

## Audio file

[119026-The39Steps.mp3](#)

## Transcript

The.

Dolphy.

Ladies and gentlemen, with your kind attention and permission, I have the honor of presenting to you one of the most remarkable men in the world.

How remarkable. He's sweating.

And can you be surprised at that gentleman? Every day he commits to memory 50 new facts and remembers every one of them. Facts from history, from geography, from newspapers, from scientific books, millions and millions of them. Think of the strain involved by his prodigious feat.

His feat ain't not as big as yours, Carly.

I'm referring to his feats of memory. Test him, please. Ladies and gentlemen, ask him your questions, and he will answer you fully and freely. Mr. Memory. I ought to add, ladies and gentlemen, before retiring, that Mr. Memory has left his brain to the British Museum.

Question, please. Ladies first. Where's my old man been since last Saturday? On the booze, en quoi. A serious question, please. What won the Derby in 1921? Mr. Jack Jones, humorist with Steve Donegua, one of length at the odds of six to one, second and third, Craig and Aaron, and Lemonora. Am I right, sir? Right. What won in 1936? You come back in 1937 and I'll tell you, sir.

How far is Winnipeg from Montreal?

What won the Cup in 1926? Cup, Waterloo, football, or tea, sir. Football, silly. What did Chelsea win it? 63 BC in the presence of the Emperor Nero. What causes clipping paltry?

Shh.

Don't make yourself so common.

Well, that was a funny, didn't they?

How many races did Mick McMiller win? How old is my west? When was Tripp in hand?  
Who was the last British heavyweight champion of the world?

Henry VIII.

My old woman. Bob Fitzsimmons. He defeated Jim Corbett, heavyweight champion of America, at Carson City, Nevada, in October 1897. He was then 34 years of age, sir. Am I right, sir? How old is my west? I know, sir, but I never tell a lady's age. Next, please.

What causes pippin' poultry?

How far is Winnipeg from Montreal?

Miss Whittiou, sir.

How far is Winnipeg from Montreal?

Ah, a gentleman from Canada. You're welcome, sir. Winnipeg, the third city of Canada and the capital of the province of Manitoba. Distance from Montreal, 1,424 miles. Am I right, sir? Quite right. Thank you.

Next, please.

My west.

I'll hold my west.

Gentlemen, gentlemen, please, you're not at home.

Come on. For God's sake, play something, man. Something's stunning.

Well, here we are.

May I come home, monsieur?

What's the idea?

Well, I like it, don't you?

It's your funeral. Come on, then, there's a bus.

You don't stay here always.

No, I've taken the furnished flat. I'm only over here from Canada for a few months. By the way, am I allowed to know your name?

Smith.

All right.

Do you want to know more about me? What do you think I do for a living?

Actress.

Not in the way you mean.

Chorus.

No.

I'm sorry.

I'm a freelance.

Art of adventure, eh?

That's right.

This way. I'm afraid you'll find my sitting room all upset. I've had the decorators in. Wait till I find them switch.

Not yet. Now. Mr. Hannay, would you be so very kind and turn that mirror with its face to the wall?

You'd be happier if there were curtains over those windows. Yes. I'm sorry. Hello, there's the telephone. Just a minute.

Mr. Hannay, don't answer the telephone.

Why not?

Because I think it's for me.

Oh.

But please don't answer.

Just as you say. Won't you sit down?

Thanks. If you'd please kick that footstool over to me.

You needed that.

I did.

Thank you. I owe you an explanation.

Well, don't bother about me. I'm nobody.

We cannot talk here.

All right.

Just a minute.

Okay.

Mm-hmm.

Cigarette.

No, thank you.

You're a friend again.

Take no notice. Would you think me very troublesome if I asked for something to eat?  
I've had nothing all day. Sure.

You like haddock?

Yes, please.

I suppose your name isn't really Smith.

Depends on where I am. You may call me Annabella.

Annabella Smith. Sergeyman's daughter, I say. Hello, Nervy. Have you set me those  
shots tonight?

I fired those shots.

You what?

Yes, to create a diversion. You see, I had to get away from the theatre quickly. There  
were two men there who wanted to kill me.

Really, you should be more careful in choosing your gentleman friends.

No, no, no, you don't understand.

Well, you don't make it very easy for me, do you? Beautiful, mysterious woman pursued  
by a gunman. Sounds like a spy story.

That's exactly what it is. Only I prefer the word agent better.

Agent? For what country?

Any country that pays more.

Now, what is your country?

I have no country.

Born in a balloon, eh? We'll let that go. Now, I suppose you've come over here to dig up  
some great, big state secrets.

No, I'm here to save a secret from being dug up. A very important secret for this country.  
Not because I love England, but because it will pay me better that way. Thank you. You  
see, the very brilliant agent of a certain foreign power... is on the point of obtaining a  
secret vital to your air defense. I tracked two of his men to that music hall.

Unfortunately, they recognize me. That's why they're after me now.

That was too bad. You ever heard of a thing called persecution mania?

You don't believe me?

Frankly, I don't.

Go and look down into the street, then.

You win.

Aren't they there?

Yes.

I hoped I'd shaken them off. Listen, I'm going to tell you something which is not very healthy to know. But now that they have followed me here, you are in it as much as I am.

How do you mean?

