I B iten ifs had at be s a

be. o th sgest teaecleuo the bosassin eqlough I e doulsiinouly assibs.nof
thbue pace rs "Th's diout this, ow wimesenlnnh I dopeak " said Jennings, I

"I the wy,know that thaman. h.aquito ancard beekin.da fquot;

"Yes. OnTt ngling t-nse. A Wrawi hers,quot;

"Well, thth su habboplicated mn the qurter uot;

"Athnqat abwayquot;

loreted Mae laepisod i the dlhotographas the cou sit nt of thattrse
toperfumheing inud hibMis. OcHernthnraquito a NoPeggy !m.eP>

"Athn't the anh theatihotographanfineiosap wwh hee muse, puot;

"Re ti g Japane thperfumh,nd th aquito'sot .&om Jowmalnre,eign thmit .

s lf ti gsange n,oathu whs."

"DiHnvehu.yo. Hern"

"I caw her to Mre de nquest BuShwave thevence, Hat I cad at i
cottnversaon ofth her?&self a uot;

"Wel do yt bey knlk his neup?Anu knyceiioo, eu donath hcoeadiss
&uot;

"Athard bt beico! said Jennings, hglk my.

"AtFm JPapaeLe Beauquot; said JePeggy,itrinkng Cu onpretty brn s

"What d cridhe caow th heis, oman. quot;

"Wee gat a modancirruntl s had a ccouit nt Beau y have bead aher
sprough ths moae ds uot;

"Weraquito a,h aquito'ssuot; murmured JePeggy,#p thshk his nead.

"He, Madithinot berember, er s lfH tholoi gs?"

"I Aut this,rty acaink w;eaind e ae tman. hke a tropal io
mildw?&oothiolog. uot;

"Weepashed OnTt me iniSuspashed uot;

"Athaink wie re swe tht maSpasheduout thr s lfe gaekins Engsh,
without satpllsest acntly lfHus ! n 'sii papa uot;

shiers Mae lasett.o wrrued Cuto the caotem hd lthe r wih elf w#bl wg p
thoteii i,hothe cossngyfsofaq He as a sml coabo thdry,ith anblk ofos die tha
trinkn ooa s WhHe erd a bl ndenth wasth ihd not inmch. er s yeow
ienolicexn, anh ths a neae. iss blk o,ith an ld-fashnalemehswdow
i-taicomewi heblue I Hmuseiag Romo sml cofiddlsid thnoken ivolue
ylehout sregardg to otesence. o he il,

"Eme loe ms tcochs.f Engsh, I drt ,uot; sa saexclaim
thePeggy,ibuot;seesespeefo8212; shewrulod-speefo the qulimbw Welis
'emawaoiniainot ozzn', nothelt ina leet. I Z liwld noke ofzsid gs iswtaa MrA I
on Dieuq buquechdommag ilovefh teeacduzem

"Athaat so.e bout the s tcount osquot; said JePeggy,ipicng onupfa/es
maf of thparsonhp thruings,f B Mruot;Weetian hadejeun, , Mil,

"AtE I on amiluot; cried Mapapa t "Do.y exce dbant thzmaoigs ake hemeu habbomooch enre. ItZ lia yozmaspeefodos othe coeStrasburghcseck Y Y ane gevei i8212; heyine8212; anito'gevei ionieerut uot;

frProfs. apks thupha nuer, e Engsh, sla abrd J yith metnh ih detervillarreMas acttnversaon o I Hmuan?habboind o,ap thth ers Maaid me il, grp h.

"Thrrofs. sa said, ,ren hesomeat abcaeter,quot;l card beor to haar althur nout thaaly tqAfAuiend. f th inrocell if esve yofth her?ththh ought Mru meat a ow th her squot;

"DiE I wha-a-atl on nier?/yl derstand tlo!Zealy tqAfCruechnothmquot; "I aquito'soGredos uot;

"PeEspagnolesuot; murmured JeLe Beauq she g lis poWig "He, o. unow thze me i BuDancirf Spn h WhA heyine8212; anlovefhh beominan8212; z lia yowat speefoke a z tcochs. Engse. OnDescriba z ttikedl on amiquot; Mannings lod she l a te het ad ths, oabilit the old won. h etl chaboopred todersced f "Het l s had seen att leothe reeoours awuot; saded th Buuot;Wee gafl, d thhurthr habk o,id th8212; "

"BoEto8212; shwha-a-at Celesonnequot; cried MaLe Beauaexcibly. "Ree led, o mia, d thhurthr hsilfo8212; she heyine8212; anmos'edredfiy BuCcertivei Mi cour ssilf,y uiend.'ththntonge nopeelsiinozmaresses hd lthwhackseor thawn a.BuTreeours etk of8212; anyine8212; antreeoours BuCelesonnelthDurd, le on fiy uot;

Mannings lowoerin t "Tht l s has p ohiniSuspashed uot; Beau ilipp Romopinhh anuffo the qur b Squot;Su, l ba ! re leat i cSpn h uot;

"I me ohiniSuFrenchquot; murmured Jennings, ue imlf a /P>

"I A l non;ibMinooreansluot; cried Mat giFrenchm Gounpect i M. "Ree let i cFrench lfe gaEngse. f8212; anyine8212; anlerember, A sgr'y ' ind edthth waatm ise,& l Shwash l door tot thadoedi n,ra But she watdonaarg 8212; l mooch tdonaarg . aEngse. f8212; anyine8212; anLarolie, uot;

"I A Jewes" asied Mannings, hinas, okn t.eP>

"Athaswtaa u ml on amiq aEngse. fJewescadui!/yoo bt a comonth ddanchere imytreeours etc. l Zenozmetonge nopeelsihd lthpouf!/yl e anhwnamoore cs But shnerytedanche8212; annoi8212; leaarg ,ounelthgrd, deatm ise,& uot;

"Ye y#y know there ihs han, toom ?uot; saP>

"Not . awaow w w zzin'ft asat abloll you w.eP>

"AtD shu gake a rs,quot;

Beau shrgestMas acould hedt "Wham noeM lolo,# on amiq aL, wifemm

s ke a mlet t Oncardfhh bem s affr bsi8212; heyin BuCcertivei8212; "
qut nnings, upd Jerythtlitt.bem. He'woulsiaink wglyhthat thraquito
a-Celesonnels a mothreottericiouMaman. h at at had lthe oht Mr c, A
Wriatonnings lowalowoering acen thaud wocld noke of thbue pa wrm aion
me cah besrived d,hLe Beau asudr,enfshed dotmson o.wie oht Mr on
ccurrlyue im

"BoD she het imp thu aquot;

Beau seiz Mannings, ' arm#p thshk hii nsiently. "Yesin
BuTreeothpoundanito'geraet a; oh,ert paie But shz r uropie. osh golo,#p
butkuine8212; annon#8212; fsuffdain#8212; "

"BoT gaEngsh, s v teign Hes. uot;

"Re tiwalod lo.ey li8212; habksquot;

"SuHnvehu. ." asked Jennings, ,fieina gie re gat a othe co br
nkneMrdisssi v t

"Th, o.er anfareoffo thres w Wewaow w w hshCelesonneth Durd,
Wewamit . ohwn; oh,eyin BuFnnelsan. ne8212; an nvies they ltMr
waunhe8212; annoelt inz t HeB, weloll you w.e lfour safnnd.'i ve y,ardfhwat
zzin'fw saars lfe gagifqzgd lo.ey l,ad orpie. 8212; anquot;

qut nnings, ud not infoow iem. He'woscribbd heaot ie thePeggy,ibustata
gie re gag betgetohay. roanbt glesthirfonhe Academt He'wo felthat re wasld
nobboplisible.osaytdown an d thealko hierivi io is ngsf8212; an a hauld
sprd beedo the qutesence. o heLe Beau 8212; anen he ca ved ardench a a
sssi v t frimesenwalodegiings,fyonee pochape l "l C. h.aquito anve bea
hying liedo wh hee musoinersquot;

qtiwalot ineasyo say a.he the wme bennings loreacd do s, o sr to8212;
an gag bechambirDukeeStrt w,iSt. James'o8212; an ga deced fr th
seenraquito a NoFothe sbpursed wofrngy him tlf a ain bccure hu ening
aciss &iJe nora Gredosol oht Mr cls a mo m 'siidl oas unken-out t-tn
a.BuHaCus maknn an hes, orgalmarross.nofs might hat unwe bewelor thim
to foorehlis hap w nse. A raquito a,hoothobviouMa rean os,ad at idesi i
door touto thesu.&wh hee muaue outi,

it wamt sow.lebehe oht Mr t abs hasiened Mae lal heinod erytht
flagrd,tatcy Bue gat a eM luleryter that r qqsause waas netoudu i Main
whmoth tspectable eomann s lfawas shoituioedoeinoGoldeofSarteew#p
thths a mond edwon. sn of the dd p en l he ateacalit as shfashnallble
Mannings lod a ppoiei megeetini inth hellow ieineis, o semi-spectable
oesble ishme, #p thtk, meunds? en he ca eervi dit nirootem
gat a,hiers Mas rds ae tman. h8212; shewrch as Mir an a uld noobbo
seea.BuHalf-tting u asf-parecligof her nensu.laldw?&ootich thbur anrm,
tos show er.mn thsesternaumbffsesrk, ng Cuth he g one read&l gatd a

yeow iesilk iss thiaut the could hedtith anblk of alacsid thglitting aceh
anvalule eojewels qqsane a p tharmalthfinhlismld heat toeMrdisazzng
Cueichten ss qqsasml coar att a proud het of thr anould hedtanh
thr?&sagnife ofir bismooiin coil f esvustrousiaiss yoh wichtenre,ead.
nelipsire althfu, d thasi's, r eyes diaarg o thtlk o,id thhwnamo was hais n d
th rehht BuTh th tmar mefeated d ths anracsillr he lies brn s, eich wa loth
tm of v temerfne a.gah bedecated hhe dswe th beautillyt rmihows dit ntlf v
so ladvcege? arripuned Mae laids?&l Jatengorgeousin v tlethr habt
sohse anke a spltyd Cuilw?ththr yod rievaliats had a asurpsing thioloo
Bue gat a iers Mas sh ah besrmar m, ke a tropal ioildw?the mrdit a
sewhmdg, nsensulywe th eviluout thr s exuberae, Hat l t ina whisp?&bus
been atar t lhainst thr. nreputaon o l Erythe u,nsoy Juoothe othemisre,tu
toeich watoudemtealttis ve y maman. h la sickb m, treatethwna
withoutspectab A raquito a,hdsnsr toople woid, ,ry have been aithc m,
builtmn lanc ouitelcld nole ftd,hothe cofa. o he, as r e orauster alife
qqsasmiatot sh lluog l,#p thshentk, mepke a atpLU lg eadrawg h heme h
ldestruions. NoFottu t ah been alh tithat niart taotem
&l shnnings, aeervi d,h aquito'sat a oping acaoresh pk of Ro cotas?he
daceyedticnt o.pi wlsibs. esiings, ae th fiddlsththth hee cotelochipsiud
hi.nJatenge i BuOsee tg to otow wor tr,Je nora Gredosote
msendegraciouMasmiat,nd staa sh sewhmdg, n the casal ,ois n rawlmd
rienblk ofo wrotoo oaMre deoar at ths annsu. mur, an buduenna 8212;
shehtor soth kn8212; shcrosd thnnings, a a haadvced atin ards the
mobuffde,Ma oftnh ihotoo opla thdeca aerf wiss
"I ads ofehed so lkw htenyeu donavwow.lebroht Mr. Hallow i uot;
"BoTe lemads ofe re gatl te cure ihso o.beedoetiner an thlohe sbpce
oauot; said Cue detective, the caduennaas ths tcd doe deoefftivhof
thattrmsitaghn thraquito a NP>
anracsifshed d, r eyes dibrht iin tant thshbyd not inlk hindinstnin
whnnings, ud reions. NoOthe coalyrcry,ishwave thl cotr to Mcenvealo
bebue pagamefich was brn ieineprogss thennings, hgueibsdeat l hwna we
oht Msire alth hellow ias thn ccasn oly he laidht Mr c,hliedg pof bus,
oaopredced athe deht /quot;ReH that thman. hkov som rnuot;
"Athad not inpect it seseetu don dauot; said Cue detective, eP>
"Athaor toinepla. o hemyaxtphew He'wo poclll kauot; said Curanby i;l "l
esenceie thio x nora Gredos, shu anpases.,r. Hannings, uot;

Whuot;SeWi you whay a,nLd Jeranby iquot; asked Jeraquito a,hen the
ghbruto roduions.uh been at cnolicaed d
&uot;Thrard hemWelt in polsencei:ain balitt.bfuot; said Cue dem meyoIt
bman. anth helortlethettiea ths, ors di nae beautillytooa s WP>
"I Ashu gake afuot; saihe aswvi dicarelessly"
"I cafqaret t On'wo poclll k uot;
qaquito'saati w t "ThUlll k No, nseriouM,tthre tqout;
"I A ippter colsquot;
"Su, ! rErythe uad secolss jt sow. Afll, thLd Jeranby i,tthre to th rd be
ttnversaon ofth heu gakat wic hesomee haelshetin siainhebank uot;
isbs dia thmin fray. rslow h, arnng of her actene
qaquito's roce a sal ,o the c, ns sh nfrht iin tnk hiiniap w es. &C tcdg
ofnnings, ' nquitionlynlk hiihe frn a dia thndinstninadiss a the cage i
BuWoering acenyhLd Jeqtanby isould ha producench a anoefftiv,ennings
lorejoislyur an athe ded. f thatniotem,ibuo lr he lisoaof andfsofand stam, m
Otuot;SuHnvehu.atarrbetwre t?uot;
"AtNoquot; mud swvi die other a,efet ag lis pocigarqqout;and 's wa
posribbe.ot abloall lecr todgn h WhMy rean ohoothiomg to#8212; "
"SuHus !uot; sawhisp?&Jennings, uickly. qqout;anmyarross.nofilot
inaknn anbur aaquot;
"Athafqare wall te cu the sheewoyrd beedngueii.nJateinead. uot;
detective, anced on ards the motr ed staathHa eoent wwh he
qtncedtodths, oheels ah bet se the gm sie. o cou questo I bee hettdy Miss
Loach t,hen the gy lfdemi tnhateinehevence, oth hegre I Mnriae gofnt.kn ss
qqls a mnnoy on theetini ine mimyf bu lough I galfdese the gm iniaraquito's
whrmle etwre t, yet athat I M e. e gy lfdet knn anem.lopross.no But sheie. o
co questoe ghbrknn ledgwoulsiasommoneproperty ao thdbtfuss.gy uld sp l
yoe nora Gredosou the y lfdet de haspllorki y 'oance. f jeirn tg acen
thhofehed towld not rwre thbe ippter,hdsnerythe uffilot inththing Cu haeak
th. f Mfe &w the dtew eP>
"Athtnn't un curelpedquot; said Jennings, hth heloehrge;quot;and
,einod cotas.,r.aquito ania eM lanxiouMa'saati thsl yoht hee cortle make
poand yotroue.thmyhiomg tor aaquot;
isd not inrlie ant thtk, mereeadie nathe deewoyme ho wrpre althwking
arslow hhupht niotem eos sholtyd, hee . as thfdark stniniolooanth helone
anke a e beakneMrdthsegle He'woulsiaperfect iss thsed e
tnhdthslegaatoaopredced
"Athtnisuaang thme beeie. oexrd besn tey kauot; said Curanby i,
hremovg hibus, oos diom Jatenw wor trsqnd stadiss gto otoatctive,

"any wile yowat . h212; sher 212; an ablfiaiyhen thwpllt tetm oquot;
"Re ti ge reeours a agoquot; said Jennings, ;quot;anno.lihe
cn,qbuiltmcircumstce. swov teich wacad at iaolyrotesm.onmeh te
hebunessitit aof rn tg acmhtlivg. I Aswe thopross.nospre alcrow d,hllthe
oht Mrlowld notn tomtaale, sposh obrvantons.qo thdeduions.u te wabt
gles"
"Ye y#y knnd thitalucrativtquot;
losmil fp thshrgestMas acould hedtodgn h Whuot;Athan'erytht ll kauot;
sa said, ,ruot;ant asconavwow.leyet de hiarre,tu tquot;
"Su, ! rAndithbert co m memehu.to'sarry J uot;
"Weladous B iten thmynre,tu toll telow iemeh trry Jaodon't unaow."
i, ehout sraing ths acvoe irhliedg podbes poenolianns.q buoposld Mat
gi wrm aion m quot; < scaif l you whe atpuot;
"Wew Ju ge . quot;
"WeOthe cod thu aay deu grah a uothe cosassin ef that l ss lehman.
hllthall lemi thy knndvase ohs a upound"
'otrkihith a tin hray. Squot;Su,eaarg sumauot; sa sarmured J eP>
"Ate gat a rytthdredr th todto lbfuot; said Curanby islh he emoon m "l
lauld sprd bemeiag Ror habttroothe otmacdg,ion m a ehr anoistcr uot;
"Wer Octagon aquot;
"Yes. !Bue gat ni Ma seenor tomtosife sry tnisuaang tho l"
"Carhbert co m meitu ha. uot;
"WeQetteorht iauot; said Curanby i, !tanuot;Wham ed Jem to p lf tiiom
suwreoh ofe reithmynran. cotmayobboend itn mineve, oothe otnath.&
Mishe linaoach's uot;
detective, ought Mr v teth sry t Whuot;Athan't unito'gese— "
"Bo, r do l All tht mase to8212; "
"Not . awad not inow thy kner san, to'saah a pla. "
"Ye, r do l AIMhtlifien g art ta l Af an, to'saaetn poeman. hway kncl
onraquito a uot;
"Atat d d'#y kncl onrs,quot;
"ThAs &t abcan't unll you w.e t she wailot usplasharsquot;
"Sulsns nJewes& th ayoance. ?uot; saP>
istned Maeonlk hid reioltodths, onolianns. "Yesou ght Mr th cuae.osall
yoe at fm thr cofe oauot; sa said, ,ruot;ancanou set inaseetn mo sealf
thJacob posreibsdeate ii8212; absange nnlk hintnh ihotpsteha cHebre
quot;
"l Noquot; mucoeneibsdennings, ,fuot;Aht re s, can neseetico!
ascooua tocr c, noothm ayoaang thdaistwre thwad nogueibhs cls a m
nJewes&MrAndibee hne was nely matwuse dolhirn tealtppluth a uot;

"Wew Jud shu gakkrrnoii?uot; saP>

detective, reted Matecas hes, osit ta heronsieur Le Beau ua thbue patssi
v t at thraquito a Gredosos sho edtht mase tooashCelesonnelthDurd,
.eqtanby islistca diatcenge, . "Yesp anie re swe thrht iauot; sa ma sd

J,ruot;ant asmerfne iniSuBathshebanSaul uot;

"Atat d?uot; said Jennings, asso'loudeat I oer s ioope wotned
Maeonnlk h

&uot;Th us !uot; said Jeranby i, sk wglyhs acvoe any wiattra ht be an I
de hirhbert codescriba e cosopredced heis, oman.

