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MUSIC

ANNOUNCER Agatha Christie's Poirot

MUSIC

ANNOUNCER From the thrill-packed pages of Agatha Christie's unforgettable stories of corpses, clues and crime, Mutual now brings you, complete with bowler hat and brave mustache, your favorite detective, Hercule Poirot, starring Harold Huber, in the case of The Careless Victim.,

MUSIC

Before meeting Hercule Poirot in his first American adventure, it seems only fitting for the millions of faithful readers who have followed the little Belgian detective's career in book form, to meet the famous lady who created this famous character. So it is our privilege to present a message from Agatha Christie introducing Hercule Poirot from London, England. The next voice you hear will be Miss Agatha Christie's.

Go ahead, London.

AGATHA CHRISTIE I feel that this is an occasion that would have appealed to Hercule Poirot. He would have done justice to the inauguration of this radio program, and he might even have made it seem something of an international event. However, as he's heavily engaged on an investigation, about which you will hear in due course, I must, as one of his oldest friends, deputize for him. The great man has his little foibles, but really, I have the greatest affection for him. And it is a source of continuing satisfaction to me, that there has been such a generous response to his appearance on my books, and I hope that his new career on the radio will make many new friends for him among a wider public.

054 ANNOUNCER Thank you, Miss Agatha Christie. And
055 now, Mutual presents Hercule Poirot in his first American
056 adventure, the Case of the Careless Victim.
057
058

059 MUSIC

060
061 POIROT [*Door opens. Closes.*] Mademoiselle?
062

063 CLERK Huh?
064

065 POIROT This is the Cozy Room Apartment Renting
066 Agency?
067

068 CLERK When we got something to rent, yeah.
069

070 POIROT I have the desire to rent an apartment.
071

072 CLERK Who hasn't?
073

074 POIROT Please, mademoiselle, do not jest. Allons, I have
075 with me a brief dossier of my requirements. Please to read it.
076
077

078 CLERK Well, all right. Gentleman desires a bright
079 suns...sunshining apartment, of a reasonable quietness, near
080 the heart of the city. Should be furnished with the utmost
081 charm, French provincial if possible. Price is of no
082 consequence, as long as it is very reasonable. Huh. Please
083 communicate with me at the Hotel Windsor. Hercules
084 P-O-I-R-O-T. Poyrot.
085
086
087
088

089 POIROT No, no, no, mademoiselle, the name is Poirot.
090 Hercule Poirot.
091

092 CLERK Well, I wish you luck, Mr. Porroh.
093

094 POIROT Finding an apartment, mademoiselle, is not a
095 matter of luck. It is a matter of employing the little gray
096 cells. If you can find an apartment for me, please do me the
097 kindness to inform me.
098
099

100 CLERK Sure, if you'll do something for me.
101
102

103 POIROT And what is that?
104

105 CLERK If you can find an apartment for me, please do me
106 the kindness to inform me!
107

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MUSIC

ELEVATOR MAN Going up. [*Sound of voices conversing in a crowd*] Floor please.

POIROT Number five. [*Elevator door closes*]. You are new here, no?

ELEVATOR MAN Uh, yessir, only came on yesterday. You're Mr. Porrot, aren'tcha?

POIROT Poirot.

ELEVATOR MAN Well, Poirot. One of the boys pointed you out. Here you are sir, fifth floor. [*Elevator door opens and closes*]

POIROT [*Humming...bumps into a woman*] Oh, a thousand apologies, madame!

WOMAN [*Old, reedy voice*] Not a'tall, it was entirely my fault.

POIROT Madame appears troubled. Perhaps I may be of some slight assistance?

WOMAN No, I...well...if you're sure you don't mind.

POIROT But of course not.

WOMAN You see, it's my door, it won't open.

POIROT Aha. And where is this obstinate door, eh?

WOMAN It's right down the corridor, room 515.

POIROT If I may have the key?

WOMAN But that's just it! The door isn't locked. I left it open only ten minutes ago.

POIROT Indeed. Madame is very trusting, eh.

WOMAN Hmm. Here it tis. [*Rattling of door*] You see, it's stuck, it won't budge.

POIROT It is not precisely stuck, madame. It gives a trifle. This door is barricaded.

162 WOMAN Oh my goodness.
163
164 POIROT [*grunt, as if applying shoulder to door*] Ah, voila,
165 she moves, eh.
166
167 WOMAN Oh, thanks a million. Now what do you
168 suppose...
169
170 POIROT No, wait madame. Perhaps it is better if I look
171 first. Ah, alas, it is as I have feared.
172
173 WOMAN [*Quickly*] What is it?
174
175 POIROT You do not know? Look!
176
177 WOMAN Oh! It's a man! Is he...is he...
178
179 POIROT Oui, madame. He has been strangled. This is
180 murder.
181
182
183
184 MUSIC
185
186 POIROT Zut alors. I must complement you, madame.
187 Your color, it is excellent. And you did not even commence
188 to faint. For one who...
189
190 WOMAN I don't fall apart in a crisis, if that's what you
191 mean. And furthermore, I'm not madame, I'm
192 mademoiselle. By choice. Miss Abigail Fletcher. [*Over the*
193 *sound of someone telephoning.*] And now, if you'll get
194 that...uh, corpse out of here, I'd like to sit down.
195
196
197 POIROT That I regret I cannot do, mam'selle. The body
198 must not be touched before the police arrive.
199
200
201 MISS FLETCHER Police!
202
203 POIROT Well yes, of course, the police. I am calling them
204 now. 'Allo, allo? Ah, inspector Stevens. It is I, Hercule
205 Poirot. Alas, no, I have not yet found the apartment. But I
206 have found something of perhaps more interest. A corpse.
207 Hm, right here in my hotel. Room number...
208
209
210 MISS FLETCHER [*from far away*] 515.
211
212
213
214
215

