

Brigit 1 Steady, it's none of my fault, you know. I'm only passing through. No need to turn nasty. But if that smashing fellah pops back, I'll tell him he'd better take a look in there. *(She points to the bedroom up L)*

Robert You wouldn't be so malicious—spiteful!

Brigit 1 Oh, wouldn't I? It's up to you, Uncle—you know the going rate!

Brigit 1 exits to the kitchen

Brigit 2 Now's our chance. Come on!

Robert What if we get caught?

Brigit 2 Are you a coward?

Robert No. I'm a lion. All right, you're on! I'll just whizz into the bathroom and clean the teeth . . .

Brigit 2 Don't take all night, darling.

Robert I won't, darling.

Brigit 2 I adore you! My King of the Jungle!

Brigit 2 growls, then exits to the bedroom up L

Robert opens the bathroom door, looks back to the bedroom where Brigit 2 has gone, changes his mind, cleans his teeth with his finger, and moves to the bedroom door

Jacqueline enters from her bedroom. She wears a nightdress identical to that of Brigit 2

Jacqueline What are you doing?

Robert Thinking.

Jacqueline About what?

Robert I still don't like it, darling—if he was to find us in there . . . *(He points down L)*

Jacqueline He won't be back for ages—not with that limp!

Robert We can't be certain. It might start to rain at any minute . . .

Jacqueline Then he'll shelter under a tree.

Robert Not in a thunderstorm. Too dangerous—get struck by lightning!

Jacqueline Then we won't go in there—*(pointing down L)*—but in there. *(She points up L)*

Robert But Brigit's in there.

Jacqueline Which Brigit?

Robert My niece.

Jacqueline Very suitable. Instead of his mistress, he'll find *us*. Poetic justice! *(She goes to the bedroom up L and knocks)*

Robert No. Listen. Jacqueline, darling . . .

Brigit 2 appears

Jacqueline I hope I'm not disturbing you.

Brigit 2 Not at all.

Jacqueline But you're in Brigit's room!

Brigit 2 I *am* Brigit.

Jacqueline The other Brigit.

Robert How very strange!

Jacqueline What happened?

Brigit 2 I don't remember—in this house though, it's awfully easy to make a mistake, to get lost . . .

Jacqueline Well, never mind—we can always move you somewhere else.

Brigit 2 You can?

Jacqueline Certainly—you can go into this gentleman's room.

Brigit 2 With the gentleman?

Jacqueline No. On your own. He won't be in his room, because he'll be in your room.

Robert If it's going to be a bother . . .

Jacqueline No bother at all—just a simple turn around. You'll be in there—*(she points down L)*—and he'll be in there. *(She points up L)* All right?

Brigit 2 *(moving down L)* Fine—perfectly straight forward. And you'll be in there? *(She points down R)*

Jacqueline *(moving down R)* Exactly! I'll be in here. So that's all sorted out. One moment, though . . .

Brigit 2 What is it?

Jacqueline Your nightdress—it's the same as mine!

Brigit 2 So it is.

Jacqueline Where did you get it?

Brigit 2 I—I can't quite remember . . .

Robert Nightdresses like that—well, you see them everywhere. I had one just like it . . .

Jacqueline Mine was a present from my husband.

Brigit 2 A present from your husband? You too?

Jacqueline What do you mean—you too?

Brigit 2 What a coincidence—so was mine!

Jacqueline A present from my husband?

Robert She meant to say from *her* boy-friend.

Brigit 2 Yes. That's what I meant.

Robert Probably a present for your birthday?

Brigit 2 No—for Valentine's Day.

Jacqueline How sweet! And the dress you were wearing at dinner?

Brigit 2 That was a present for Easter.

Jacqueline Really? Now I begin to understand why you're unhappy working as a maid.

Brigit 2 Right—I'm just hanging on in there—waiting for Christmas!

Brigit 2 exits down L

Jacqueline Now, I know everything!

Robert Everything?

Jacqueline She's been brainwashed—suddenly found religion or something.

Robert Then why isn't she a nun? Why go on slaving as a maid?

Jacqueline Because her lover's wife has just returned unexpectedly from visiting relations in the south so she's got nowhere to sleep! And because of the religious thing, she's riddled with guilt!