Have you ever heard of the 39 steps?

No, what's that, a pub?

Never mind. But what you were laughing at just now is true. These men will stick at nothing. I'm the only person who can stop them. They are not stopped. It's only a matter of days, perhaps hours, before the secret is out of the country.

Why don't you phone the police or something?

Because they wouldn't believe me any more than you did. And if they did, how long do you think it would take to get them going? These men act quickly. You don't know how clever their chief is. Clever and ruthless.

Who is he? What's his name?

He has a dozen names. He can look like a hundred people, but one thing he cannot disguise... this. Part of his little finger is missing. So if ever you should meet a man with no top joint there, be very careful, my friend.

Thanks. I'll make a note of it. Meanwhile, what are you going to do?

First, I'll eat my haddock. And then, if you're not going to turn me out into the street, have a good night's rest.

Oh, you're welcome to my bed. I'll get a shake down on the couch. Anything else I can get you?

A map of Scotland.

Why Scotland?

Well, there's a man in Scotland whom I must visit next if anything is to be done.

Are there 39 steps in Scotland by any chance?

Perhaps I'll tell you tomorrow.

Clear out, Henny. We'll get you next.

What you were laughing at just now is true. These men will stop at nothing. There is a man in Scotland whom I must visit next if anything is to be done. It is only a matter of days, perhaps hours, before the secret is out of the country.

The police would not believe me any more than you did. I tell you, these men act quickly. Quickly, quickly.

Good morning, sir. You're up bright and early this morning.

Did you use a pound note, brother?

What's the catch?

I want to borrow your cap and code.

Yeah, wait a minute. What's all this? What's the big idea?

I want to make a getaway.

To a bunk.

Yes.

What have you been up to?

I'll have to trust you. There's been a murder committed up on the first floor. By you? No, no. By those two men out there.

I see. Now I suppose they're waiting there as good as gold for a copper to come and arrest them. It's quite true.

Listen, they're spies, foreigners. They've murdered a woman in my flat and now they're waiting for me.

Oh, come off it. Funny jokes at 5:00 in the morning.

All right, all right. I'll tell you the truth. You married.

Yes, but don't rub it in. What's the idea now?

Well, I'm not, you see. I'm a bachelor.

Oh, are you?

A married woman lives on the first floor.

Does she?

Yeah, and I've just been paying her a call. And now I want to go home.

Well, what's preventing you?

One of those men's her brother, the other's her husband. How do you see?

Why didn't you tell me before, old fella? Only wanted to be told. Trying to kid me with a lot of tales about murders and foreigners. Here. Put this on. Put on my little hat. There you are.

Take the pun.

No, no, no, sir. You're welcome to it. You'd do the same for me one day. Leave the pony around the corner. So long, old sport.

Goodbye, thank you.

Oi, the empties.

Magazine, chocolate, cigarette.

Well, for one thing, they're much prettier than they were 20 years ago. More free. Free and easy. You're right there. I can never understand how people used to put up with the old-fashioned sword. All bones and no bend.

Well, I will say for the old-fashioned, they'll last longer.

Well, I don't know. Mine last about a year. Here, I'll show you. Big demand for these now. The old-fashioned sort. My wife. Now take a look at these.

Our new streamline model number one. What I've been talking to you about. Anything go with it? I should say so. This.

Put a pretty girl inside those, but she needn't be ashamed of herself anyway.

All right. Bring it back to me when it's filled.

I will. Well, what's this?

Edinburgh.

Waverley.

You're getting on.

I hope you'll pardon us for talking business, sir.

Oh, certainly.

Certainly.

Good day, certainly.

A good day. Brought minded, old geezer.

I bet he's very good at charades.

I wonder what won the two o'clock at Windsor?

I don't know. Just a bit of paper.

Hey, son, speak it up.

English.

Dispatch.

Hello.

Well, what was it? There's been another woman murdered in a West End flat.

What? Woman murdered in West End flat.

These sex dramas don't appeal to me. What one?

A bachelor but.

Good. Seven to four. Oh, not so good.

Portland Mansions, Portland Place.

By the BBC.

That's a nice, quiet place to put somewhere to sleep.

Good night, everybody. Good night.

That's a good one.

What was she like?

One of the usual.

A well-dressed woman at about 35 with a knife in her back. The tenant, Richard Annie, is missing.

You surprise me.

At seven o'clock this morning, the charwoman Elizabeth Griggs...

Well, if that isn't the blasted... What's the matter now?

Is there no honesty in this world at all? I ask you.

The new body-line rubber \*\*\*\*\* corset.

On sale today. McCutcheon Brothers, Princes Street.

Price 17 and nine.

Brassiere to match, four and 11.

Do you get that?

The body line.

One and three cheaper than our streamline.

No use going to Aberdeen now.

Might I have a look at your paper?

Certainly.

Thank you.

All right.

<i> There's enough evidence there to hang any man. What can I do for you, sir? Oh, can you tell me what train station that train stop at me?

Do you think I have a railway porter? Go in and find out for yourself.

I had a better one than that presentation. No, you couldn't. That was very funny. Well, you liked it to do. Have you heard the one about the young lady of Bonga?

I don't know. I can't remember.

Oh, you must hear that.

There was a young lady of Bonga.

Yeah, we... Take him, please, sir. Thank you.