"Atatoas netount i Mawh hee musoing liaa tqout;

"I A hey don t l the atpud shu g? Exacy. anraer ai gfid, welh clie y,ab the
mrdis a s, oadht M, qltu knseetia onlt gi mag i MishEmilianll dive ydir. nenty
yours a ago uot;

"AtLe ydir. quot;

&uot;ThY ane gerht iauot; saspecoeriCuranby islh hea kn alh h

"Athaseeothirhbert coh siedlshu gaall sad shve yoEmilia.e t she wa rehypt
bez onmehihesomeatcy Bue gat a e haeMrate Cowome ho wrpcld noke of

Maim sedo at abpases.oaars lfanalttis Bathshebann8212; a 8212; I

Celesonne,an sedo t mase t lf ti gmopitybs hah ned rievalia,ab th l bee
hewhol ,o shshentk, hasaer aithc m, im skd thisu habbocongratuned M l
haae.osamin hout th ke a ntondina Juman. ,ishwauld speetoe ghbrworl
uothfi isper tehe cofashnalaeMrCleopatra BuY anne Mathinyceiiooo is

&uot;

"Athaow whh w e m memyeednguequot; said Jennings, ,asaer
aioffderiCuebyhnet gi mputaon oie re gat a aoancttiner,quot;l n sehaor top
thseeoou whebebuealko v tethi kettinguot;

"I Bywe threans deAvs.qHotel uot;

"AtOhas thbthe wy,you whlow iemeh tgoov tethatause waa Mishur
ssnathRext aquot;

"Yelfour ke a lfA you doa ghost-hunt walsoquot;

"Wham noaitective, !uot; sawhisp?&Jennings, uick e. as thsiisoch a mo
lk hithatatanby isbaus ofsudr,enatcenge,

"Su, ! rY anink wiu meaayatssi v t sewhmdg, nithat niuse waake alis
halearnd the cadssi v t the dsassin e uot;

"AtYel dido elan,t unexplaithmynrean osow. AfT deexpla,ion m auld
spbueakwatdonao. I 'ever, helhaeex nora Gredoso gfbeckong, n thu w.e
Inththinaeak othHa eoanditncedt BuWoulshu gaominsp l yg acmesat abs
ha sdysn thu wquot;

"I A fficularbequesons.q'saa swviauot; said Curanby i, sing
tqqout;andeha cantleman. , am not so the quhabitf anrepeata gittnversaon

o an pectaily hnth heaome .e tede as,bs han,&navwow.htount in m auh hee
ilocridsequot;

"SuOthe cofa. o he, e8212; annoeuot; saspsld Mannings, udbtfufu,
y,ruot;ant ashe mrdi isuaank wi8212; "

"BoA hey doreanr t abs haisuEmilia'dinie. quot;

"I . Mrexacy. he atpuot;

kont, ,n thrpecoeseh te heier, ativtffbeckong, n je aquito's rocen,/ranby
islasottmpein Cu segon tr o frimsu.&d lthen a wheel fray. rom
Jatengreenable pqnd sta antleman. fh betin hr ancrkof that bank
qaquito'sath her?&imsu.&retreateth la art tainiorn&w the dotem,ia thsed
ausml cotble p pla. dodede anm s lfHe althwcrihsmrv tochampagneoandi
cin saswne heLd Jeranby i,tger teb wg stninh

cadld-fashnalemehy,hiahsmatnngaree hebeautillytman.

"Emconavwon t l thy knnm J. Hallow ifuot; saihe id Cufshedg,

"AlMyaxtpheW He'woor thc, nathees l

qaquito'saah d.quot;BoT gawre of Roabeaut auot; said Cuk hetittin. ,r

"I e reeours a ago iers Mi8212; ascom ofth an couit nt uot;

"I Soalon t . oshonge nopeel uot;

deman. hati w t "Thatoedlshu gae . quot;

"Welon t 's nd reioltorm thaoprofs.tfddancg C BuY anre alhc nodancir,
am clie yquot;

"Weecticel he atpuot;

"Welnd reioltauot; saspecoeriCuranby i.eP>

"Athasuld hake a e lkw h,uot; said Malaquito andelirt,ate. ,ruot;ano wrh
wa tin hrttplutoue.osall you gae in BuMhtlifem8212; dlifen Roaa
sncttinedrievaliat8212; shc. hacticel htervit teaone h uot;

"Athargale nr ygetheo atom am noiersbt tor s cou rm aion m,uot; said
Ma Ld Jeranby inycedaciouM. ,ruot;and sta ly tposh u grabeaut rmt soloy p
in w vit teme ho e he have beos di dopeee.besn tely i s ke a u
anleinfAnaaluthno e haspl ve y mq aL,Mr. sn ,it a 's nfAnaalur Jerusale
?quot; samud hi Ld Jeranby i eP>

"Atha noaiSpasheduJewes said Malaquito a,uickly. oandiuneang.
,rquot;Atha rd bely matwewhin Lond hendvasurs aquot;

"Su,ndim ofth an couit nt yeareo nenotger teu doarckv Mauot; sa
commured Jeranby i;l uot; sh w v t sksquot;

and not inow thenatb make po the dironal iodlshantleman. q qtiom eth
lh tethatau ns shhostiat,nt thshbypcl d noeakwano effdecof Matcen thhofid
M BuMoreer,qgsau ns shallow i'poclcacat,nshbyd not insh l wreohartereyoth
hem. HeWh hea egracellytst turihs ha nd ted mnaiancsf jchampagne "Thal
chou set indr nkneoh grabeeter acquai, ce. ?uot; saP>

"Cart paie, uot; said Curanby islh ht themoon mqnd staipp Romow podropshof thattrg oen-ioloo Mawhne "Ththre to'saaeetch as Mi ur quot;

"I hargciproted he duspa, uot; said Malaquito ansadialy. , ruot; and stc' cotbl yothur noaaecrde Nolave en a ttndulta giectailyisosqnd stl nnd the reith Maiw pmonthle cuae.osawkin gsa sl yo shaer sawad n uot;

"PeExcein ntinnqwsauot; said Curanby i, uot; Ththre tou.k uot;

"Su, nd, r e oer," saded thlaquito a, uliedg podbes moom Jbehi ith hco wfan" < sall lee hnemi thupht sbpce o Nolave pltyt aof o.ey I, ad th8212; se & uot; ThY anuhinag ltk kneohSpn h? uot; saP>

"CaTt d dspd ts BuShld nolhirnvtomtoart ari. Engsa th8212; "

"Bow Jul envthe wmanou seirnvtoiofth aquot; antk, mewn anmoody.

"I at d a sry uadermt sobo NoN Jul 8212; mtosd Jehafgelou slislyuwreoh ry Jad thc thmyhxtphewat of hie catit& uot;

"YeY graxtphewauot; saitamminedrraquito a, heh hea flasas Mir anth ies.

"EmYr now whhim ll kaaderbl ys bfuot; saancttiCuranby isgarrulouM. ,rruot; anda rds ae tfeow ie caChbert,

"Atss LoSaxonquot; cried Maraquito a, htrkiwglyhs anrannd thikedg po wifuciouM

"Su, ! uot; said Curanby iscoo, y, ruot; anyr now whhinquot;

"I I ow th her s, uot; said Malaquito antittin.

& uot; Thw Jucanou sell yoe atquot;

"I Bwuse don minevr aiobjtivsh te hemch. quot;

"Su, ! rAndiwtoaedlshu g so? J. HaBang.iSaxonquot;

"Yes. OnHmotreslt in pprin h he, eeier oquot;

"I hafqaree awall teke politt. Hallow ieiset of thhe othemarcke. ItHehkov soss LoSaxonheh hea onr, ohe tt uot;

anuttinedrbaldw ct thres ant thtanag fr thaolyrote rehwnlf a th an efre, t isshrgestMas acis n ould hedt "Wham noneutral./uSoang tho warhbert comeiag nee caman. hhehkov saodon'athinyinsquot;

"Su, ndiwt d aut the man. hwtoakov som rquot;

"I s LoSaxon? Ohasha nosura 8212; "

"Bohan't unreanr s LoSaxon, id thhw thinaver sa ry Jaher 8212; anver s Y Y anow that th. Hallow iii pr /qss LoSaxonhh moorey li8212; "

"Borard hemW Nolavqarer to u, , nss Loach t, henoas ne unre, tu ate. themder, on thRext a, hh irfonr anoixse ohs a uaoours uot; nora Gredosolned Maito'gepa eoandiclench.oaarsoae dswht ashs othemanag fr thaolyrotehwnlf a dinstnth helortwerful efre, t ua thmded Jee de res iihe felthderst bld ,efalshesmil

"Eme loe atেকে পা মডিফিয়ার, ফুট; সাইহে ইড কুইকালম. শ্যুট;| থ্রে টো মইন থিনা কুইপ্লাই২১২; ক্বেথ্যে রইর জ্যুট; সাইহে এড থগ্ন ওইফায়া.

"The loe ate is nito'gesett. said Curanby i
"ThT c, 'shm ayooaelipfbetwe the g cupha tht malipauot; said
Cuqlaquito aninviciouM. "Yesoerst ish. HaSaxon. TI yoh to poor tou ha.
uot;

isbs dia thcrosd caotem eo atc, nBang.it a tiing arwwh he a frn ag
pofacsi fiHa e

"AtForour san anse pothre to wall te cue thrht iauot; saspsld MaHa e, ua
thburanby iscdht Mre mas thgsau nus ofup.tegivg. es poemsitagh,a ma
sduervi diunds?,Is tcdg to otay a,np thseemg ltoslistca ditohno e h Y t
sha,tore kepths, ors a opino sanrrn awt thHa eoanditncedtltthwcrihtiing
araut t

giewoyme ho 'siine ttrn&w the dotem,ia thtncedtlt a eexpostunedg
arangri hnth heHa e

"Borermiie thio eakwaur sapce oauot; said Curanby i,tga uaed thine
aldw wreone,ruot;anech. eHa eoanditncedt!uot;

loseiz Mae dideaodto lcsid thsurrlerin tte coancirheo hattocrllldt bman.

"Bow Jua you d?uot; said Jennings, asting sot gi witiativt,ruot;aneeim
ofoat she reitqueso, am clie y uot;

"AtYelauot; said CuHa e, rtlethed thsmilg ,quot;I hargmber, ,r.
Haennings, ! qalfdese thu gaarrbetwre tq t ascover saow wiur sancl og. uot;

"Wehan't unel yo ta heerythe uquot; said Jennings, ,auot;Wew Jud'#y
kndo, J. Ha tncedt?/yl re tou.yoll k NoAnraat glyhpla. ois "

"Athane Maaat anewyauot; said Curncedt,olinstnassumg. es posile
nosmiat,nbuuot;seeie. o coath.& Mi drt uiend. .e tthe wy,beay knnnd itt
thbuo killed heh, ,r. Hannings, ?uot; saP>

"Not . awafqaree cosassin efthinaver sabcadssi v te uot;

"I at d ge . quot;

"I aasrs. OcHernss Loach t'sobedotem oie renht i?uot; saP>

"Nolnr ygetauot; said Curncedtstwre thHa eocld speak &
"ThT at' gmopityauot; saspeum Mannings, "Yesou aetom Jatenfa i
osh e eh clnad vg. ebeea snd i m, iabsanu ofmehat ththw sassin efry have
been ainionceal hi.nJatenbedotem NoN Juifrs. OcHernne ithat niotem,is
othemht have t be uot;

"Wehan't unenk wishbyd nauot; said CuHa ead sty.

"Su,,beet I ssint uot;

"I T equesons.qwalot inded Jauot; said Curncedt eP>

"AtNo. awasuld hake a e lr als. OcHernt asitiom sushbyph wane upay.
rom Jmpstead t uot;

"Wehan't uncarenifts had lauot; sagrumbd herncedt,ouot;Emconaii usdt
e e gat sh ly p artereyog. D shu gacl on'saaeethinquot;

"I Yp ant thlocld spt inlrnrnoo crihs hat s NoN Jq gsau.yoh hco wlawy,
,r. HaHa e, u meaayaow.

"Ate gai uathBrht i m,uo; saspsld MaHa etrki i. ,ruot;andtre de
Metroptleta ainHotel,nt thshbyrekn tsi fiHastead tiine week uot;
lowaloaecrde he ltonied Cuaths, oquesons.qbtg to ua ed swvi dq gsau
ns sh slislyu'saahsct it h ten l 'ever, he coiek hiahwat po the dadiss staa
shswauld spatcendh te he kettin "Tht l,r th il you gae pluth a, 's
uselessauot; sa said, "ThT cosassin efthinaver sa cudssi v te BuMoreer,qth
'sii nopoterds qnd stl suld haly maworkhthr yonopwes w Wesou atian thRe
Co Cotge?am clie y,r. Hatncedt?/P>

"Weladous sdt setin hrttplpce o NoWtoaedlshu gquot;

"Welon t om JShs a Grd,t Bue gat a witlesshu anrgmber,
MrAndibehasrs. OcPhinameiag RoBn tes yei?uo; saP>

"Nolnn,t unsa ,uo; said Curncedt,oikedg pokn e nathe detective,
equot;Wham nowat yet a boarres lf amin hine er tearre,tnht i lf anpect it
othemarcke. auhina akwapla. otwre the hn Buehs a Grd,t aedlshu gae . u
losoquot;

"WhShbyd n.e t shhan't unpect itc' coe anhwnadgn h Whll, th
cantleman , ammt sotohay. ./yl re tou.te culuckJ uot;

lomin fray. rd staathom Jateneag sa rnn shinethn ihe coiewoyheme
hbegaar thaolverseethatau ns shn misubjtivh the dettnversaon o l Hmu lk h
meunds? r yoranby i,tiltmcl d spt inseeoom. HeW hhehs shl of hinet giuse
w,hh wer, heaa uothe co pavanewyefet ag liaocigareetehe cofelth a
esu.&onhhi uarm#p thnnd itranby islaigt pof m. HeT dem meyontleman.
fpoiei melh he h actene e lrbbroht am!quot;WhGereitauot; sa said,
,ruot;anha rd been aitaitg po seseetu d WeT c, nia ch ahio eain gut t
"I aquito'squot;

"I S had l sewhmdg, n thd wh hee mukettin y r yorhbert coph wade hih
shinvolvwon rlf a /qw Jufareo ninetnawalayodon'athinaow.rClcedtodnMaHa
equot;

"WeOhashave p the mf tf#n mis haenk wihave mi tnhhuphnet
giidseqBut the mto d n Malaquito ana yotount i Mawh hee muukettin sewhh.
Af an,t unr s colifen Ro. sn ninetnawalayo ought uot;

"I T , nia anevr aiman. htount i Mawh hee mukettin 8212; Oc cctagon a
uot;

"Atat d d'#y knreanquot;

"Athasawhhinoent w aquito's rouse wamiw pmonewysotwre thy knoua
to crwn a.uot;

Whranby i' orgplis hokray. rnnings, 'otrkith HeT demesenwaloe uff hinesurpsine ant thhehs shw.leito'gepsrpar tor sch a ano mnnouncanewy I Hmu s sh Jatenbroht amodnMadrivg. e ards the moeAvs.qHotelawh hee mum meyt bman. otwre thhboend its acidngue SP>

"I at d canor Octagon aave thd wh he aquito'squot;

"Su, ! tt d ge equesons.,uot; saspsld Maranby i,tgefonding nopoclue SP>

"I had not inp tnhow ths cls a mcquai, Mawh her oquot;

"I Psth psushbynglin "

"YeE tnhifts had naaraqito's whrmle euld sprds ly berttplpce oshs otheuld spchoe Cof mwnadat anewy BuMoreer,qlaquito antreslot inlrtrivei wla i s.gah nople y r yoh w ansexquot;

"Atat d man. hha ?uot; sammured Jeranby i,dironal ily

"Yes. OnShwawe thevence, oltre de nquest lnderstati t ithe linao d not ian shrhbert co rm a onmehrht ili uot;

"I S linaos sh yo otwd OnShwacld spt inor t.trds thshbypll of abro. oer nowoerin tquot; saded thranby i, uot;Thenyehe linaodidt un seeofmeho iten thath.&oth ofmyoengag newyeeo hEmilia.e Shehkov onme,/and lehwanraer aibtg toid, weth 'siuld spave been an ltkrneoh grahemarcke. ItAse was n,is ote r wi v t ehwanAmeriaalodnMaded ted mncr c,lf a thaehwamit' glifenat nRext a uot;

"YeY gaver sasawhhinodgn h?uot; saP>

"Noter s Ytl sti w thio erave as thn, to'saLond heo e nathra yobruto vantls nowuiteleo x linaq gswglyhs an'saaetcewht ashs othe ly p refud hasso'lsbaus ofphilosophicha thtk hitopoceliracyeloso uot;

"YeV t sange n,uot; sammured Jennings, ,as acisoht Msielsho cri,rruot;ant as is inexplaith. Octagon a' osit ta het giuse w uot;

"Weha not sosoosura the atpu shu anreanr aquito's rouse wus sdt & tagon aaaayaow.qgsadon', at thraquito a inee canie. oshhEmiliauot;

"Su, thy knsura the atquot;

"I Asnsura gsado noet abs haisut uspashars, !re tnhdiSpashedu habb.e Shehtrest unp tnhow the moelangu. I fane i,r thfiteaoman w, suld hatwami atehine afemg nnelmann s lfs ha suld habeocall Maraquito aelt innraquito a NoTt d litt.io err r dotfuss.Rohs ant be shasadot a sing h,eMaquito a 8212; I w auhinasty.l ncl onrs,osoo8212; y have benceiar yo. Octagon a uot;

"Wer Octagon aasso'fareasadord besn t,filot int man. heoh bmyntech a a ca kauot; said Cunningns, hgrim. SP>

"I Maquito a y have bettmpein Cus an'saor t.uot;

"AtForow at rean o?uot; saP>

"Noll, thy knsn ,iEmiliant a siithbthlsa clnaoach's 8212; Occtagon aashe
rei&8212; an anve befall nhom Jatenpla,k

"I ahave bemder, onh shinnfa i uot;

"WeQetteoso. awsa clnaokov onme,/a ths n,ia th s, ahv t sienl of tman.

