

(AUDREY enters by the French windows. She is very fair but carries a strange air of repressed emotion. With ROYDE however she is completely natural and happy.)

AUDREY. Thomas – dear Thomas.

(ROYDE takes AUDREY's outstretched hands. LADY TRESSILIAN looks at them warmly for a moment then turns quickly to TREVES.)

LADY TRESSILIAN. Mathew, your arm!

(TREVES offers his arm and they exit by the French windows. There is a pause.)

AUDREY. It's lovely to see you.

ROYDE. *(Shyly.)* Good to see you.

AUDREY. It's years since you've been home. Don't they give you any leave on rubber plantations?

ROYDE. I was coming home two years ago –
(He breaks off awkwardly.)

AUDREY. Two years ago! And then you didn't.

ROYDE. My dear, you know there were reasons.

AUDREY. *(Affectionately.)* Oh, Thomas, you look just the same as when we last met – pipe and all.

ROYDE. Do I?

AUDREY. Oh, Thomas, I am so glad you've come back. Now, at last, I can talk to someone. Thomas, there's something wrong.

ROYDE. Wrong?

AUDREY. Something's changed about this place. Ever since I arrived, I've felt there was something not quite right. Don't you feel there's something different? No, how can you, you've only just come. The only person who doesn't seem to feel it is Neville.

ROYDE. Damn Neville!

AUDREY. You don't like him?

ROYDE. *(Intensely.)* I hate his guts, always have.

(He quickly recovers himself.)

Sorry.

AUDREY. I didn't know...

ROYDE. Lots of things one doesn't know about people.

AUDREY. *(Thoughtfully.)* Yes – lots of things.

ROYDE. Gather there's a spot of bother. What made you come here at the same time as Neville and his new wife? Did you have to agree?

AUDREY. Yes. Oh, I know you can't understand...

ROYDE. But I do understand. I know all about it.

(AUDREY looks doubtfully at ROYDE.)

(Passionately.) I know exactly what you've been through but it's all past, Audrey – it's over. You must forget the past and think of the future.

(NEVILLE enters by the French windows.)

~~**NEVILLE.** Hello, Audrey, where have you been all the morning?~~

~~**AUDREY.** I haven't been anywhere particular.~~

~~**NEVILLE.** I couldn't find you anywhere. What about coming down to the beach for a swim before lunch?~~

~~**AUDREY.** No, I don't think so.~~

~~*(She looks among the magazines on the coffee table.)*~~

~~Have you seen this week's Illustrated London News?~~

~~**NEVILLE.** No. Come on, the water will be really warm today.~~

~~*(NEVILLE holds out his hand to her.)*~~

~~**AUDREY.** Actually, I told Mary I'd go into Saltington with her to the shop.~~

~~**NEVILLE.** Mary won't mind. Come on, Audrey.~~

~~*(He takes her hand.)*~~

~~**AUDREY.** No, really...~~

~~*(KAY enters by the French windows. NEVILLE turns to her.)*~~