



DANGEROUS CORNER

MAY 1-22, 2010

By J.B. Priestley

Starring Starring Jennifer Clement, Anastasia Phillips, Vincent Gale, Charlie Gallant, Anna Galvin, Tom Scholte, Christine Willes

Directed by Bill Dow | A Playhouse Theatre Company production

PLAY GUIDE

PART 2: SIGNIFICANT LESSON SEGMENT 5

CREATED BY DR. WARREN MCKINNON, UBC CONTINUING STUDIES, PTAB MEMBER

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Created to provide you with explorations and insights into this production beyond the actual performance, this Play Guide includes information on its creators and characters, notable quotables and more:

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Dangerous Corner – 5th Script Segment – Act 3 (p. 49, 50)

(In this segment we learn that Martin’s death wasn’t suicide but was due to a drug-related accidental circumstance when Olwen visited him about the missing money. Martin, in a drug-induced state, taunted Olwen and accused her of being “a priggish spinster, full of repressions, who’d never really lived.” He forced her to look at “beastly foul drawings” and he told her to take her clothes off. When she tried to leave he resisted her and, waving a revolver in his hand, shouted “something about danger and terror and love.” He tried to tear her clothes and in the ensuing struggle she grabbed the hand with the revolver in it and turned the revolver towards him. The revolver went off and Martin dropped dead to the floor. A protective and, as we learn later, an affectionate Stanton gets everyone to promise not to speak a word about Olwen’s involvement in Martin’s death. He admits to knowing more than others about the matter and produces a piece from Olwen’s “patterned silk” dress, evidence that he picked up the next morning when the investigating village constable wasn’t looking.)

Robert – You can’t be blamed, Olwen.

Stanton – Of course, she can’t be blamed. And there must never be a word spoken about this – not to anybody. We must all promise that.

(They all nod or murmur assent.)

Olwen – Give me a cigarette, Robert.

Gordon – *(bitterly)* It’s a pity we can’t all be as cool and business-like about this as you are, Stanton.

Stanton – I don’t feel very cool and business-like about it. But you see, it’s not as big a surprise to me as it is to you people. I guessed long ago that something like this had happened.

Robert – But it looked so much like a suicide that nobody bothered to suggest it wasn’t. It never seemed to me to be anything else. All the evidence pointed that way. I can’t think how you could have guessed even though you knew Olwen had been there.

Stanton – I told you I had a third reason. I was over fairly early next morning – the postmistress at Fallows End rang me up – and I was there before anybody but the village constable and the doctor. And I spotted something on the floor that the village bobby had missed, and I picked it up when he wasn’t looking. I’ve kept it in my pocket-book ever since. *(He brings out a pocket-book and produces from it a small square of patterned silk.)* I’m rather observant about such things.

Olwen – Let me see. *(She examines it.)* Yes, that’s a piece of the dress I was wearing. It was torn in the struggle we had. So that’s how you knew?

Stanton – That’s how I knew.

Olwen – But why didn’t you say anything?

Gordon – *(bitterly)* I can tell you that. He didn’t say anything because he wanted everybody to think that Martin had shot himself. You see, that meant that Martin must have taken the money.

Robert – (*warily*) That’s about it, I suppose. It falls into line with everything we’ve heard from him tonight.

Stanton – No, there happened to be another reason, much more important. I knew that if Olwen had had a hand in Martin’s death, then something like that must have happened, and so Olwen couldn’t be blamed. I knew her better than any of you – or I felt I did. And I trusted her. She’s about the only person I would trust. She knows all about that. I’ve told her often enough. She’s not interested, but there it is.