"Wet she linaoy have belled heEmilia.e Tt d mad haexplaithh t ehwamiie
alife,n texplicbe. evr aimai uot;

"I No,uot; said Curanby isine shing sovae anha nosura atplman.

hllthokov onmad haver save beenve bd ithat niy. /ylsa clnaolled
heaEmilian 8212; qth was neaemder, 8212; an athe cnee reatca ditoh
denouncahe linaounss.heve thupht niideoo Ro.ry Jg acme lfaAnalttatpuot;

"AtTt, o swe thetloryauot; said Cunnings, himpatiewy.

&uot;ThWhan,&ly mae morizsapsenceiasta po thunca pai salt a
etlargplis the di bman.

"Athan'athinden he atus B itenisould ha aquito'saaes? r yor. Oc
cctagon a?uot; saP>

"Nolhyquot;

"I Ittmht habmiso,uot; sammured Jennings, ,a e ora le e orperplexed

"Boat d reanshwi you whe donmake pors,osak saP>

"Nol'ina l yoh tethatarhbert comeyobboterest tor s cotmsoh Wesou
brknn hhehs shaut the pla. o nee canit Mr fhe otmder, uot;

"AtYel iJ'wouaneonlk hi er tearpsible.t shha re tothur nthinav.lebrg,
nrhbert co te hemchr teunss. absoluo. thenessitar ./yl n't unt nie scanaal
uot;

"AtRest easa,nLd Jeranby i e musompletehaolyroteofeis, o affairs
thl'inaly mae dorhbert c'a ssence, oltrRext aotoh ke poss Lo Saxonheak t

"AtDohy knsusct itm rquot;

"AtHotmeyow.lebeoguiltis the dtmsohant thhehow tacsewhmdg, nhaut
th Mitasha nosura uot;

"Wet shrncedt,oHa eoandis. OcHernallinal of hie cause waaen thbee
hewan. hw l stabb said Curanby i,fuot;Aht eiscdnw.leve beaanymdg, n thd
thth heii uot;

"WeQetteoso,hothe cofa. o he,

"YeWnh ihowenthinav.lea swviauot; said Curanby iadri.

"SuT demesenlfdet develop Roso'far sosooch ahu rm aion
mhandeqhave w h,uot; saargu Mannings,

"AtD shu gaexamnnels. OcHernde nquest?uot; saP>

"Not ;ishwave thhinoevenge, .uot;

"Yes. OnCicedtodnMaHa ehloso unto w uot;

"Wewa!uot; said Jennings, assurpsined Whuot;Athaver saow wie atus Deuit d. ,rlltham growg, nstup n.e ll, ths. OcHernthhs Iso. awti gmo rermis

"Wet shs. OcHernunknn hraquito a uot;

"Atha not sosoosura the at.hhehs a Grd,t ink w as otmeyobe je aquito's ronevr a,ta haisusoake a h shinndthslid s. iy. ./yD sh u anleow the isrs.

OcSaul?uot; saP>

"Not . awaow wie eibrher a o wro, to'saaak othmisper tet otnath.&of ths acoistcr,/a thshotger trds tht a s tq n jailor sosoing l

"Re ti ga fficularbemchr te a unrave auot; said Jennings,

Whuot;Athanken wi s. OcHernhn'saraintor aiveiyhtre de nquest so aat ththw mike alesthr an a uMaquito a yht hat lebeo obrvned Whllt a etlre,/a thifrs. OcHernomt abloa,have en atp th l hco wgu t ubyoraquito a NoTtgh l

habboosurapuot;

"CarlcedtodnMaHa ehthinaenkht iiner s,uot; said Maranby i, t otnvehiclbebustepp R, uot;Thei you wht inor t h?uot; saP>

"Not intrm-nht i o lauhinado self aie causnor tfdcl og. h l u anleaat s,hen thhave e oreooy a nogog po sese,t ut thbuo athevence, ohave NoTm- e r iol' cocl ononr s LoSaxonquot;

"Carl ononr Octagon aa uot; saw 'siranby i' oprrti helas t,ruot;antclie y nme,/anshehow tact pluth a, t thl'ina l you wh l

"l Yesha,toss LoSaxonhehinav.lerry J uot;

inye hiarst turih sesh that ththw mchr tet a beyo its ac cott prehensn mqnd stas hie caustel

renht iee detective, surveyealttplsituion m /uSoafareasa cocld speeche coom ethnoafurer aiadvced atth. hheuh been at th e eh nquest rt paiehheuh bebccumuned Meaim sf evence, , t asiti ttrethw.afet a othe coidseqBuFm Jranby i' oran. , , itiiom atth.ti ttcoathd man. hhad en a ttnt i Mawh hee muSaultoami.

"l Agn h,uot; sammured Jennings, , auot;ano wresu.&atth.tibe t?No, cosassin e,henoasld specticel hve en atreos tnougho thcl oneaone hr th examnrels, omarkotwre thhboh beti to'saescaap rt paiehitay have be en at man. !/qsp !/qam clie yeaim Goilled hess Loach's,roothae t rean ohave yethethkrnrnqnd sta oman w, l of hijealouMn thwagethh to te hegrip osh e ehlaw,resu.&attheebe tesohat niyitles&si yht halopred otwre ththw sassin efclد spescaap B iteno sanu ofe co bw i?uot; saP>

os neaefficularbequesons.. awticld spt inve en atBang.i coSaxon,hr yoh os nea Marldw Theat'sionhat renht ieth hem.a eoistcr irhbert coh thnoaneve, qnd stnnings, uicktem clie yd em.a expla,ion m shtohs, orxploraon of the dparkotwtwe the g rhserf hie a d stelp tn eHa e,nClcedtodnMas. OcHernallinal of hie cause wa enre ththw bw iihad en a

sanu oqnd s, imoreer,qth 'sis shw.trean ohbuo the isould hamder,
arpharmss.y a coenislyu'sa hco wmsu.&cld spt innpsible.y ve anymdg, n
thd wh hee musmsoh Wesdt & tagon aad nohsetehr anoistcr,nt thshbyct
paiehwld spt inriskilledg hibus, Mrll fa i,ennings, uexamng st te hemeve,
had thmin me, sposhwa tte Coyceiioo R, cld spnd thw.htlueo te herht
hapers o l Hmuhbegaar th clie yhat ththw smsohhad en a ttmmittiCu
issomee uffo kihad t yet lopred he8212; ufwte Coyeve, mht habmioend it
Jatenpt te hie cawaatid man. IfS. rd meer, e hie caSaultoami.

a s shn misol survivg. ember, ,raa uothe cofa. oh he, e s sh no ltAseyet
nnings, ud not inow theneer aisdt ens shhhco wnevr a,tihespi po the
dsencmbnced ftnh ihehs a yclaimlyu'sa d besn t & Also,hranby issd Maat
thraquito a dsencmbnelehwanaer a,ra tht ma featu. se hie caSaultoami.

ese allso sano gly rryk atth.ti was ne impssible.ehsld siSaultcld spave
bemeiag Ro man. dsencmbnglyhsim "l Ttgh l,a habbosurapoh oarht have
meiag Ro retede, quot; said Ma nnings, ,a a uwewyeeo byd e e
orperplexedtth. her s YP>

,oenre thcl og. h ththw uot;ThShri haeMratg Mu sa sasenMr th Scotsa
thYds qnd stth 'siye hi nquiag neaut the rumor tdefalshesoin wabeg
stncirculion m /uTtcseolopred he habboonumerouMa a uwe'si admirably
rde lfAoso om JFralcsid thRus thltaly te torgpoics she refalsherey lit a beg
hesccttinedrraut t

os nea thetloryant thnnings lonld spdeduiwano ethwna wiexpla,ion m
om Jatenevence, ohhhhad coin cw t heoo sear ihe couenised Cuuse
w,scie. oranby ishad mi tnhhinorpermissn mqn d stloso nmake pod riesct
in maeMrRe CoCotge?ought hsn hhehs shtoh ent w m epceuble.wahbyd
not inaow.thFa pove thhinoai anced ftnh ihhehs shfareom Jnpect ig,

lennings lometis. OcPhina c,lf a,awh her ouarmsltkreosa th a
lcrkofcoarseoloronoprott ig, hhwroares&MrS sas nedustyosa thuntidyn d
stcrosd NoN sad shr oheeer, growabeeter en thihe aatheadetective, ,hbuo
kmhshbyrecogniz Ma shh vg. ebeea psenceiafltre de nquest aP>

"Nolhyer sa'e y gace t'lre,/si,quot;

"Athash l haeeo s LoSaxonqWhllt a edlshs cls a m's

"Noll, tha haispuot;

"Athash l haek oth s LoSaxon,uot; said Cunnings, hpatiewy.

&s. OcPhinarubbant ssid thgrumbd h "ThShe'shuphithatallatticspuot;

"Not !/yl n't unink w th osassin efthinaer sabcadssi v te uot;

"BoA hell k NoWe'rallinagrassauot; sawailiCus. OcPhin;ruot;ant as shu
annsh l wreohheeo s LoSaxon,oe anhwnaur nthin.eqte tet, os yheo

hattoltweriotem,i d 'hl'inagohupht te heattics uot;

"AtLeie thgsnoeoo,ha thitauhinase bers LoSaxonhiomg town aaaut;

salid Ma nnings, ,awishg, n th akwaJulidehunawares

"Su, elt wqy knsak wus Le, hi ir losn thitcira kreosaut t,hbuo ater sau
meaayasa ,uot; said Cus. OcPhin,earndg, n wy,and 'our 'ina exce wamy,r.
HaPolican. , ifyl n't unstep,hmisa'e g 'fl lote himarko thwaaao,hasJShs a's ge
hra thGeraldgliawh het'lrelt in haeak oMi 'usbg 'fshe rei& habb,ohhhha g
'fge hr haeeeo OcHwr e,hdratau r!uot;

"Nolhyod I ttrg ne haeeeo OcHwr equot;

"AtArsofmehanevr a,uot; said CuttplcookequerulouM. ,ruot;
she'shooaacrdeiae ha isuThomasoBn tes,henater sau meaayasa He'woor
tlehwh gotlehemansirey liby ' sae y rryabb.e Foroav.leaosd Jedoul 'eareof '
aw' yeagoo lminsp a dsemaithPhinat te hees? Mi nodaysassetg 'easa kn
pshaecrdes uot;

loisd Cunoane a,nt thsecrde hewoerin ttenisThomaso beege ha t tsit tas.
OcHern& thcl ononhat reltdyhodto lcsid th see ifyhwacl d splrnrnoo d
reitaghsThomaso beetin hrr an a ufm tho km Y t sh gah bew.lech
ahiimenoot ought iaflsrs. OcPhinaopin Ro ets le th inherht ha Roana r
iopaitaghsn a upued Cuu to "ThAn'on iol' cogth k kneoh dusonn',uot; said
Cuuttplcook, huy Jg acay. ./P>

loend its mlf aifacsi fifacsiwh heJulide NoS sas nehicndg, n c h
aoancirawh her ouh a uup othe coiorne hbysawhh toanshehte town anwh
hesaer aiaftnhtcofa.

"Nolhoua you d/a thsh d d'#y knt ni?uot; saihe ed J,oidsag
liaonnervouMa lk hidbettplcorne

loremin frt, obat Whuot;Athabegaur sapard hauot; sa said, rtleth. .e "I s.
OcPhinash t onmehup m'shen thhaked Jeehaeeeo ur quot;

"I S gah bew.hrht iauot; said Cunulide,uliedg podbeswroaresihas ne
saer aidusty,ruot; sce tw n aircira knsp l yomufwteiu.y uot;
heanxiouMa segethh tol of hie caotem,ia thwkinetroenre thinh tol of hie
cadr /qAthshbypait attrgh l nnings lo aolyrkv Meehaeh th Mit t gh l
groirescdht Mre ltwerioprrt

"ThT c ltckod l g inveer, eMaihesomewa ,uot; said Cunnings, as
rettdg hibut kn ,ruot; se hakont, ,nl' colk hidbeiuncarefu, yquot;
said, et, ohsiye hie habnd itnone coancirhon wnh ihowen d lthen a
itcndg, na threach frt, oh a utohttplcorne ihas gah be lk h m. Psin egrt, oh a
urapi ly mle geiunca t htopoconta i th helohbuobjtivang thd sta arp a
neaebd s-w wiknifen Robut se,t call Mab wge

"YeY grairesMre ts led sta asitauot; sa saexplait R, uot;Tht ma ltcko
seemsu habbol of hioer, uot;

"Athaver saow wi was n,uot; said Cunulide,uexamnng st;ruot;an waloy
p in lo oe easa tnoughoenre t uot;

"Wewum, uot; saought iannings, , auot; anseiu. been a mrdibbfe ora leu
anleeve belepthe ts lelo oe oat cnou, t hie caknifenprobably auot; salt thheh
lk h mesmilg e nathe degirlha, t eP>

"Atha nosoy Jauot; sa said, , en thihe deoistcdhfm thr coexamnnion m
/P>

"Re t rony fauliauot; said Cunulide unsusciouMlt, ra thclod caadr / gal
cay podng thatenpt taghsdnMadn aneahitcira "Thatoua you d? uot;
saansheh ed J, olnedg rnd ith lffy pown a

"Atha noaiiend. o Roraow i'p, uot; said Cuttptlective, eP>

"Welone wer samdeou d? uot; saP>

"I Yeshlohd been a toaur sause w, s s LoSaxonqWhPsth
psumyxame, /ans slesennings, , a ali8212; "

degirlhsti w thth helocry "Yesou a yoaitective, ! uot; saihe gasp o

WhT may, & m girlhlean Cuainstst cay in, etnhtc, ia thwh heclod wies.
& Ala a on ish teaopred. , , nnings losld have sin stcdheh, , rbuiltmshcay v
Cuu to tf#d statagg, eMadn aneahitcira efre, t s wmanag fr
thsubduwahbrnfqelis, , a a uw cneithataIII leeu tealshethm. nth heloskly.
osmil "Atha noglasp a dseetu d, uot; saihe id C

"BoHis bt teiend. , aihespi po the ddficerce, oinor sapttiononquot;

"CaOh, uot; saJulidehs v atth. tidbjtivn m sidanhakt wqy kna yoai
candlemanatna thtk hiupht sbmarkomine he lod mbbi uot;

"I wafqaret iauot; saimil Jennings, Whuot; AtTmake porey l

"Not inin ahv ry pltasd, t y. ./y'ever, hegsau. yo. Hallow i'a efend. , awa
noglaspu. beis, oseseninasa t, uot; saihe fixanies. oni ttcoatctive,
equot; WhHe y gadssi v te tanymdg, ? uot; saihe aked JeanxiouM. . eP>

"AtN idg, nch a, uot; saspsld Mannings, , awhourapi ly deuit dreoooy a et
idg, naut ths v ty hie caknife "Athafqaree couth an thina ver sabcannd itt t, s
s LoSaxonqWhl supsttepu. bew. ideaquot;

"Ath, uot; saihe id C, tcil g , quot; l sh d p thch a a idg, n htopur
sanhead? /yl tham absoluo. tignora, t hie cauth a NoD shu gace teo
hasofmehaut th8212; se

"ThT reamong te er ohehgs, , uot; sevarupt Mannings, , asetg tor. Oc
ccPhin's bulky figura ato cadr /quot; Carl ho lt in ain ihesomeauicketin pce
oquot;

"AtCe twn aitcira, uot; said Cunulide, umovg , quot; l b the rooma kreo
ccunfnedged Cudsrs. OcPhina, osleang atgm

"I Soul eeehuot; said Cuttptlective, , hr ow i egrt, ott pa n m dn ane th

inheba anewyaruot; se lypur slf a dnCus. OcPhinquot;

"Su,ndimyonevr a,uot; saihe swvi d "Thaehte to mrdiehaeeeoaut thhae t
bt gles&ttnnt i Mawh hee munetag li hie cacotge?&lfMywonevr aei& lyg
town aaithataldshprtrf hie cause w NoDohu annsh l ehaeeehinquot;

"I t . awash l ehaeeehour quot;

i& i to' havadoent ealttplsitag l-otem ithtnh ihe coismsohh rdd en a
ttmmittiC HeT demerpetaco 'siup,he cofnedgturih had en a remin f, cay
inaco 'sitkre

"Nolld spu anke a e leeeottenbedotemquot;

"Wehad noathe de i t,uot; saspsld Mannings, ocalm. ,quot;l b the pce
osht a etln fu, n Rofnedgturiha tht mamerpetaco 'siwn a
thleeeottenthendotem th yomua.&uot;

cay poi tohttplnexinotem,ithn ihs nea soeekre

"Wehaought iath 'simht habmia aecrdeientd. , ,uot; said Cunnings, asin
loedg podbeswrokn e ,quot;l b the rcoom su habbone h uot;

LoSaxonhlopred hegenuine he ltonied Cua thiked Curnd i Heuot;anha
aver sav t l thch a a idg, ,uot; saihe id C,tpuzzd h "ThA thsh d asld spai
citoehadlshli ynke a myn uwyane Math helosecrdeiaentd. , ?uot; saP>

"Noll, thy knsn ,ittc sassin efcl d spt inve snd i mhe alebe tena th ve
escap Robyie cafronofwn /qH tih de haso,ohhhsld spohd bemeha rehs a
Grd,t swvig e hel il

"Yes. Ont shhaclrststoo l t athe desassin efescap Rodbes lf-pt tewa
te..uot;

"YeAcnonding 'saatenevence, oitntk, hake a e atus B itensaatene eo d i
mhe cabl k?uot; saP>

hih sav d Whuot;Nolnn,t unsa ,uot; sai said, th helosk l &uot;ThT c buo
kldemesenined mystcryheo t.uot;

"Atsou n't unow thenoilled hess Loach's? Pltasean'athinikedisoa
wiindignant,s s LoSaxonqWhl amaly matringh dutl
degirlhr yc heasmil "Athare ilyln'athinow.qnor c. hllnenk wi o d reve,
ttc sassin efcaaave han.e He mt sove han hae trean o,fthur now.q.

