

ANNE. (*Tentatively.*) I have a bit of a confession. (*Pause.*) He was getting ready to leave the apartment about four this afternoon to do some things, he said. (*Longer pause, deep breath.*) We had had a bit of a disagreement about something just before that and weren't really talking a lot to each other. Then he got a phone call and suddenly changed. I asked if everything was okay and he got really angry and stormed out. I've never seen him like that, it was as if he was a different man, someone I didn't know. Katherine, he...he frightened me. Something was different, he... (*Pause.*) He wasn't back when I had to come here, so I just left him a note saying I had gone to the theatre, and walked over.

~~KATHERINE. NOW you tell me this?! And since then, you haven't heard from him? No call to apologize or explain? (*ANNE shakes her head.*) Did your note also remind him that he was in the show? (*Collects herself.*) Sorry Anne, you better get back and finish doing your make-up or whatever. But keep trying your phone – call anyone you can think of who might have a clue where he is.~~

ANNE. Sure. (*Pause.*) I'm sorry Katherine. (*Exits upstage centre, as KATHERINE shakes her head.*)

JANE. You know Katherine, maybe it's time to talk about getting a stand-in for Arthur?

KATHERINE. What?!

JANE. You know, someone who takes a script, and...

KATHERINE. Jane, I know what a stand-in is. That's a great idea (*JANE beams.*), because the one thing audiences *never* pick up on is a lead actor who's always bumping into the set because he has his head in the script!

JANE. Was that...

KATHERINE. Yes Jane, that was sarcasm. The King has the biggest role in this show! It is literally ALL ABOUT HIM.

JANE. But Katherine listen, please. If we put someone else in the role who has been onstage before, the cast could move him wherever he needed to be. That takes care of the blocking. And a good actor can at least minimize the distraction of a script...

KATHERINE. That's the *dumbest* idea I've heard all day.

JANE. But Katherine, Arthur isn't here, and we have to do *something*...

~~KATHERINE. Are you volunteering?~~