Character List

Steve Woodward (M)
Playing Captain Carnaby, First Mate Carlton, Second Mate Carlson, Bosun Carlos, Mrs Carlos, Captain Barnaby
Steve is a very uptight actor and director, who believes that he is the best thing to grace the stage. Although he may have acting range, his performances are always extremely over dramatic and amateurish.

Adam King (M)
Playing Lord Douglas Dindigul
Adam believes that he is above these amateur productions, having once performed as a background actor at the National Theatre, though was fired for constantly over-stepping. Adamant that he should have been cast as the Captain in this production, he will upstage Steve at any opportunity.

Amy Windthrop (F)
Playing Irene Thorn
Amy is much like Steve in that she has a massive ego and takes her acting career very seriously. Having once performed alongside Michael she has developed a massive crush and is desperate to compete for his attention and affection, constantly putting down Hannah to make herself more appealing.

Michael Reede (M)
Playing Professor Henry Brookes
Michael is near the start of his acting journey, having recently played Romeo alongside Amy's Juliet in Steve's last production. He is so focussed on developing his performance that he is oblivious to Amy's advances. In fact, he starts to develop feelings for Hannah.

Hannah Jones (F)
Playing Audrey Kettle
Hannah is brand new to the theatre, and very excited for this opportunity. She admires Amy and is desperate to learn from her, unaware that Amy would rather sabotage her. Introverted, but eager, Hannah starts to come out of her shell and surprises everyone when she finally stands up for herself.

Production note : As this is a play-within-a-play, to make it clear what dialogue/stage directions are 'meant to happen as part of the play the characters are performing', these have been formatted inside a box. Anything that has 'gone wrong' or is the actors speaking out of character, is outside of the box.

Read the full script for 'Death(s) at Sea' below.

ACT I

Scene 1 – Portsmouth Docks

(Blackout. Crates are positioned as a jetty to the boat, leading off into the wings. A port hole window hangs throughout the performance. Smoke slowly creeps onto stage.)

(Steve, wearing large crew headphones, checks the set. Backstage, Michael is helping Hannah into costume. Conversation, picked up by mics in the wings, plays through speakers.)

Hannah: **(VO)** Yeah that feels good.

Michael: **(VO)** It's a bit tight.

Hannah: **(VO)** Ow.

Michael: **(VO)** Sorry, try not moving so much.

Hannah: **(VO)** Sorry, I'm just nervous. It's my first time.

Amy: **(VO)** Michael! What are you doing?

Hannah: **(VO)** Oh, he was just helping me with the zip on my costume.

Amy: (**VO. Sarcastic)** Isn't he sweet. Right, so there's a critic in tonight so let's all be on top form, yes? Oh, Hannah, you're new but this is very important for the rest of us actually looking to make careers out of it. Oh, and take off your glasses, it catches the light, you look awful.

Hannah: **(VO)** Oh, but the Director hasn't said anything.

Amy: **(VO)** Steve is preoccupied with the set.

(On stage, Steve is desperately trying to close the porthole window, but it keeps flopping open.)

Amy: **(VO)** Trust me. Take them off.

(SFX. Hannah's footsteps walking away backstage.)

Amy: **(VO)** Michael, now, just who I wanted to talk to.

Michael: **(VO)** What about?

Amy: **(VO)** Me... and you. It's been a while since we've been on stage together.

Michael: **(VO)** I suppose, what was it, Shakespeare?

Amy: **(VO. Obviously obsessed)** Oh, well, I hadn't thought about it much at all, really. But, yes, I suppose it must have been my Juliet to your Romeo... last July... 24th... matinee.

Michael: **(VO)** Right.

(Steve exits stage.)

Amy:	**(VO)** Thinking about it now, actually, well I suppose we were really great together, in fact perhaps we ought to-
Steve:	**(VO. Interrupting)** This is your 5-minute call, can we all get into character please. Amy, have you seen the chairs?
Amy:	**(VO)** Irene.
Steve:	**(VO)** What?
Amy:	**(VO)** We're in character, you should be calling me Irene.
Steve:	**(VO)** Right. Yes, Irene.
Hannah:	**(VO)** I didn't see any chairs backstage if that helps Steve!
Amy:	**(VO)** Captain.
Steve:	**(VO)** Yes Amy?
Michael	**(VO)** Irene.
Amy	**(VO)** No I meant-
Steve	**(VO. Interrupting)** And where the bloody hell is-?
	(SFX. Toilet flushing.)
Michael:	**(Together. VO)** Lord Dindigul.
Amy:	**(Together. VO)** Lord Dindigul.
Steve:	**(VO)** Thank God there's still time before the show.
Show Announcer:	**(VO)** The show is about to start.
	(SFX. Shuffling of actors rushing into position backstage.)
Hannah:	**(VO)** What does the red light mean on the microphones?
Michael:	**(VO)** That's for when they're switched on.
Hannah:	**(VO)** But I thought we weren't using them so-
Michael:	**(VO. Interrupting)** Oh bugger! I forgot my suitcase. I'll be right back.
Hannah:	**(VO)** Shouldn't they be switched off.

	(Portsmouth Docks, 1938. Lights come up. The stage is filled with ominous smoke. An overly dramatic Captain enters along the jetty.)
Captain Carnaby:	**(Calling to offstage)** Room on the end. The rest will be here soon.
	(Prof. Henry enters from the other side.)
Captain Carnaby:	Ah! You must be the Professor.
Professor Henry:	Professor Henry Brookes. Splendid to finally meet you in person Captain Carnaby.
Captain Carnaby:	Yes. Would you like to board while we wait for the remaining guests?

Professor Henry:	Would it be alright if I waited here a moment. I'm afraid I'm not too comfortable on the water. The longer I can keep myself on land, the less likely your crew will be swabbing the decks before dinner.
Captain Carnaby:	Of course. But it is just myself, I'm afraid. Small ship. Small crew. Perhaps you would like to take some medicine, there is a pharmacy on the corner. Allow me to take your… case.

(Michael has forgotten his case. Steve glares as Michael hurriedly fetches it from the wings and passes it to him. Michael exits, awkwardly collides with a somewhat blind Hannah, not wearing her glasses, carrying two small bags.)

Captain Carnaby:	Mrs Kettle is it?
Audrey:	Miss, but please, do call me Audrey. Who was that man just leaving?
Captain Carnaby:	Professor Henry Brookes. He'll be joining us shortly.
Audrey:	Has anyone else arrived?
Captain Carnaby:	Just one other. Already settled into his room, perhaps you'd like to unpack also?
Audrey:	I think I might wait here, if that's alright, I would quite like to meet the others first.
Captain Carnaby:	Of course, Miss. Might I take your bags?
	(Audrey hands the Captain her two cases. Irene Thorn enters, carrying a very large suitcase.)
Irene:	**(To Audrey)** Oh do be a dear and take my bags to my room.

(Amy flails her extremely large case at Hannah, smacking her in the face.)

Captain Carnaby:	Miss Thorn, this is Audrey Kettle, another of our guests. Perhaps I might take your bags instead?
Irene:	Terribly sorry my Dear. I suppose it is what you are wearing. I imagine you have dressed for comfort.
	(Irene passes her case to the Captain.)

(Steve is now struggling with all the bags.)

	(Lord Dindigul enters, carrying a suitcase and a bottle of whisky.)
Lord Dindigul:	Good evening, Captain. Lord Dindigul, we spoke on the telephone. I thought I would get things started off.
	(Lord Dindigul holds up his bottle of whisky and slaps the Captain on the back.)

(The slap knocks Steve off balance and a suitcase drops to the floor. Amy nudges Hannah to pick it up, who then positions it by the jetty.)

Captain Carnaby:	Very good Lord Dick-tickle.
	(Prof Henry enters.)
Professor Henry:	I could do with one of those myself.

(Michael has entered right behind Hannah, who is still bent over positioning the case, creating a very compromising position.)

Professor Henry: I'm a shameless whisky drinker.

Irene: Shouldn't there be five guests?

Captain Carnaby: Yes. The fifth has already boarded. Now, if you would kindly take to the deck, I shall begin casting off.

(Amy, Hannah, Adam and Michael look unsettled at the very steep ramp onto the crate jetty.)

Professor Henry: **(Genuinely concerned)** Is it safe?

Captain Carnaby: Yes.

(The Captain waits, as the guests depart along the jetty.)

(Amy, then Hannah, struggle up the steep ramp, and squeeze past Steve. Michael nearly falls on his attempt but is caught by Adam, who then simply steps up onto the jetty, avoiding the ramp altogether.)

Captain Carnaby: Casting off now!

(Blackout)

Adam: **(VO)** What the hell did you just call me back there Steve?

Steve: **(VO)** Character names during performances please?

Adam: **(VO)** Alright Captain, and what's mine?

Steve: **(VO)** Lord Dick-Dindigul.

Adam: **(VO)** I swear to God.

Michael: **(VO)** I'm sure it was just a slip of the tongue, Adam.

Steve: **(VO)** Character names.

Adam: **(VO)** No-one say my name!

Michael: **(VO)** Come on, Adam.

Steve: **(VO)** Lord-

Adam: **(VO. Interrupting)** Don't!

