

WADSWORTH – GREEN – PLUM – SCARLET

*WADSWORTH opens the front door. GREEN is standing stright as an arrow in a trench coat, holding an umbrella. He steps in nervously as a dog barks and Wadsworth looks out the door)*

GREEN: Is this the right address to meet a ...Mr. Boddy?

WADSWORTH: *(Dog barks wildly)* Sit! *(Green plops onto floor)* No. Not you, sir.

GREEN: *(Sheepishly stands)* Sorry. Sorry. *(WADSWORTH joins him)* Excuse me, I suppose this letter has me rather anxious.

WADSWORTH: You must be Mr. Green.

GREEN: Yes. That's exactly who I am.

WADSWORTH: Welcome, sir.

GREEN: *(Noticing interior)* Whoa. This isn't at all what I expected.

WADSWORTH: I find if you expect nothing, you're never disappointed.

GREEN: *(Not to be misunderstood)* Oh. I'm not disappointed.

*The doorbell rings. They look out.*

WADSWORTH: Pardon me, sir. *(He opens the door to find PLUM with a pipe and SCARLET standing behind him)* Good evening.

PLUM: *(In the doorway, reading authoritatively from his letter)* "Please arrive at 7:30 sharp on Saturday evening." *(Glances at watch)* Well, here I am...

WADSWORTH: Professor Plum.

PLUM: *(Stepping in)* If you say so.

SCARLET: *(steps in more fully)* Well. Well. Well. And I thought I'd seen everything...

WADSWORTH: Miss Scarlet. Welcome. I didn't realize you and the Professor were acquainted.

SCARLET: We're not. *(She continues as PLUM gives his coat to COOK. He wears and academic suit. If he weren't to off-putting, he'd be charming)* The

bridge is washed out from the rain. My car broke down, and this Professor offered to give me a ride.

PLUM: *(Smarmily to GREEN)* I'm hoping she'll return the favor one day.

SCARLET: *(To Plum)* Subtle. *(To Wadsworth)* I didn't realize we were headed to the same place until...we arrived. *(she speaks as she gives her coat to COOK. She's dressed positively Hollywood in a provocative dress. GREEN also gives COOK his coat)*

WADSWORTH: *(To PLUM)* How was your drive?

PLUM: It's a long haul.

WADSWORTH: Indeed, it is a long hall. But then, it's a very large house. *(Pause for PLUM reaction)* This way please.

SCARLET: *(Absorbing grandeur)* Say...what is this godforsaken place anyway?

WADSWORTH: This old place. Oh, this...is Boddy Manor. *(Thunder strikes. They jump. GREEN more than others. WADSWORTH gestures to Lounge)* Appetizers in the Lounge. After you.

PLUM: Hors d'oeuvres. Good. I'm starving.

GREEN: Funny. I haven't much of an appetite at all.

SCARLET: *(Entering the Lounge)* My, my. This really is a party.

PLUM: Well, greetings all. It's a pleasure for you to see me. *(Grabs a drink)* Oooh. Cocktail hour!