

from Paddington and you will be met at Oakbridge Station. I enclose five pounds for expenses. Yours truly,  
Una Nancy Owen"

(**MARSTON** *makes to the balcony.*)

Mr. Marston?

**MARSTON.** Don't actually know the Owens. Got a wire from a pal of mine, Badger Berkeley. Told me to roll up here. Surprised me a bit because I had an idea the old horse had gone to Norway. I haven't got the wire.

**WARGRAVE.** Thank you, Doctor Armstrong?

**ARMSTRONG.** In the circumstances, I think I may admit that my visit here was professional. Mr. Owen wrote me that he was worried about his wife's health - her nerves, to be precise. He wanted a report without her being alarmed. He therefore suggested that my visit should be regarded as that of an ordinary guest.

**WARGRAVE.** You had no previous acquaintance with the family?

**ARMSTRONG.** No.

**WARGRAVE.** But you had no hesitation in obeying the summons?

**ARMSTRONG.** A colleague of mine was mentioned and a very handsome fee was suggested. I was due for a holiday, anyway.

(**EMILY** *re-enters and hands a letter to WARGRAVE, who reads.*)

**WARGRAVE.** "Dear Miss Brent: I do hope you remember me. We were together at Bell Haven Guest House in August some years ago and we seemed to have so much in common. I am starting a guest house of my own on an island off the coast of Devon. I think there is really an opening for a place where there is good plain English cooking, and a nice old-fashioned type of person. None of this nudity and gramophones half the night. I shall be very glad if you could see your way to spending your summer holiday on Soldier Island - as