216 **POIROT** Number 5 fif-. Mamselle! What are you doing
217 with the body?
218
219 **MISS FLETCHER** Nuthin. I was just trying to see his
220 face.
221
222 **POIROT** You will have that opportunity later. Pardon,
223 inspector. We are room 515. Bien. We shall expect you
224 immediately. [*hangs up phone*] Eh, bien, Miss Fletcher.
225
226 Now that you have observed the face of this unfortunate
227 one, perhaps you will be good enough to tell me who he is?
228
229 **MISS FLETCHER** I certainly will not! Who do you
230 think you are?
231
232 **POIROT** Ah, mamselle, permit me to present myself, I
233 am Hercule Poirot. Formerly chief of the Belgian Surete.
234
235 **MISS FLETCHER** Yeah? That's what you say. Now look,
236 Mr. Porroh, I've read plenty of detective stories and none of
237 'em had a detective that looked anythin' like you. I'll wait
238 for the police and let them ask the questions.
239
240 **POIROT** As you desire, mamselle. I merely wish to point
241 out one thing. It is you the police will question first.
242
243 **MISS FLETCHER** Me?
244
245 **POIROT** But of course. You are the most likely suspect,
246 no?
247
248 **MISS FLETCHER** Well, all right. What do you want to
249 know?
250
251 **POIROT** First, what are you doing here in this hotel?
252
253 **MISS FLETCHER** Why, I've lived here for ten solid
254 years! Ever since I left Waskuskego, Maine!
255
256 **POIROT** And what do you do? What is your occupation?
257
258 **MISS FLETCHER** Why...why I...don't have any
259 occupation. I've got a little income and...I like it here in
260 New York and the last few years I've been doing...war
261 work....Red Cross and things like that.
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269

270 **POIROT** You seem a trifle vague, mamselle. Now, about
271 this man. Who is he?
272
273 **MISS FLETCHER** I don't know! I never saw him before
274 in my life!
275
276 **POIROT** Mamselle, I advise you to consider your answers
277 with care. Do not forget, a man lies dead in this room.
278
279 **MISS FLETCHER** I can't help that. I don't know who he
280 is or how he got here. I toldja I was out of the room
281 for...ten minutes.
282
283 **POIROT** That may be, Miss Fletcher, but it does not help
284 you. This man has been dead for at least one hour.
285
286 **MISS FLETCHER** How do you know?
287
288 **POIROT** If you will touch the body you will observe it is
289 already beginning to cool. Therefore, mamselle, if you left
290 this room only ten minutes ago, your situation is indeed
291 grave, for this man was already dead!
292
293 **MISS FLETCHER** Oh! But...I couldn't have done it!
294
295 **POIROT** So? And why not?
296
297 **MISS FLETCHER** Because his body was lying right
298 across the doorway. You know perfectly well I couldn't get
299 out through this doorway and still leave a body wedged
300 against it! Belgian surety indeed!
301
302 **POIROT** Hm. Very good, mamselle. But, you could have
303 murdered him in here, made your departure by way of this
304 fire escape through the room overhead, and come down
305 inside the building to this corridor, where you so innocently
306 made my acquaintance. You see, there is evidence that the
307 fire escape has but recently been used. Now, it is not so
308 amusing, eh?
309
310 **MISS FLETCHER** Well, I don't care. I had nothing to do
311 with this. I know you detectives, you are out to get a suspect,
312 and just because a man was murdered in my room...
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323

324 **POIROT** Gently, gently, mamselle. All is not lost.
325
326 Fortunately, you deal with Hercule Poirot, who goes one
327 step beyond the obvious. You see, this poor man was not
328 murdered in your room. He was killed in the room
329 overhead!
330
331
332 **MISS FLETCHER** But why? Why kill him upstairs and
333 leave him on my doorstep?
334
335 **POIROT** That, mamselle, we shall discover in due course.
336
337
338 **MUSIC**
339
340 **FX** Door closes. Sound of key turning in lock.
341
342 **MISS FLETCHER** All right, Mister Porroh. Now that
343 you've got the corpse safely locked in my room and us
344 outside, what am I supposed to do? Sleep on the fire escape?
345
346 **POIROT** I do not think that will be necessary, mamselle.
347 You are coming with me to the lobby where we shall wait
348 for my friend, Inspector Stevens. He will see that you are
349 comfortably sheltered for the night.
350
351
352 **MISS FLETCHER** Oh...Tell me, Mr. Porroh, how'd you
353 figure out that the murder took place upstairs?
354
355 **POIROT** Is it not apparent, Miss Fletcher? Please to
356 squeeze the bell for the elevator. I look out of your window
357 and observe the fire escapes. And what do I find?
358
359 Everywhere the dust reposes peacefully.
360
361
362 **MISS FLETCHER** Well naturally! The help is too busy to
363 polish fire escapes.
364
365 **POIROT** Ah, mamselle, but on one stairway, the one
366 leading up from your window, all is disarranged. There is a
367 broad, clear path through the dust. And it is precisely the
368 width of a human body. And since the path extends only to
369 the floor above, it is obvious the body has been dragged
370 down from room 615. Also, on the garments of the dead
371 man, the trousers, the left elbow, and across the shoulders,
372
373
374
375
376
377