Darling, how lovely to see you.

Don't mind having a free meal in there.

I was desperate.

I'm terribly sorry. I had to do it. Look here. My name's Hanny. They're after me. I swear I'm innocent. You've got to help me. I've got to keep free for the next few days.

Valerie, you've seen a man passing in the last few minutes.

This is the man you want, I think.

When we passed just now... I was his way in here and told me his name was Hanny. Is your name Hanny? No. Why are you coming in to tea, sir?

I'll be right along.

Hold that car.

Get on with it.

Get on with it.

Deal! Deal! What? Why did you pull the communication card? Stop the train, you old fool. It's against all the regulations to stop the train on the bridge. But a man jumped off. He's a marshal. We've got to chase him. Which way did he go? He must have jumped off here. I cannot see him. Are you sure he jumped? Anyway, I cannot wait here any longer. Any use getting on the train? No, that's a \*\*\*\*\*. It's here, I tell you. Come on with you there.

Any escapes? Any escapes, people?

Fresh, height, about 5 foot 10, small moustache. Last seen wearing a dark suit, but he may have obtained a change of clothing.

Good day.

And to you. What'll your business be?

I'm a motor mechanic. I'm looking for a job.

You'll find no work about here.

Oh, are there no big houses around here?

Only Sir Andrews and he won't be wanting you. He's had the same chauffeur for 40 years.

I didn't know there'd been cars that long.

He was coachman besides when he was a boy.

Oh, I see. Oh, what's that?

That's the manse, but the minister hasn't got a motor car.

There no newcomers.

I there's an Englishman a kind of Professor Professor he lives at where on the other side of the loft.

Oh would there be anywhere near that Village it would thanks thanks have a try there.

You won't try tonight it's full 14 miles.

Think I could get a lift in that van?

No. Down the other way.

I guess you're right. Could you put me up for the night somehow?

Free.

No, I'll pay.

Aye. Can you eat the herring?

I can eat half a dozen right now.

Can you sleep in a box bed?

I can try.

Two and six.

Take it now. Thank you.

Gwen with the gentleman. He'll stay with us till tomorrow morning.

Your daughter.

My wife.

Will you now come in?

Thank you.

Here's your bed. I'll lift these things. Could you sleep there, do you think?

You trying to stop me?

You'll be tired.

I'll say I am. I'm on the tramp looking for a job.

Well, won't you sit down, please, while I go on with our supper?

Well, thank you. You've been in these parts long.

No. I'm from Glasgow. Did you ever see it?

No.

Oh, you should see Sauchiehall Street, with all its fine shops. And Algaia Street on a Saturday night, with the trams and the lights. And the cinema palaces and the crowd. It's Saturday night tonight.

You certainly don't get those things out here.

No.

You miss them.

Sometimes.

Well, I've never been to Glasgow, but I've been to Edinburgh and Montreal and London. I'll tell you all about London at supper.

John wouldn't approve of that, I doubt.

Why not?

He says it's best not to think of such places, and all the wickedness that goes on there.

Well, why not listen now before he comes back? What do you want to know?

Well, is it true that all the ladies paint their toenails?

Some of them.

Do London ladies look beautiful?

They do, but they wouldn't if you were beside them.

He ought not to say that.

What ought he not to say?

I just seem to your wife that I prefer living in town than the country.

God made the country. Is the supper ready, woman?

Do you mind if I have a look at your paper?

No, I don't mind. Thank you. Didn't he tell me your name?

No, Hammond.

Well, Mr. Hammond, if you'll put down that paper, I'll say a blessing.

Yes, Lord.

Sanctify these bounteous mercies to us miserable sinners. Oh, Lord, make us truly thankful for them and for all thy manifold blessings. and continually turn our hearts from wickedness, and from worldly things, unto thee. Amen. Mind, I forgot to lock the barn.

There are cars coming. That'll be the police. You'd best be going.

Thank you. I was having this grand sleep. Hurry up.

Don't let them catch you.

I'll never forget you for doing this for me. Which way have you?

I'll show.

You. Aye. I might have known. Making love behind my back. Get out.

Just a minute.

I and you. Be out of my house before I...

Go, go.

I'll leave you like this, no fear.

It's your chance of...

You don't understand. OK, you're all wrong about this. You're only trying to help me.

Aye, to bring shame and disgrace upon my house.

You're telling me to escape from the police. The police? It's the police. They're after me for murder. What? They're here. She's only trying to warn me. I had to tell her about it last night. Don't let them in. Say I'm not here.

I'll make it with you a while. How much?

Five pounds.

Have you got that much? Give it to me. After they've gone. Get back into the bed. Shut him in. Hide him.

No, not there. I didn't trust him.

But he took the money.

He couldn't resist it. Here.

Have you seen a stranger about here?

I was right. He's asking if there's a reward, if you get caught. He'll argue-baggy for a moment longer before he lets them in. Now's your time. Oh, your jacket's terrible, light-colored, and I fear they'll see you. You best take this one.

Is this your husband's coat?

His son, the best one. But never mind. They mustn't see you.

What'll happen to you?

I say I couldn't have stopped you.

He'll not. He'll treat you.

No. He'll pray at me, but no more.

What's your name?

Margaret.

Goodbye, Margaret. I'll never forget you for this.

