

Just place, was it wrong...

TROTTER. *(rising and crossing to left of PARAVICINI)* What did you say to the lady to upset her, sir?

PARAVICINI. Me, Sergeant? Oh, just a little innocent fun. I've always been fond of a little joke.

TROTTER. There's nice fun – and there's fun that's not so nice.

PARAVICINI. *(moving down centre)* Now I do wonder what you mean by that, Sergeant?

TROTTER. I've been doing a little wondering about you, sir.

PARAVICINI. Indeed?

TROTTER. I've been wondering about that car of yours, and how it happened to overturn in a snowdrift *(He pauses and draws the right curtain.)* so conveniently.

PARAVICINI. Inconveniently, you mean, don't you, Sergeant?

TROTTER. *(moving down to right of PARAVICINI)* That rather depends on the way you're looking at it. Just where were you bound for, by the way, when you had this – accident?

PARAVICINI. Oh – I was on my way to see a friend.

TROTTER. In this neighbourhood?

PARAVICINI. Not so very far from here.

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TROTTER. And what was the name and address of this friend?

PARAVICINI. Now really, Sergeant Trotter, does that matter now? I mean, it has nothing to do with this predicament, has it? *(He sits at the left end of the sofa.)*

TROTTER. We always like the fullest information. What did you say this friend's name was?

PARAVICINI. I didn't say. *(He takes a cigar from a case in his pocket.)*

TROTTER. No, you didn't say. And it seems you're not going to say. *(He sits on the right arm of the sofa.)* Now that's very interesting.

PARAVICINI. But there might be – so many reasons. An *amour* – discretion. These jealous husbands. *(He pierces the cigar.)*

TROTTER. Rather old to be running round with the ladies at your time of life, aren't you?

PARAVICINI. My dear Sergeant, I am not, perhaps, quite so old as I look.

TROTTER. That's just what I've been thinking, sir.

PARAVICINI. What? *(He lights the cigar.)*

TROTTER. That you may not be as old as you – try to look. There's a lot of people trying to look younger than they are. If somebody goes about trying to look older – well, it does make one ask oneself why.

PARAVICINI. Having asked questions of so many people – you ask questions of yourself as well? Isn't that overdoing things?

TROTTER. I might get an answer from myself – I don't get many from you.