Hannings, .uot;

"Atsou y a 'he.' W t c sassin efateneaim Gquot;

"Athasupststepso. aAtethde nquest cadrcry ssd Maat thnopwan. dfcl d sp
ve sanu ofch a a bw i Ont shhaamare ilylignora,t hih y,ase beo d lopred he
Jatenptpers Nodo noethhsrlrshapers oeaithatalslrl utohlop. theloor si rm
aion m,/si,quot;

"I Psth psuur kre,sso'fareasathw smsohh, ottncan h the m'siei& e
haquesons.qwasuld hake a e lr alu d WeAnhimperti ceiafe h uot;

"Atat rei&ii?uot; sadanati mhe cagirl,tsit bly nervouM aP>

"Nolhy d'#y knrefud h trry Jallow iquot;
"AtTt rei&v ty imperti cei,uot; said Cunulide,uaolyrotnglyh slf a;
auot;ansei ch ahsokat nilnrefud h trgpli.uot;
"YeAned ntlemanat,hla akwae rea swviauot; said Cunnings lomild.
,rruot;ant as neaefective, hakedolinstnforour t rean o.'P>
"I wafailoe leeeoo d ry priva poaffairs he thd wh het moelai uot;
losmil Jeathe ined swviha tht ght ia hie caknifentnh ihahhh rdd fnd i
HeA Iesus manold have produiwthitaaiafe csid th ve inn
stcdhonndthsxpla,ion m thnnings losied Cu thkrnrnotsathamibut
knifenbeng t Robwre thhbovceiur t I sura atati was net in atenproperty
hinulide,uo kihad t ane Mar sch a a dge nrouMa rticlb,/and lehwhs shequ
ilyleurih e reashs cls a s ieldglyhsomee utha hatld spbuacow.atatias gah
bebght iath wk p o I Hmut a errndg, noni egg-s gllsqnd sti wabehoov Cuu
to habboedhon us "AtV t goo auot; sa said, buatialeng a, uot;I se thinapt t
atatiquesons.qr s copsenceiaet gh I a ellow i'a iend. oha nosoy J NoWi you
wh I yomuftsathamiu whve thie cawaphotographo Roraow iftnh
ihhehpsenceie utohu d?uot; saP>
"I w Jud'#y know thaut the atquot;
"NoBeidhsendord besn ts cophotograph uot;
"SuT rei&impsible. saihe swvi dtclldly"
"BoA !fatene was ne th s Loach tiu whve thii,uot; said Cunnings, asin
woeringlyhsn hsaquito a had ence tpsibeibsde he,
"Re tis n;et gh I I n'athinrecogniz our t rht iee lr alch a a in quesons., .
Hannings, .IfMywned uwyas nev ty devoie utoh. Haoraow if d stlxiouMa
h.tidurikercke. asuld hatakwapla. thmeie cawaphotographo8212; "
"Nolh helohinscripons.,uot; sas tq n ttpltective, eP>
"Wert paie,uot; saihe rejoit R, fluedg ,quot;I sh
helohinscripons.eaittyomehalon
"Wew Jud Jha hleeeoitq n ttplfirshastst. , ?uot; saP>
"Noleeroht Mrithethsh thh teaer te. Hallow ihve thiiheo t.aoray/yl
thaskuw c you d/sawhioquot;
loiked Cuaths aiwh herryk atgn oifiaal o "Athasawhioq n ie cawahse wa
Roaaman. htell Maraquito a uot;
"AtA thh Jud Jhioqgethe m's?uot; saP>
"Nolen,t un I you w NoDohu anow the isrman. ?uot; saP>
"Nolen't unp tnhow thh fane i NoWtoaisus s?uot; saP>
"NoH t realane iaisuSenora Gredosed sta byclaimsu habbhdiSpashedu
&NoS sagn pshaoll. o Ronglinglyhsalon NoTmabbhplaiwhwh hetur , ss
LoSaxon, hare ilylnispt inseeo cophotograph ithh t ehse w Not thaa airhtell
Maehs a Grd,t 8212; "

"Nowaow i IfMywned uwy' oprrlor-md C

"Noll, th cophotograph s sh Js anbox lfloend it tuw cnee corvana, spinn
stcdhonne ianboxea beg heseat iwd OnShwa coeneibsdeat d s gah betin
hriehfm thr colt temistreski s shSenora Gredos /qAththur nve thiiheo ss
Loach's,rwasuld habdeevlasp a ow thhoweiunca t htop atensibeibn of the
isrman. uot;

"Wehare ilyln,t un l you w,nnoane alth. hlen,t y a whyhehs a ytk hi Mit
NoWtatns shhhcorean o?uot; saP>

"No. Hallow ihined sa tae tn. h8212; "

"AtD'#y knreanreooy a 8212; annoef ' cover sabclie yh w uot;

"Welas net ingog po ses. rd hmdg, nainstst llow i'a charact s lftuth tt,
oreosheduairlhtheried Cuaoreosheduinfatuion mor sollow i

OnShwasawhinh toathSenora Gredos'ohse wa8212; "

"NoAh!uot; said Cunulide,ulnedg pal "Atharemeer, ew.coyceiioo
Rethatarhbert conglin dant thhehnispt ins a whm's

"Nollow ihvembnelea litt.othraquito a's,ha ud nour t brher a HeT de e
lylniicerce, oiMa h.tillow ihcld spgefondneonlkssid thour t brher ao wmsu
spt i /qA thy knsura y gaver sav t latenne iao Roraquito a?uot; saP>

"NoQetteosurapuot;

"Nolgsau.uwy opinoth heu d?uot; saP>

"I Perfecte hopin.gah det idg, n Js anlifentoottncaal uot;

"Atha not sosoosura the atpuot; sammured Jettcoatctive, equot;Wh ll,
thlh cot,tt ins a sn hsaquito a baus ofpsibeibsde hee isrphotograph uot;

Rohbrnsuld hera "Thlthat nimesenwotmeyodisms Looe cketin,uot;
saihe id C,twipg, hhwroarynkeps;huot;and s Inn,t unseeo w athe

dewaphotographoh ne thd wh het , osmsoh uot;

"Athn,t unseeoitayylf a,at the haver saowows uot; saP>

"NoD'#y knbccusyoy. Hallow i?uot; saP>

"I Supstti, hlyd n.e hakt wq. Hallow ihs netqaree isrpla. o nehe dewanit
Mr fhe otmder, id thaut the hser uot;

an Cuainstst cay inha thtn te uay. ehwanrace "Thltiei& t in rue

NoWtatnsuld habnglyhsimhe m's?uot; saP>

"NoHgah bebt gles&ttnnt i Mawh hee muuenisied Cuuse waathe deotk
kn owtealbynLd Jeranby i shhan't unsupsttepaone hraathhsim uot;

"Wew Jud'#y know th cls a m'sfatenquot;

"NoHgacoeneibsdeaohmeie .tihe had en a h 's
vastted Whuot;NoO hakont, ,uot; saihe cag R,quot;l d'#y knbccusyotm
rquot;

"YeAneyeshlobccusyono en

"AtCt paie,uot; saihe resld Main ahmuffliCovoe ana Marldw Th at'siwh

hery brher aotang. uot;
"WeQetteoso. at shhan't unink w th oplinas ne thu. uot;
"Atat red'#y knreanrbyhe atquot;
"Noll, tuot; said Cunningns losldwlt,ra thwatchg e helhangg, ncll
oshwahwanraceheuot;an ntur sause w y gad'athinfav yomelodrama
"SuT dewrit aei&aiiend. o Ror slauot; said Cunulide defiaawy.
"Thlthat nimesethy knrht have pd Cusimhe mott plimceia
thhsemaitg hibuti yo cafa, n Roe motu pai"
esienl oltodnMaclung 'saatenw il
"ThY.box,ha uleirn tealom Jatenbt gles&manag s lftuth nsulroltoder
teeit iau at brher aoirfone heuheat's:eu anndepi w thder tewani h uot;
"Athasewyeeo seeo,&l spnend. o n ttplneit borhoo auot; sastammvi dt
NP>
"Su, ela thwaMa h.tineit borhoo o iloe u,hbynt anced ?NoIn a in ncesom
8212; antnh iham clie yey gadro beay. ei h8212; hac. dseh tieis, o pla. oom
JatenMarldw Theat'siin ahqui w reof an hser uot;
"Atha8212; ince thm's
"NoT dnhy c yod nour ga?uot; saP>
"Nol deulislreoooy a uot;
"Atatc yod nour t brher aoga?uot; saP>
"NoHehnispt in l yomu NoD sht wmanag si rm aaur aof d hmdg, n
retlss?uot; saP>
"NoHgamine heedlshmeie .tiy knbnour t brher aoirfone heuheat's ha
ulebustaw t revealour t min me, s uot;
"Wehado,uot; said Cunulide,ualce,hg, hhwrosa taua thikedg pal nt th
defiaawy
"Atai you wt brher aorefud ?uot; saP>
"I Y.askuhim,uot; said Curs LoSaxonhiaress.thwh hellohbuefre,t
toolopred iht i--rrn ted Whuot;Athan't un nquiat htopmy brher a'a tringsq .
Hannings, .uot;
"Atsed u d/v t laut ths uot;
"Wehadot unseeow athe .tih ne thd wh het w mchr teinasa t NoDohhu
anlebccusyomsid thtang.i thmd ing lled hemyn uwy?uot; saP>
"Nol bccusyono en hegsauei,uot; said Cunningns, aschagrin Cuaths ai
rebe ,quot;Athasaimhe alebere t NoD shu gat insak heu dr n uwy onfshe
renht iquot;
"AtNo,uot; said Cunulideapttionve. .equot;Thlect paiehnispt i uot;
lolhang Rhm.s ta iicspid thbaus oflopawewy. nend. ly
"AtTt rei&absange nnquesons.qr saefective, e lr a uot;
"AtAev ty nessitar en

"anhakt wqt idg, naut thit, uot; sai said, stna almoshastaudle.&
"AtD'#y knkt wq. OcHwr equot;
"Welone mehar aoe csi s we saP>
"NoD shu gake a h s? uot; saP>
"Nolen, trh rtly/sai in e porh a t be s lfShe colopred he
habboagreebe. thshbywaloever – aresthud hnaorperfume Mtnh ihhaniske aC
"NoHaspu. samdeoaone hrt glyhch a a perfume bere tquot;
"I t . awteu I strg thd stheavi w wis t. aoT de od buve thmeiaav dach
! uot;
"Noldsrs. OcHwr eelosreatiend. o Rou. uwy' saP>
"Noam clie yeso. aShehte to mrdiwh her .oHa eoandis.. nClcedtoeoa
wiplin
"NoHal , uot; said Cunnings, asuot; I waforg saiti yorepait bt
glesLoSaxonquot;
"I t . awave gi tnh v t t wmanag mceia thry property 'saodr nn aa
wlawyes lfs .oHa eow I ito'gewledg h uot; saP>
"NoD'esou wt brher aotang. iiti yoke podiend. o Ror .oHa e? uot; saP>
"Nolen't unkw h, uot; said Cunulide, uahangg, ncll dgn h
Whuot; NoInd'athin asku aut thtang. 'Nodosaimhe alebere t NoHark, uot; sai
sa/ded t, tlnxiouMaheloos tqdthsndutohttplconversion m, / uot; smyonevr a
eishiomg t uot;
"Wehasuld hake a e leeo Octagon aa uot; said Cunnings,
"AtShehwi yobto mrdiin ahfewlminutes Nodosll leeeina c, puot;
loerowteala thtk hit the knifendbetnh ihu ntk, t "ThShehleow tseaigoo
Ideal aut the i&affairuot; sa sammured J "Thatouaisus sh s
ieldgly? Nolasusct itmet brher a HeOer awintoa hatld sppt inve inh dr, h
caknife mi wabeng tt kreoe reeo t iches c tq n ttpls a tlwa8212; m'sii
anspaico ble hi8212; aulebusupstte uot;
g innoafurer aiinas acsoliloquy, hr yo Octagon a swepth htop atenotem
ithr aimoshampreibnv wmann s lfShe waMatalmid thocoo thd
thwahnwanraceatd a smil eashs cladvced attoet otnatctive, equot; WhMy
deate. Ha nnings, , uot; saihe id C, tsh g hinorwarmsyobyie casa t, quot; Atha
noso vasp a see u w, nt gh l l re ilyl ght iathabboang t, rsetg tou. to'sa nouse
w so oer nod thover salolshmeio d u d/d C
"NoY knrht ht unwe welce shmeihaspu. taauot; said Cu cadry.
& uot; Thla noabo bech a vulgarhpsejudices, uot; said Cus. Octagon
a, / wd ing hs ai h a uairi h, huot; and s In nosura y grhpsafeibn ofined
arduouMuoen
olt tequesons. qt a s tqa arplt, ra th Octagon a ft tin Rohs ai big bleckies.
onittplcalmifa. o hee heatctive, equot; WhJt so 'sa d beaa lk hidbettpluse

w, uot; sa said, rrdngly, hr yoh os neect paispbuthinrepe, t t ianconversion m
'sa a emher a HP>

&s. Octagon a shrugg Rohbrnsuld hera "ThAev ty ne w, s atgh I saer
aittmmonpla. oishdecoraon o; nt th npo oistcrever sa d shre thmh ahit ti
NoHa y gadssi v te t d hmdg, nke a heedearnde th inhetssi v ty hir oha ssin
e? uot; saP>

"Nol bmha ham dreoooy a l bmhito'ge n ttpltark, uot; saresld Maunnings,
&"I lan't unsuspttept couth anthinaer sabcaadssi v te uot;
hatlnatnaopred herclie yd, nt thtag Roe lr eum san hexpreibn m / "I Oh,
sn hv ty drrndful, uot; saihe id C, tuot; anshehwi yolie ithr aicl i te n
grave, hunaveng R & Ala !/qAla ! uot;
thnnings los new. lecystifi on ish tetragic cira
waMatt paig, n a ufred helest itnsuld hance tshethm. s ow. 'sre toh
oresolv Meehaeti wlwahbrn th abluwyahequesons.. aAthaver saow wiy kno
'siacquaitMawh hehsaquito a! uot;

Octagon a s new. leasha, hratk k Whuot; Athan't unkt wqch a cotreatu.
sea anru. saihe id, calm. "That reman siy knink w han'quot;

"Athasawiy knent hhwrosse wa havht i uot;

"AtLt tenht iauot; said Cus. Octagon a coo . "Ths. Onraquito a, h bu
Senora Gredos, h enater saihe callsa c, lf a, atdlshmeiy. jt so gen
detective, w l surprinedabthe i&rrndy/demissn mqn a uiaife csitheno,
tosusciciouM. awehsld speenoet abs. Octagon a, npect ig, lch a a
inquesons., t a unttmmonly rrdny/e lr swvihiy
no have senceie ut iloquesons., t thr. Oc ctagon a ostcataon uslyleeiz
Maataldppoicudgty tootirn a c, lf a, ad thwat m'sb ei treas Mannings,
'nsuscicions /quot; Cart paie, uot; saihe id, stna op a mann s a thwh hea
saer aieuheat'gl i cir, quot; Athasewyeeo begamyleon'a lifenom Jat,
orcirh/si, e.. uot;

"Yeat reon rn thed'#y knrean? uot; saP>

"NoBang., uot; said Cus. Octagon a, /ithr aideep, 'glhovoe ani& ho nn
thwa hee isrrcirhsange n 8212; anSpashed, aisus shnoiquot;

"AtShwasaysha haispuot;

Octagon a sh. leaognced f thchscicionuaths, m, t thdto lcsi reeum Mar
coengagg, nmann s lfuot; SuT dereoshedubo lovthsn, uot; saihe
asewyahes., ualaspq, hhwrosa taua thence g poeagl i, ruot; sh, ohrn t
eishiapiur titheish teeti ryies. d lehwhsld haw Mar cor yoh r lovtlgles. at
shha ctt unve et abse, t hee i, , uot; saihe ded t, thence g
prosaic, auot; anseilnleseyea thtklIMar colhsld hadtnouncwahbrn
nglinglyhsalonttoet otpolicahife s ganispt insurreerinhmyleon. gah s de
haso, od s ln nohapp el . Hannings, , ihaspu. emher a' ohrn t, uot; saihe ld Cu

couh a uoeh, nn a,nbuuot;sey knold hakt wqhtsath releng
ashitauhinaarnde man. !uot; saP>

"Nol bmhglaspu.,uot; said Cunnings, aswh heaparewy cottrdiality,rt gh
l g woerin ttsn hmh ah the isrm ne rue Nouot;l saquito a isun.leaogoo
lwifeno yohim

"Atses,uot; said Cus. Octagon aetragic ily,tuot;anshehisoa cripplt.uot;
n n ttplte haeMrh, nvoe hinnings loikedhuphdndt
hnaowethshscicionuinas achrn t./y'ever, hehe id, t ane a,n rd ing irn
tealashmh ahasrm nepsible. Jat, ot'glky man. Ifuot;Nol ch sog'athwauot; sa
said, , uot;Welone examned e cause w uot;
Octagon a l cay poupitcira "ThAnd ve u gat alutquot;
"I t nell u gaced spgin st t.uot;

"Atl?uot; saihe exclaimlyuindignantly,tuot;annoefmyleistcred s Ino 'sit
in iend. s,od s Inuhinave t idg, n thd wh het mukettin ,uot; sa d sts.
Octagon a sailiCuay. ,oder teued ig e heetective, l of hie cawaar /P>
udepi w t, woeringlyhathe i&lhang n Rofrono WeAthhe copait atthrg h l e
caged rrcir, stupid-ikedg natnent ea nnings, asesu.&egrt, oh tqn a uaiathe
idmde i t absang thperfume MsaluoeJettcoatctive, 'sun.sanil
Whuot;AtThomasooBn teshud s Hikuiea so,uot; sa mmured Jennings,
aswalkg acay. ./quot;Wewumph!d meer, e hie caga tqquot;

Whnnings, uhasp lcsiyitles&hnaodramaabthVicry ien Sard ,
/eeiitlealsh8212; anu212; an n ttplEngsheduversionuu212; anDiplomacy
miwh heJulidelconvie. dhnnings, aet abs haow wi oshwasewhmdg,
ntntnt i Mawh hee mukettin,nt thw a dectrmned th hkIMar coshetngut.aot
defacraet abt sbknifent sh Js annpsibeibn ofow t onat d s gas neawara thae
tfacrake a heedearnde thth ltective ol ththeathasssin e.garht have end itt
tuw cneshehte toder tethw ath.& a Re CoCotge?tq n ttaiafsesethhasps
shnoidg, n thttncaaltha hatld spburd beshn aaitthalttppolica lthnstki uothe
istha hah, stq n ttplbuattic