Amy: **(VO)** Michael-

Steve: **(VO. Interrupting)** Professor.

Michael: **(VO)** Steve!

Amy: **(VO)** Captain.

Michael: **(VO)** Amy!

Amy: **(VO)** Irene!

Hannah: **(VO)** Steve.

Amy: **(VO)** Captain.

Hannah: **(VO)** Captain.

Steve: **(VO)** What?!

Hannah: **(VO)** The scene change.

Steve: **(VO)** Oh bloody hell!

Scene 2 – Dining Room

(Steve enters, positioning a door at the side of stage which leads into the wings. A sign hangs from the door reading 'Down to Deck'.)

(Lights come up. Professor Henry enters opposite the door, shortly followed by Audrey)

Audrey: Good evening, Professor.

(The lights blackout in response to Steve being on stage. Steve indiscreetly shuffles off.)

Professor Henry: Good evening, Miss. My apologies, I didn't see you there.

Audrey: **(Improvising)** That's quite alright... it is very dark.

Professor Henry: **(Improvising)** Don't worry, I shall find a switch. Ah! I think I've got it.

(Prof. Henry gestures pulling on a light switch. No lights. He tries again, exaggerating the gesture. No lights.)

Michael: **(Hushed. Irritated)** Lights… lights… lights… lights! Lights!

(The lights finally come back on.)

Audrey: **(Improvising)** The lights must be... on motion sensors.

Professor Henry: **(Improvising)** How forward thinking for the 1930s. I didn't catch your name before.

Audrey: Miss Kettle, but please, call me Audrey. The Captain mentioned you as I arrived. Professor Henry, is that correct?

Professor Henry: Yes.

Audrey: And what is it that you teach?

Professor Henry: I lecture in Law.

Audrey: I see. I can't say I'm too fond of lawyers.

Professor Henry: Perhaps you would care to sit together, I'd like to change your mind on that?

Audrey: I don't see why not.

Professor Henry: Please, take a... seat.

(There are no chairs. Michael grabs a suitcase for Hannah, it is very small. He then tries to sit on the jetty ramp, adjusting himself as he keeps slipping. Eventually, giving up, he slides down the ramp.)

Professor Henry: So, what has you travelling to Spain?

Audrey: Family. Yourself?

Professor Henry: A conference, but I shan't be speaking, just in attendance.

(Lord Dindigul enters.)

Lord Dindigul:	Good evening.

(Adam notices the lack of chairs and positions himself on the ramp behind Michael.)

Lord Dindigul:	It's a bit small don't you think?
Audrey:	The dining room?
Lord Dindigul:	The ship! Sorry, I haven't caught your names.
Audrey:	This is Henry Brookes, a Professor of Law.
Lord Dindigul:	Crikey, better watch ourselves around him then.
Professor Henry:	I'm not an active practitioner.
	(The Captain enters through the door.)
Captain Carnaby:	Good evening. I am afraid our fifth guest won't be joining us. He has retired early for the night. Where is Miss Thorn?
	(Irene enters wearing an overly seductive gown and drapes herself against the proscenium arch flirtatiously.)
Irene:	Apologies for my being late, I was just unpacking in my room.
Captain Carnaby:	Not a problem at all, Miss. Please, sit.

(Amy glances around for a chair, the others silently arguing with her about where to sit. Amy pushes Hannah of her suitcase, then grabs it, and sits beside Michael.)

Lord Dindigul:	Speaking of unpacking, Captain, might there be some place secure on this boat in which to store my luggage? I have some rather precious cargo, and I don't entirely trust the locks on our rooms you see, rather tired looking.
Captain Carnaby:	Yes. We have a small vault below deck, I can stow it away for you during dinner.
Lord Dindigul:	Thank you, but if you wouldn't mind showing me after supper, I shall take it there myself.
Irene:	I thought that I would be the last to arrive for supper, but it appears that our fifth guest remains rather mysteriously anonymous.
Captain Carnaby:	Yes. I was just informing the others that he shan't be joining us. Already taken his sleeping medication.
Irene:	Might we at least know his name?
Captain Carnaby:	Inus.

(Adam chuckles under his breath- Amy shoots him a look. 'Inus' repeatedly gets a chuckle from Adam.)

Captain Carnaby:	Mr Inus.
Professor Henry:	I imagine he will be down early for breakfast, having missed out on dinner, so I am sure we will see Inus first thing in the morning.
Lord Dindigul:	Then I shan't be down for breakfast.
Audrey:	Why ever not?
Lord Dindigul:	I have no time for that man. He's a filthy lawyer who's had it out for my family for years. Why I never would have taken this trip had I known. Days stuck on this ship with him, I doubt we'll survive!
Captain Carnaby:	Excuse me a moment whilst I fetch your dinners.
	(The Captain exits through the door.)
Irene:	If you would excuse me also, I need to powder my nose.

(Amy goes to exit through the door. Adam stands, silently urging her to go the other way. As Amy opens the door, the Captain is bent over, bottom to the audience, sorting his props. He rapidly gets up and slams the door.)

Adam: **(Hushed)** It's the other way. We changed it.

Amy: **(Hushed)** When did we change it?

Adam: **(Hushed)** Yesterday.

Amy: **(Hushed. Irritated)** Yesterday?

Irene: **(Composing herself)** It's the other way.

(Hannah clambers back onto the suitcase. Amy exits the other way, pushing Hannah off the suitcase as she passes.)

Audrey: Lord Dindigul, I am sure this ship is large enough for you to avoid any sign of Inus.

(Adam and Michael chuckle under their breaths.)

Lord Dindigul:	You are quite the mediator. I don't believe I caught your name.
Audrey:	Miss Audrey Kettle.
Lord Dindigul:	(**Places his leg up on the ramp right behind Prof. Henry)** Lord Douglas Dindigul.
Professor Henry:	**(Distracted by the crotch now by his face)** A very dick-stinctive name… Have I heard it before?
Lord Dindigul:	Most likely.

(Steve trips over the smoke machine in the wings as he enters, carrying a tray with a metal cloche. The smoke machine begins to leak smoke onto the stage.)

Captain Carnaby: Your dinners. Tonight, we have salmon.

(Lifting the cloche, Steve reveals tins of salmon.)

Audrey:	Wonderful, is it smoked?
Professor Henry:	It looks delicious.

(Michael and Adam take a tin, and reluctantly bite them.)

Audrey:	**(Improvising)** Is something burning Captain?
Captain Carnaby:	**(Genuinely confused)** What?
	(Irene enters.)
Irene:	What have I missed?

(They freeze awkwardly, the men biting on tins of salmon, and the smoke rapidly filling the stage. Steve urges them to continue.)

Audrey:	The Professor and I were previously discussing our travels to Spain, what will you be visiting for Miss Thorn?
Irene:	I haven't heard your business yet.
Audrey:	The Professor here has a conference.
Professor Henry:	Just attending.
Lord Dindigul:	I'm afraid I can't really discuss my business.
Audrey:	What about yourself, Irene?
Irene:	I'm escaping to the Spanish Coast.
Audrey:	Is that to visit family?
Irene:	Quite the opposite. This time last year was I lost my brother, I just needed to get away from it all.

(The smoke has everyone coughing, gradually getting more aggressive.)

Audrey:	I'm terribly sorry. I know how hard it is to lose someone you love.
Irene:	Love? Oh, darling we were siblings not lovers. I hated the fool. He inherited all of Mummy and Daddy's fortune and gambled it all away. No, nothing of love there I'm afraid.
Captain Carnaby:	Might I suggest the party moves to the upper deck, there is a tremendous view of the stars tonight.
Irene:	Oh, not for me. It has been an awfully long day.
Professor Henry:	Yes, I believe I am also ready for a rest.
Audrey:	It was lovely meeting you all tonight.

Lord Dindigul:	If you could possibly show me to that vault, Captain Carnaby?
Captain Carnaby:	Certainly.
	(Blackout. Exit all.)

(Adam returns, weilding the smoke machine, desperately trying to turn it off.)

Steve: **(VO)** Where are those chairs?

Amy: **(VO)** Excuse me Hannah, move!

(SFX. A glass is knocked over spilling liquid backstage.)

Amy: **(VO)** For goodness's sake.

Hannah: **(VO)** I'm sorry, I didn't mean to.

Amy: **(VO)** Just clean it up and refill.

(SFX. Amy's heels clatter away backstage.)

Michael: **(VO)** I think it's the whisky for the end of the act, there's more in the dressing room, I can refill it if you like?

(Adam exits stage with the smoke machine.)

(SFX. Smashing smoke machine.)

Hannah: **(VO)** Thank you, but I can do it. Has Amy said anything to you about me?

Michael: **(VO)** No, why?

(Adam returns to stage, calmly, and flips over the sign on the door.)

Hannah: **(VO)** I just get the feeling she doesn't like me.

Michael: **(VO)** How could anyone not like you?

Scene 3 – Below Deck

(The door is still at the side of stage; the sign now reads 'Up to Deck'. There is a single, large suitcase centre stage. Lights come up. The Captain enters through the door, leading Lord Dindigul, who is carrying his suitcase.)