378 there are unmistakable traces of rust. [*Sound of elevator*
379 *arriving.*] Ah, voila, the elevator.
380
381 **ELEVATOR MAN** Going down.
382
383 **POIROT** Messieur, would you be so good as to explain why
384 you were so long in arriving?
385
386 **ELEVATOR MAN** Uh? Oh, it's this old car. Every once
387 in a while it goes on the fritz.
388
389 **POIROT** Comma? On the fritz?
390
391 **MISS FLETCHER** Out of order.
392
393 **ELEVATOR MAN** Yeah, it got stuck on the ninth.
394
395 **POIROT** You have been on the ninth floor all this time?
396
397 **ELEVATOR MAN** Yeah, that's right.
398
399 **POIROT** That is difficult to believe.
400
401 **ELEVATOR MAN** Why?
402
403 **POIROT** Because the indicator has been pointing to the
404 basement.
405
406 **ELEVATOR MAN** Ah, that indicator. Soon as anything
407 goes wrong it flops.
408
409 **POIROT** I am not so sure that is true of the indicator. But
410 unquestionably, messieur, it is true of the too clever murder.
411
412 As soon as anything goes wrong, it flops.
413
414
415
416 **MUSIC**
417
418 **POIROT** [*Sounds of people talking in lobby*] Eh bien,
419 Inspector Stevens, there is the situation. An unknown man
420 strangled to death in one room, and dragged down the fire
421 escape to another.
422
423 **STEVENS** Poirot, if this body is the person I think it is,
424 the commissioner will have my head!
425
426 **POIROT** Eh? Mon ami, forgive me, you seem agitated.
427
428
429
430
431

432 STEVENS And we were warned, too. I assigned my best
433 man to guard him. The smartest cop on my force. Sam
434 Tremble. Good lord, Poirot, there'll be an international
435 scandal.
436
437
438 POIROT Gently, mon ami. You go to fast, even for
439 Hercule Poirot. Who is this magnificent figure of
440 international importance?
441
442
443 STEVENS Parrish! Jonathan Parrish!
444
445 POIROT Parrish? Ahhh! Oui. The name rings a bell. He
446 is the big currency expert, eh?
447
448
449 STEVENS That's right. He's on his way to Europe to set
450 up the new paper currency for the liberated countries.
451 Checked in at the Windsor today, was supposed to pick up
452 some papers, dyes and inks and then hop a bomber tonight.
453
454 [Elevator door opens]
455
456
457 POIROT Fifth floor, please. An enormous undertaking.
458 And one of great importance.
459
460 STEVENS And I was responsible for his safety. He's
461 supposed to be an eccentric sort of guy, no photographs, no
462 publicity. Tremble was the only man on the force who knew
463 him at all and Tremble failed. You see what this means,
464 Poirot?
465
466
467
468 POIROT I see only this, my friend. We have arrived at the
469 first step in the solution of this distressing murder, for now
470 we know the motive. [Elevator door opens] This way,
471 inspector. [Elevator door closes]. This is the room.
472
473 Mademoiselle Fletcher, your key.
474
475
476 MISS FLETCHER Here you are.
477
478 STEVENS I'll never live this down.
479
480 POIROT [Over the sound of key in lock] You exaggerate,
481 mon ami. Even the best of men sometimes fail. Regard,
482 inspector. Here is your corpse.
483
484
485

486 STEVENS Hm. They certainly did a job...thunderation!
487
488 POIROT You are shocked, monsieur?
489
490 STEVENS Poirot, do you realize what's happened?
491
492 POIROT But of course, Inspector. It is not Jonathan
493 Parrish who has been murdered, but your own , faithful
494 policeman, Sam Tremble.
495
496
497 STEVENS Poirot, that's not very funny, you knew it all the
498 time.
499
500 POIROT Pardon, mon ami, I knew nothing of the sort.
501
502 STEVENS But you distinctly told me...
503
504 POIROT No, inspector, you told me! To me the dead man
505 was an unknown corpse. It could be anyone. But when you
506 speak of two men, one a wealthy financier of international
507 importance, the other a police officer, by employing the
508 little grey cells, it is not difficult to conclude that a corpse
509 with the large high, comfortable shoes and the plain suit, is
510 the policeman.
511
512
513
514
515 STEVENS Oh, of course. I'm sorry...
516
517 POIROT Messieur, there is no time now for the profuse
518 apologies.
519
520
521 STEVENS You're right. We've got to get to Parrish at
522 once. The poor guy doesn't even know his bodyguard's gone.
523
524 [*Picks up receiver*] Hello, hello, operator, what room is
525 Jonathan Parrish in. Eh? 615? Hold on. Poirot, that's the
526 room directly over this one, where Tremble was killed.
527
528
529 POIROT Precisely.
530
531 STEVENS Operator, let me talk to Mr. Parrish.
532
533 POIROT I think you will find the gentleman does not
534 answer.
535
536
537 STEVENS Why not? [*Replaces phone.*]
538
539