There he goes! Spread out in the line.

Mr. Martin.

What name shall I say?

Well, he wouldn't know my name. Ask him if he knows Miss Hannabella Smith.

Would you wait here while I'm here? Yes, all right.

You better make inquiries here. Aye, so you may have seen the windies.

There's been a couple of motorcars here. Aye. Majors didn't pay coals in motorcars.

Good day to you.

The same to you.

Have you seen any strangers about this morning?

There's a few callers upstairs now, but they're no strangers.

You haven't seen any suspicious-looking bodies outside the windows or cawing at the house.

No, sir. There hasn't been anybody near here for the last half hour.

You're from Annabella Smith? Yes. We're just having a few drinks to celebrate my daughter Hilary's birthday. Give me 5 minutes to get rid of these people and we can talk.

Of course.

Come along in and meet my wife. Louisa, my dear, I've another guest for you. This is Mr... I forgot to ask your name. Hammond. Mr. Hammond. He's come to see me on business. All the way from London.

There's a police inspector at the door, sir. He wants to speak to you.

At the door. All right. I'll deal with it. Take him in, my dear, will you please? Come and meet my daughter.

This is Patricia. Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Huntley. Oh, Hilary, my dear, this is Mr...

Hammond.

Mr. Hammond.

He's just arrived from London. How do you do, Mr. Hammond? Forgive the \*\*\*\*. We've all been to church and the sermon lasted three quarters of an hour. This is Captain and

Mrs. Ogilvy. Have a drink, Mr. Hammond. Thank you. This is Derek. Derek Stewart. And this is Sheriff Watson. You've got to be polite to him.

He's our sheriff's substitute.

Scotch for local people give you 6 months hard as soon as look at you the time when my car ran.

It's all right don't worry I've sent them away come and look at the view from this window Mr Hammond we're rather proud of it.

By the way Sherry when?

Are you going to catch that murderer?

My dear, haven't you heard? Why, the man that stuck a carving knife at that woman in Portland place last week. He's here in the district. Darling, how exciting. Well, oh, somewhere about. He's been on the moors. Bridge of Orchi or somewhere. Sheriff Ainge. Why don't you catch him? You wouldn't like me to be stuck in the back with a carving knife, would you?

Oh, it's no business of mine to catch him. You catch him and I'll convict him.

Is there award?

Gracious, it's nearly one o'clock. Tim, we must get out of here. Professor wants his lunch.

There's no hurry, my dear. Still, if you must go. Pat.

Ring for Captain Ogilvy's car, will you?

Well, whenever you do catch him, you'll find me at the Sheriff's Court at 10 every morning, so bring him along. Good bye, Sheriff. Louisa, my dear, if you'll excuse us, Mr. Hammond and I want to have a chat before lunch. now Mr Hannay I suppose it's safe to call you by your real name now what about our mutual friend Annabella she's been murdered murdered oh the Portland Mansions of her what our friends outside are looking for you for I didn't of course you didn't but why come all this way to Scotland to tell me about it I.

Believe she was coming to see you about some Air Ministry secret she was killed by a foreign agent who was interested too

Did she tell you what the foreign agent looked like?

There wasn't time. You know, there was one thing, part of his little finger was missing.

Which one?

This one, I think.

Sure it wasn't... this one.

Lunch is ready, dear.

I'm coming right away. Well, Mr. Hannay, I'm afraid I've been guilty of leading you down the garden path. Or should it be up? I never can remember.

It seems to be the wrong garden, all right. Well, what are we going to do about it?

That's just the point. What are we going to do about it? You see, I live here as a respectable citizen, and you must realize that my whole existence would be jeopardized if it became known that I'm not, what shall we say, not what I see. Oh, Mr. Hannay, why have you come here? Why have you forced me into this difficult position? I can't lock you up in a room or anything like that. You see, there's my wife and daughters to think of. I don't know what to think. Really, I don't. What makes it doubly important that I shouldn't let you go is that I'm just about to convey some very vital information out of the country. Oh, yes, I've got it. I'm afraid poor Annabella would have been too late in any case.

Well, that's there.

Yes. What about it?

What about what?

About yourself. Seems to me there's only one way out.

What's there?

Supposing I left you alone with this revolver, tomorrow's newspapers would be able to announce that the Portland Place murderer had taken his own life.

I thought you were coming to lunch directly, dear. We've all been waiting.

Mr. Hammond be staying.

I don't think so, dear. Well? What do you think, Mr. Hannay? Well, I'm afraid you leave me no alternative.

I can't find my handbook.

Where did you leave it?

In the breast pocket and overcoat. It was hung in here.

John, I... I'm afraid I gave it to that gentleman who was staying here that night.

Cigarette cases, yes, but I've never seen it happen to a hymn book before, except on the movies.

And this bullet's stuck among the hymns, Well, I'm not surprised, Mr Hanney. Some of those hymns are terrible, hard to get through. I've stuck at it myself before now.

I'm not complaining, Sheriff.

Hymns that have helped me, Yes, that's a good one, Mr Hanney. That's fine. And to think that I was drinking a champagne only half an hour before. Well, it's a lesson to us all, Mr Hanney, not to mix with doubtful company on the Sabbath. And how did you escape?