Captain Carnaby: There is only one key to the vault Sir, kept around my neck at all times. You can trust your cargo will be quite safe in here.

Lord Dindigul: Excellent. Would you mind leaving me the key whilst I stow it privately, it is highly specialist equipment.

Captain Carnaby: I'm afraid I cannot do that Sir, as I said, it is the only key. You must understand that I cannot risk misplacement.

Lord Dindigul: Then I will kindly ask you to turn your back, whilst I transfer my possessions to the...

(Adam looks unimpressed at the suitcase, posing as a vault, centre stage.)

Lord Dindigul: Vault.

(The Captain faces away, as Lord Dindigul removes a concealed object from his suitcase and places it into the 'vault'. Unknown to anyone, it is a fencing foil- a pink balloon sword. Lord Dindigul closes the 'vault'.)

(The 'vault' pops open. Adam closes it. It opens.)

Captain Carnaby: Everything in order, Sir?

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvising)** Not quite.

(Adam attempts to close the 'vault' again, and again. He sits on the lid.)

Captain Carnaby: **(Improvising)** Can I?

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvising)** Nope.

(Satisfied, he stands up behind the 'vault', the lid pops open, hitting his crotch. Adam resorts to leaning on the 'vault' to hold it shut.)

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvising)** All done.

(The Captain turns around and locks the 'vault'.)

(Adam slowly rises, fearing it might suddenly open. The 'vault' stays shut.)

(The Captain and Lord Dindigul begin to leave.)

(The 'vault' lid bursts open. Steve exits, returning with another suitcase. Adam places his suitcase on top of the 'vault' and Steve places the additional case on top of that.)

Lord Dindigul: Impenetrable. Thank you, Captain.

(Blackout.)

(Steve and Adam attempt to remove all three suitcases from stage at once, but struggle. They gesture on Michael, Amy and Hannah to help. Hannah goes to lift the top suitcase, but Michael immediately jumps into helps her. Amy glares at them, green- eyed. Steve takes the second suitcase, resulting in the lid of the 'vault' flipping open and hitting Adam in the crotch. Adam, in pain, carries the 'vault' off.)

Scene 4 – Ship Deck

(Steve enters and removes the sign on the door trying to decide which way round it should be.)

(Lights come up. Lord Dindigul enters through the door, carrying his case.)

(As Adam enters, the door slams into Steve's face. He staggers off clutching his nose.)

(Audrey enters from the other side, carrying her small case.)

Lord Dindigul: Miss Kettle.

Aurey: Lord Dindigul! I didn't expect to see anyone out here.

Lord Dindigul: I was just below, using the vault.

Aurey: I am sure your belongings will be quite safe in there.

Lord Dindigul: I have no doubt. What are you doing out here?

Audrey: I... well I just couldn't stop thinking about the stars, after the Captain mentioned it being such a beautiful night.

(From the wings, Amy pokes out a fishing rod with a seagull on the end. She swings it into Hannah, sending her suitcase flying into Adam's arms.)

Lord Dindigul: What's with the case?

Audrey: You said it yourself, the locks on our doors look awfully tired. So, I thought it best to keep my jewellery close at hand.

Lord Dindigul: Could you not simply wear it?

Audrey: The sea air would do it no good. I'm very sorry, but if you wouldn't mind.

(Audrey goes to pass Lord Dindigul but he grabs her arm softly, stopping her.)

Lord Dindigul: I hate to spoil your fun Miss, but it really isn't safe to be alone out here at night. One jolt and you could be overboard.

(Hannah is hit on the head, again, by the seagull on a stick.)

Audrey: Of course, how silly of me. You won't mention this to the other guests, will you? Only I don't want them to think me so foolish. I shall return to my room promptly. Goodnight.

(Audrey, flustered, exits the way she came.)

Lord Dindigul: Goodnight Miss Kettle.

(Lord Dindigul stares suspiciously after her. Blackout.)

(Michael and Adam swap the sign on the door and reposition the jetty crates as beds for three rooms, the centre being the steep ramp.)

Hannah: **(VO)** Amy, do you have a sec? Sorry to bother you and I'm probably wrong, but did you hit me on purpose?

Amy: **(VO)** What do you mean?

Hannah: **(VO)** The seagull on a stick. Look I'm really sorry if I've done something to upset you.

Amy: **(VO)** Perhaps you should be paying less attention to your cast members, and more attention to actually acting... you should be on stage.

Scene 5 – Bedroom Corridor

(Two jetty crates and the ramp are positioned to resemble three beds in separate rooms. Prof. Henry is sat on the 'bed' closest to the door. Lights come up.)

(Hannah scuttles onto stage and lies on the 'bed' farthest from the door.)

(Prof. Henry leaves his 'bedroom'. Lord Dindigul enters from the side opposite the door.)

Lord Dindigul: Professor! What has you up at this time?

Professor Henry: I couldn't sleep. I don't fare too well at sea.

Lord Dindigul: I see.

Professor Henry: I heard footsteps in the corridor, is anyone else out of their room?

Lord Dindigul: I'm afraid I didn't see.

Professor Henry: I see.

(Lord Dindigul peers towards Audrey's 'bedroom', where she is sleeping.)

Lord Dindigul: Were you heading out to deck?

Professor Henry: **(Lying)** Yes.

Lord Dindigul: Do be careful, the seas can be a bit choppy.

Professor Henry: Right. Goodnight.

(Prof. Henry reluctantly exits. Lord Dindigul enters his 'bedroom', attempting to lie down on the middle bed, the ramp. After sliding down several times, he finds a position he can hold. The Captain enters from the side opposite the door.)

(Steve has a bloody tissue up his nose from his collision earlier with the door.)

(The Captain crosses the stage, stopping to listen at each 'bedroom'. He opens the door, leaning his head into the wings.)

Captain Carnaby: Just checking on you Mr Inus. Sir?

(The Captain pulls an alarm on the wall.)

(Nothing happens. He pulls the alarm again, and again, becoming very irritated.)

Captain Carnaby: **(Improvising. Frustrated)** Alarm…Alarm…Alarm! Alarm!

(SFX. Finally, the alarm wails. Throughout the scene, the alarm gets progressively louder. Lord Dindigul wakes up, leaves his 'bedroom', and

enters the corridor.)

Lord Dindigul:	What the bloody hell is that noise?
Captain Carnaby:	I apologise, Sir, but I've had to pull the alarm.
	Audrey then joins them.
Audrey:	Captain, what's wrong?
	Prof. Henry enters.
Professor Henry:	What on earth is going on?

(SFX. The alarm becomes louder, the company must shout to be heard.)

Captain Carnaby:	I'm sorry but I just went to check on our guest. Mr Inus.
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** What did you say?!
Captain Carnaby:	**(Repeating)** Mr Inus!
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** Sorry?!
Captain Carnaby:	**(Repeating)** Inus!

(Hannah, Adam and Michael try to hide their laughter.)

	(Irene enters wearing a silk nightdress.)
Irene:	What is that dreadful sound, are we sinking?
Captain Carnaby:	**(Improvising)** Sorry?
Irene:	**(Improvising)** What?
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** Sorry?
Captain Carnaby:	**(Improvising)** Sorry?
Irene:	**(Improvising)** What?!
Captain Carnaby:	**(Improvising)** I'll just turn off the alarm!
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** What?!

(**SFX. The alarm stops.)**

Captain Carnaby:	**(Improvising)** I'll just turn off!... the alarm.

(The company recovers.)

Captain Carnaby:	I'm afraid I don't know quite how to tell you all this. Mr Inus, he's-

(SFX. The alarm begins to sound again, very loudly.)

Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** Did you pull the alarm again Captain?

Captain Carnaby:	**(Improvising)** It appears I have...
Audrey:	**(Improvising)** Sorry?
Captain Carnaby:	**(Improvising)** What?!
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** What?!
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Oh turn off the bloody thing!

(SFX. The Alarm stops. Everyone takes a moment to recover.)

Captain Carnaby:	Mr Inus, he's-

(SFX. The alarm starts again.)

Captain Carnaby:	He's dead!

(SFX. The alarm stops.)

	(Everyone gasps, Irene swoons.)
Professor Henry:	Are you sure he isn't simply asleep? You said earlier he took his night medicine, perhaps it simply knocked him completely out.
Captain Carnaby:	I'm afraid he's not breathing Professor, that tends to be a strong sign.
Audrey:	What happened? Are we safe?
Lord Dindigul:	He was an older man. I'm sure he simply passed away quite peacefully in his sleep.
Captain Carnaby:	Yes. However, it is far too dark a night to see anything clearly.
Irene:	Then I for one am returning to my room to sleep. And I shall be locking my door.
Professor Henry:	I suggest we all do the same. Goodnight.
Audrey:	Goodnight.
Irene:	Goodnight.
Lord Dindigul:	Goodnight.
Captain Carnaby:	Goodnight.
	(Blackout.)

(Amy and Adam exit. Michael and Hannah re-position the crates as benches for the dining room, their chemistry is blatant. Steve tries to put the sign back on the door, but it keeps dropping off.)

Amy: **(VO)** Look at that. **(Referring to Michael and Hannah)**

Adam: **(VO)** What?