540 **POIROT** Obviously, he would not witness a murder
541 without reporting it. On the other hand, he too may...
542
543 **STEVENS** Good lord, Poirot, do you think he's dead too?
544 He...we know he received a warning from Hilary Kent.
545
546
547 **POIROT** I do not follow you, mon ami.
548
549 **STEVENS** Huh? Oh, I don't blame you. Hilary Kent is a
550 criminal egomaniac.
551
552 **POIROT** Ah. One who commits crime chiefly for the
553 pleasure of baffling the police, eh?
554
555
556 **STEVENS** Exactly. Well, this Hilary Kent, or someone
557 who calls himself Hilary Kent, is one of those guys. He
558 pulled off a few clever jobs and got away with them. We
559 don't know anything about him but whoever he is, he's got
560 to get his thrill out of every job. So he makes it a rule to
561 warn his victims.
562
563
564
565 **POIROT** Ah, me. I know well the type. And messieur
566 Parrish, I take it, has received such a warning.
567
568
569 **STEVENS** Right. Now you see why I assigned my best
570 man.
571
572
573 **POIROT** Eh bien, but now we must hasten upstairs to Mr.
574 Parrish's room. Already it may be too late.
575
576 **MISS FLETCHER** I'll go, too. I don't want to stay here
577 with this body.
578
579
580 **STEVENS** You'll stay right here, Miss Fletcher, until I
581 give you permission..
582
583 **POIROT** Inspector, if you do not mind. Myself, I am not
584 averse to Miss Fletcher's company. I find her
585 very...intriguing.
586
587
588 **MUSIC**
589
590 **FX** Knock on door
591
592 **STEVENS** Oh, no answer.
593

594 **POIROT** But naturally. You did not expect the murderer
595 to sit down and wait for us? You will have to employ the
596 pass key.
597
598
599 **FX** Sound of key in lock
600
601 **STEVENS** Remember, Miss Fletcher, you're not to touch
602 anything.
603
604 **MISS FLETCHER** It's perfectly all right. I'm wearing
605 gloves.
606
607
608 **POIROT** The inspector is thinking of fingerprints? Moi, I
609 do not think he will find any. Monsieur Kent, or whoever
610 the killer may be, is too clever to leave any such traces.
611
612 **STEVENS** Well, maybe. But I want to be sure we don't
613 lose even the tiniest clue.
614
615
616 **POIROT** An excellent approach, mon ami. There are
617 many interesting things we may learn here, about Messieur
618 Parrish.
619
620 **MISS FLETCHER** He certainly gets around a lot.
621
622
623 **POIROT** Oui. The labels on his luggage are from the four
624 corners of the earth.
625
626
627 **STEVENS** Miss Fletcher, I said you're not to touch
628 anything!
629
630 **MISS FLETCHER** For goodness sake, it's only a book!
631
632 **POIROT** Books may be of great significance. Ah. Oui.
633 This one for example. It is no ordinary book. It is a stamp
634 album of great value. Hm. [*Sound of pages turning.*] Some
635 of these stamps are almost without price. Ah. Ah. Very
636 interesting. This Guatemala Blue....
637
638
639 **VOICE** Put up your hands! All of you!
640
641
642 **FX** Various sounds of surprise.
643
644 **FX** Oh! from Miss Fletcher.
645
646 **FX** Thunderation! from Inspector Stevens
647

648 VOICE Don't move! I said don't move!
649
650 POIROT Have no fear, monsieur. I will not dispute the
651 authority of your gun.
652
653 Commercial
654
655 STEVENS Mister, you can't get away with this. Put your
656 gun down and talk fast. Who the devil are you?
657
658 POIROT But obviously, Inspector, this is the man we seek.
659
660 Monsieur Jonathan Parrish.
661
662 PARRISH That's just who I am! All right, speak up!
663
664 Which one of you is Hilary Kent?
665
666 STEVENS Hilary Kent!
667
668 PARRISH Yes!
669
670 STEVENS Now wait a minute, Mr. Parrish. You've got
671 this all wrong. I'm Inspector Stevens, homicide squad, and
672 this is Hercule Poirot, the famous Belgian detective.
673
674 PARRISH So you say! You don't look like policemen to
675 me, particularly that little squirt with the silly mustache.
676
677 POIROT Eh?
678
679 PARRISH You stay right where you are til I check on you!
680
681
682 **MUSIC**
683
684 POIROT Eh bien, Monsieur Parrish, now that you are
685 satisfied as to our identity...
686
687 PARRISH Well, I've heard of you, of course. You're
688 supposed to be the greatest French detective in the world.
689
690 POIROT Oh...always people say that about me, Monsieur,
691 but it is not entirely true. I am not French, I am Belgian.
692
693 PARRISH Hrmph. Well, I wish you'd all get out of here
694 and leave me alone. I'm expecting my daughter and I don't
695 want her running in to a roomful of policemen.
696
697
698
699
700
701