Well, if you look through the window, sir, you'll see. They put the, well, the body in the dressing room. When I came to, I borrowed this suit in case one of his men recognized me and pinched his car. Sheriff, I don't want to hurry or anything, but oughtn't we to be taking steps. This is serious, you know. If it weren't, you don't suppose I'd put myself in your hands with a murder charge hanging over me.

Never heed the murder, Mr Hanney. I don't doubt you'll be able to convince Scotland Yard of your innocence as easily as you've convinced me. All I'll need... There will be a short statement that I can forward to the proper authority. Okay. I have someone coming over from the police station next door. Take it out. Thank you, sir.

Were you wishing to see me, sheriff?

Indeed, I am. Do you think I enjoy playing for time with a murderer? Murderer! Suttony! Annie, you're under arrest on the charge of willful murder. Of a woman unknown in Portland Mansions, London, on Tuesday last. Take him over to the county jail.

If you heard my story, you must believe it. It's true.

I did have every word of it.

Annie, we are not so daft in Scotland as some smart Londoners may think. Do you think I believed your \*\*\*\* and wool story about the professor? Why, he's my best friend in the district. Give me Professor Jordan. If the professor didn't shoot me, where did that bully come from? That's easy. From one of your pursuers on the moor, isn't that so, Inspector? It is so, sir.

I had assured him myself.

I demand that you allow me to telephone to the High Commissioner for Canada in London.

You better do that from London. You'll be there soon enough. It'll save you the cost of a trunk call.

That's the professor's car, all right. Henny must be inside spilling the beans.

Henny, stop him.

My God! .

Oh, how'd you do? How'd you do? We're all waiting for you. Pamela's got to meet you at the station.

This way. This way.

From our respected leader and standard bearer himself. I welcome this opportunity of discussing with you another question vital to the import of our country at this critical and momentous hour. But first of all, as a preliminary to this, I shall occupy You've had to find out my old lady.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm now going to call upon the speaker of the evening. Speaker! There's no need for me to tell you who he is, nor to speak of his brilliant record as a soldier in the statesman. His son of Scotland was... Speaker! Border and conquered England, and is now one of the foremost figures of the diplomatic and political world in the great city of London. I'm therefore going to ask you, Mr. Telly, something. Ah, but thank you. We will wait. How important it is to this constituency that at this crucial by-election, our candidate should be returned by an adequate majority. I now ask for Captain Trader.

Ladies and gentlemen, I apologise for my hesitation in rising just now, but to tell you the simple truth, I'd entirely failed while listening to the chairman's flattering description of the next speaker to realise he was talking about me. As for you, may I say from the bottom of my heart and with the utmost sincerity, how delighted and relieved I am to find myself in your presence at this moment. Delighted, because of your friendly reception, relieved, because so long as I stand on this platform, I'm delivered from the moment, from the cares and anxieties which must always be the lot of a man in my position. When I journeyed up to Scotland a few days ago, travelling on the Highland Express over that magnificent structure of the Forth Bridge, that monument to Scottish engineering and Scottish muscle... That is to say, on that journey, I had no idea that in a few days' time I should find myself addressing an important political meeting. No idea. I'd planned a very different programme for myself. A very different programme.

You'd be for the Moors to shoot something.

Yes, or somebody. I'm a rotten shart. Anyhow, I little thought I should be speaking tonight in support of that... that brilliant young statesman, that rising... Er, the gentleman on my right. Already known among you as one destined to make no uncertain mark in politics. In other words, your future member of parliament, your candidate, Mr, er... McCrocodile.

Does they know the candidate's name?

I know your candidate will forgive my referring to him by the... the friendly nickname by which he's already known in anticipation... in anticipation, mark you, at, er...

Westminster. Now, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to discuss some topic. What shall it be?

The herring fishery. Unemployment.

What about the idle rich?

Idle rich? That's a bit of an old-fashioned topic these days, especially for me, because I'm not rich and I've never been idle. I've been pretty busy all my life, and I expect to be much busier quite soon. Indeed I have, and I've known what it is to feel lonely and helpless, and I have the whole world against me. And those are things that no man or woman ought to feel. And I ask your candidate and all those who love their fellow men to set themselves resolutely to make this world a happier place to live in. A world where no nation plots against nation, where no neighbour plots against neighbour, where there is no persecution or hunting down, where everybody gets a square deal and a sporting chance, and where people try to help a knock to him. A world from which suspicion and cruelty and fear have been forever banished. That is the sort of world I want. Is that the sort of world you want? Right.

I kept them going as long as I could for you.

Well, you're certainly a difficult man to follow.

Well, I suppose you think you've been damn clever.

Will you tell your prisoner not to insult me?

You come along with me.

Couldn't you realise I'm speaking the truth in that railway carriage? You must have seen I was telling you. Whether you believe me or not, will you put a telephone call through to the High Commissioner for Canada in London and tell him an enormously important secret? That'll do now. An enormously important secret is being taken out of this country by a foreign agent. I can't do anything myself because of this fool of a detective.

Has that penetrated?

Right to the funny bone. Now tell me another one.

Haven't you any sense at all? Put that call through, I beg of you, and refer them to me. Will you do this?

No. Good night.

I beg pardon, Miss, but we should like you to come, too.

Whatever for?

To identify the prisoner formally. Will you come to the police station?

What?

It's only for a few minutes.