Amy: **(VO)** Them. On stage. Pathetic, isn't it?

Adam: **(VO)** That's a bit harsh don't you think. **(Referring to Steve)**

Amy: **(VO)** We are meant to be professional.

Adam: **(VO)** He's trying.

Amy: **(VO)** He shouldn't *be* trying.

Adam: **(VO)** I suppose he should be *doing*.

Amy: **(VO)** Doing?!

Adam: **(VO)** Maybe just nail it.

Amy: **(VO)** What?!

Adam: **(VO)** The sign. To the door.

Amy: **(VO)** Wait, who are you talking about?

Adam: **(VO)**Steve… who are you talking about?

Amy: **(VO)** Oh just shut up!

Scene 6 – Dining Room

(The following morning. The sign on the door now reads 'Down to Deck'.)

(Steve is still fussing with the sign when the lights come up, he rushes off.)

(Audrey enters and opens the porthole window.)

(Opening the window turns on a concealed fan, blowing in Hannah's face. It is very powerful.)

(Professor Henry enters through the door.)

Professor Henry: Good morning.

(Hannah cannot hear him over the fan.)

Professor Henry: **(Repeating cue)** Good morning!

(Hannah turns to face Michael, her hair now blowing in her face.)

Audrey: Professor, it is so good to see you.

Professor Henry: How are you feeling this morning?

Audrey: A little shocked, I suppose. I just can't believe it. You don't think...

Professor Henry: What's bothering you?

(Hannah gives up and closes the window, the fan switches off.)

Audrey: Well, perhaps it wasn't an accident at all.

Professor Henry: What are you saying?

Audrey: Perhaps he overdosed his medicine on purpose. We never even met the man, who knows what horrible things he had seen... or done.

Professor Henry: Right... yes.

(Lord Dindigul enters through the door.)

Lord Dindigul: Good morning, Professor, Miss Kettle. I trust neither of you joined our Mr Inus last night.

Audrey: **(Defensive)** What do you mean?

Lord Dindigul: It is just a joke. I meant are you well?

Audrey: As well as one can be, after waking in the night to such horrid news.

Professor Henry: Perhaps we should discuss something else.

Audrey: What would you like to discuss?

(Irene enters dramatically through the door, dressed in another slinky outfit, as Audrey and the Professor sit down.)

Irene:	I see we are all already here.
Lord Dindigul:	Irene. How are you?
Irene:	It's cold and bitter and there's a corpse four doors down from my bedroom. I left England to escape dead bodies, and they appear to be following me.
Professor Henry:	Plural, Miss?
Irene:	Yes. My brother's death followed rather shortly after Mummy and Daddy's. Trust me I am quite acquainted with death. Though I would rather it not pay me a visit while stuck at sea for days. The smell of fish is already strong, we don't need any more rotten odours.
	(The Captain enters through the door, perturbed.)
Lord Dindigul:	**(Jokily)** Why, you look like you've seen a dead body.
Captain Carnaby:	It's Mr Inus.
Lord Dindigul:	Well, yes, that was the joke.
Captain Carnaby:	He was murdered.
	(Irene screams and runs out through the door in distress. Lord Dindigul chases after her. Audrey faints into Professor Henry's arms. The Captain remains still, petrified.)
Professor Henry:	Miss Kettle! Audrey!
	(Professor Henry sweeps Audrey up into his arms and goes to exit.)

(Michael signals at Steve to open the door, when he eventually picks up on the cue, he opens the door, accidentally smacking it into Hannah's head. Michael tries to squeeze through the door with Hannah in his arms, but knocks her into the frame, he then gives up and goes around to exit. Blackout. Steve grabs the sign off the door and exits.)

Michael:	**(VO)** Are you OK?
Hannah:	**(VO)** I think so.
Amy:	**(VO)** Perhaps you ought to have tried losing a bit for the role?
Michael:	**(VO)** Amy!
Amy:	**(VO)** Irene.
Hannah:	**(VO)** Irene!
Adam:	**(VO)** Steve.
Steve:	**(VO)** Captain.
Adam:	**(VO)** Captain!

Steve: **(VO)** Lord Dicktickle?!

Adam: **(VO)** We're on.

Scene 6 – Ship Deck

(The Lights come up. Lord Dindigul enters carrying a blow-up dinghy. He tosses it onto the floor then sit in it. The Captain enters.)

Captain Carnaby: Lord-

Lord Dindigul: **(Interrupting)** What?!

Captain Carnaby: May I ask what it is you are doing?

Lord Dindigul: I'm not staying another night on this boat. I'm heading back to shore. We can't have journeyed that far by now.

Captain Carnaby: I assure you Sir, you won't make it back to England in that.

(The Captain climbs into the dinghy alongside Lord Dindigul.)

Lord Dindigul: Captain Carnaby I must object!

Captain Carnaby: I will not lose any more passengers. Now, back on dick Lord Decktickle.

Lord Dindigul: **(Genuinely irritated)** Dindigul.

Captain Carnaby: Yes. Here, let me help you.

(The Captain helps Lord Dindigul out of the dinghy.)

(As Steve pulls Adam out, Adam pushes Steve onto the floor and onto the dinghy.)

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvised)** Oh no. The dinghy.

Captain Carnaby: **(Improvised)** Not to worry, I'll just climb aboard.

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvised)** Oh no. It appears you have drifted too far.

Captain Carnaby: **(Improvised)** I'll just-

Lord Dindigul: **(Interrupting, improvised)** Goodbye Captain, don't worry, we shall finish this... voyage… just fine without you.

(Steve, speechless, picks up the deflated dingy and storms offstage.)

(Professor Henry and Audrey enter.)

Professor Henry: Ah Captain I wanted to... Captain?

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvised)** Unfortunately there was an incident.

Professor Henry: **(Genuinely confused)** Was there?

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvised)** Yes. The Captain drowned. There was incident with his dinghy.

Hannah: His what?!

Professor Henry: **(Improvised)** So... no Captain then?

(Adam shakes his head. Michael and Hannah hesitate, unsure of what to do. Resolutely, Michael comes in with his lines further on in the script.)

Professor Henry:	So... someone aboard murdered Mr Inus.
Audrey:	It can't be true.
	(Irene enters.)
Irene:	What are we all doing on deck? Lord Dindigul?
Lord Dindigul:	Well, I'm afraid I was trying to leave... **(Improvising)** Also, the Captain is dead.
Irene:	**(Genuinely shocked)** What?
Lord Dindigul:	Not out of guilt I hope you understand.
Irene:	**(Improvising, confused)** For the Captain's death?
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** No that's completely unrelated and we should just forget entirely about him. **(Back on script)** I speak in regard to Mr Inus's unfortunate departure last night. I know I knew the man, and I am very aware I voiced my feelings about him last night at dinner. I suppose I was afraid the accusations would fall onto me. But I had nothing to do with his murder. I swear.
Irene:	Something has come over me. I feel a little weak, Lord Dindigul, perhaps you would escort me to my room?
Lord Dindigul:	It would be my pleasure Miss.
	(Lord Dindigul exits with Irene.)

(Steve enters, now dressed as First Mate Carlton.)

First Mate Carlton:	Professor. Audrey.
Professor Henry:	**(Improvised)** Look! The Captain's OK... and he's changed.
First Mate Carlton:	I'm the Captain's First Mate... Carlton.
Professor Henry:	**(Improvised)** Strange... Captain Carnaby specifically mentioned there being no other crew aboard.
First Mate Carlton:	**(Improvised)** I like to remain discreet, Professor.
Professor Henry:	**(Improvised)** How do you know who I am?.. We have never met.

Hannah: Where are we? **(Referring to script)**

Professor Henry:	**(Improvised)** At... sea.
First Mate Carlton:	**(Improvised)** Do continue Professor. I believe you were about to ask me something.
Professor Henry:	Right. Cap- First Mate Carlton... I wanted to ask, what makes you suspect murder? Last night you- the Captain... seemed sure there had been no foul play.
First Mate Carlton:	Before... departing... the Captain told me he found a small puncture wound in Mr

	Inus' chest. It's likely that wound pierced his heart, killing him instantly.
Professor Henry:	So, someone aboard murdered Mr Inus!
Audrey:	It can't be true.

(Amy hurries onto stage, her cue line having been repeated.)

Irene:	What are we all doing on deck? Lord Dindigul?

(The company look to where Adam had been stood.)

Irene:	**(Repeating the cue)** Lord Dindigul?

(Adam rushes back on stage, bumping into the others. The company is confused as to how they have repeated the scene.)

Lord Dindigul:	Well, I'm afraid I was trying to leave.
Irene:	What?
Lord Dindigul:	Not out of guilt I hope you understand. I speak in regard to Mr Inus's unfortunate departure last night. I know I knew the man, and I am very aware I voiced my feelings about him last night at dinner. I suppose I was afraid the accusations would fall onto me. But I had nothing to do with his murder. I swear.
Irene:	Something has come over me... again... I feel a little weak, Lord Dindigul, perhaps you would escort me to my room?
Lord Dindigul:	It would be my pleasure Miss.
	(Lord Dindigul leads Irene offstage.)
Audrey:	Do you believe what Lord Dindigul had to say, Captain… First Mate Carlton?
First Mate Carlton	Well, it is strange that I... I mean the Captain... should happen to catch him trying to jump ship just moments after I... the Captain... revealed that it had been murder. Did either of you happen to see him out of his room last night?
Professor Henry:	**(Lying)** I'm afraid I didn't leave my room.
Audrey:	**(Lying)** And I went straight to bed, also. Oh Captain… First Mate Carlton what should we do?!
First Mate Carlton	I shall be alerting the Harbourmaster as soon as possible. But, until we reach Spain, there isn't much we can do.
	(Blackout.)