702 **POIROT** But, messieur. You are in great danger. You must
703 be protected every moment.
704
705 **PARRISH** You offering me police protection? Hrmph.
706 Not worth a hoot.
707
708
709 **STEVENS** I beg your...
710
711 **PARRISH** That's what I said! Not worth a hoot. I have
712 protection. Some detective they assigned to me. Where is
713 he?
714
715
716 **POIROT** He is dead.
717
718 **PARRISH** What?
719
720 **STEVENS** He was murdered in this very room while
721 protecting you.
722
723 **POIROT** Therefore, if you do not object too violently, I
724 shall undertake to protect you until you step aboard your
725 airplane.
726
727
728 **PARRISH** All right, all right, stay. I don't know how long
729 it will be, I'm just waiting for one little parcel to be
730 delivered. Then I'm off.
731
732
733 **POIROT** Messieur is taking with him much equipment?
734
735 **PARRISH** Yes, quite a load. I've already sent most of it off
736 to the airport.
737
738
739 **POIROT** Ah, bon. That is good.
740
741 **PARRISH** Miss! Don't eat that chocolate! It may be
742 poisoned.
743
744 **MISS FLETCHER** Oh, nonsense. This candy isn't
745 poisoned.
746
747
748 **PARRISH** I wouldn't be too sure. That box of candy
749 supposedly came from my daughter Laura. It was delivered
750 a little while ago.
751
752
753 **POIROT** But you suspect she did not send it?
754
755

756 PARRISH Well, she's supposed to come here in person.
757 Should be here now, in fact. So, why should she send it?
758
759 POIROT You are very shrewd, mon ami.
760
761 FX Door opens
762
763 JOHNNY Hi...Oh, excuse me.
764
765 STEVENS Waitaminute, Johnny, come back here.
766 Waddy want?
767
768 JOHNNY Nuthin. I...I just wanted to see if Mr. Parrish
769 got his extra laundry box okay.
770
771 PARRISH Yes, yes, I received it.
772
773 JOHNNY Okay. Excuse me.
774
775 PARRISH I, uh, picked up a few more things to take
776 along, special dyes and inks, they'll just about fill up that
777 laundry box. Excuse me, I've got to go into the bedroom
778 and finish packing. [*Door opens and closes*]
779
780 STEVENS Crusty old bird, isn't he?
781
782 MISS FLETCHER How would you be if you knew
783 someone was out to kill ya? No wonder he's jittery.
784
785 POIROT Ah, he's irritable and nervous. That perhaps
786 explains it.
787
788 STEVENS Explains what?
789
790 POIROT Why he wears upon his feet that unique pair of
791 socks. One of which is green and the other brown.
792
793 STEVENS All right, if the man wants to be eccentric let
794 him be. I've still got a murderer to catch. You want to come
795 along?
796
797 POIROT No, Inspector. I have attached myself to
798 messieur Parrish, and I propose to see that...[*knock on door*]
799
800 STEVENS Come in.
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809

810 **BRADY** [*door opens*] Inspector. [*Parrish with an Irish*
811 *accent!*] One of the men found this on the sidewalk outside
812 the hotel. Thought you might want to take a look at it
813 before turning it in to the lost and found.
814
815
816 **STEVENS** Okay, Brady, thanks [*door closes*]. A lady's
817 purse. Usual assortment of stuff. Cosmetics. Perfume.
818 Change. Keys. Do you make anything of it, Poirot?
819
820 **POIROT** Hm...hm....ah, *sacre bleu!*
821
822 **MISS FLETCHER** What is it?
823
824 **POIROT** These initials. LP. Monsieur Parrish. [*door opens*]
825
826 **PARRISH** Yeah?
827
828 **POIROT** What did you say was the name of your
829 charming daughter?
830
831 **PARRISH** Laura.
832
833 **MISS FLETCHER** Good lord! LP. Laura Parrish!
834
835 **STEVENS** Poirot, where are you going?
836
837 **POIROT** I have a little idea. Uh, *mamselle* Fletcher,
838 please to accompany me.
839
840 **STEVENS** How about Mr. Parrish? You were so attached
841 to him.
842
843 **POIROT** I have become momentarily de-tached. I leave
844 him in your care, Inspector. Protect him with the apple of
845 your eye!
846
847
848
849
850
851 **MUSIC**
852
853 **POIROT** [*footsteps*] Come, come. It will not be the first
854 time you have left the elevator unattended, Monsieur
855 Johnny. Come along.
856
857 **JOHNNY** Mr. Porroh, you're wasting your time in this
858 basement, believe me.
859
860 **POIROT** Nevertheless it interests me. Please to light the
861 way.
862
863

