

Brigit 1 exits to the bedroom up L

Brigit 2 Not much more for anyone else to say, is there? Except to wish everybody a very good night.

Bernard So nice of you to come . . .

Jacqueline The agency sent her.

Bernard I just said that because . . .

Robert Because he wanted her to feel part of the family—at home.

Brigit 2 Oh, I *do* feel at home—really loved. If only the party could go on, and on, and on . . .

Brigit 2 glides away into the kitchen

Jacqueline Too much champagne!

Bernard No. It never affects her—only makes her mischievous.

Jacqueline How do *you* know?

Bernard She told Robert—didn't she, Robert?

Robert Something like that.

Bernard While they were dancing together.

Jacqueline When did Robert tell you?

Robert While we were dancing together.

Jacqueline You didn't dance with Bernard.

Robert Didn't I? I danced with everyone else!

Bernard Now don't pick on Robert. (*Moving to the bedroom down R*) You can see the poor chap's exhausted. Go to bed, old man.

Robert I think I will.

Bernard Sleep well.

Robert Oh, I will. No doubt about that. Like a top.

Bernard (*to Jacqueline*) Are you coming?

Jacqueline In a minute, darling—just one or two things to tidy away,

Bernard exits down R

Jacqueline seizes Robert

At last—just you and me.

Robert You wanted to say something?

Jacqueline Come on. Please. It was difficult enough having to sit through dinner—simply bursting to speak. And as for the dancing . . .

Robert I know what you mean. Especially the dancing . . .

Jacqueline How could you know what I mean? You don't suffer. You're not a woman. And if I was a woman worthy of the name . . .

Robert For God's sake keep calm! It's terribly bad to get all worked up in this heat, and after all that food—I was reading about it the other day. When you get over-excited after a heavy meal your intestines turn bright pink!

Jacqueline Considering all I've had to put up with, I should think mine are deep vermilion by now.

Robert You must keep calm.

Jacqueline Why should I be calm when I've just learnt that my husband has been deceiving me—that he's as big a liar and a cheat as you are.

Robert But no more than you are . . .

Jacqueline Thank you. Thank you very much. That's very nice. How dare you call me a cheat?

Robert Well, you are a cheat—or maybe you've confessed to your husband about you and me. Well, have you?

Jacqueline Certainly not.

Robert Then you're a cheat. You're a liar—just like him. Like me. Like my niece. In fact, like the whole world!

Jacqueline Except the new maid.

Robert Well, I expect even the new maid lies now and again—in her fashion.

Jacqueline But she's on her own. She's liberated . . . I wish to God I was.

Robert Darling . . .

Jacqueline Robert . . .

They move to embrace each other

Bernard enters

Bernard Oh! Still here, are you?

Robert I was just going to bed—just saying good night to Jacqueline.

Jacqueline I was just saying good night to Robert.

Bernard Sleep well, old man.

Robert You too—

Bernard I hope so—but just now, in there, I realized I wasn't a bit sleepy.

Must be the heat—but I could really do with a breath of air.

Jacqueline You're going out?

Bernard Yes. But that doesn't mean that you can't go to bed, darling.

You don't have to wait up for me.

Jacqueline How long are you going to be?

Bernard I don't know. I'll just go round the garden a couple of times, and maybe down to the bottom of the lane.

Jacqueline Very well, but do remember to slam the front door behind you—otherwise it won't shut properly.

Bernard I know.

Jacqueline I don't want it to stay open all night.

Bernard I'll make sure. *(He goes and opens the front door)*

Jacqueline I'm very nervous about burglars. So I like to hear the door slam. Then I know it's properly shut.

Bernard Don't worry. I'll make certain.

Jacqueline Good night then, Robert.

Robert Good night. And thank you for an enchanted evening.

Jacqueline You're very welcome—an old friend like you.

Jacqueline exits down R

Bernard *(shutting the front door)* Where are you going?

Robert To bed. That's what you wanted me to do, didn't you?

Bernard That was just to get everybody else to bed. But now they're all safely out of the way, you must stay here while I go and visit Brigit.