(Michael rearranges the jetty crates as a bed for Audrey's bedroom.)

Steve:	**(VO)** What happened there?!
Amy:	**(VO)** We looped the bloody scene! Do you know how that makes me look! I can kiss stage school goodbye if anyone publishes this.

Steve: **(VO)** I'm sorry, but I was killed! I'm not meant to get killed. Adam!

Hannah: **(VO)** Lord-

Steve: **(VO)** Lord Dicktingle!

Adam: **(VO)** That's why! You have no respect for me, so yes, I let you drown.

Steve: **(VO)** The play's not going to make sense now!

Hannah: **(VO)** I don't think anyone noticed.

Amy: **(VO)** Oh come on Hannah.

Steve: **(VO)** Audrey.

Amy **(VO)** Steve!

Hannah: **(VO)** Captain.

Steve: **(VO)** First. Mate. Carlton.

Scene 8 – Audrey's Bedroom

(Professor Henry enters through the door.)

(Michael notices the sign is missing. Opening the door fully, he leans behind the door and calls into the wings.)

Michael: There's no sign, where's the sign?

(Meanwhile, Hannah can be seen through the open doorway fixing her show laces. As she stands to walk through, Michael gives up and slams the door shut, accidentally smacking her in the face. Realising what he has done, Michael opens the door to let her stagger in. After two knocks on the head, Hannah begins to struggle.)

Professor Henry: Here you are, Miss.

(Prof. Henry leads Audrey into the room.)

Audrey: **(Genuinely forgetting her lines)** Thank you... umm... for err...

Professor Henry: **(Improvising)** Walking you to your room?

Audrey: But the Captain-

Professor Henry: **(Interrupting)** First Mate Carlton.

Audrey: **(Improvising)** Right.

(Hannah rubs her head, struggling with her lines. She looks to Michael for support.)

Professor Henry: **(Improvising)** You were about to suggest Lord Dindigul could be telling the truth.

Audrey: Yes.

Professor Henry: Well, I'm not so sure. Who would kill Inus, if not Dindigul. **(Improvising)** I know what you're thinking. You know it wasn't me.

Audrey: I know it wasn't you.

Professor Henry: **(Improvising)** Because I never knew the man.

Audrey: Because you never knew the man.

Professor Henry: Quite right. And yourself, you were only on this boat by chance, visiting your family. **(Improvising)** Which means...

Audrey: Which means...

Steve: **(VO)** Neither of us knew him.

(Hannah and Michael look confused as they hear Steve's voice, prompting from offstage. They realise the mics in the wings must be turned on.)

Audrey: Neither of us knew him.

Professor Henry: So neither of us have a motive.

Steve: **(VO)** And we were at dinner the entire evening.

Audrey:	And we were at dinner the entire evening.
Professor Henry:	Then went straight to our rooms.

Steve: **(VO)** So we both have an alibi.

Audrey:	So, we both have an alibi.
Professor Henry:	You know your law.

Steve: **(VO)** So if we were to believe him, and of course ourselves, that would leave just the one passenger.

Audrey:	So if we were to... were to... to...

(Hannah gets dizzier and rushes off stage. Steve enters, wearing Audrey's coat, carrying a script.)

Professor Henry:	Irene Thorn.
Steve:	**(Correcting, as Audrey)** I'm Audrey.
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** I can see that. I mean the one passenger left... Irene Thorn.
Steve:	**(As Audrey)** All those bags of hers, I don't suppose one contains the weapon used to kill Mr Inus?
Professor Henry:	But what reason would she have for killing him?
Steve:	**(As Audrey)** I suppose that is what we have to find out.

(The moment is supposed to be under-toned with passion, the two men struggle with this.)

Professor Henry:	Pursue her together?
Steve:	**(As Audrey)** What do you think?
	(Professor Henry and 'Audrey' stand close, about to kiss.)
Professor Henry:	I think you are a remarkable woman.

(Michael and Steve wait uncomfortably for the blackout. Blackout, finally. Adam positions a suitcase, acting as a small table, next to the door. He then places a whiskey glass on it.)

Michael: **(VO)** How are you feeling?

Hannah: **(VO)** I'm not really sure.

Michael: **(VO)** You did hit your head pretty hard. A lot.

Steve: **(VO)** But you're OK to go back on stage though, right?

Hannah: **(VO)** I don't want to be any trouble.

Steve: **(VO)** Right, then get some ice, and make up to cover the bruise.

Hannah: **(VO)** Oh, OK.

Michael: **(VO)** We can write down your lines, in case you forget. Steve, I need to talk to you about what happened back there.

Steve: **(VO)** I know. It was intense. But I am an ac-tor.

Michael: **(VO)** What? No, I mean the mics.

Steve: **(VO)** We aren't using microphones Michael, so remember to project.

Michael: **(VO)** Yes, but I think the ones in the wings are switched on.

Steve: **(VO)** I haven't got time for this, Hannah, where's the decanter?

Hannah: **(VO)** I left it in the dressing room.

(SFX. Steve's footsteps walk away.)

Michael: **(VO)** Did you manage to refill it?

Hannah: **(VO)** Yes, I got some whisky from the bar.

Michael: **(VO)** Apple juice.

Hannah: **(VO)** What?

Michael: **(VO)** We don't put actual whisky in there.

Hannah: **(VO)** Oh...

Scene 9 – Irene's Bedroom

(Steve reaches on stage to place the decanter next to the glass but is cut short as the scene begins.)

	(Lord Dindigul leads Irene on stage, accidentally walking her into the crates forming the bed.)
Irene:	**(Recovering)** Thank you, Lord Dindigul. I feel much more myself now.
Lord Dindigul:	Please, call me Douglas.
Irene:	Would you care for a drink, Douglas?

(Amy and Adam look to the table and glass, the decanter is missing. Steve's arm reaches on stage, placing the decanter on the table.)

Irene:	Whisky?
Lord Dindigul:	Marvelous.
	(Irene pours him a glass.)
Lord Dindigul:	Irene, I have to ask. You don't think I was involved in Inus' death, do you?
	(Lord Dindigul takes a gulp.)
Lord Dindigul:	**(Genuinely shocked)** That's very strong.
Irene:	Have another.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Genuinely reluctant)** I really ought not.
	(Irene pours him another drink. Lord Dindigul gulps it down.)
Irene:	You certainly know how to take your drink.

(Adam begins to struggle with his lines, getting progressively more drunk.)

Lord Dindigul:	I wouldn't say I'm a regular, but I do enjoy the odd whisky down the club.
Irene:	And was Mr Inus ever around those clubs?
Lord Dindigul:	Perhaps on the occasional Sunday. But of course, we never spoke. Why do you ask?
Irene:	Another drink?
Lord Dindigul:	I really should say no.
	(Irene pours him a third glass of whisky. He knocks it back.)
Irene:	I'm afraid I must say Douglas, I can understand why the others might be

	suspicious.
Lord Dindigul:	So can I. That's why I thought it best to leave. This was an uncomfortably small boat to begin with, without the rest of the passengers on my back assuming I'm some sort of murderer.
Irene:	But what I don't understand is, if you had done it, where could you possibly have hidden the weapon?
Lord Dindigul:	Exactly. And how could I have smuggled it onto this vessel to begin with?
Irene:	Well, that one's easy. Like this.
	(Irene pulls a gun from behind the table, pointing it at Lord Dindigul.)
Lord Dindigul:	What are you doing?
Irene:	Alcohol proves to be a rather excellent truth serum, but I must say the threat of a bullet between the eyes is an unquestionable aid.
Lord Dindigul:	What are you talking about?
Irene:	Mr Inus. My Inus!

(A very drunk Adam suppresses a laugh.)

Lord Dindigul:	I'm sorry?
Irene:	You murdered him!
Lord Dindigul:	I never touched your Inus.

(Adam struggles to keep a straight face.)

Irene:	But why would a complete stranger murder him? It had to be you! You are the only other one on this ship who knew him.
Lord Dindigul:	So you lied to us. You knew him too. And how would that be Miss Thorn?
Irene:	He was my husband. When Mummy and Daddy passed away, they left their entire inheritance to my older brother. It wasn't until he joined them that I discovered he'd gambled every last penny of it. So, I found myself a wealthy old fool and married him for the money. Nothing remarkably new there.
Lord Dindigul:	Then why are you so put out by his death? It sounds like you got what you wanted.
Irene:	Because he wasn't the old fool I took him for. He added a clause to his will, the day after he booked this trip. It said that if he were to die under precarious circumstances, then I wouldn't see a penny!
Lord Dindigul:	Wouldn't a gunshot be a little precarious?