864 JOHNNY There's nothing here. Just a lot of ash cans.
865
866 POIROT One moment. What is behind this door?
867
868 JOHNNY Well..that's the laundry bin. They keep the
869 soiled linen in there. You won't find anything in there.
870
871 POIROT We shall take one brief glance, eh? [*Door squeaks*
872 *open*]
873
874
875 JOHNNY There, you see? Nothing but a pile of dirty
876 sheets and pillow cases.
877
878 MISS FLETCHER Good gracious! What a laundry bill
879 they must have.
880
881
882 POIROT Eh, bien. Let us proceed to..*[snaps fingers]* One
883 moment!
884
885 MISS FLETCHER What is it?
886
887 POIROT Sacre bleu! Protruding from under these sheets..
888
889 JOHNNY Holy cow!
890
891 POIROT A foot! A small foot. This is what I feared.
892
893 MISS FLETCHER Look!
894
895 POIROT Ah, it moves! Then we are not too late! Quickly,
896 messiuier, help me to uncover her!
897
898
899 **MUSIC**
900
901 LAURA That's all I know, Mr. Poirot. I was walking along
902 the street toward the hotel. Just as I passed the alley I was
903 pulled in. I tried to scream but something was pressed
904 against my mouth...
905
906
907 POIROT Chloroform, Miss Parrish. Had you seen your
908 assailant, you would have seen Hilary Kent. Alors, Miss
909 Parrish, you are most fortunate. Another few minutes under
910 those linens and who knows...Voila, here is the room of
911 your father. [*Knocks on door. Door opens*] Inspector Stevens,
912 here is Miss Parrish.
913
914
915
916
917

918 STEVENS Oh, well, that's a relief. Come in. I was afraid,
919 Poirot, you'd turn up with a body. How'd you manage to
920 find her?
921
922 POIROT That is not important now. We have found her.
923 But we seem to have lost the father.
924
925 STEVENS Oh, yes. Miss Parrish, I'm sorry. Your father's
926 terribly upset about you but his material was delivered and
927 he had to rush off to the airport.
928
929 LAURA Oh, no! Don't tell me I missed him after all this!
930
931 POIROT Ah, ma pauvre petite, we have neglected
932 you...eh? Miss Fletcher. Your room is now free of corpses.
933 Please take mamselle Parrish down and extend to her the
934 first aid.
935
936 MISS FLETCHER Come along, Laura.
937
938 LAURA Thank you. [*Door opens and closes*]
939
940 POIROT Inspector. I hope you do not later have cause to
941 regret that you permitted Parrish to go off to the airport
942 unprotected.
943
944 STEVENS He'll be all right. Besides, I've got a job to do
945 here, although, frankly, I'm in a complete fog. I can't make
946 head or tail of the whole business!
947
948 POIROT No, Stevens. The head and the tail we have.
949
950 STEVENS What?
951
952 POIROT Yes! It is merely a fragment of the middle that
953 we still lack.
954
955 STEVENS Well, who is it? Hey, Poirot, where are you
956 going?
957
958 POIROT To see how Miss Parrish is, and to telephone the
959 airport to see that Mr. Parrish receives the proper attention.
960
961 Au revoir.
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970 MUSIC
971

972 Sound of cars. Honking horns, etc.
973
974 MISS FLETCHER Mr. Poirot, where are you taking me
975 now? I'd like to have some...
976
977 JOHNNY Mr. Perroht. Mr. Perroht.
978
979 POIROT Allo? Someone calls?
980
981 MISS FLETCHER It's Johnny in that parked car.
982
983 JOHNNY Mr. Perroht, I got a message for you from
984 Inspector Stevens, he rushed off a minute ago.
985
986 POIROT From Stevens? What is it? What is the message?
987
988 JOHNNY He says he just got word that Mr. Parrish has
989 been seriously hurt in an automobile accident on North
990 Salem road.
991
992 POIROT Mon dieux, this is too much!
993
994 JOHNNY You're to get there as fast as you can. Here's the
995 address.
996
997 POIROT 52 North Salem Road. Monsieur, your duties for
998 the day are over?
999
1000 JOHNNY Yeah.
1001
1002 POIROT And this is your vehicle?
1003
1004 JOHNNY Yeah. Why?
1005
1006 POIROT [*opens car door*] There is no time to seek a taxi so I
1007 will impose on your kindness. Miss Fletcher, quickly please.
1008
1009 JOHNNY [*starts car engine*] Okay. [*car door closes*] North
1010 Salem road, right?
1011
1012 POIROT No. To the airport.
1013
1014 JOHNNY What?
1015
1016 MISS FLETCHER But Mr. Parrish isn't at the airport.
1017 He's injured on North Salem Road!
1018
1019
1020
1021
1022
1023
1024
1025

1026 **POIROT** No, mademoiselle. That is what I was intended
1027 to believe. Do you not think so, Johnny? He is not there, I
1028 assure you.
1029
1030

1031 **MISS FLETCHER** How do you know?
1032

1033 **POIROT** Well, North Salem Road is not on the way to
1034 the airport. It is in the opposite direction. This is merely a
1035 trick to keep us from the flying field. We must hurry there
1036 before it is too late.
1037
1038