All right, if it's absolutely necessary, let's get it over.

Now, you... Must I sit next to this man?

It's only for a short time, Miss.

Well, be as quick as you can.

All right.

Isn't that the police station? We're running past it. Tell the man.

I'm afraid you must have misunderstood me, miss. We're not exactly going to this police station.

But where are we going?

To Inverary, miss.

Inverary.

Yes, miss. This man's to be questioned by the sheriff principal. We have orders to take in there directly.

But you've no orders to take me.

No, miss, but I'm afraid you must go. I'll see your setback at the earliest possible moment.

Well, how far is it to Inverary?

Forty miles.

Well, you keep quiet.

Sorry.

We'll be there in less than two hours, miss.

Two hours? You think I'm going to spend half the night with you all? Looks like it. Isn't the man going the wrong way? That's the way down to the south. Surely that's the way to Inverary?

There's a bridge fallen down on that road, Miss. We shall have to go around. The man knows the way.

Might I see your warrant?

You shut your mouth. You'll see it soon enough when we get to the station.

Don't have a small bet with me, Pamela. All right, I'll have it with you, Sherlock. I'll lay you a hundred to one that your sheriff principal is the top joint of his little finger missing. What about it? I win.

Hello. What are we stopping for? Oh, it's a whole flock of detectives.

Seeper all over the road, damn silly things. Get out, both of you, and clear them away.

What about him?

I'll soon fix that. There, miss. Now you're a special constable.

What's the idea?

As long as you stay, he stays.

Yes, as long as I go, you go. Come on.

Stop them. They've got away.

Come on, miss. I won't.

Where the devil can I have gone? Help.

Help.

One get out of you, and I'll shoot you first myself after. I mean that.

There's nobody down here, I tell you.

Then come up here, blast you, and don't waste any more time. Spread out and find them.

Must be a mile away by now.

Don't do that. Oh, do stop whistling. What are you doing all this for? You can't possibly escape. What chance have you got tied to me?

Keep that question for your husband. Meanwhile, I'll admit you're the white man's burden.

I know, and I can't tell you what comfort that thought gives me. I say, what is the use of all this? Those policemen will get you.

They may get me, but they're not policemen.

And when did you find that out?

You found that out yourself. I should never have known that was the wrong road to Inverary. They were taking us to their boss, and God help either you or me if they ever catch us again.

I see. You're still sticking to your penny novel at Spice Story.

There are 20 million women in this island, and I've got to be chained to you. I'm telling you the truth. I told you once in the train last week. I tried to tell you after the election meeting this evening. I'm telling you now for the third time. There's a dangerous conspiracy against this island, and we're the only people who can stop it. Think what you've seen right under your very nose.

A gallant knight to the rescue.

All right. Then I'm just a plain, common murderer. who stabbed an innocent, defenseless woman in the back not four days ago. How do you come out over that? I don't know how innocent you may be, but you're a woman, and you're defenseless, and you're alone on a desolate moor in the dark, manacle to a murderer who'd stop at nothing to get you off his hands. If that's the situation you prefer, have it, my lovely, and welcome.

I'm not afraid of...

All you know, I may murder a woman a week. So listen to a bit of advice. From now on, do every single thing I tell you to do, and do it quick.

You big bully.

I like your pluck. Come on. We're going in there. What for? That's my business. Now, remember what I said, the civil tongue, or else... We're going in there, and you're going to back me up in every single thing I say or do. Has that penetrated the ivory dome?

Only just.

All right, pull yourself together. Now, put your hand in my pocket and look as though you're in a hurry. Come along.

Oh, come away in, ma'am. Come away in, sir. Oh, the young lady's terrible wet.

Oh, yes, we had an accident with our car a few miles, Mac.

Oh, you'll be staying the night.

Yes.

We've just the one room left with the one bed in it. But you'll not be minding that.

Oh, no, quite the reverse.

You're a man and wife, I suppose.

Oh, yes.

Yes. Have you any luggage?

No, we left that behind in the car.

Oh, maybe I could lend the young lady a nightgown. Will you please to register? James, the book. Aye, aye. I'll away up and light the fire for you. Will you be needing your supper?

Oh, thank you. Just set up a large whiskey and soda and a few sandwiches. Oh, and a glass of milk. Oh, very well, sir. I can't write with my left hand, my dear, but I can shoot with it. You can guess what's in this pocket. Come on. You shall sign, darling. The sooner you get used to writing your new name, the better. Off we go. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hopkinson, the Hollyhocks, Hemmersmith.

Everybody got a hand after this.

I'm back and I mean a champion.

Now, dearie, off with that wet skirt of yours, and I'll have it dried in the ketchup.

Oh, don't bother, Italy. It'll dry in front of the fire just as well, thanks all the same.

No doubt the gentleman will take care of you. Good night, sir. Good night, Mum.

Good night.

Good night.

Is he married to her, do you think?

I didn't attend and I didn't care.

They're so terrible in love with each other.

I tell you, I can't stand it any longer. I'm going to tell them the whole story.

You want to hang me for a matter and never committed it?

As long as they hang you, I don't care whether you've committed it or not. Let me go! You think I may spend the whole night with you in this room? Of course you are.

What else can you do? Come on.

Come in, Sara.

Come in.