Irene:	I wasn't going to shoot him. It was simply a means of encouragement to have him swallow every last drop of his night medicine. Anyone could think it an accident.
Lord Dindigul:	And then you go and find out he's been murdered under rather extraordinarily precarious circumstances!
Irene:	I want to hear you say it. Tell me. Did you kill him?
	(Irene holds the gun closer to him.)

(Adam stumbles backwards and falls in front of the table. Steve frantically leans on stage to stop the decanter being knocked over.)

(SFX. Gunshot. The gun is pointing at Steve.)

Irene:	**(Improvising)** First Mate Carlton... what are you doing here?
First Mate Carlton:	**(Improvising)** I'm... not sure.
Lord Dindigul	**(Improvising)** It appears you have been shot.
First Mate Carlton:	**(Improvising)** No... no it doesn't.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Yes... yes it does. The gun is pointing at you.
First Mate Carlton:	**(Improvising)** I'm pretty sure it fired up into the ceiling, wounding no one, but possibly alerting the other guests.
	(Irene fires the gun at the ceiling.)

(SFX. Champagne pouring.)

Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** What kind of gun is that?
First Mate Carlton:	**(Improvising)** It's the kind you can only fire once, or it offsets the sound effects.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Shh. Don't speak. Don't waste those final breaths.
First Mate Carlton:	**(Improvising)** I feel fine. Really.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Oh no. We're losing him.

(Adam shoos Steve offstage.)

Lord Dindigul:	Now, Irene, I'm afraid you have it entirely wrong. I did not hurt your Inus.

(Adam smirks to himself.)

Irene:	And what if I don’t believe you?
Lord Dindigul:	Frankly, what matters now is explaining that gunshot... shots. If anyone heard you fire that thing, it won't be long before they come here asking

	questions.
Irene:	You don't think they'll suspect it was a bullet that killed Mr Inus? Their fingers will be on me.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Genuine drunken error)** Their fingers will almost certainly be in you... up you... on you?
Irene:	What do you suggest?
Lord Dindigul:	Pour the champagne.
	(Steve's arm reaches on stage with a champagne bottle, handing it to Amy.)
Lord Dindigul:	If anyone asks, we shall say they heard the cork pop.
	(Irene pours the champagne.)

(SFX. Instead of the champagne pouring, we hear an ocean and seagulls.)

Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** It sounds like you opened the window.
Irene:	I shall open the window. It'll rid the room of that dreadful smell of gun powder.
	(Irene opens the porthole window.)

(An offstage fan blows strongly in her face.)

(SFX. Instead of seagulls and the ocean, there is a knocking.)

Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** That sounds like the door.
Irene:	**(Improvising)** Isn't it a little early for someone to be knocking? Didn't you want to say something else first?
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Umm. Yeah. Right. What was it?
Irene:	**(Improvising)** I don't know, it's you who says it.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** I mean, we could just open Amy… Irene.
	(Irene sighs with frustration and goes to open the door.)

(Behind the door Hannah and Michael are kissing passionately. They realise they are no longer hidden and pull away from each other.)

Professor Henry:	We heard a loud bang.
Irene:	**(Genuinelyupset)** It was the champagne!

(Amy slams the door in their faces.)

Irene:	I don't believe I trust anyone on this ship. But I suppose I have nothing left to hide from you, Douglas. Will you help me find who killed my husband?
Lord Dindigul:	I will do all I can to reveal the truth about your Inus.

(Amy storms offstage. Adam follows, drunkenly.)

End of act 1

ACT II

Scene 1 – At Sea

(A small model ship is mounted at one end of a line of string stretching across stage. The model ship is given a push from the wings, gliding along the string.)

(The ship gets stuck halfway. Hannah enters, shying away from the audience, and pushes the model ship along the cable, off into the wings. Amy pushes the ship back on. Hannah pushes it back off. Amy pushes it back on. Hannah, desperate to get off stage, grabs the ship, and the cable, and takes it all off stage.)

Scene 2 – Dining Room

(Crates are positioned as benches. The sign on the door reads 'Down to Deck'. Audrey, Prof. Henry, Irene and Lord Dindigul are gathered.)

(Amy glares at Hannah. Adam is still recovering from the whisky.)

Professor Henry: I imagine we've been gathered here for the truth.

Irene: And might you like to tell us what truth that is, Professor?

(Hannah looks down at her hands, her lines scribbled on her palms.)

Audrey: I believe it is you who ought to be doing the explaining, Miss Thorn.

Irene: And what is it that you are referring to?

(Michael nudges Hannah and she reads the lines on her other palm.)

Audrey: Like you said before, death seems to follow you around. Curious don't you think?

Irene: There are many curiosities in this world, I would be careful which rabbit holes you go falling down. **(Snidely, out of character)** And which lips you go falling on.

Professor Henry: If you have nothing to hide, then you wouldn't mind explaining what exactly happened to your brother.

Irene: I don't have to explain anything to you.

Professor Henry: I am a man of law, Miss Thorn.

Lord Dindigul: Ah but you said...

(Adam stumbles to his feet, nearly throwing up on Amy.)

Lord Dindigul: You said you were no longer practicing law. What exactly happened there, Professor?

Irene: Yes. What happened there?

(Lord Dindigul walks over to the porthole window.)

Professor Henry: I decided to dedicate my time to academia. There is nothing curious about that.

Lord Dindigul: Perhaps.

(Adam goes to steady himself against the porthole. His hand falls through- there is no glass.)

Irene: And there is nothing curious about my brother's death. If you must know, he died in a sailing accident. The court settled that there was a fault with the

	boat. So, you can stop interrogating me now, Professor.
Professor Henry:	I say, someone needs to take charge of this investigation, if that is what this has become.
	(Steve tries to enter through the door, now dressed as Second Mate Carlson, but it won't open.)
Professor Henry:	**(Repeating the cue)** I say, someone needs to take charge of this investigation.
	(The company looks towards the door. The doorknob drops off.)
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** Someone... intelligent, and... quick thinking.
	(Steve's hand appears around the door. He blindly searches for the knob on the floor. Finding it, he places it back in the door. He goes to enter through the door, but it still won't open.)
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** Anyone really.
	(Steve gives up and enters around the door.)
Second Mate Carlson:	It seems I am the only third party to all of this.
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** And who are you?
Second Mate Carlson:	**(Improvising)** Second Mate Carl...son.
Hannah:	Wait, what happened to-?
Second Mate Carlson:	**(Interrupting)** And I shall be taking over the investigation from here on out.
Professor Henry:	With myself being a man of law, I would have thought that I should be the most suitable candidate for leading this inquiry.
Second Mate Carlson:	I understand Professor. However, you are, yourself, a suspect.
Professor Henry:	But I told you I never knew the man!
Second Mate Carlson:	Try not to take offense Professor. At this point in time, you are all suspects.
Professor Henry:	And how have you excluded yourself from that?
Second Mate Carlson:	As the lone member of crew **(Awkwardly realises he's now been 3 members of crew)** I have been skippering the ship. Now if you wouldn't mind, Professor, I'd like to start my inquiry.
	(Steve holds out his arm in front of Hannah, her lines are written along his forearm.)
Audrey:	I suggest you start with Miss Thorn. She has already seen one *death at sea*, perhaps she is behind another.

Irene:	Or perhaps you ought to start with *her*, seeing as she is so quick to pass the blame.
Professor Henry:	I suggest speaking with each suspect individually. Is there somewhere private you could discuss?
Second Mate Carlson:	Of course. If you would all follow me to the deck, we can use my office.

(Michael tries to open the door, but the doorknob comes off in his hand. He, Amy and Steve all exit around the door.)

	(Lord Dindigul follows behind them, stopping at the edge of stage.)
Lord Dindigul:	I must say, I am rather relieved you aren't all looking at me anymore.

(Adam leans against the door, it opens, and he falls through. With Adam on the ground, Hannah lifts his trouser leg, and read her next line written on his calf.)

Audrey:	I wouldn't be too relieved. You are very hard...

(Adam raises his trouser leg to reveal the rest of Hannah's line.)

Audrey:	...To rule out.

(Hannah scurries off embarrassed. Blackout. Adam re-positions the crates as a desk. Then places a marine radiotelephone and a stack of loose script pages on top.)

Hannah: **(VO)** Can we talk?

Michael: **(VO)** Sure, how are you feeling? Are the prompts working?

Hannah: **(VO)** It's about the kiss. Everyone saw us.

(Steve tries to move the door to centre stage, it begins to fall, he is barely able to hold it up, the door crushing him.)

Michael: **(VO)** I'm sorry, that should never have happened.

Steve: Michael!

Hannah: **(VO)** The kiss?

Steve: Michael!

Michael: **(VO)** No! I mean...

Steve: Michael!

Michael: **(VO)** We'll talk later.

(Michael enters to help Steve. They manage to stabilise the door but give up on moving it.)

Scene 3a – Split Stage. Captain's Office

(Hannah and Steve rush over to the desk, Steve still recovering from his 'near death experience'. Michael, Amy and Adam rush into position next to the door.)

Second Mate Carlson:	Thank you, Audrey. If you wouldn't mind closing the door for some privacy.