1039 **FX** Car engine accelerates.
1040

1041 **MUSIC**
1042

1043 Engine running. Running feet.
1044

1045 **MISS FLETCHER** Well, the airplane is still there but I
1046 don't see anything amiss.
1047
1048

1049 **POIROT** Hola. Over there.
1050

1051 **MISS FLETCHER** Parrish! As large as life.
1052

1053 **JOHNNY** Yep. That's him all right.
1054

1055 **POIROT** Come along please. Uh uh. Both of you.
1056 [*calling*] Messieur Parrish!
1057

1058 **PARRISH** Messiuer. Poirot. My daughter...is she...
1059

1060 **POIROT** She is at the hotel, messieur, resting. She has
1061 had a small misadventure but she is entirely safe.
1062
1063

1064 **PARRISH** Thank heavens.
1065

1066 **POIROT** You are relieved, eh?
1067

1068 **PARRISH** Am I. I...I don't think I'd have gotten on that
1069 plane if you hadn't found her. Fortunately I didn't have to,
1070 they've been delayed a little.
1071
1072

1073 **STEVENS** [*calling*] Poirot!
1074

1075 **POIROT** Inspector Stevens. I knew you would not walk
1076 into the trap.
1077
1078
1079

1080 STEVENS Yeah, but as usual you beat me to it. I was
1081 halfway out to North Salem Road before I realized what
1082 was cooking.
1083
1084
1085 POIROT Eh, bien. Here is Mr. Parrish safe and sound,
1086 eh. I suggest the bomber be expected with great care. There
1087 may be sabotage.
1088
1089
1090 STEVENS Good idea.
1091
1092 POIROT Also, have all the doors of this building guarded.
1093
1094 JOHNNY Eh, Mr. Porroht, do I have to hang around
1095 here?
1096
1097 POIROT But of course, Johnny. We may require you for
1098 our return trip. Oh, Monsieur Parrish, here is your pilot to
1099 report.
1100
1101
1102 PILOT We're ready now, Mr. Parrish.
1103
1104 PARRISH Thank you. Oh, captain, here comes my
1105 luggage. Will you see that it gets aboard?
1106
1107
1108 PILOT Right, sir.
1109
1110 PARRISH And be especially careful of that wooden crate.
1111 Well, goodbye, Inspector. I must admit you've been
1112 extremely helpful, and I'm much obliged.
1113
1114
1115 STEVENS Not at all. Goodbye, and happy landings.
1116
1117 PARRISH Miss Fletcher.
1118
1119 MISS FLETCHER Goodbye, sir.
1120
1121 PARRISH Monsieur Poirot, it's been a privilege to know
1122 you. I'm only sorry I couldn't remain to see you break the
1123 case.
1124
1125
1126 POIROT But you have, Monsieur.
1127
1128 PARRISH I beg your pardon?
1129
1130 POIROT The case, it is broken. Inspector, meet Hilary
1131 Kent, the gentleman to whom you have just wished bon
1132 voyage.
1133

1134 STEVENS Hilary Kent?
1135
1136 PARRISH You're mad, Poirot!
1137
1138 MISS FLETCHER Good gracious, I thought he was
1139 Parrish!
1140
1141 POIROT And that wooden crate, which I have waited so
1142 long to see, it is not to be moved, Inspector.
1143
1144 STEVENS Why not?
1145
1146 POIROT Because, mon ami, it contains the body of
1147 Jonathan Parrish!
1148
1149
1150 MUSIC
1151
1152 Sound of tea things and conversation
1153
1154 POIROT A charming restaurant this, n'est pas? The planes
1155 circling about give one the feeling of flying, eh?
1156
1157 MISS FLETCHER The feeling I've got ..if that's what
1158 flying gives ya, keep me from it.
1159
1160 POIROT Ah, that is natural. I too do not like murder,
1161 Miss Fletcher. Ah, Inspector Stevens, everything is taken
1162 care of?
1163
1164 STEVENS Yes. They're taking Kent away now.
1165
1166 POIROT Then perhaps you will join us in a little supper.
1167
1168 STEVENS No thanks, Poirot, I've got to get back. I
1169 uh...just dropped over to ask a few questions.
1170
1171 POIROT For example?
1172
1173 STEVENS Well, when did you first suspect that Kent was
1174 impersonating Parrish?
1175
1176 POIROT Almost from the start. When we entered the
1177 room of Monsieur Parrish, what do we find? Eh? An
1178 amazing paradox. On the one hand, we have a man who is
1179 an ardent stamp collector, whose album is in perfect order.
1180
1181 Each stamp, each shade of stamp, precisely in its proper
1182 place, eh? Except the most valuable one of all. A
1183
1184
1185
1186
1187