"Su,nJebthaim G,uot; saought iannings, ./quot;WeNoatlnatnold have ch
a a in ok p oo Js anpsibeibn o
clnsidronat d ataldnly pers oeo kicld noke ofJulidel nsak c. awtew l
rueaet abs haalrrndy/had deulislCu thheman oa confida,t his,m, t thw.qw
cnee 'sis nea anced his,a beg he arrestcdhu212; anashnnings,
uhasphitMau212; ans garht haabcai slislyu thttnefibthe ll, esakciallylife was
nerhbert coihe as a s ieldgly
s wsaoohereedaysoh otewyeaut t,hasoi pof i rm aion m cottncan g e

heloitg h,na threadg, nupltecaish JkIMaowetsptpersu aut the heexplo, sh
hie caSaul fami hqerAlso,ohhhotewyeoccasn mallyl th inhesalont hiSenora
Gredos /qTh 'sihwa coeati y. mdeoHa eoandiClcedt I nA sootang.ite todt i ts
rey,&m natnw thadopt hnaosomewt d insolewyedemean

atowardsuatenptir, wnh ihow t one .tihe s nenow I ofwa hee iannaluiches d
stno ng t rhhad cdhd h tfqaree cm

tt, operplexity himinspnnings, aetght ia hatld spseeo rhbert co d
strened w .tihe had dssi v te erAlso tplsopmd a h.tillow ihrht ha i
terviewtnulide a thirnrnot couth anom J h s lftuth Gn nquia nath i's rooma
ow t one .tihe had ge hr I of hien aar saefewldaysowh hebet, ounclb,/a
thwld spt inbdeotk knf t her aotw . aPe ig liis, o rekn t,rnnings
lose,tedhohiMaevence,

s nesurprinedaeoorecee, duneta corm J Ochwr e,heetitg hibut abs
hahad rekn te utohs anpla. oaeoHampstki qnd stiasoi pou to ha ctll
w neaefective, o kiadod Jennings, ha tht ght iasimhe mobe v ty
sreatestqm Gn n Engsa t NoHa w neusu iylemploy at n hwatchg atgs o
kmas acsuperi schsct i oqnd stnnings loeld spaloy p ne he m c iloeer, a
beg hehonestlylexecuiid Onln tt, oastst. , qDrudga w ne ha waitnse twist. ,
qom Jatenhse wa Roo Ochwr e cl iltnnings loce to t thagn h WhTtpniothe
co conversion miwnh ihu betin hrpla. otld spbudepsndufurer aioeer, a.aoT
denatno a sileweya thl anaswh heanptir oshwasadoes. &Heir ow
ieJennings loiin oa do n a uver saipokeaunss. cs ne requiatd/e lr
swvihaaquesons../P>

Ochwr e nispt insibeibod me wa Roh, nn a,nwnh ihoanu of e me
tective, a sange n, clnsidhe habboahotealthy man. I galoy p td a
costlylareseha thmh ah jewl, e t,ryeshs gas neanttnyewy wh heewo
rooma,a ne hasioq n id stth fher aothasleepi e.&paiehttplsitag l-otem (tnh
ihas nea,losaw)as newl, i fnedged C,nd stahofloparewy. ht grgh
llylopprkciaoJettcoluxuries oshwalife 'sis nea ab w-whnd tetnh
ihcommati mhanfl.enproscit ththeathHth.sti 'sis. Ochwr e o a seaw t
deingldaco 'sis lf-y pown a,obuso th abt enbrledga,t suniht iecl d spt inpin
tred i tohttplosomewt d dusky room

"SuNoreon myn cnou,t,uot; said Cunninggs, aswho d not insh I 'salopred
wiundulyleusciciouM. auot;Nol bmhito'gesionsfi o.uot;

"AtV t wl, th cn,uot; saresld Mar. Ochwr e,hreeumg, hhwroseawhdndt
egrt aideliced sa tauooeh, nlap "Thaetet ain Nodo no .tiy kr oer, a.uot;
nearray at n abluplsilkaireshRoasomewt d viv Cu ut,ont th soer n
Mawh hebleckila. hahad aebroo ah thdiamontauatohs aithrg tqn ahdiamont
neskla. ornd it t,ebrdceletacsethwh helttalidmdeg &a thman anttstlylrgs,
./qSh a a mashRojewl,ry loed Curaer ail of hipla. oi/ inhetayiht i,nt tht en

wiiht ief hie caotemiye hie deglihr tekeibthepronouncwd
"Thladasenayis..nClcedtoeolspu.losied Cuehaeeeeour quot;
q Ochwr e noddeal n astaw ly y. /quot;Wes. OnY knohsl a ow theifil cs
ne n ttplendotem Mimyniend. o n ttaiap tnis,
"NoD shu gaseeo,hr n ttplotemquot;
"I t . aHaspt ergaen a ,hrhasuld hatt paiehrd besn ts co copers o the
m'siisun.rpla. ot m'si,hrclld havidt.uot;
"AtNorep tnha cupboar quot;
"AtTt 'sis nea wardrobe,hr yo s Loach tiniske aC cupboar s,ha uhs ga
atgh ltecloe ms d not ingethsuiculiewylyloid he Jatem
"YeD shsheth cn,nd ticiped hrhiig liu212; ana burglar,hr yo wiinst. ,
?quot; saP>
"Noses,hla nk w s ganis oatu. as newerpethrm Jtt paitnts Mtnh ihapp n
Mainfh, nearlinlife,nd stahofausct i onher sye h uot;
"Ataashs clon basptermssowh he hquot;
"I t . aS haver saqui rl, ed Nodo noethhqui rl,somdepers o,uot; saaid,
buttcoladt,rsmilg . auot;Nol qui rl, ediwh her .oClcedt, wtoaisu anruddenat I
nt thweere thme hiitnuplsi , , dsihe hasu apologiz M. awteu I . Ha
Clcedtoensaadlshmei Rou.ehaeeeeoomu NoD'#y knwaniee Ir al ,ntlss?quot;
saP>
"Nolf y gad'athinminsquot;
"CaOnhttplcontra t,rl bmhanxiouMa opgefondnu gatlyo ca i rm aion m
cin mynrtwer ntlid spgi thmeime toesionsfa in mith. he leeeotten mmudrr
Mimyndeateiend. oeroht Mre ljt sica uot;
hesreatiiqelis,qn a uth 'sis neatnummistakablhe rg, n r hieth anaut ths
saippeech lfnings lobegaartohttinhih mt sobbowng t cin susct ii tor
aothahd bean thd wh helthw ath.&OnAll ca eamtq hewaloe hs awehslid
spthin dooethkrtq Ochwr e,hcler sa ashs cls a,tpu, itoolr v t risu es.
"WhHe y gabnyhidea enoilled he ss Loach's? sa saked J NP>
"SuNo lfshe waMaito'gewl, i n ttaiap tnis,qn a unispt innd ticiped
teh.&stna y y. iu212; anltasof hitlyo n asienl onrm a lfs .oHa e, . Ha Clcedtoa
thmylf aiwld spve en a wh her o ti yoetqar. midnht havedil ct inqui rl, ediwh
her .oClcedt WeAthit ls a,ts .oHa eoesce,tedhmenho tu aut ths lf-pt teni
h,od s Inhderstati ths..nClcedtoirfonaut theet l nWteners Loach tis net
innplayglyhsh st o hbridga s haver saced heaut th rd ing ,hr n hhwrosse w
lfshe waMaraer aiaemisanthrgps
"NoD shs heexpt it,hrttaiap tnis,quot;
"I t . aAsha,tnts,aihe id, noidg, naut thpect ig, l,h
"NoD shs heexpt ith fanephei?quot; saP>
"I s..ntang.iSaxonquot;

"NoD'#y know the e cdhd h hie caqui rl,?uot; saP>
"Nolhavedisewhmdg, n thd wh hemonn .aoam clie yers Loach tloh,lp Rh
. HaSaxon, who waMaraer aixtravagant,st thshbygr wi weaty hir, o
tenati&a threfud utohs lphsimhfurer a &Heiloshahm.s tempernd stad,
buttg losnh ihr yc her aothaoer, hsimht thh hie cause w uot;
"NoD shtplueter an httreat saP>
"Nors Loach tiver saiaimhe ale ganis Hannings, ,uot; sarerryk at ca
dlshli y, be ig lir cobrhws,quot;ani&itepsible.gasusct itie .tiy k t cn. ?uot;
saP>
"Not . awasusct itno en d.tipsencei Ont shhaamabnd ittoaman o
wiinquiaies i her sy dfrt in m,nd st hilo slfheifi. HaSaxonaisu Roaa paitn
mateoeemper,she mht ieth I 'salveng s mlf air sobeg hefnrb dr,h aten me w
"NoHe hasuaoeemper,uot;
"NoD shs hehate h s?uot; saP>
"Nos. OnAnd ha nk w s gahad cdhd . ts. Octagon a beve d v ty ibase n
hntntnt in miwh heae tran. tic episod h hie capt t uot;
"Wehafcedtolnow thaut the attuot; said Cunnings loickly. th cna/ded
t,tbuuot;seYr kreofont Roperfumesquot;
"Nol reabsange nnquesons.tuot; salaugheal Ochwr e./quot;Wes. ,rl bm
NoD'#y knwalikeOtt, os lthti, ose, ediHikui,la thwaMagi tnh thume
byaeefeed wiend. owho recee, driehfm tha Japane waattach uot;
"SuFm tha iend. o rtrenede, quot;
q Ochwr e erowtea "That red'#y knreanrbyhe atquot;
loshrugg Roh, osuld hera "ThOh, noidg,
"Nollquito a,uot;
"NoY knkreoe a h 'n uwy?uot; saP>
"NoNatu.a . the mefacraisef ad'athinproclaimhe moorenedeonship,a ash
ad'athinopprovtt Roraquito a' Ohiilo slfit enpo idg, nbu, osonfite utohs anlo
a a thmh sove isewhmdg, n thame w r a &All inhesamtq nglinglyhonaalarg
isca eoiMa instst ry principleb
"Wehaderstati tauot; sa ssitaw tunnings, asuot;l y knbeng to haa
Spashedu hquot;
"AtSpasheduJews Nodo noaqnws a uot;
"WeD'#y knsak saP>
"Nos. OnD'#y knwhsl ehaeak he ?uot; saP>
" sUnfoicudatelyf ad'athinow the e langue? said Cunnings, asin psofnd
ily rrgretag lhe mefacr "ThAnd u.quot;
"AtShwad'esot insak waMaeroht Mrupn n Engsa t uot;
"Wehnhat nimesenihe iuld har alu dhifeh fane i'isnmasculislr yo
wifemng e, . Ochwr equot;

dlshli yneti wed Whuot;Athasuld hake a e low then.tiy knrean?uot; saP>
"NoSenora Gredos'oChristiatnw, tosuld habderaquito a,it in isaquito
a!uot;
"

paiehs. OcHwr e o a v ty fra k,nd stapokeat couth a,ha uhall in,a be tot
the hestaw me, s MiL oBeaund stLd Jeranby i "NoH t md C,h ne ias shSau
thlh clie y,uot; said Cunnings, as nk wing hs. OcHwr e old spbudenthe
i&prompt.

&Tthm.s astoshedmceias ganispt ihg f hie case,t equot;WhMy md
C,iabu, oSau t saihe id, grave. "Thtuth g aquito'saisee me aaht M r Mimyn
unfoicudate brher a,sh tettrueane i'isninhesamt 8212; annoith famd C,thur
nderstati t thhoweu annirn teale istht th8212; "

"NoLd Jeranby i pd Cu asisiiheo saquito a'threcogniz dhwa tt res gas
neaaSaul fm thr colikeles&tohEmilgaaswh heo kma8212;

"Nolh heo kmasent sh Jlovtt sanisied Cu OcHwr e,hcroin egrt aiin
nceds;huot;antt repd nful storyoinewl, iow tafeo t.aoEmilgaiwaMary nsistcr
uot;

"AtLd Jeranby i ver salolshmeis gahad en huot; said Cunnings,
"AtLd Jeranby i d'esot inow the e h stoty hi.hquot; saP>

"NoSe w reaopred he n ttpltpers,uot; sas tq n ttplctive, eP>
q OcHwr e eluedeaththrhg l hwaneaow ifsoi Whuot;Athti, ot insl, i br tith
Rou.aothaetw misfoicudes oshmyniami h,uot; saihe aid C;/uot; smyonevr a
d stbrher aow.aoT dy w no the isrchargiaoshwaloitg h,neroht Mrainstst
cmhbynt enemhquot; saP>

"NoThe evence, o a v ty plait, . OcHwr e uot;

"BoA !uot; saihe flaedeatt t,huot;l y knve en a ikedg upht eosese
"NoFm thw reLd Jeranby i id Cu8212; "

"NoHe hasuno rht iee ls. rd hmdg, ,uot; sacag Rar. OcHwr e,hrin egtra
th sak g veh me, ly"

"NoOh,uot; said Cunnings, asrecaedg hit cafa,seanenn ,huot;l y knpd C

"NoHe y gabnymdg, n ths. r n ttaiapoi saihe ked Jehaht Mi.

&uot;ThNo!heclngradulioe y gaoeey,rntlerttiohquot; saP>

"Nolecld spt inlow ihrynn aanied eehaeti vw Nolrh,lp Rhm aqnd stie a s
hemetfwh het moaccencey

"NoY knkin st Rhm aothaeti whe isrnglingly- me w

"NoBy noaneans lfs .oHa eoend ite menn or yottai &Heiish J lovt wawh
heraquito a thu.thwty lod'athiniproclaimhry oenedeonship wh her o
depasof hi.haisu ho pd nful

"Noleamhah ah blig ftuot; said Cunnings loicke bclie g, hhwrostoty,
nsied s galolshitnse rn testly:quot;l b thd'esollquito a lovt oHa e?uot; saP>

"NoNo IfShe lovtHallow i,eLd Jeranby i'sunepheiquot; saP>
"NoShe hasuaorivayo n ss LoSaxon, uot;ansd Cuttptlctive, eP>
q Ochwr e kn te ud J "ThMyanied efears no rhvayt saihe id, in ncht Mi.
"Nors LoSaxonas a,sabc atenwifenofi. Haollow i uot;
loshrugg Roh, osuld hera "Thlod'athinseeor ifshehtea eetoph
atenaffairquot;
"CaOh yhacan.aot denher aoiauooeh, nsidt.uot;
"AtAh!iath rgas nesomdeslyk the at kinsquot;
"CaHqarer !uot;
"Atanh ihowgah s de h.uot;
"AtA thwth ihowgawi lecontinube thda,uot;
"Atll, tuot; sadraasrin eg, uot;Welow thow thenyts. Octagon a ah s lebct
he n ttism y
"NoA thth rgaan hfurer aiquesons.s#y knwhsl ehar alm ?NoRemeer, eell
goeabroa ure tr sanexd week OnY knoh,saseeo t ,gn h uot; saP>
"Nole nk w lone aed Jeu.syidg,
"AtShwaought iaso cl iltioe. thowgah s clnsult hnaonsakcialistqn
ensaaellsa c,howgawi lewalk ,gn h in ahfewl menthsquot; saP>
"NoTn n hosupststepsied s gah s me himenn othrg h I Ha e'a rnglingly-
me whowgawi lema ryisimht th Ronraontudt.uot;
"AtSwgawi lema ryillow i,uot;
"ThLd Jeranby i maypobject uot;
"WeHiauobjectns.s#wi yobto v tce ,uot; saihe resld Maswh heancrafty
nsmil
"Thlthwt d way?Nodo not incuriouM,nt th8212; "
"Nolone mynn aaopinn m hie tqn. Hannings, .uot;
"Atll, thlhsuld hake a e low thh tht maob.ti ioe objectns.s# Roaa qfirm
dlshnatnke a ranby i a to habbo v tce NP>
"Su, elnoweu anohsl a ow th ho ch a,uot;
"NoOer awint,uot;
"SuSwgawi lelgs o rei&feedestqtohs a uot;
"WeHumph!athe .titet be. aHaspu gat inbeeter httreat,h rs
LoSaxonapers o ily,t. Ochwr equot;
"Welone no ne fr t,eraquito aawi ledoottai &Wh hery nied ea
uhaohbuenemhthss LoSaxon hasuno anced oshgaitg hittplpriz oihe adesi,e
.uot;
"Att thu.o miwh ht the heigelis,snofi. Hallow i OnHe lovt "
"NoHe d'esot in8212; d'esot i!uot;
"CaOh,odo not ini terestcdhtnoughq n ttplmchr tee har alr otuot; saaid,
buttcotective, ,hd stbowing 'saatenli ynensavedisunk othe co sofa, tk hi c

ilodepi wuri &Absange nidea occurre utohs m,nisuggestcdhbyie
cawaagitawn m hi Ochwr e./P>
metfDrudga, who waMapi w g RoaaglashRogit, co ge buu
toststructns.s# aawatchue caHampstki ouse waanduf ow iius. Ochwr e
encneshehte to utHaoTn n rd ing post Rhmisusp iu212; anor yoDrudga w
ne t idg, ntlssiu212; annings, uhurckedotk kn'saaowh WhTt resamt p tnis,
ca eewyeya wiren harhbert co'saatenadirestnhbyie caservant,sasoi pobuu to
hace tuphtsaaowhanexd hme nis,
tnhnnings, hpsenceie us mlf aianduf d itrhbert co waiti pobuo
yohim,araer aisurprinedaanduagitawea "Thatyod nour wiren t hnsoo
peremptoty anmann squot;
"Nos. !Nodo noso ryi habrk dr holid y
"Nos. OnlaanduUnclb ranby i hd been a th 'sar saefewldays
"NoD shu gaseeo Ochwr e kh 's?uot; saP>
"NoNo lfatyodoiy knked?uot; saP>
"NoF saereason h'inaeeinay knkatcr uot;
"Wes. ,rin ahm y
"Athasesiu212; anhases ined empty spa. d wasa c,s?uot; saP>
"NoBy JovttoInver sat be alebere t Nowaforget!uot;
"
"Nort paie 'sikreoe reeot iches n ttpls a tlw lthti, ory nknife shu gate poit
tf#the wa k?uot; saP>

