

LIZ. No, why would either of us want one?

WILLIAMS. Fine. *(Pause.)*

MARY. Inspector, has anything happened since we...

WILLIAMS. Let me stop you right there madam. Before we get into why we are here *today*, I need to understand whether Mr. Rechs and either of you have talked about anything other than strictly theatre business in the past two months.

MARY. Of course not.

WILLIAMS. Nothing at all? *(They shake their heads.)* So his disappearance comes as a total shock to both of you?

MARY and LIZ. *(Looking at each other.)* Yes.

WILLIAMS. Thank you. I needed to establish that first, *(Pause.)* so as not to taint anything that you might say during *this* interview. You understand. *(Pause. They look at each other, perplexed. WILLIAMS moves on, without further explanation.)* We are trying to fit together the various movements of people in this production over the past 24 hours, so anything that you can tell me, however unimportant it may have seemed at the time, would be helpful.

MARY. Can you tell us now what happened to Arthur?

WILLIAMS. *(Starts to stand up as if the interview is about to end.)* I'm not at liberty to say much, other than he must have been overpowered by surprise, because he is a big man, and I would have thought that he would have been able to resist...

LIZ. What do you mean "a big man"? Arthur may be a lot of things but he's a skinny 5 foot 7 inches. Hardly a giant.

WILLIAMS. No, he is at least 6 foot 2, possibly taller.

LIZ. Officer, we have measured every part of Arthur's body for costume fittings. Arthur is 5 foot 7 inches exactly.

MARY. She's right you know.

EDMUNDS. *(EDMUNDS sticks his head in the door.)* Sir, Mr. Sevansson was fully co-operative, and I of course took extensive notes of our interview, but I didn't get any useful information out of him that might assist our ongoing investigation...sir.

WILLIAMS. That's because we have the wrong man Edmunds. Their missing man is a least half a foot shorter than the one we found.

EDMUNDS. We discussed that sir and...

WILLIAMS. Edmunds, we need to leave now!

EDMUNDS. (*Obviously thinking hard about the pros and cons of his next move.*) Well sir, should I not still question the properties gentleman about his whereabouts?

WILLIAMS. (*Can't believe what he has just heard.*) No Edmunds, unless you have good reason to believe that he may have been connected to the death of someone who is well over six feet tall and in the east end of the city.

EDMUNDS. (*Taking him seriously.*) No reason at this point sir, but careful questioning might produce some evidence that would point in that direction.

WILLIAMS. I think Edmunds that we can better spend our time by going back to the morgue to see what other clues we can get out of our victim.

EDMUNDS. Right you are sir. ...Good point...sir.

MARY. So why did you even think that it was Rechs in the first place?

WILLIAMS. Because the only document that we found on him was a business card with Mr. Rechs's name and phone number on it. (*Pause.*) I must warn you again not to discuss what we have talked about *at any time* with anyone. Now we'll go and tell the others about this development. (*WILLIAMS and EDMUNDS exit to centre stage and MARY and LIZ stay to tidy up the costume area for the night, as lights fade there and come up on the centre stage.*) Ladies and gentlemen, we have just concluded from our questioning that the person we found is not Mr. Rechs. (*ANNE is relieved that ARTHUR may not be dead after all.*) We regret having caused you any alarm. However, we still need to ascertain how he came into possession of a business card with Mr. Rechs's name on it. That may bring us back to you again, so please stay in the city for the next week or two. (*Cast looks around at each other, as if they would leave while the show was on. Then, to ANNE.*) And Ms. Bullen, if you think of anything that Mr. Rechs may have said to you in the days before he went missing – anything at all, however trivial it may have seemed to you at the time – please call me personally on my direct line. Or if you decide that you want to file an official "missing persons" report, you can also call me directly. (*Looking at EDMUNDS.*) We will waive our normal four day waiting period. Here's my card. (*Hands her his business card.*) Goodbye.

~~ANNE. (*Quietly.*) Thank you. Goodbye.~~