1188 Guatemala blue, reposing among American three cent
1189 stamps. Later, when I look at his socks, one green and one
1190 brown, I am certain. The man in the room is color blind.
1191
1192
1193 **STEVENS** And therefore not Parrish, the stamp collector.
1194
1195 **POIROT** More important than that, he can not be
1196 Parrish, the currency expert, who is to select the colors and
1197 shades of the new paper money. Eh? Therefore, if the man
1198 in the room is not Parrish, who is he?
1199
1200
1201 **STEVENS** Obviously, Hilary Kent.
1202
1203 **MISS FLETCHER** Then why didn't you arrest him right
1204 away?
1205
1206 **POIROT** Because without a body one cannot prove a
1207 murder. And I felt sure Monsieur Kent would lead me to the
1208 body.
1209
1210
1211 **MISS FLETCHER** Then you weren't guarding him, you
1212 were watching him.
1213
1214 **POIROT** Precisely.
1215
1216 **MISS FLETCHER** Well, you weren't so smart. When you
1217 let him out of your sight he might have gotten away in the
1218 plane.
1219
1220
1221 **POIROT** Not at all. When I called the airport, it was to
1222 make sure that the plane would not leave until I gave the
1223 word.
1224
1225
1226 **MISS FLETCHER** You know everything, don't you?
1227
1228 **POIROT** Some things are obvious, mamselle. We can
1229 suppose Hilary Kent discovers the nature of the mission
1230 Monsieur Parrish is engaged in. Ah, what a magnificent
1231 opportunity for a swindler, eh? Perhaps the greatest in
1232 history. To remove Jonathan Parrish, fly to Europe as
1233 Parrish, deliver the papers, the formulas, the dyes, to the
1234 proper authorities and then, at the moment juste,
1235 counterfeit the new currency and reap a huge fortune.
1236
1237
1238
1239
1240
1241

1242 **MISS FLETCHER** Jumping codfish. The man must be
1243 mad.
1244
1245 **POIROT** Perhaps, mamselle. But he is also a genius, eh?
1246 He learns that Parrish is at the hotel Windsor in room 615.
1247 He knocks on the door. Parrish admits him and is at once
1248 strangled to death. Eh? But the body . Ah. That must be
1249 disposed of. Where no one will find it. There is but one
1250 thing to do. Take the body to Europe in the very packing
1251 case which stands in the room.
1252
1253 **STEVENS** Then you just guessed where the body was.
1254
1255 **POIROT** No, no, Inspector. There was proof in the room.
1256 You remember the second laundry box which Hilary Kent
1257 asked for? 'This is for some special ink', he says to us.
1258 'Which I have only now purchased.' Obviously this is a lie.
1259 On such a mission one does not purchase supplies at the last
1260 minute. Eh? Hence I know these inks and dyes have been
1261 removed from some other box or crate, to make room for
1262 the body.
1263
1264 **MISS FLETCHER** Gracious! It's as plain as the nose on
1265 my face. Uh, what about Laura Parrish?
1266
1267 **STEVENS** Oh, I got that figured out. She calls up and
1268 says to Kent, 'Pop, I'm coming over.' Course he can't allow
1269 that or the jig's up. So he gets down to the alley and
1270 eliminates her. Right, Poirot?
1271
1272 **POIROT** Exactly. As for poor Tremble, he has been with
1273 Parrish, he knows him. When he knocks on the door and
1274 Kent appears, he demands to see Parrish. Kent kills him,
1275 and since the packing case is already occupied, drags him
1276 down to Miss Fletcher's room.
1277
1278 **MISS FLETCHER** That was his big mistake. He should
1279 never have started up with me.
1280
1281 **STEVENS** Heh heh heh. Ahem. 'Scuse me for a minute, I
1282 think that's the ward wagon pulling in.
1283
1284
1285
1286
1287
1288
1289
1290
1291
1292
1293
1294
1295

1296 **POIROT** Mamselle, may I ask you a question of a personal
1297 nature?
1298
1299 **MISS FLETCHER** Fire away.
1300
1301 **POIROT** Uh, mamselle, you are not now engaged in a
1302 business enterprise?
1303
1304 **MISS FLETCHER** No.
1305
1306 **POIROT** Are you fluent with the shorthand, and the
1307 typewriter?
1308
1309 **MISS FLETCHER** Why, yes.
1310
1311 **POIROT** Bon. Mamselle, I find you both intelligent and
1312 amusing. A rare combination in a woman. Moreover, I am
1313 in great need of a secretary with your superb qualifications.
1314
1315 **MISS FLETCHER** Why, Mr. Poirot!
1316
1317 **POIROT** Oh, you do not yet employ the little gray cells to
1318 the best advantage. Nevertheless, if you are interested...
1319
1320 **MISS FLETCHER** Oh, Mr. Poirot! For ten years I've
1321 been devouring detective stories. And you ask me if I'm
1322 interested. Chief, you've got a secretary!
1323
1324 **STEVENS** Well, Poirot, they've taken Kent away now. I
1325 guess that winds up the case.
1326
1327 **POIROT** Not quite, Inspector. Tell me, where does
1328 messieur Kent reside?
1329
1330 **STEVENS** We found a lease on him for an apartment in
1331 Gramercy Park.
1332
1333 **POIROT** That is a good neighborhood?
1334
1335 **STEVENS** Oh, swell. It's right in the heart of the city. But
1336 why do you ask?
1337
1338 **POIROT** I do not think messieur Kent will need an
1339 apartment for some time. But I do. You see, my friends, it is
1340 as I have said. To find an apartment in New York City is the
1341 essence of simplicity. One has only to solve...two murders.
1342
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