(Hannah looks at the empty space centre stage. She mimes closing the door, creating the sound effect with her mouth.)

Second Mate Carlson:	Now, Miss Kettle, could I ask you to walk me through the events from when you boarded this ship, to the night when Inus' body was discovered.

(Hannah picks up the papers from the crate desk.)

Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** Of course.
	(Second Mate Carlson slowly makes his way to the porthole window.)
Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** I went straight to my room.

(Hannah flicks to the next piece of paper.)

Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** And began unpacking before...
	(Second Mate Carlson opens the window.)

(An overpowered fan blasts from offstage, through the porthole, and sends the papers flying. Hannah gathers all the paper, now in the wrong order, flicking through them manically.)

Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** Before... I saw you...
Second Mate Carlson:	**(Improvising)** Pardon?
Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** We spoke for a moment then... went straight to my room...
Second Mate Carlson:	**(Improvising)** We did?
Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** And got into bed….
Second Mate Carlson:	**(Improvising)** We did?!
Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** Then the others arrived...
Second Mate Carlson:	**(Improvising)** They did?!
Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** Turned on.
Second Mate Carlson:	**(Improvising)** Perhaps we should forget about your statement for now.

(Hannah spots what her line should have been.)

Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** The alarm! The alarm turned on.
Second Mate Carlson:	Miss Kettle, I must ask, of the other the passengers aboard this ship, who do you suspect murdered Mr Inus?

(Hannah tries to recall her line, unable to find it in the papers.)

Audrey:	**(Improvising)** The Professor?

(Steve shakes his head.)

Audrey:	**(Improvising)** The Captain?
Second Mate Carlson:	**(Improvising)** Alive.
Audrey:	**(Improvising)** The Professor?
Second Mate Carlson:	**(Improvising)** A lady.
Audrey:	**(Improvising)** Me?!

Steve:	How can it be you?!

Audrey:	Irene! I suspect Irene.
Second Mate Carlson:	Interesting. I shall speak with her next.

Scene 3b – Split Stage. Ship Deck

(Irene, Lord Dindigul and Prof. Henry are stood, waiting.)

Lord Dindigul: Professor, remind us again of your reason for travelling.

Professor Henry: I have already told you everything there is to know, I'm attending a conference.

Irene: Where did you say this conference was again? **(Snidely, out of character)** Or have you already forgotten about it, as if it was nothing.

Professor Henry: It is at the Catalonia Atenas, in Barcelona.

(Audrey and Second Mate Carlson enter from the other side of stage.)

(Hannah mimes opening the door, creating the sound effect with her mouth. Adam then slams the real door shut, prompting her to shut her imaginary door in Steve's face. Frustrated, Steve then mimes the opening and closing of the door.)

Second Mate Carlson: I would like to speak with Irene next.

Amy: I am not miming a door.

(Trying to mask his frustration, Steve mimes opening the door, and follows Amy through it. As he closes the imaginary behind him, Adam slams the real door to create the accompanying sound effect.)

Scene 3c – Split Stage. Captain's Office

(Second Mate Carlson walks Irene to the desk.)

Irene: What is it Audrey said to you that has you so keen to speak with me? I suppose she spoke rather eloquently.

Second Mate Carlson: I'm afraid I cannot say.

Irene: Are you prejudicing me because I'm a woman?

Second Mate Carlson: You are *both* women, Miss Thorn. And I would never do such a thing as to prejudice based on one's gender. Now, I hate to do this as you are so sensitive, being a woman, but I'm going to need you to answer several questions for me.

Irene: Of course.

Second Mate Carlson: You were last to arrive for supper that night. Tell me, what kept you so long?

Irene: I was in my room getting ready, changing into my evening wear.

Second Mate Carlson: So, you were alone?

Irene: Yes.

Steve: 'Obviously'.

Irene: **(Improvising)** Yes?

Steve: 'Obviously'.

Irene: **(Improvising. Genuinely confused)** What's happening?

Steve **(Hushed)** Your line.

Amy: **(Hushed)** No. It's your line.

Steve: **(Hushed)** No, your line, it's 'obviously'.

Amy: **(Hushed)** What?

Steve: **(Hushed)** 'You were alone?' 'Obviously'.

Amy: **(Hushed)** What does it matter Steve?

Steve: **(Hushed)** Because you're butchering my script.

Amy: Butchering your script? Adam's killed you twice, he's half drunk, and Hannah doesn't even know where she is right now.

Steve: Can we please just get back to the script.

Irene:	Obviously!
Second Mate Carlson:	Thank you for answering my questions so calm and resolutely Miss Thorn. One final thing, which I intend on asking everyone, who is it you suspect?
Irene:	Audrey Kettle.

Steve: 'Obviously'.

Irene:	Obviously!

(Amy storms to the other side of stage, ignoring the imaginary door. Steve mimes going through the door, making the sound effect himself, with another slam of the real door from Adam.)

Scene 3d – Split Stage. Ship Deck

(Audrey, Lord Dindigul and Professor Henry wait in silence as Irene and Second Mate Carlson enter.)

Second Mate Carlson: Lord Dindigul, you can come through now.

(Amy pushes past Hannah to stand the other side of Michael. Steve, once more, mimes going through the door, leaving it open for Adam.)

Adam: Michael, get the door.

(Michael shuts the real door very softly as Adam mimes closing the fake one.)

Adam: What was that? My character would slam the door with conviction! Do it again.

(Michael shuts the door, ever so slightly firmer this time. Adam angrily sighs, then continues the next scene.)

Scene 3e – Split Stage. Captain's Office.

(Second Mate Carlson leads Lord Dindigul to the desk.)

Lord Dindigul: I have been completely honest with everyone this entire time. The man you should be speaking to in regard to hiding things is Professor Henry over there.

(On the other of stage Amy, Hannah and Michael begin to fight in hushed tones, distracting from the main action.)

Hannah: Amy what's wrong?

Amy: Why don't you ask *him.* **(Gesturing to Michael)**

Second Mate Carlson: **(To Lord Dindigul)** What is he hiding?

Lord Dindigul: **(To Second Mate Carlson)** I saw him that night.

Michael: Hannah, I don't know what she's talking about.

Second Mate Carlson: **(To Lord Dindigul)** Tell me what you're talking about.

Lord Dindigul: **(To Second Mate Carlson)** He was sneaking around. The night it happened.

Michael: **(To Hannah)** Nothing happened.

Second Mate Carlson: **(To Lord Dindigul)** So you're telling me that-

Amy: **(To Michael)** Kissing me was nothing?

Lord Dindigul: **(To Second Mate Carlson)** Exactly.

Hannah: **(To Amy)** What?!

Steve: What?

Adam: What?

Steve: Continue!

Adam: Me or-?

Steve: **(Interrupting. Angrily)** You!

Lord Dindigul: I don't think the Professor is exactly who he claims to be. There is something strange about that man. Telephone the Catalonia Atenas, that's where this supposed conference is taking place, and I bet you they have never heard of a Professor Henry Brookes.

Second Mate Carlson: I shall contact the Harbourmaster right away.

Lord Dindigul: I presume you have already made him aware of our situation.

Second Mate Carlson: Of course.

(Second Mate picks up the marine radiotelephone.)

Second Mate Carlson: **(On the telephone)** Good afternoon. I must speak with the Harbourmaster.

(Adam covers his mouth, creating a muffled voice for the other end of the telephone.)

Second Mate Carlson: **(On the telephone)** Could you get in touch with the Catalonia Atenas... Yes, can you ask them about a guest... Professor Henry Brookes... Yes... Yes... Yes...

(Steve continues as long as Adam keeps replying as the voice on the phone.)

Second Mate Carlson: **(Improvising)** Yes... Yes... Yes... Yes...

(Steve smacks Adam to stop.)

(Second Mate Carlson puts down the receiver.)

Second Mate Carlson: The Harbourmaster has assured me that he will contact us as soon as he hears. Now, I just have one last question, who is it that you suspect?

Lord Dindigul: Isn't it clear? The Professor.

Scene 3f – Split Stage. Ship Deck

(Amy, Hannah and Michael are staring at each other in awkward silence. Steve mimes coming through the door, with accompanying self-made sound effect, Adam then goes to close the imaginary door.)

Adam: **(To Michael)** Door. Door!

(Michael is prompted to open and close the real door; this time he slams it.)

Adam: Better.

Michael: Shut up Adam.

Second Mate Carlson: Thank you, Lord Dindigul! You have been very helpful. Professor, if you wouldn't mind?

Professor Henry: Certainly.

(Professor Henry crosses stage, ignoring the 'door'.)

(Steve coughs, gesturing to the imaginary door. Michael goes back, and mimes walking through it. Adam softly closes the real door.)

Adam: That's how the Professor closes the door.

(Steve pulls Michael to the other side of stage to avoid any further conflict.)

Scene 3g – Split Stage. Captain's Office.

(Prof. Henry and Second Mate Carlson approach the desk.)

Professor Henry: How is your investigation going?

Second Mate Carlson: Please, sit.

(There is no chair. Michael squats awkwardly. They both look at the telephone; it should be ringing. Nothing.)

Second Mate Carlson: **(Repeating cue)** Please, sit.