We were just getting warm before the fire. I can see that. I thought maybe you'd like this in your bed, sir.

Oh, thank you very much. You'd like a hot water bottle, wouldn't you, my sweetheart? Say yes, darling.

Yes, darling. Very well.

I say please don't go. Why not? Is anything wrong?

Of course there's nothing wrong. She wants to tell you something, that's all. We're a runaway couple.

I can't it all the time. And they're after you.

You won't give us away, will you? Please.

Of course we will not give you a good night to you both. You'll no be disturbed.

Thank God for a bite to eat. Come along. There you are. Now, what's the next item on the program?

Get these things off.

Right. How are we going to set about it? Anything in that bag if you want to help? A pair of scissors or a hairpin or something.

Nail file here. Do you think that'll help?

Easily. It'll take about 10 years, but we can try. Now, let's make ourselves as comfortable as possible. What about that skirt of yours? Still pretty damp, you know. Don't want to be tied to a pneumonia case on top of everything else. Take it off. I don't mind.

I shall keep it on, thank you.

And that is that.

My shoes and stockings are sold. I think I'll take them off.

That's the first sensible thing I've heard you say. Can I be of any assistance?

No, thank you.

Sorry.

Here, hold this.

Oh, yes. Half a minute.

Erm, thank you.

Don't mention it. Do you like your milk now?

Oh, no, thank you. I'll wait a little.

All right. Cheerio. That's better. Are your feet quite warm again?

Yes, thanks.

Come on. Now, will you kindly place yourself on the operating table? All right, all right. Nobody's going to hear you. This is our mistress day. Let's get some rest while we can.

I'm not going to lie on this bed.

So long as you're chained to me, you'll lie wherever I lie with the Siamese twins. Oh, don't gloat. Gloat? Do you think I'm looking forward to waking up in the morning and seeing your face beside me, unwashed and shiny? What a sight you'll be. Give me that nail file. Let's have a go at this. Thank you. There I go again. I wish I could get that damn tune out of my head. I wonder where I heard it.

You sound very sleepy.

Sleepy, I'll say so. Do you know when I last slept in a bed? Saturday night, whenever that was. Then I only got a couple of hours.

What made you wake so soon? Dreams.

What do you mean, dreams?

I've always been told murderers have terrible dreams.

Oh, but only at first. Got over that long time ago. When I first took a crime, I was quite squeamish about it. I was the most sensitive child.

You surprised me.

I used to wake up in the middle of the night screaming, thinking the police were after me, but one gets hardened.

How did you start?

Quite a small way, like most of us. Pilfering pennies from other children's lockers at school, then a little pocket-picking, then a spot of car-pinching, then smash and grab and so on to plain burglary. Killed my first man when I was 19. And in years to come, you'll be able to take your grandchildren to Madame Tussauds and point me out.

Which section?

Oh, it's early to say. I'm still young. But I'll be there all right in one department or another. Yes, you'll point me out and say, Chicks, if I were to tell you how matey I once was with that gentleman... What's the matter?

You're pinching my wrist with his handgun.

Oh, sorry. Talking of Madame Tussauds, that's how it all began.

What began?

My career of crime, all hereditary, great-uncle Pen Ruddock.

Who was he?

My good girl, where were you brought up? I've never heard of my great-uncle Pen Ruddock, the Cornish Bluebeard. Got it all from him.

I thought your family came from Canada.

No, that's where they went, after the Pen Ruddock incident. He murdered three wives and got away with it, but his third mother-in-law got the goods on him and tried to have him arrested. Did she succeed? No. He was too quick for her. Took her for a walk to Land's End and shoved her over into the Atlantic Ocean. He's in Madame Tussaud's all right, and there's no doubt about his department. You must go down and see him sometime. Can't mistake him. Third on the left as you go in. Red whiskers and a hare lip. And that lady is the sad story of my life. Poor, orphan boy who never had a chance.

Are you still set on giving me up to the police?

You're sure everything's going to be quite all right?

Bound to me. He can't have much time. As soon as I've picked up, you know what, I'll clear out of the country.

Be careful.

Bound to me.

Goodbye, my dear.

Goodbye.

Is that Professor Jordan's house? Can I speak to Mrs. Jordan then? Is that Mrs. Jordan? Oh, he's gone to London already, has he?

If you could manage it, I'd like that whiskey hot.

Oh, I'll away and get the hot water.

No, he dodged on the side street and the police went the wrong way. The girl handed him over to us, thinking we were detectives. We hatched her as well, because he'd tell her everything. Very good, ma'am. I see. Yes, ma'am.

Well.

The old man's got the wind up. He's cleared out already.

Whatever for?

Thought it too dangerous with Hanny on the loose. He's walling the whole 39 steps.

Has he got the, uh, you know.

Yes. He's picking up our friend of the London Palladium on the way out. Yes, yep, Tony.

That'll be half a clone.

And a phone call? Oh, we'll see a showing. Is, uh, is this a hotel as well? Aye. I mean, do you have people staying here? Aye. I suppose you get a few odd people at this time of the year.

Oh, aye. You didn't happen to have anyone in tonight, did you? Aye. They, uh...

They weren't by any chance a young couple, were they?

James.

Mercenet! What kind of a silly creature am I married to? Do you want to get us all jailed? How much did you track for these? Half a crown.