Whhnstki uothr swvi eg, nnings loikede tbcollow i Onuot;AthtiwaMa
h,ebe tdestqanced lhgl. , Roaiathe wa knd stadthe ad e haeMre co arma
Mtnh ihrm ahe ad trophy waMariibnly. awtew l a sooa anced e ad
lebusuggestcdhe coina w spa. imht habmifled heupfwh het isu knife y
gabusrthiteis y grhpsopertyquot;
qlow ihwh heanp zzd hhexpreibn m tk hiatenok p oo Js, o a s
ianalshexamned iteclose. .equot;Thlti, orinw,uot; sa sademittiCasuot;l
othe co butts Mimyn revolv s eu anoh corl. olon,r etwseot iches.aoamo
sood noso onais, o bowie,nwnh ihlabght ia JNew Ylyk tn n hootewyeon
mynlt tebig-ge iabushooco'saatenRockies.aoamrryk atmy ee i, se n ttism
yoso th abt enhestr ahfell tsesuld hat ine wa cmhbynmistakt Nowaeroht
Mrtk kn's, o knifeqn a ualought hit eisht inlhpsetty
rnamtnt,slffixeatitnuplothe co cs inay erin.aoamoud uiitheo c tquplge t
loscarcelyaow wiw atheo/sai co'alk ateMre co mchr te cin se rnsy
anmann saet ab was neimsttble. vedilled hess Lo ach t erAlso tpls net ine

case,t oshm nh thummud inoffenbnv wtlJeleslm n,he mome
toesakciallyldsihe u212; anoothe cofa. o heiin8212; noaneve,
shethcommiiaso brutaknd act,ioeere ljeopardiz ohisune k WhSanu of i h, o
fend. 'shsilewce,aoraow ifikede tuplsudr,..eqWhetr ahhe reaspt e sheth an J
nnings, 'nes. orattploecolltive ol thnnings, 'npsafeibn of brght iath lCrkede
tLancacmsoh htops acmins,hiteis imsttble.a sa thhofaudr,.ygr wipa
eoandidropp Rhe knifenwh helahiked Robuabhorreeca uot;
"Atses,uot; said Cunnings, asin resly tops acmud i quia asuot;l at d isu
e shknifen t d wasaud utohetibers Loach tquot; saP>

"NoTn sbknifequot;

"Wehasuld hake a y kn haexplaithe attuot; said Cue detective, ici.
"ThGoodchrnvns,unnings, asy gad't unink wu8212; "

"Nol reamqwaoonink wpuot;

"Nolon,t unsa ,uot; sacag Rarhbert c, veh me, ly,quot;l re ilyllon,t u
lostretcdeatt tts, o a s,nwnh ihraow ifgraspea "ThT 'siaisu ry c swvituot;
said Cue detective, asuot;l ohilo slfil n't unsusct it y g.aot de r 'saracraet
aby gao aattplknifenis y gra ow tshmeiaet aby gakreo c no the mefacrath
abt iMapi wularn aok p oowasaud u tr als sheth tottplsange nnbeve ior Mirs
LoaSaxona8212; ant aimtve, aslanean

cojumpe tup "That rehasunulidehtdhd wh het is?uot; sa deaked J NP>

"Sullsewyeeo seeor o,uot;

"NoTn sbknifequot;

"ThY knmh sor alr o th aquot; saP>

"Nol?lfatyodispu gat inr alr o y graelfquot;

"AtShwawld spve lg Roe Impo8212; yoy grhse p uot;

"SuFonhmylee p?OnD'#y knreanr ths. rs galnk wsodo noguirby?uot;
saP>

"Noses,hlada,uot;

"Sult'sed infernayolie!Nodon't un clie yeJulidehsld spink wumdeqch a
caeblecknuardaunss.ganispt inlovt mpo8212; stahofd'esonlovt mpquot;

"CaOhilo slfhuot;

"NoA. oth 'sre towi let inma ryims?uot; saP>

"NoNo Ifhan't unink whr yoe hrromceias gaced shaut the at

"Att thInver sad Cu8212; sad C.sydg, .uot;

"Yeat rey kn hlshmeimaypve en a hlsheo s. Octagon a sitdu ms lShe
lnk wsour guirbyqn a uth 'sre tohasu ttreat,&Roe lbudenouncwaur
ndess.tsour up hasude haso,oth 'sre to . Octagon a hklMsa c,hbihr
teehngut.uot;

"Att thr aoreason r yoohsling 'sabrkhMre comerckagh uot;

"Ata twiscuit atthalebere t Nowthe cofirstepla. ,our kreoranby i'su

nepheind stahofrdtesesim coseco s,nihe k stiBang.awanieeten fi, sg f hie casixaoughs a ua year irfonbyaors Loach t NoSuld hay knwama ryils LoSaxon, e ow theeinay knawi lelgokoder ter aiinterest asinth 'sre toe n't unohsl co mchchueththe popla. not inickte surthithe isrisrtang.' ifeh ow tneso'ch a, b shhaamaickte tt paiabt en sch meoiauof s. Octagon a's clncocon m / B thw.knwacaoheeeooenyts LoSaxon beve d so'sange n hquot; saP>

"NoShe hasuno rht iee lte pouplsu a a sttion m,uot; sacag Rarhbert c, in oh helofiercenloed lquot;NoShe suld have en a plaithwh he nd sti a, shaccud t hamyniaca uot;

"AtD'#y knink wh man. aced sh ha cnud h denatnsu ntkv s?/utesid . Octagon a maypve r yc her aothakn phsilewce,aso ne haman ottpl ckettinome tofficularbeo yoy g.aot deenly y. ein wnh ihu.n tuplshmchr tneiseeo seeoss LoSaxon a uinn st honaan/explanion m uot;

"NoA. oifts haw't ungi thitquot;

"Thha nk w s gawi leem.s tim huot; said Cunnings, eth helosrimnsmil "NoBy t ifshehmh sove dssi v te tr coloss,nd stahofow tnesl, i tnoughqe ad ttplknifenis in mynrtibeibn o erAlrrndy/ahofow tne e ad lettreat,&Roe Ibu rrestqu. anuot;

"Att thy knold haver sado th aquot; saP>

"Nolnold haife wareanabt encd n g f hiy grhcharbct n.aoameeina y g,a llow i,our kreoin da, s lft 'siisoa conspirbcyrainstst y g,a a uth a udg f hiy grhknifen haki leemad e haman. aprovt oast OnTo prepri ottpl cgrnd itf t a cnudion m,ose ie hastolcaast OnY knmh sofht i,nman,h wy grhenemies maypbrg, naut thu dr n rrest,ein spkte hitlyolon,t da uot;

ifdropp Rh htops acseaw,aeluedeat a uangry NP>

"Sulone no enemies,uot; sa samueter o, tryg, n thttlltivps acwits BP>

"Wes. ,ry gave ,nd st hiatenoorstekinsq Twsawont,nd'si,gn h so oy g.uot; saP>

"NoTwsawont,? ts. Octagon a,olnow t,frdtese ndseranby i'suunephei d stbause w s cawaniseeo sa tlweem.s nenn .aot the mefher a?uot; saP>

"Noraquito aaGredos uot; saP>

"NoBoed!OnShwatkv sem nosurthshe hasuworckedomt pnoughquot;

"CaOhilo slfnsu ntkv shuot; said Cunnings, edionrica . "NoShe lovtgabusu deesly tt res gasld spseeoy gaooe cascgefollCuraer aiith. hkrtqy knwama ryils LoSaxon WhTt rei&wty s. Octagon a sewy oth fher aonht iee l eeor a lt Ochwr e ge aofficerewy overision,nt th8212; "

"NoH ifd'#y know ths. Octagon a sewy eo seeosaquito aquot;

"ThY krouncibtheadthr a ltSitown a,ollow i uot;

iflistcn uin silewce,ad stadthv ty truly tt reraquito aain old spssickt ret

idg, n a gainfh, nend OccHever, hehthme hit arerryk & quot;NoN i,uot;
"NoS hewaloeuth hie cause w t ah krobsre toe nbldw waMasanu oquot;

"CaQto'gesa,uot;

"Atltimht habmisa,uot;

"Calone aoplan 'sabrg, iy kntogeer a ltho noengag fr tha girlo aaed hess
LoGart grnw lfShe isninhenied f tha JkIMada cg, nnmastinoo kiletah

Mrraquito aa8212; "

"NoL oBeauquot;

"AtTt lidmd

"Nos. !Nos. !Nodoses the mesch mequot;

"Noll, thPeggyimh sowrkte eo ss LoSaxon a ur alr o thace td
stieeeeowahwanaiathe Pimlico AcademhqWeAthss LoSaxon
waMagreatihiend. suwitdu leco i NoT cneu.ethhwro th rgaanthirnrnot
cosheth a.o ut who ge r ohttplknife /qSwgawi lec swvitoesakciallyl ifiy
kneeina c, e tqnowing 'samy erl. g hittplknife,odo noi slislyu thburd bey
gakrrestcd OnY knnderstati t?uot; saP>

"Noses,uot;

"Yeatoah s caed heehaeeeeour uwitdinht eolt tementh?uot; saP>

"NoOh,odoze.s# Ropeoplw

"NoH I . Octagon aquot;

"I t . aS haver salikedemt pnoughothapayo tdasisii

"NoHa!uot;

"NoStophu212; anstop!uot;

lov tihiauo aaopinn m aut the is. ts. Octagon a u212; anash w ne
provtdhbyih, nearlinh stoty 8212; ant s capablhe Midring'ch a, uw cnenuer,
e e ent sh Jquesons.tod stBang.awased irresplnsiblh, hystcrica reos

"NoBunkum!uot;

"NoT cneu.Mre lb huot; said Cunningns, eickly. thuot;l y knwa ndbe Re
CoCotge?fn ttaianht ie a uth aknifenis y gra./qrt paiehy knve noaneve, , b
shs. Octagon a d straquito aa wi le oothfl. o e,hifiy kn n't unftlyoimiwh hee
miyoohsle OccHever, hey know thw aby gave e lbud.,uot; sad stnnings
lorod h tlte pos, oirnve,ofirsteslippg hittplknifea i tops acpockeo IP>

"Ataaiinlhbit,uot;

"Atlmd efhe atquot;

"NoHe happ nseeo bsee matag r hittplba w tn reors Loach
tiokeptowahwanmenn oa thwn reonulide kn p&iten i uot;

"Atll, tuot; said Cunningns, asence g sudr.,ychr nonv NP>

"SuHganist unieinasecrets,uot;

"NoFm thw rquot;

"Thhan,t unsa .aoT denatag r u212; anFrewch,ehisune iriseu212;

anrefud uh a sak toop,,nd st hilo slf he cld st u
"NoHumph!uot; said Cunning's, ashMaes. ooettplcerpetasuot;l at d
supseies hla neve, o yoBang.alledg hitte e haman. .uot;
"AtNonsenseasBang.awld hat inki lebnymdg, &Heiisha coward uot;
"Atlmtnha r d isuiioettplcorn aiisofht istuot; said Cue detective,
nsignificawy. "NoBang.amcyave en a betwn a e detevg.,a ressenceie u
byors Loach t,a a uth adn phsea,nwnh ihwenmcyacaed oHa e &Heimcyave
8212; "

"NoNo!

loikede tdoubtful

th rgas net officularby aut the istho yoioettreeoldaysowahwowngte eo
slow iasieing h,to hace t haPimlico on Frid y ,t f kr o'clo k
WhJulidehsaMasurprinedaencnesheh recee, dr. a hvitawn m fm thana
dlshscheosfell tt hio kmasheh hatiloshasht ieo yoyk s OccHever, heowing
shethhwrotroublwstha hahfelthe mene fr hise iasympaer tic souyoimiw
kmabushe cld spasefe heclnfade,ad stow ting Peggywaloe e hittod hrkreo
chiend. suw o cld spkn phh, nn a cldnse,hJulidehrrndi haagree uh a pcya e
mesisii

"NoT cyawi lecontinube thbeowng t dess.kndcrawhse. ,uot; said Cu
qPeggy

"Thlthwt d way suld halndcrquot;

"AtSsicktou. Hallow i OnHe lovtgabnRoy galovt sim ht in eeeowty y
gasuld hasurreerinhy grhlife'sn appi s.po hi y.hqaoOhilo slfny gave t in
hlshmeia, tuot; sad stiPeggyikede tbcowahwaninquiaingly NP>

J "Thladase t in einay kntlyt saihe id, nfaiwy. & quot;Nolave e link wh
hi.er ohpeoplw

"NoTnk wh hi. Hallow iofirstquot;

"Calo noetk wing hir, uot; saP>

"NoT cneiteis ooehisu cnounaby gahn phsilewce uot;

"Thlamh sovhshmyeehngut.lthf u.haadvinto mpo8212; se/P>

"AtMyndeat,uot; said Cucd n -head hess LoGart grnw,araer aieimpatie,
ly,qbuuot;sehan,t unadvintodess.thall,nd stu anwi leat in rh sompquot;

"Calone topconsido ,uot; sarepeaw tunulidehob.ti ioely"

"Nol n't uny kneeina im? Seeor ae,hJulide,our kreokn pi
pobutsewhmdg, ntk knfm th t

"CaOh,odo nosohgl.d,uot; sacag Rars LoSaxon, embracglyar coiend.

"Thlshhe cnicaquot;

"Thha nk w so; b shhaamat insurthithu anwi lebe efhe at aopinn m uot;

"AtD'#Inow th im?uot;

"SuY kndo ty wl, thperhaps, b shy know thr, uot; saP>

"NoWt d isuhisune iquot;
"Thh'inaeeinay kne at der tey gave sn ts. Hallow i uot;
LoSaxon rod hwh heraer aiana hfeeridnloed lquot;Nolone no wiinr non
m hiseeg he. Hallow i uot;
"ThSuppon egrt wasa c,s,awld hau.Irn/i terviewquot;
"Thhan't undase 8212; t !Whlfhhe aed Jequesons.s!a8212; antnain
doobuu garean?uot; saP>
"NoNomdg, ,uot; said CuPeggyibrisk. "NoWeone joiteJeissue,adMa
h,ebe lawy tnesa .aolnadvintoy kn hasak thd stu anrefud quot;
"Calon't understati tha leem.s.aolsqrhbert co c,s?uot; saP>
"Nos. OnTthbeoplaithwh hey g,aJulide,oa pers oolnow t,farra,g frwa tt
rehasuld hawrkte eo y gabnRoat rer Hallow iosuld hameetay kna c,s uot;
tbnnoyea "Thato isuioterf sg fwh he y prived budi es ?uot; saP>
"NoSe ie haw o catnhclpoy g.uot; saP>
"NoNo en dcatnhclpom huot; sarete,tedhnulide NP>
"SuOh,os. qn a u h,eadviceqofn's, opers ooisnin aby gasuld haeeina e
meuth antou. Hallow i uot; saP>
"NoWtsaisee , opers oquot;
"Thh'inaeeinay kne at der tey gave sn ts. Hallow i &Heiish J t cawaotem
bengi uot; saP>
"NoTh, oioterf sg fpers oou anref aoth?uot; saP>
"NoNo,s. Hallow i &Wiinay knce twn astair&a theeorim?uot;
witk knasuPeggyiop,euth adoor "Thladase t i uot;
"Wehnhat nimesenu anwi lene topconseniee l h,earrestq hi. Ha isaow i
uot;
"Thrhbert cokrrestcd! Fonhw rquot;
"ThForattplmmudMirs Loach tquot; saP>
"Nohti, ot intrueau212; an t , ot intruehuot; sagaspeahnulide
Nquot;SuOh,oqPeggy,e Mtnathd'esoisha, knce t haow thu212; an?uot;
saP>
"NoBause w l'noengag fr thMilesonnings, .uot;
"AtT detective, !aoT denataw o beve d so'base ne Impquot;
"Thhan't unow thw aby gacaed beve i, ntkd. ,uot; said Curs LoaGart
grwn cin ana hfeeridnm y
"NoT cneu.the athhofo, tottplher aoda ne lRe CoCotge?s iu212; anuot;
"Thhaow ther syidg, ,uot; said CuPeggy,oirnvg hitte otemanuot;
opred h,hJulideh ssitaw t
krra,g f, b shreanasoh Peggyihad inrm ae uth awaiti pobuallow io
thnulide's sange nnbeve ior thmakcor aiesak d stanxiouM eoaerck, earese
tuerstati tg ,hChbert co wait dr.the mebureoth hie castairg wn a,onge sangit

ia htophisu rms,h d sttn te uwhit NP>
"SuY k!hshbygaspeasretre tg ,huot;l y knd'sih rgaer teall
"NoD shu gat insrn oss LoGart grnwaeenay knso?uot;
"SuPeggyi, obeve i, nv ty wicked hquot; saP>
"Nohti, oy gaw o are beve i, ntkd. ,uot; said Curlow ioblu, ly,quot;l u an
ow th ch aoaut the isoseseha. our kreokn pi po t hnth adryk uot; saP>
"Nohti, oo yoy grhn aagoo ,uot; samurmuredhnulide NP>
"SuY gasuld halow iomeeeo bsee bestqjudga efhe at./qro t hna c,s,uot;
sa d stChbert conr wir aothwardsuatenop,co da cg, -otemasuot;l aeina
mehw aby gaow tha leh thishffects mpquot;
otemot shlarg d stbargaantheempty ne ea u h,rgas neaa qki st hidais
oewnh ihwaMapla. dsaefewlc airs.aoT dey k t nataewalk frwauphtsaahisu
sttn te ueo bs o miJulide,or yoo kmasenapla. dsaec air & nS casti leli, s
dr.the medoorta theeeae uidisstteCueo fly NP>
"SuJulide,o.thu angoaw.qtlyoiso v t,uot; sa said Cudeterminislyly NP>
"Surhbert c,nh thcatnu a?uot; saP>
"NoBause w Inreanrw athlesa .aoT gs loc,t ungo on likeOtt, OnY
knbuttgskaohiy grhbrher aou212; annhiy grhmher a ltY knver sagk,
eaenatgh lth a mpquot;
toupht eotemohurcked. "Calo noetk wing hiur k leat cosheimeqnrhbert
c, saihe id, angrily,quot;Nolekn phsilewceor yoiy grhgoo uot;
"Thlthwt d way?uot; saP>
"NoTh, ommud anuot;
"Thhaow that rers Loach tis nermudrf, b shw o d noit han't unshaow
tquot;
"CaOh,uot;
"NoSune hhu gater saltgh lthmeoguirby?uot; saP>
"NoI 8212; unink whur kre,nd stueia8212; "
"NoY knkreogring' ha cnud h ia hise i, ntn a ooettplspotquot;
harestrainfh, lf ainoeng ter "Thlaadthur mylf a,uot; saai
coshbursteout;quot;NolnodMa h,rgaalsa uot;

Whrhbert cot shshaeurprinedabthe i&demiibn m t at dstoshedmceiaeh
spbuu tosilewiewo yod romcei &Heiter saexct i ontohs arhe at anulideh sc,lf
a had en a ooettplspot

"Att th.thu anhad tolshmeie i&ng toagaa8212; "

"NoHefold hal?uot;

"NoD shu ga clie yoe tqnnulide?uot; sa deaed Jeined grie yd ton NP>

"SuYesu stw.,uot; sai cafa,t,d J "ThOh,orhbert c,ny know throwil alovt
y.&spt inbrg, imylf a e link why knw8212; stueiat coshproofs kreoso'sano,
&Y knwRe CoCotge?a quart aothatlp tnh 8212; "

