

WATSON. That dress you're wearing. Where did you get it? It's stunning on you.

HILDA. Please come in.

(As they follow her into the house, WATSON whispers to HOLMES:)

WATSON. Human nature.

Scene Twelve: The Grand Hall

(As they walk into the main hall, we hear the grand opening theme of Wagner's Die Meistersinger.)

HILDA. Dis is der Main Hallway of der embassy, und every single item dat you see was made by a Bohemian artist. Bohemian chandelier by Krupkin. Bohemian wallpaper by Daggstadt. Bohemian *Mona Lisa* by Blaznik.

WATSON. And I imagine you did some of the decorating.

HILDA. You are very observant.

WATSON. You are kind to say so. If I am observant it's because my friend here is a detective. His name is -

HILDA. *I know his name! Und I know that he is helping the King get back his letters from this awful woman! I am told everything!*

(Walk, walk.)

IRENE. It's nice to see you again, Hilda.

HILDA. Don't tell me nice. You broke my master's heart into pieces without thinking twice about it.

IRENE. Except he's the one getting married.

HILDA. *Because you are common person. You are nobody. He is King. And he is best man in entire world. Enter his study.*

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HOLMES. Don't move.

WATSON. Sorry?

(There's another glint of light through the window. We hear a tremolo in the score.)

HOLMES. Watson, pull the curtain.

WATSON. What? Sorry?

HOLMES. *(Firmly and evenly.) Pull the curtain across the window.*

WATSON. Oh I see. Moran. Right. And he doesn't know the microdots are no longer on the letters -

HOLMES. *Watson. PULL THE CURTAIN!*

WATSON. Got it.

(WATSON pulls the curtains and we hear a sigh of relief.)

IRENE. You don't think that man with the gun is out there...?

HOLMES. Of course I do.

IRENE. But shooting me wouldn't get him the letters.

HOLMES. It would if they have someone in the embassy to search your dead body.

(At which moment, the doors are thrown open with a bang and KING OTTO enters.)

KING OTTO. *Brouček.*

IRENE. Otto.

KING OTTO. My darling friend.

(He strides to IRENE and they embrace.)

Oh. You look so beautiful! And how I have missed you, it is so unfair.

Scene Thirteen: The King's Study

(They enter the King's palatial study, bright sunlight streams through a large floor-to-ceiling window looking out on Regent's Park. The room sparkles.)

HILDA. *(Continued.)* This is famous room. It is where King thinks und works. This is the picture window where he looks out at the world and gets great thoughts. If you touch anything in this room I will kill you.

(To WATSON.) Except for you, you may touch anything.

(She clicks her heels.)

(To all of them.) I get the King. Wait here.

(She exits, closing the door behind her.)

IRENE. *(Sighs.)* I spent many happy days in this house.

HOLMES. I'm sure you did.

IRENE. Don't be catty. Otto is the kindest man I've ever met. We'd have lunch right here at the window, overlooking the park.

(There is an elegant table with two chairs in front of the window, and IRENE sits on one of them.)

Surprisingly, we had a lot in common. And we were wildly attracted to each other.

And now I simply wish him well with his princess, which isn't his fault -

(HOLMES notices a glint of light through the window.)

(HOLMES, without moving, says in a quiet, even tone of voice:)