

(RON STERLING enters and heads to center. He looks back from the direction he entered, shakes his head and points.)

RON STERLING

(To audience)

THAT... Was one of the most exciting courses of dinner that I have ever witnessed in my life.

(Beat)

You should have seen it. At first, everyone was silent. Very silent.

(Beat)

You know the kind I'm talking about? Silence that is so... Silent that it rings in your ears louder than anything you have ever heard in your life. And then... It began... The onslaught of blame and hate and accusations and... More curse words than I knew existed.

(Beat)

It truly was a sight to behold.

(RON STERLING moves aside as DOROTHY runs in, sobbing. SIMON follows.)

UNCLE SIMON

(Comforting)

It will all be fine, Dorothy. I promise you that everyone will come to love you as much as I do.

DOROTHY DINGLE

How can you say that, Simon. Did you hear the way that they spoke to me? Did you? They hate me! They want me gone! They want me out of your life!

UNCLE SIMON

They are simply... Surprised. They are in shock...

DOROTHY DINGLE

Shock? Shock! They didn't sound shocked to me, Simon. They sounded angry. They sounded hateful.

(Beat)

You've told me all those wonderful things about your family. I couldn't wait to meet them... Now, I wish I hadn't.

UNCLE SIMON

Dorothy... Please... Sweetheart...

DOROTHY DINGLE

Don't "sweetheart" me right now, Simon... Not. Right. Now.

(DOROTHY puts her head in her hands, sobs again, and runs out of the room. Simon follows.)

UNCLE SIMON

(As he exits)

Dorothy! Come back, sweetheart.

RON STERLING

(To audience)

It's going to be cold in Uncle Simon's bed tonight.

(Beat)

Can you blame her? Simon didn't think this through at all, now did he? I mean, Dorothy was just thrust onto her unsuspecting audience without a care in the world. I don't know what Simon was thinking... Did he truly believe that his family wouldn't attack Dorothy the minute he revealed her to them?

(Beat)

All I know is that he'd better calm her down quick... The main course should be served soon and I am hungry.

(RON STERLING moves aside as JESSICA and ALISTAIR enter.)

ALISTAIR LANG

Can you believe the nerve of that woman?

JESSICA MYRTLEBANK

It's all going to be alright, Alistair.

ALISTAIR LANG

No it will not, Jessica! With that woman in the picture, your Uncle will never give ME the money that I need.

JESSICA MYRTLEBANK

Did I just hear you right?

ALISTAIR LANG

What do you mean?

JESSICA MYRTLEBANK

My uncle will never give YOU the money that YOU need?

(Beat)

Whatever happened to US, Alistair?

ALISTAIR LANG

I assure you that I have absolutely no idea what you are talking about.

JESSICA MYRTLEBANK

You said it! You said that my uncle will never give YOU the money that YOU need.

(Motioning to audience)

Everyone here heard what you said! Don't try to cover it up, Alistair!

(JESSICA moves away from ALISTAIR and pouts.  
ALISTAIR moves to her side.)

ALISTAIR LANG

My dear, sweet, Jessica. I misspoke in a moment of confusion.

JESSICA MYRTLEBANK

You don't sound confused in the slightest. You seem to know EXACTLY what you want.

ALISTAIR LANG

What I want is you, Jessica. That is all I could ever want. I promise you that. I was... I was simply... Worried.

JESSICA MYRTLEBANK

Worried?

ALISTAIR LANG

Yes. I was worried that I wouldn't be able to give you the opportunities that I promised I would provide. I was worried that I might just let you down. I never want to let you down, Jessica. You mean the world to me... You know that, don't you?

JESSICA MYRTLEBANK

(Drying her tears)

I... I suppose that I do.

ALISTAIR LANG

I love you, Jessica.

JESSICA MYRTLEBANK

I love you, too.

(Beat)

Come, Alistair!

(She smiles and holds out her hand)

Let's figure out what we need to do next. I don't want ANYTHING to stop me from getting to Hollywood.

(ALISTAIR takes JESSICA's hand and they rush out of the room.)

RON STERLING

(To audience)

That was interesting, wasn't it?

(Beat)

A slip of the tongue by Alistair and the seed of doubt is planted into the mind of young Jessica.

(Beat)

Jessica may be stupid but I don't think she's THAT stupid... At least... I HOPE she's not that stupid.