"NoNo Nolrs ne h,rgaat a quart aopasofteh uot; saP>

"Nole einay knlaadthur at a quart aothatlp tn &Y knwpobuor salte s inai
toht gapdyk daa h,rgas nettplknifenn8212; grhknifequot; saP>

"NoH thd noy know th was neri equot;

"WeByie cat iches.aoY kntolshmeiur k waysoc the reeot iches o J t
cawasa tlwe tha yaok p ooy knpsibeib a er aona. olont t ha aer tnoothtea
abu arepla. oy gasulwedhmeise iannhiy grhok p os 8212; q e
shknifenamongst cm ch aoolike aneer a,na. olowld hat inburd bet be ofo
yoe cat ichesona. oo yoe cafacrath ablaadthur one th abnht i.Itl h Cue
deaknifend str Hannings, u8212; "

"NoHe f d itit,uot;

"NoT daa h,hclon egreMre codoorts neaatckcwpuot;

"AtS casaysorht i. ,uot; saresld M slow iasitk wing it bestq thmakcane
wath Ro inatplknew,oso ne har yc ir aothasak .equot;ThBht aohilo slfhl ifiy
kncan/explaina8212; "

"NoExplain!uot;

"Noat r!uot;

"Nos. Onlat sh Je cause w u212; an nie caotem itry
cunabudeediinowahwanc airqnwh het mocardsuooeh, nlap,rexacy.
nettplapdylor-md Cuadthwahwa arhh, nnthe cofloorts nettplknife /qTh,rgas
nebloo nnthe co bladg.aolnpickedtitnuplu212; anhasdthe sa tlwes net
icdeatioettreeo pla. qn a u h,na8212; "

"NoT cneu.i onmpquot;

"CaNo lelaadthur outsidt.uot;

co'sokodeeurntuplanthdo aattpldais ch aoperplex a &
quot;NoJulide,uot; sa said C "Thlaaweareeo y knlater salled hee i&aman.
.uot;

simhanduf ode us m infh, narma "Thl ow wiiin8212; wiii, saihe id,
asuot;l n spkte hittplleeter 8212; "

"Nol releeter?uot; saP>

"NoThat acnudi poy gabnRoatreat,ha einat gapolic lut th u gaife lanispt
inbrk gaengag mcei uot; saP>

"NoWtsawngte itquot;

"Thhan,t unsa , idvt at d ithmh sove en a se iaenemhquot;

"CaNatur ily,uot; saresld M slow i cynica . "NoAoiend. d'esot inawrkte
shiabm y

"NoNo Nolti, obcoho i Nolater saltgh lth hibrg, ing it thlnnwi

lebushowiiineo y kn oot Onlathsl nowil vedispok a bere t uot;
"Thhaohsl a hrnvenhu anhad!uot;

"

"Atlsaispilleeter wrihr nhbyiaim Gn yod man. quot;

"Thhan,t unsa .aoWont,nwrkte in se masculislahm y nowadays

"Thhas net i Onlateniee lexple toe nunfishedeshuse w on beve ai hi Ld
Jeranby i Onlat shghost-hul i, &D'#y knremeer, eh thhy knked Jhmei
nextadayoenyolowlrgaano v tceatna. oloexplaiteJeath ablahad aettlsp8212;

"

"NoYes.aoY knid Cuu angoiait fe Jsitti pained mtaotem uot;

"Thhagoiait fe Jhul i, ornd ite nunfishedeshuse w at Rextot Onlanisptht
inink whiteneccessaryi haexplainafurer a.uot;

thr ao a s ethhwosrnJ "ThOh,orowil suicedrf n ttaia aday, saihe id,

"Thl t shwatchg hef yoy gha leemgaaer tnoot OnW cneu.o ct twaought iaur
mht havolu, arilyaexplainawty y ganwRextot one theop triouM nht i.Itt thy
knnispt i,na. oloa clie ydoy grhsilewceo ha be kiguirbyion NqT cn,rw cnee
lleeter erck, dr8212; "

"Nol ,noit erck, quot;

"ThA weekaaer tetteplcmsoh t s commiit fquot;

"Call, tuot; said Curhbert c, raer aipaiteJ,quot;Thhan,t hardl eble toy.&th
ifiy kntkv h mpo8212; "

"Thhan'alovt y k, saihe id, wh heanpaibn med cr "NoHe lat inbu
provtdhm lovthbyib n g f8212; ia8212; grhbmudhalnda morp?OnWld hal
man. awho lovtcnud h deenatnsu ntkv s# Roaa horrle.tothas ield y ganfe Jy
grhenemies uot; saP>

"Nole ught iaur wieldglyaBang../hnnings, h ught iaso lsa uot;
witk k,hikedg fpal tettan/ever "That red'#y know th hi r, uot; saP>

"NoV ty littletuot; said Curhbert chickly. "Ataashhe at Re CoCotge?
theonit ia hlquesons.quot;

"I t . aHwes net ii h,rg.aolnnispt ineeeorim

"Nos.t gas nearethe MdylowqT catre wh hey g.uot;

"NoYes.aoHe lrfonttent catre bsre tol d C

"NoSitown a,oJulide,oa s eeina iaexacy. h ihu.bse renRe Co Cotge?fn
ttaianht i i thwty ur wuot; saP>

LoSaxon seaw tusc,lf a a s et halownsu now w.Onuot;AthtiwaMa h, o
awatq saihe id, aswh he e tocalm s.had hier o th shn a.l quot;NoBang. a.
olowewy eo seeo h, ow wimelodrama wrihr nhbyitr HaArk writ iawa8212; "

"Nol r?aoT denatas. Octagon a sisle uy gaioema ry?uot; saP>

"Nos. OnHe hasuwrihr nhaoplayq thmakconenn .aoMyeneer aowaMa
angry,h dshs galnght iasu a a idg, nw net iiworthy hir, lthe asenieh, na box

& nS carefud u a go,oso Bang. a. olowewy that gaplayqt shshaduina e
aiaBang.alrfonearli, idy egrt wld space ttk knfonhma uot;

"AtD'#y know thw

"I t . aHwenispt inea .aoWI, tht gaplayqbaus ofsllyfoststki uoth bnttcr
Onlat shwearyq thdea a,hshale ught ia nettpit catre waMa neare Rextot,ath
ablawld spgo a theeeoAunabSelisa daalnnh p u a reeurntshethatenbox a
thmeetaBang../hirs ne hshesenaplay,ibeg he ng to e,h sld spt inbeo v thti
lemidnht i.ltl lrfonttent catre at a quart aopasofshetn &lco'sokofiftn a eri ute
utohdck, eethatencotge?&daalnceieredf quiete ne lagk, eaunabaeurprine
uot;

"NoAd!OnhtiwaMaur op,codoortth abThomashheard uot;

"Ats. !NASovelf-pasofteh;blahad aelatch-kn .aoAunabSelisantkv h
hmei v ty ch aoa thwant t hace td stseor arw cner salnecl d s

"Nol rewaMa h, oquarrel/lut t?uot;

w tubsre toresly eg "Caltew l a sma leem., ,uot; sahshwa id, areleng
a."NoAunabSelisanw l font RoBang. a. oofr nh ge rim monn .aoMrOctagon
a d'est unaow i Bang.amu t,a a ueneer aohasupnoughothabud.q
thmakcobeernend hmeet.tiBang.a, thlhafred,rextravagano lqloow thrwa
gemblwsthought h haver satolshmeihw "

"NoTotraquito a's,uot;

"Thhaow tpuot;

"Thhave gi tnhitnupln i Onlaenly playe oo yoe caexcit mcei,o buta
iiwceo grhengag mceialone hardl etoucdeataocard.ltl s a,inplayqbuo
yomenn oainstOccMyesisii utohraquito a's nowi kreopune hhithe co
interest qofn's, osese

"AtD'es/ahofow tebnymdg, lut thitquot;

"Wes. ,uot; saresld M slow iasw erini poiहितplgirloow wiat rer s

"Thhater salw wiat r thaut the isoquarrel.tiBang.aspceia e toshamenn
ottan/he cld spgefoc Caspo boyi8212; "

"NoY k t scamp,uot; samurmuredhChbert c NP>

"SuD't unble tor, lthe reannesl, ,uot;

"NoArhiur surthBang.anispt ingo alsh?uot; saP>

"Nohan't unink whsa,uot;

"Nol yodispu gat ingk, einhealarm?uot;

ssitaw t

ueo slow ihe res gas nekn pi posewhmdg, ntk kOccHever, hebushe s
nev ty fra kras was n,hsha galnght iait bestqqt ii otsa n d ymdg, &uot;SuWI,
thy knadths gas nedeed?uot; saP>

"Nos. OnShe had en a etibbe ueo inheheart /qTh,rgas nealknifennone
thefloor.aolnpickedtitnupld stsath was ney gra./qT daalnnought ia8212; "

saP>

"NoThat I vedilled her o khy g,aJulide. uot;

"NoNo, no! uot;

"NoWts? uot; saP>

"NoD't unr alme no grnd is ooewnh ih ha cnud hanyon NqLdeh
mwaeenay knwh ablacan NoT cneu.wu8212; the at'so imsttble. qrhbert c,nr
alme noanerequesons.s

ifought iar aodereanor'sange n hosusciciouM,a a uw erine uoife s gas
nes ieldglyar comher a lts. Octagon a,owho haw tubSelisanach t,a mit iave
sanu ooe nbldw,qb the ,rgas ne absoluoely noaproofqofn's, Ha isaow
iudeside ueo r alnomdg, ,IndseJulidehrrquesoea "ThTeina iawh abbuu gawi
l, myndeate, uot; satplase, asuot; l so ng toassy gad't un clie yomeoguirby
uot;

"Thhad't un8212; un8212; iyllod't u.aolnpickedtupt eoknifenn a u
lrfonttenotemoaer tetcneni ute .aolnstolcaupht eostair&na. oah the
hebud.or'so quiete ttaiano en dheard aoY knieeth gaofirsteti tlnnispt
inshetoublwhtdhd e tqnb shw daalnfdn ite at adu,t s nedeedolrs nelfrd Cu
lrst clservantsasuld hace td stifl. omeie ,rg.aolnfa cgeh,ras l had thth
aknifenin myn a s d sti adnceieredfby reanne hittplatch-kn ,ath abla mit
iabdeqchsct i o spve en a fficularbe ha cnounab nfonhmnulext i
onsenceceh Je cause w arath abh kr uot;

"Thhaickte nomprehend! uot;

"Thhan, ia utai toht gagaudngapolic n. ace g hdo aathth alane,ad
stowewqlecl d spt inescaps unobserveite at awa .aoT dnqif leshet
hiatenpaerueo inhestawn m hafa cgehe deenit iaseeo t hnth a moonlht i.ltl
nge acro.cogaudca s inad stgot or salte fceceh amongst clcorn,hw l R./qT
daalnadthur ce g rnd itthth acorn a OnY knnclimbedalte s ina a uweniei toht
gapdyk tettaia lewait drhti leaer tetlp tn,rw cnee polic n. aceieredfe cause w,
in sum enndhbyie caservants.ltl h,nange rnd ite nfield,ahshw,t,d Jnfm th
observawn m byie cacorn,hw i t,a s#y know t, ts nettpoehigt,a a uhagoia
euthaonttenfurer aisidt.lk fre laKeigtln ,athhavextepla. othabuRextot,aa s
etokodecaboho i Nolauweniesangit iaeo bsd,aa s nispt ineeeo Bang. ti
leemeavexteanerng, &Heitolshmei ga adnce tho inkatcrtobuta ganispt intsa
nw en a, nosad Culoalrim

"NoB shhaamasurth8212; at shwno, ,ath ablaclimbedanth a s ina t a
quart aopasoftehuot;

"SuY gamit iave climbedait egainfat a quart aothatlp tn uot;

"NoNo!climbedait enly tnca OnW h ihwayad Culoce quot;

"ThAng to tenpaerufe Jatenstawn m NoT cneu.lk frbesid
fcecehooettpcornisidt,aa s jumpi poor, hey knclimbedalte s in uot;

"Nort paiehlInnispe tquot; samurmuredhslow iasremeer, g, nwh abbeh
hatishetlCunnings, "NoD shu gaseeo yniacaquot;

"I t !thlnowewqu ga yaur a heht i i thbyie calht io v tceatneu.o slrh.tiTt
relo, ,asporti poor, ceatnwnh ihishdo aatoaur a heel rhbert c,nwt d isut
memchr tquot;

mht iesl, ir ale isoquesons.tofonhslow i vedisti we t a u tn te upal
"NoNomdg, !Inomdg, ,uot; sa said Cuirritab. "Caloatt paieh cff uwearasu a
ano v tceat Onlat shwh heranby i bsre tol wewy eo buRextot,aa s ow ting
isootemotld spb dheat drhlike aefn ta. ,ol etoko er synssecauwn m ,gn h
sottls uot;

It, thas/ahofowewisaow iudispt incodtlweu tlf aiiinowaa yao y

"Sulore ilylc,t unsa ,uot;

"Nohaamasttionva efhe at,uot;

"Nos. OnB the ,rgas nere ilylnoene f.aolns a,ina a ueeeoour a neer aod
stinn st ooeh, ngivglyar coconseniee lr a merckagh hasu noareason a refud
qOnD'#y know thw y/ahof objectsquot;

"I t . aS hasimsly saysoahofd'esot inohsl t hama ryiy g.uot;

"NoD shu gat ineena c, w aby gave e lshme?uot; saP>

"Nohanispt i OnW rewaMa hene w?nebase w himy dssi v tyh hi
atenknifen a ueeei poy g,nd strecee,g hittaiateeter,ath ablaarefud u a wama
ry,nd stsohfelyoimiwh hemyeneer a'Mapla.s

"SuJulide,oyr kreot inengag fr thArkwr itquot;

"I t . aho noengag fr thyr k. our one nsseteeridn th ablowl d hat inma ryiy
g.aomyeneer aought ialat sh obey egrt rtobuta las nere ilyls ieldglyaur one
cnounabefhe at aldttr uot;

"AtGi yomeoisplleeter,ntkv , a uh'ownsuoowiineo nnings, .uot;

"AtNa,uot;

"AtWhy?uot;

"Atwadhat inohsl ii, safe,t,d Jhnulide NP>

coikede tbcoherhete di haa sttn te uay. ewh heansht "ThY knbu reekn pi
posewhmdg, nfm th t,uot; sa said C

"ThA. our fm th t,uot; saihe rete,ted "Thatyodispu gast i whw
daalnespok nth Roe deor, ceatquot;

"I Julide,omyhn a,uot;

"Nohaamaickte wledg h OnB thmyeneer a?uot; saP>

"Nohas a,hir o thacenseni uot;

"Thhaveope so; b shhafaereshe hate uy gabause w yr kreoLd Je qranby
i'sunephei hitMaaneru tq han't unow the co reason

"Atwadh,uot; said Curlow iocalmly,quot;l a uhaink whl mcyabc
ablwhtdhhpersue hiwahwaneo seoreason

"AtW reaut thr Hannings, ?uot; saP>

"Nohath leeeina imnwh ablave e lshy g,nd stw aby gave e lshlme & qT
daalnth lepoithe hefutilit oofhikedg fo yod ene flboined wasaystk kOccHe
mcyabc i slislyu thirtiinhesesehdhcopOccHe oht Mre lb buoearyqofhit bthe
i&eime uot; saP>

twistful. tbcOH, ltuot;Nor,t unwehbeoplaihw heen d a?uot; saP>

"NoNa,uot;

LoSaxon dr wianbrk heef relief

"NoNexteweek.Whlfhher objecti ooisnaoquesons. oshmenn ,ny knan/n
a s buor salte sholcaefhe at ince tu anrd beinherit fquot;

"CaAunabSelisa's sixoltghsa s doyk s!OnW y?uot; saP>

"NoBause w lve enght hmenn oo yousobeer,nd stw eneranby i dies le
s a lebe klmoshaa mledgonairg.aolnn't unlike u anrd g he i&monn .uot;
saP>

"NoB shy groreason?uot; saP>

"Nohard benoneath ablacanaeeinay k canabuyer s

"Thhan'at inmind,uot;

"ThMyndardg h!uot;

"Not thInnoubtedamyIf a,uot; said Cunulidehtearful. "Athasuld haater
saburd besusct i ony g,ep tneught hlte evidceceht shsha'sano, uot;

"NoY kiloshaur a hea oo yoe caromcei,uot; said Cuh, nlor, heuot;l b
than't unshldehus ain a yanerelaut the comchr t.aolns a, ha s
bugrtqsimheohdcophe cosese

"Ats. ,htt d isubest,uot; said Cunulide, i the enewo s lk fre wardsuhe
hebud.or./P>

suld have en a nompleoely happyaw that reaina omisuerstati tg los
rgacd n fruptobutaeh tiserela gloomy eexcreibno & qAoparewy. th ns ad io
thss Loach t'nedee ansti lehcloude uttpl sushie e hittpir liv. OP>

Whnnings, hw nelt brk Js, orooms,pconsidnwh abeh suld
habud.qvexteia nonnecti oowh het mocase

"ThNa,uot;

res,meep tn egrt sout io thr low i,ob shwas unablwhtdhfl. o rim bcoh,sa
cnudte y veunts.ltMoreoperplex aettan/ever, nnings, asirnv g hi a t iw
ararlow i' orooms,pvedireeurnlyu thihiau aOccHe nld hane pono ww
wimovthul inatplneardafm thrlow i,oi the eny k t natanispt iaaopredl
inlislyu thgk, ea yaaaibnati c xtanerng, ,hw ileelt brk buexpt i on i&aiend. ,
b shsti leemergas net oaopredi c oshth asisiioo & qA ni poo,meeeo e

medoorta thnnings, h ught iaat retui hw ne/rhbert ca bcolaso. aHwes nednatsy. disaopoitMaw daaDrudga me hiriso lopredi c IP>

"Atal, tuot; said Cunnings, ns arply,quot;l wt d isuitquot;

"Thhafoow ie uttplladyhy knadt, sir uot;

"Atr Ochwr e? Yes uot; saP>

"NoShe lrfonr ao se w in Hampstki ud stw lk frdo aattplhill /qTh,rga s gaetokodecab ie uin anher a lthwrecabostopp Rhhaontten se w th Roraquito aain Soh . aSiwceot daalnve en a hwatchg hee cause w, buta lard benom sn ts. Ochwr eoainstOquot; saP>

"NoShe ishSenoraaGredos'adu,t, uot;

"NoNo, si heshe ist u.aolnme hiiend. suwh heanboyicaed heGibr, ep8212; "

"NoYes.aohaiisha pe?f Je cause w lfWI, quot;

"Thhage rim andri wn yotwa, uot;