Oh.

Ooth, the pair of you. And dinner let on to anybody that you've got to drink here after hours.

You old fool, yeah? You wouldn't give away a young couple, would you?

Good morning.

It's the idea. How did we get out of these?

We didn't, at least you didn't. I slipped out of mine last night and came and camped out here.

Why didn't you run away?

I did, but just as I was going, I... I discovered that you'd been speaking the truth, so I decided to stay.

May I ask what earthquake caused your brain to work at last?

Those two men were in here last night. I overheard them telephoning.

What did they say?

Oh, a lot of stuff about the 39 steps.

No, go on, go on.

Someone's going to warn them. How can you warn steps? Never mind, go on. Oh, yes, and there was another thing. Someone's got scared and is clearing out, and, oh, yes, I know, and is picking up someone at the London Palladium.

London Palladium. Is that the professor, our friend with the little finger missing? What does he want to go there for?

I feel such a fool, not having believed you.

Oh, that's all right. Well, we ought to get a move on. What room are those two men in?

No room. They went as soon as they telephoned.

They what?

Didn't I tell you?

Let them go after hearing what they said. You... button-headed little.

Don't talk to me like that.

Four or five precious hours wasted. Why didn't you wake me up at once? Even you might have realised that what they said was important.

Now they call these men off, why not let well alone?

Let well alone? My good girl, I'm accused of murder. Can't you realise the only way I can clear myself is to expose these spies?

You still can. The man's going to the London Palladium.

Really? First house or second house? I'll get there 5 hours late.

Fine. The show will just about suit you. What's that? Crazy month.

You're quite right, madam.

It's true the Air Ministry has got a new thing quite a lot of people are interested in.

But they are positive that no papers are missing about it that would be of any use to a spy.

I'm certain about it. There's a man leaving the country tonight with something.

Since you phoned to us from Scotland this morning, we've made the minuteest inquiries.

It's obvious I'm wasting my time here.

Just a moment, miss, please. There's one thing you haven't told us. Where's Richard Hannay?

I haven't the faintest idea.

Now, look here, miss, you can't go. You're in the telephone book, aren't you?

Yes.

Well, if anything cropped up, we'll give you a ring. That'll be all now. Thank you. Tell Archer and Seagrave to get another taxi and follow that girl. She'll lead us to Hannay, all right.

Now for every exit, and on no account let anyone leave the building. Now you two men go in Yorks to pit.

And, gentlemen, we shall now sing.

Come on, move along there, please.

Come on, sir.

Sorry, sir, but no one's allowed to leave the theater.

That was a great idea. You can't go out and have a green.

I've got a seat in the door.

I'll just leave, sir.

I'll go through, okay.

Oh, very good.

She's seen him, she's on her way down to the store.

Excuse me, I take your place, Peter.

What are you doing? Listen, I've found him is up in that box.

You can't do anything about it. I've been to Scotland Yard.

Nothing one ever has been stolen from the ambulance, but they're absolutely certain about it.

But you heard those men say it got him. There he is.

Shall we take him by a certain way till the end of...

What are you going to do? There's nothing missing. There's an end to it.

Hear that tune? It's that damn thing. It couldn't get out of my head.

Now I know what I heard it before, of course. That music hall. Annabella's...

Ladies and gentlemen... With your kind attention and permission, I have now the honor to present to you one of the most remarkable men in the world.

Isn't he a little man?

Every day he commits a memory, 50 new facts, and remembers every one of them. Facts from history, from geography, from newspapers, from scientific textbooks,

millions and millions of them down to the smallest detail. Test him, ladies and gentlemen. Ask him any questions.

I've got it, I've got it.

Of course, there are no papers missing.

All the information's inside Memory's head. Mr. Memory.

But I still don't understand.

Don't you see? The details of that Air Minister's secret will bother, memorized by this little man, and then replaced before anyone could find out. That's why he is here tonight, to take Memory out of the country after the show.

But surely some gentlemen here would like to speak to you.

Question, please.

Question, please. We're in the boat room. When the Florence Nightingale died...

You Richard Hannay?

Listen, there's something you ought to know.

Keep Hannay, come along quietly.

Yes, but look here, that man on the stage...

Look here, old man, you don't want to cause any trouble and spoil people's entertainment.

What are the 39 steps? Come on, answer that! What are the 39 steps? The 39 steps is an organization of spies collecting information on behalf of the Foreign Office of...

Keep your seats. Keep your seats, please. There is no need for alarm, no calls for alarm.

I don't want a chair no no take it.

Easy take it easy now take it easy I'm all right get the girls on straight away.

Girls into Doctor right away.

Mr memory what was the secret formula you were taking out of the country will?

It be all right me telling you sir it It was a big job to learn it, the biggest job I ever tackled, and I don't want to throw it all away. It'll be quite all right. The first feature of the new engine is its greatly increased ratio of compression, represented by  $R - 1$  over  $R$  to the power of  $\gamma$ , where  $R$  represents the ratio of compression, and  $\gamma$ , seen in end elevation, the axis of the two lines of cylinder, angle of 65 degrees. Dimensions of cylinders as follows. This device renders the engine completely silent. Am I right, sir?

Quite right, okay. Thank you, sir.

Thank you.

I'm glad it's off my mind.

At last...