MRS. HUBBARD returns with the first aid kit.)

COUNTESS. Can you sit upright?

MARY. I-I think so. Ow!

PRINCESS. There is a great deal of blood. I do not like blood.

MRS. HUBBARD. Nobody likes blood. Here's the kit.

COUNTESS. Thank you. It is only your arm?

MARY, Yes.

COUNTESS. You have not been hurt elsewhere?

MARY, No.

(The COUNTESS removes a pair of seissors.)

COUNTESS. Do not be alarmed. I am merely cutting the sleeve of your blouse so I can have a better look.

(The COUNTESS cuts the sleeve of the blouse up the side and then off, exposing MARY's bloody arm. Everyone winces.)

GRETA. I cannot watch.

COUNTESS. This may hurt a bit. It is...what do you call it in English. Jód -

POIROT. Iodine.

MRS. HUBBARD. Iodine.

MARY. OW!

ARBUTHNOT. Be careful, will you!

MARY. I'm all right, colonel.

COUNTESS. You are remarkably fortunate, Miss Debenham. Two inches to the left and it would have been fatal.

ARBUTHNOT. Well, thank God for small blessings!

POIROT. Countess, may I ask Miss Debenham a question?

COUNTESS. Are you well enough?

SIDE # 12

Mary Debenham / Helen Hubbard / Countess Adrenyi / Colonel Arbuthnet/ Hercule Poirot (Greta / Princess)

^{*}Pronounces it as in French, "Ee-o-deen."

MARY. I-I think so.

POIROT. It is very simple, mademoiselle: who shot you?

MARY. I... I don't know. I-I only caught a glimpse of him. He was -

POIROT. What?

PRINCESS, Tell ns.

MARY. It makes no sense. He was in a kind of uniform. But I may have imagined it.

POIROT. Can you tell us what happened?

(During the following, the COUNTESS continues to clean and bandage the wound.)

MARY. I'll try. I-I woke up this morning feeling disoriented, as though I'd been drugged or something, and I had this splitting headache. So I looked through my suitcase for some aspirin, but I didn't have any. So then I stumbled out of the room and I saw that Mrs. Hubbard's door was ajar. I called to her but she wasn't there and then - I know I shouldn't have - but I went into her room. (To MRS. HUBBARD.) I'm sorry.

MRS. HUBBARD. That's quite all right.

POIROT. Go on.

MARY. My head was splitting open by this time and I wasn't thinking straight – so I looked for some aspirin in Mrs. Hubbard's makeup bag, And there was this knife and it was covered with blood!

GRETA, A knife!

MRS. HUBBARD. In my bag?

MARY. Yes.

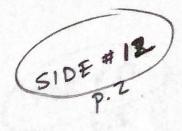
POIROT. Where is it?

MARY. I left it where it was. I felt so frightened.

MRS. HUBBARD. Holy cow. I'll go get it -!

POIROT. STOP! You will not "go get it." I will retrieve it, when I am ready. Now Miss Debenham, continue.

MRS. HUBBARD. Well, let me just say that this does prove there was a man was in my room last night, like I was -



Many | Mrs. Hobbard | Courtess | Arbuthnel |
poirot
(Greta, Princess)

POIROT. Mrs. Hubbard!

MRS. HUBBARD, SOTTY.

PRINCESS. You talk too much.

MRS. HUBBARD. I beg your pardon.

POIROT. Miss Debenham.

MARY. Well, I was frightened when I saw the knife and I must have backed into Mr. Ratchett's room, and then I turned and saw the body on the bed with all the blood and the wounds, and I – I screamed, and then I saw the man and the gun and that's all I remember!

(She starts to cry.)

COUNTESS. (Comforting MARY.) It's all right.

POIROT. Are you sure it was a man?

MARY, I think so. I assumed it was. I suppose I'm not positive.

PRINCESS. He must have been hiding in this room behind the door, waiting to escape.

MRS. HUBBARD. So if I'd come in here first, then whammo!

No more show tunes in the shower.

PRINCESS. And that would have been a terrible loss.

POIROT. Mrs. Hubbard, can you tell me where you keep your makeup bag?

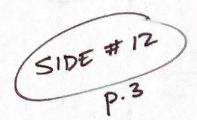
MRS. HUBBARD. Gladly. Right behind the door, hanging on the handle.

(POIROT goes to get it.)

If these compartments were bigger, I wouldn't have to hang my makeup bag on a door handle like some drama school kid in a Rudolf Friml operetta living out of a hold-all and holy God!

(POIROT has retrieved the makeup bag from which he has extracted a vicious looking dagger covered with blood and MRS. HUBBARD has just seen it.)

GRETA. (Grabbing the PRINCESS.) I cannot look!



Mary Mrs. Hobbard / Counters / Arbuthnot / Poirot (Greta, Princess) ARBUTHNOT. (Reaching for it.) I've never seen one like that before.

POIROT. Ah, ah. I will be analyzing it for fingerprints. In the meantime, will you all please leave and do not touch anything as you go. When I have finished in here, I will be in the dining car and I would like to see Miss Debenham -

ARBUTHNOT. Now see here!

POIROT. If she is able. Then Mrs. Hubbard, and then Miss Ohlsson and the princess again.

PRINCESS. Me?!

POIROT. Countess, will you be so kind as to escort Miss Debenham to her room, please.

COUNTESS. Of course. You are strong enough?

MARY. I'm much better. Thank you.

ARBUTHNOT. (To POIROT, angry.) I see no reason to put Miss Debenham through anything stressful at the moment, and I suggest you don't.

POIROT. I will bear that in mind.

(Everyone starts to leave.)

PRINCESS. I hope you solve all this quickly, monsieur. I am not afraid of dying, but I would rather not speed up the process.

MRS. HUBBARD. I intend to sue this company on the grounds of sheer anxiety.

(Everyone leaves except POIROT, and we hear the thoughtful opening of the first movement of Bach's Cello Suite No. 2 In D Minor.)

POIROT. *Eh bien, madame,* you are not the only one who is anxious at the moment.

(Fade into the following scene.)

SIDE# 12 P.4

Many/Mrs. Hubbard/ countess/Arbothnot/ poirod (Greta, Princess)