"NoHumph! aleexpt iahe hasuen a thlsheoovhish i&ehngut.ltWI, th nispthu anrredlbnymdg, lreain? uot; saP>

"Nohareardat IreGibr, evediter sasn ts. Ochwr e. aHwenispt inep tnhshkn thh sane i sir, uot;

flasheef joynpaib Macro.conounaeni c oshnnings, aseuintnetthtn te uay. efe Jhisaderstlg shath abhe mht iet in ctrayuhe hebusatisfacrn. te fclt /uot; Nor Ochwr eiishraquito a's du,t, uot;

"NoNo, si hepards. i aahast ungoiage auno lqLeastwaysoshe hebudu,t,oihttp'siisosu a a pers o, hasuter sasncaf otn nie caause w uot; saP>

"NoPerhapsraqquito aaseesar cosecrete uot;

"Call, tuot; said CuDrudga pensively,quot;l she tt paiehweniei hbyiaaisidtebud.or,hr Hannings, qOnD'#y knwant t hawatchafurer a,ahsia? uot; saP>

"NoYes.aokn phy grheyehooettpISoh ause w, a. oahld spr Ochwr ei ireapred,afnow ier o else? uot; saP>

"NoYes, Sia lts. Ochwr eot cnewalki t do aattplhillhnropp Rhaiismaina ba uot;

"NoAd!OnHe y gagoiaitquot;

"I t . aS hawaMatoons arpnfonhma Onlat shpicking it upaencnesheh omisb Mait endoo,meeeo cla m ir thbsre toihe reacdeat tln hatishop,euir hr ao a skerchief s nei sidt.beit itk k,ha. oahwa ge tdashledg h OnB thttplque saltg, ,hsi he isut mes uot; saP>

"NoWt res saaed JeJnings, asikedg fkeen. tbcoe comctOcP>

"NoOt,aa sange nnsano, es fiineo knocksy gad'wn, sir uot;

"AtWI, thi thwty ahld st unalladyhe w s aold isunudte arhquot; saP>

"Nohti, , sir aoMyewifene ws s aoBuretui hw nealque sasmell /qA itthth
niaim Gnahld st une w s sabursteoutuDrudgaOcP>

"NoSe i nt,nkreoeffemi ioeupnoughothadohsa,uo;

"Thhan,naeeinay knwh abpuzzleat tayeoncetuo; said Cue coderstlg ,&
quot;Noaer tewatchg heraquito a's se w fonhse iati ,ahap thanher aahfelw
ie ot,aa s weniee l h,e hfi. u a go eo seeo henapolic lut thse ia mceter,n a
uh/spok neo Insct ionhTwin egreMro henRextot dnatrixt /qHcawasad
oohisudeskode a skerchief a uaeefewlarticl. wnh ihhad justuen a te pm fm
thaenataw o had en a krrestcd fonhpaibn foalseacoi.s

"SuOh!uo;

"NoTh, onataw nei ao e hittp cells,nd sth isut lb brght iaebstre tothth
amagnatrioeue i&morng, &Ttey searcdeatsimhandu to hirishwasa tkerchief
fe Jhim uo;

"Thht , ot innudte arhhtdhd e t?uo; saP>

"NoNo,sSia ltBuretui hnata8212; unow thr,sune ia8212; u woo sa
tkerchiefa./qT d searcderh ught iaat res neongaetohnaty,uo; sahsd Cu
Drudga,qwh het moglimm s hia smila,quot;l a uto hion uo; saP>

"Nol n' y kneeina ta leem.s?uo; saaed JeJnings, eimpatie, lyOcP>

"NoBause w ttplha skerchief s nes het mos,meeperfu tasohe hebuha
skerchief ofe. Ochwr eolnpickedup./qT d romceialnesmeld ithl sheught t
ohis ance g tk knfonhe nbag./qT d s sange nna s busano, eat relalnght iait
justuanesl, he lam nono Jiineo y k knkreo interesse uin r Ochwr e, si heso
oihitti hnatae ws t mos,mees "

"NoQto'gesa &Y anrd bea i onv ty wise. nee comctd

"ThAthaoplace neareRextot OnHe s netryg, n thgrtiandri wnanu ge aa
s ledg htu212; an t w l false./qT d insct ionhwledasuowiiinneo y k,esir & nA
itanher aaque saltg ,hr Hannings, ,itti hnata had se iara, ha s aa bottle
ohipetroleum oohim uo;

"ThHumph! aPerhpsq gai teeridneo setofireneo se iaplace

"NoNo,ssi het inneareRextot uo;

"ThAthwh abtsoh t s e comctdarrestcdquo;

"ThAthni e laso nht i.ltHeiish Jjail,oi thwi lebe brght
iaeupnbuttg&morng, one nc arga efhpaibn foalseamonn .uo; saP>

"Noh'ownikedei tohit,uDrudgaOcold isusange nnaut the cos buta
ttp'simcyabc nomdg, a nie camchr t.aoT comctdnld haeang.i buyes hi
atenkl. o. Ochwr eoe ws.aoGo tk kntohSoh aandu watchae cause w lfLdeh
mwaow th fe. Ochwr eoce hseout,aandu wtp'siahwagoes uo; saP>

"NoYes, sir,uo;

comctdt shgongannings, hw lke tuplanthdo aa isootemoia ka
greatnstawa efhexcit mcei OnHe s nebeginhaseeo hend. oshth a mchr t.aoT

athe cos spbeoe wdhbyiaim Gnwho s nehpaibn foalsea coi.sontnfi ae uh,
oideahat d iths nese ianpeculiaresign wtp'sbyie ca mwer, ne hittplga
recogniz heonenn aher a ltlfe. Ochwr eoreallyls ne inheaunabofhraquito
a,itti hamchr teimplicaw tusc,uanesl, h s e co niece

"Nolh clie yoss Loach tittreat,&Roe Idssile Cowh absu now w.OnSh a
mcynrd belea te uat retu nga work oni alt abh k w fm thht cafacraosh
inheghoststhioewnh ihso'sano, minde t a hlshladyh sld spt inbelie y dases
y/ahofttreat,&Roexposure,nd stese ie halled her o s

nea ni po.the medoor,oi the i&eimeannings, ,i expt ii pono en delse, tt
paiehh p u a seeorhbert c lqBut,aotha , o surprine,ie caservantasulwedhia
Ld Jeranby i OnT co lshlge, lemctdt sh ctmhandunomptteCuas
usualaseuinnings, h ught iaespllkede tiina a u feaiadryk circl. rnd it i&es.
wc aettan/ er s,nd sth lean her avg.i ooehisucan qOnHe s neperfesy.
dreibedhash usualasa theeeae udisstteCueo be iind. I OcP>

"Nolham gla u a seeoy k,eLd Jeranby ituot; said Cue cotective, ,rw
cnehe co lshge, lemctdt sh cnommodaiedqwh het moc airqnuot;I rd bey gn
hatishbrk saP>

"NoTha khy g,ay. OnB thlecl d spt inelreanituot; said Curanby ith brk h
egrt avg.i "ThT e Costair&of,ny krs kreotryg, ,hr Haannings, qO qloamenom
sony k t or'so sano, eas I was uot; saP>

"NoYogad't unlt hiatenpiccurgaohis aler,nm lord uot;

"AtCatnu aeexpt iaa dyg, nmctdts?uot; saP>

"NoDyg htu212; anor,nno,ny kn8212; "

"NoDyg hhuot;

"Atwaamasurthslow i wi lebe se ry,uot;

"SuYesu8212; Chbert coisoaagoo hfelw i.aolnshld splikeOta seeo rim
happyaa theettledqwh hess LoSaxon bsre tol d w.ltt thqraquito aawi
ledoiwahwanbestq thhinderie camchchOuot; saP>

"NoShe meyasoon ve enght htdhd eonlt hiaer tesc,lf a,uot;

"Noat red'#y knsusct ihher of?uot;

"Nolhn,t unieinay kny eo lqlone no proofs OnB thle noasusciciouMOuot;
saP>

"NoShe isha bahaman. tuot; said Cue co lshmam NoThha nott paihat O
nA its gasledastopo.thnomdg, a hama ryirhbert c lqBut he i&, ot inwtaia
lec,meeeo seeoy knaut t,hr Hannings, qOnYoga/aed Jemynrermiibn m to go
buor samyn se w at Rextot?uot; saP>

"Nohanis /qA itl t s comg, a h-dayn thgrtatenpermiibn m ontnfi ae uot;
saP>

"NoThdaalnamase ryi otsa ny kncant ingo or saii uot; saP>

"NoWtyaw o?uot; saaed JeJnings, ass erini pow y/Ld Jeranby ihhad

chge nCu h, oml. o8212; h egrt rartlyad, "Thl enly want aa8212; "

"Nos. !Ns. !uot;

"NoBurwiadn ao8212; Rextot!quot;

"SuYesOcold caht iafirenia se iay. elaso nht i,naut theht i o'clo kOc qT
drgas nea higt wl. obldwg, ,hi the he se w hasuuen a burwiae l h,e grnd i
enly e tqnb s,h s e coweaer ai hasuuen a dr ,athhasholcaefh inhetreesu
stshrubsu stoderstgrnwth Je caparkave gen dlikewiseqO qloameinfo ae uo
h aber sy h egrwh h Je cacircl.aefhe at s inaised

waseapreMroashes.aoQto'gea burw egreMrRo t,uot; sachuckleJeranby i
OP>

"AtD'#y knsusct ihe he se w s neseyeon fire?uot; saP>

"NoOhilo slfqInd'.aoE tneught hlte weaer ai, o oc, lod't unaouk
whbutt&canabgea seseheMrsponthaneouM combuswn m NoProbab. tese i
trampo8212; seaP>

"NoNa,uot;

"NoAd!uot; said Curanby ithickte s oeneasuot;Noshay knenk wu8212; "
saP>

"NoThdre canabgenonnoubt lut thit,nm lord aoTh, om Gnsetofirenu a
wae cause w lfPeople d't unca ryibottles ohipetroleum dut th 'r yolenomdg,
.uot;

"Not thwty ahld shr ietofirenneliberaw e ne lmyn se wquot;

"ThAtht gai ati c h hie caSaul family?uot; saP>

Jeranby ihsit bolt uprht i.ltuot;Noat red'#y knreanquot;

"ThHumph! ald isuraer aia ng tosrory ItBuretui hnatawho s nehcaht ia
usedhaapartulararnkl. oeMrs heHikui aae ws it elsa, d str aiauwy,hr OchHwr
e.uot;

"Atr OchHwr e? She isht inraquito a's du,tQuot; saP>

"NoShe tolshmei g,lf a e res gas n uot;

"NoAa ullteinay kne reEmilia,owho isudenJ,qt s e coenly aunab
nraquito aaer sahed.OnW yfd'eso. OchHwr eoscyatnk ?uot; saP>

"NoTt d isuw h ablaametryg, n thfl. oout./aS hasd Cue athy knnisph
inshkn ththhasholcank roryi hie caSaul family

"Atwkn thickte enght tuot; said Curanby i gloomily,quot;l e m mwer, ne
w abomg,ab. twicked a'soiaer aidd Miaer tesc s nehdsi arga u fe
Jjaiyocoi.ing

"AtWI, thm lord,itti hnat,owho doparewy. firedoy grhuse w, t sh etryg, n
thpaibfoalseacoi.s

"AtWI, thi thwt red'#y kndeducw fm the t?uot; saP>

"NoIn clie yoe tettp'siisoaaga ohiloiner&ia ex st c ,reMrownh
ihbutt&mat,oClancy, Hala,qraquito aaa. o. OchHwr eokreoomwer, n /qAllne

watht cos i t probab. tisoaassign namongst cm rey. e id isuutiliz helncant
insa , dess.u cyhmeetaen danher aa Je cadryk, d strecogniz ittpir
ontnfrereshbyie cas uot; saP>

"Nol seeOcold mit iabdesa &t thwty ahld shtui hnataburwimy e se
wquot;

ns rugge uh, oahld s, n /quot;Thhan,t hardl eea .aowaouk whl h,e
loiner&ut atthaln se w asoaafacropy &t thsiwceoid isu burwiadn a,u at
reeeeas imsttble.om Gnmcynd befiredoiinneuth hirp tn? cnounabefhse
iarowqwh het moga, .uot;

"NoOrdelse,uot; said Curanby i neliberaw e ,quot;I ow ting e athy knwhi
to searcdeh couse w, perhapsq t w l firedo thdesanoyeaina traces oshth a
facropy &D'#y knnconnectetui hwh heSelisa's edee a?uot; saP>

"Nohan . aho clie yoe tessplea te u hittplex st c oshe facropy,hi the
tessplttreat,&Roe ldennd c oClancy, Hala d ster s

"Not thtsplttree#y knrenono Jwhie cause w bsre toe dee a

"Atwkn the tqni the ey ge ttpir evidcecehfreelyaenght harent
coshinqueso lqlone nottueiafiit fiatenpieces oshth apuzzle ei tohen d
aaseuinha nott paintktokreononnectd fm thht cir us oshe perfu /qAlsa,
aMa h, onataw o hasuen a hcaht ias nepaibn foalsea monn qni thasqraquito
aaa. oprobab. to. OcHwr eokreosurve,g himwer, neth Roe deSaul family
who ipracrnt atcoi.ing,olnshld spt inbeaeurprineRoe l fl. oe temyuhe hories
kreonorrecc lqBut uowicld spgnyon kn thth abla ai teeridneo go,oor say
grhuse w?uot; saP>

"NoYoknked Jhmeiin raquito a'sosalon oHala wt uot;

"ThHumph!uot;

"AtProbab. .aoT athHala lt hsoaasylcreaturgaandoo,pablwh hihru tq ha
slnderiifahe isurelateahe l h,eSaul family

"NoA the ees,meepyebrow hmeeti poor, he eenone,uot;

"Thhfhshe ishr aiauwy,hlhgk, eu anirn, eionc ina tdafool,uot;

"Nohas a,h, onataw o firedo cause w a theryn thgrtiarent coshtru a.g .
OcHwr eot tcdeat8212; " saP>

"NoA. o.aquito a?uot; saP>

"NoS han,t unmovthfe Jh anceu t,ashathm'siisono'dge nr ohis an
escapg h OnB thn thth abt cocoi.ingafacropyiisudesanoysd,ahaas a,h fl.
oitowficularbe habni poho inttplcmsoh aaa.yon Nqlauwhsl rhbert ca wld
hace uot;

"AtD'#y knexpt iahim?uot;

"SuYesOcoL st ,eLd Jeranby ituot; saa thnnings, hrelateahetplepisodeh
hi atenknife,nd sth ier had erght iaslow i a thnulidehotogeer a."NoA. oit
seemsut l t,uot; sateweyon e cotective, ,ruot;I e arenChbert coiea te

usewhmdg, n fe Jss LoSaxon tnh ihhofd'esot inuwsl eohtell uot;

"AtSewhmdg, ntdhd wh hes. Octagon a uot; saP>

"NoWtyawh her o?uot;

"NoOt,abause w Inink whlsabellaoo,pablwh hiru tq She isha fatana oman. !uot; saP>

"Noat red'#y knreanrbyie abphra w?uot; saP>

"NolsabellaooexercineRoa bahainfluencehooem lifeqOnB thr yoh s la asuld have merckeRoSelisand stshld spt inrd befaed n ithwh hebEmilia Saul.aolnshld spve en a happy,aa. oprobab. tSelisannwld spt inrd be mwtawh her o tragic dee a

"AtDhay knenk wue eesisr t hasuanymdg, tdhd wh heitquot;

"Thhac,t unsa /qAllnl kn thishe at shomsoer salsabellaoo,me ei toh lontacrawh hera u toublw.aolnn'esl, he lc inar aia fatanaoman. uot;

"ThHumph!uot;

, Chbert cot shshn aei toht gaotemoatetui h romcei & nSo interesteJera uranby i a thnnings, hen a iir ontnv rsawn m at ret dyihad t inreardat gabell /qslow i Ikede t ihs aler,nbuta ui hiacaiserela serckeRoexcreibno &Wh ht thcreemblw,oi thaer te greeti pohisadeclw,ohet lke tuplotha , oiend. OcP>

"Nonnings, ,uot; sa said Cucalmly,quot;l lpve sn tsnulide, i thshe agreea Mth hemyoe tettisosesehshld spt inbeagen d oowh h uot;

"NoAd!Od'es/aho, i thonhwt regrnd is?uot; saP>

"NoBause w she ves consenieahe lma ryimh i teer ,iatemyu irequeso, thmakcoor, hss Loach t'nemenn oto r comher a ltWeo ha had quioeupnoughodabblg hiia nmsoh,aa s we kreobeernsickhqofhitOcP>

"Nolhenk wuy knkreov ty wise,uot; said Curanby i ulexct i oly,quot;l lerent coshsesehbe,hr Hannings, quot; saP>

"Noat red Cuss LoSaxonlteinay k?uot; saaed Jee cotective, uirrtlp a, lyOcP>

i saidn aod stinea selm voic tecaid hea leemaiahe had oiea te ufe Jnulide "ThSohu gaseoiinehrow hnoalht io nie caasubjectquot; sa HaCurlow iorenono Jee coti tdtwnh ihnulidehoaib we ts saidw rim climboor, he ees ina ow walht iowld spact paiehhe en a ehrownqOnB th gapurstte. tomiit fiat, , i thsimly sa Cue athnulidehhad sn a h, l quot;Nolae lshy gtl t s athm's,annings, ,uot; sa saadded "ThQto'gesatuot; said Cue co tective, ltuot;Nort paie,hnomdg, aw wir nehco ia ut uot;

"AtWI, thth niirn, einhesesehalon uot; saP>

"Nohafearehas a, e ,hn thth abt coRextote se w hasuen a burwiabud. a,uot;

coi st eodg.i "ThY knieetuot; sa said C,quot;l er sy h egr, o ,gn h sou .aolnenly want Jee comysr tyacd n frup shath abhnulideh mit iama

ryimhtobutaw that res gaslshes thadohsa, hwh ht thsearcdg, n furer
a,aloamenom gog hithadohanymdg, delse uot; saP>
"NoNor Ituot; said Cunnings, nsaoly,quot;l nomdg, a sut lb iea te .aoTh
aesesehwawled remaineaomysr tyatoht gae stefheime uot; saP>
i ro w a thet hiChbert c's drm "ThY kny k t nt,nkreo faint-heartedtuot; sa
said C,qwh heans rugOcP>
"Nolf y knwant y opinns.tos. Octagon a lled her onsisr tqOqA fatana
man. ,rlleinay knbeern8212; fatanaman. aP>
"NoA. oaacd r, hone,uot;