

(They settle down and take a collective breath, then turn to POIROT. POIROT takes center stage.)

POIROT. Ladies and gentlemen, I have called you together in order to reveal to you the killer of *Monsieur Samuel Latchett*, also known as Bruno Cassetti.

(They all react.)

MRS. HUBBARD. You're kidding!

PRINCESS. No!

ARBUTHNOT. I don't believe it.

MACQUEEN. You know who did it?

POIROT. I believe that I do. But first I must interrogate the last of your fellow passengers who has not yet answered any of my questions. Colonel Arbuthnot -

ARBUTHNOT. Me?

MARY. James.

POIROT. Do you have a problem answering my questions, *monsieur*?

ARBUTHNOT. No, of course not.

POIROT. Excellent. Now in the course of your service to your country, did you know an officer named Charles Armstrong?

ARBUTHNOT. No.

POIROT. Have you heard of him?

ARBUTHNOT. Yes, we served in the same theatre of action, but we never met.

POIROT. Have you heard of the Daisy Armstrong case?

ARBUTHNOT. Of course I have. She was murdered by some brute who was out for money.

POIROT. Did you know that Colonel Armstrong was Daisy's father?

ARBUTHNOT. No, I didn't.

POIROT. Or that he took his own life after the tragedy?

ARBUTHNOT. Oh God. I'm sorry to hear it.

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Colonel Arbuthnot / Hercule Poirot
(Mary Debenham)

POIROT. Colonel, at the hotel in Istanbul I overheard you say to Miss Debenham that you wished that she was out of all this. What did you mean?

ARBUTHNOT. I have no idea.

POIROT. Then *she* said that no one should see you together until it was, "All behind you." Until what was behind you?

ARBUTHNOT. I can't imagine.

POIROT. Are you aware that you are obstructing justice?

ARBUTHNOT. I am aware of no such thing.

POIROT. And you, *mademoiselle*, can you explain what you meant?

MARY. I told you already. I wanted to get the *trip* behind me.

POIROT. I think you are lying.

ARBUTHNOT. Now listen here!

POIROT. Sit down, colonel, I am still talking. *Now tell me what you meant at the hotel! You wanted to get her out of what?! She wanted to get what behind her?!*

(They face each other squarely and the tension is high.)

ARBUTHNOT. ... *I'm married!* All right?! I'm in the process of getting a divorce - which I deserve because my wife is seeing another man - but I'll lose my case in court if it's known that I'm seeing a woman socially. When the divorce is *behind us* we can stop hiding, which is why we've been trying to keep things *private*, no thanks to you!

POIROT. You have been doing a very poor job of it, I am afraid.

ARBUTHNOT. Well, some of us have emotions, Poirot. I'm sure you'd sacrifice your own mother if it led you to one of your damn solutions, and I don't think you know what the hell you're doing.

POIROT. I know exactly what I am doing, colonel. I am investigating the murder of Bruno Cassetti.

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Arbuthnot / Poirot
(Mary)