(Michael stands then squats again. They stare at the telephone. Nothing.)

Professor Henry: **(Improvising)** Is that a ringing I hear?

(Steve hits the telephone.)

(SFX. The telephone begins to ring. Second Mate Carlson answers the phone.)

Second Mate Carlson: Hello... yes... I see... thank you.

(Adam is once again the voice on the other end of the line. This bit can go on for as long as you like.)

Second Mate Carlson: Thank you!

(Second Mate Carlson hangs up.)

Second Mate Carlson: Professor. Why is it that the Hotel Catalonia Atenas has no record of your booking for the conference?

Professor Henry: I was going to book when I arrived. I don't know what suddenly has you so suspicious of me, when Lord Dindigul is the one who openly admitted to his feud with Mr Inus. I suggest you turn your investigation to a murder weapon before throwing too many accusations Captain... **(Correcting himself)** First Mate... **(Correcting himself)** Second Mate...

Second Mate Carlson: Carlson. I do apologise if I have insulted you Professor. I had to ask.

Professor Henry: And I can guess who put you up to it.

Second Mate Carlson: So, who is it that you suspect is our murderer?

Professor Henry: Without a doubt, Lord Dindigul.

Scene 3h – Split Stage. Ship Deck

(Amy and Hannah glare at each other, Adam stands awkwardly in between.)

(Prof. Henry and Second Mate Carlson enter through the 'door'.)

Second Mate Carlson: After having spoken with each of you individually, I am certain that… you are *all* hiding something. Miss Audrey Kettle: you gave a perfect recall, step by step of the events of the evening of the murder. A young, innocent woman would surely struggle to recount such a traumatic incident so precisely. Miss Irene Thorn: no reputable alibi whilst the rest of us began to gather for dinner. Then, there was that time she left to powder her nose. Lord Douglas Dindigul: well, we already knew he had unsavory relations with the victim, it isn't much of a leap to assume murder. Then, there's the Professor and his conference, where no booking seems to exist. But the question, quite rightly brought to me by the Professor, is 'what has Lord Dindigul stowed in my vault'. I think it is about time we find out Lord Dindigul, Professor, if you would?

(Second Mate Carlson gestures to the door, Lord Dindigul and Prof. Henry exit.)

(Adam shuts the door behind him, in Steve's face. Steve gives up exiting through the door, and angrily takes off the crate and marine radiotelephony. He then places the sign on the door reading 'Up to Deck'.)

Amy: **(VO)** Hannah! I just wanted to say, I cannot believe that all just came out like that, how terribly awkward for you. Well, I imagine Michael didn't tell you about us because he felt sorry for you.

Hannah: **(VO)** What?

Amy: **(VO)** He's only being nice to you because he said he felt bad for you. Oh, and when you desperately threw yourself at him, what could he do?

Hannah: **(VO)** I need to go.

(Michael and Adam set the stage for below deck. The 'vault' suitcase keeps popping open.)

Adam: Michael, sit on it.

Michael: What?

Adam: Sit on it!

(Michael lounges across the 'vault'.)

Adam: Sit like a normal person, Michael!

(Michael sits up straight.)

Adam: Excellent, now, stay there.

(Adam rushes off stage whilst Michael protests, still sat on the ‘vault’.)

Scene 4 – Below Deck

(There is a single suitcase centre stage, the 'vault'. Second Mate enters through the door, leading Lord Dindigul.)

Second Mate Carlson: Right this way Professor.

(Steve suddenly realises Michael is sat on the 'vault', and not walking through the door.)

Professor Henry: Thank you.

Second Mate Carlson: This is the vault.

(Second Mate Carlson gestures the 'vault'.)

(Michael goes to stand, but the lid begins to open, he abruptly sits back down.)

Professor Henry: How very secure.

Second Mate Carlson: Now I shall just get my key.

(Second Mate Carlson searches his person for the key.)

(He hasn't got it.)

Professor Henry: Do you always carry it with you?

Second Mate Carlson: **(Improvising)** Yes. Except for the odd occasion when I leave it *on the table next to the glasses*.

(SFX. There is a clink of glasses being moved backstage.)

Steve: Not those glasses! The spectacles. To the right.

(Amy slowly opens the door and thrusts the key through the gap. As Steve takes the key, he slams the door on Amy's hand.)

(Second Mate Carlson unlocks the 'vault'.)

(Steve crouches in front of Michael/the 'vault', pushing the key into the lock between his legs. Adam is stood behind the 'vault'. Steve and Michael stand up, the suitcase pops open and smacks Adam in the crotch.)

(Second Mate Carlson and Prof. Henry look inside the 'vault', shocked.)

Second Mate Carlson: Lord Dindigul, I hope you can explain this.

(Prof. Henry is supposed to pull out a fencing foil, but instead reveals a phallic pink balloon sword.)

Second Mate Carlson: A fencing foil!

Professor Henry:	**(to Second Mate Carlson)** You said it was a puncture wound that killed Mr Inus?
Second Mate Carlson:	Yes. **(Improvising)** Or possibly the First Mate, or Captain. Somebody definitely said that.
Lord Dindigul:	Look, I handle a lot of fine objects. **(Gestures sword)** I was simply delivering this foil to a client in Barcelona.
Professor Henry:	**(to Second Mate Carlson)** Don't you see, this must be the murder weapon.
Lord Dindigul:	I assure you; it is not the murder weapon.
Professor Henry:	And you expect us to believe that you simply happened to have a sword on the same vessel where a man was pierced through the heart?
Lord Dindigul:	Alright, I admit my trade isn't entirely legal.
Professor Henry:	You have an *unlicensed* weapon aboard this ship, and you still claim you had nothing to do with the murder.
Lord Dindigul:	I did not kill Mr Inus.
	(Lord Dindigul grabs the fencing foil from Professor Henry.)

(In doing so, Adam accidentally swings the balloon sword into Steve. They look at each other, unsure of how to play it out.)

Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Oh no. What a horrible accident.

Steve:	I can survive that. Tis but a scratch. Come on, Adam I was just starting to like this one.
Adam:	You're dead.
	(Blackout. Adam and Michael take off the 'vault'.)
Hannah:	**(VO)** Steve, can I talk to you?
Amy:	**(VO)** Running to the Director?
Hannah:	**(VO)** I'm not sure if I can go back on.
Steve:	**(VO)** Don't be daft, we all have to go back on. Even if we just keep on dying.
Hannah:	**(VO)** What?
Amy:	**(VO)** I am not acting with *her*.
Steve:	**(VO)** Can we just get through this god forsaken play.
	(Amy sulks onto stage.)

Scene 5 – Ship Deck

(Irene is waiting as Professor Henry and Lord Dindigul enter through the door.)

Irene: Well, what did you find?

Professor Henry: A fencing foil.

Lord Dindigul: Which is not the murder weapon.

Professor Henry: Then how did the body come to be stabbed?

Lord Dindigul: By my fencing foil!

(Shock spreads through Prof. Henry and Irene.)

(Steve enters as Carlos, he is Spanish.)

Professor Henry: **(Improvising)** Second Mate Carlson, but we thought you were dead.

Carlos: **(Improvising)** I am Bosun Carlos.

Professor Henry: **(Improvising)** Carlos?

Carlos: **(To Lord Dindigul)** So you admit it.

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvising)** Carlos?

Carlos: **(To Lord Dindigul)** You killed Mr Inus.

Irene: **(Improvising)** Carlos?

Carlos: **(Improvising)** Si. Carlos.

Lord Dindigul: Alright! He was going to ruin me in court you see. My business may not be an entirely legal trade, but dealing weapons isn't hurting anyone. So, I went to his room after dinner the night we arrived. It was dark. Everyone had gone to their respective rooms. That's when I stabbed him. But when a man doesn't scream when prodded by a long rod, it becomes apparent something is rather off.

Carlos: What exactly are you saying?

Lord Dindigul: When I stabbed Mr Inus, he was already dead.

(Everyone is shocked.)

(A seagull, hanging from a stick, swings onto stage smacking Amy in the head.)

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvising)** Darn those seagulls.

Professor Henry: Audrey?

Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Probably.
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** No, where is Audrey?
Irene:	She left to use the washroom.
Carlos:	It is important nobody wanders alone. This ship is a crime scene.
Professor Henry:	I am sure Audrey is entirely innocent in all of this.
Lord Dindigul:	Let's go and ask her then shall we, or perhaps we will catch her smuggling the murder weapon.
Irene:	You boys can do as you please. I need a drink. Don't worry, I shall leave your crime scene as I find it, I won't touch anything besides the gin.
	(Irene exits through the door. Blackout.)

Amy:	**(VO)** Hannah?!
Adam:	**(VO)** Has anyone got any Paracetamol? Ibuprofen? Hair of the dog?
Steve:	**(VO)** Adam I haven't even got a real character!
Adam:	**(VO)** Speaking of, what *are* you wearing?
Steve:	**(VO)** It was this or a dress!

Scene 6 – Audrey's Bedroom

(Audrey is holding a small bottle, labelled 'poison'. Prof. Henry, Carlos and Lord Dindigul enter through the door.)

Professor Henry: Audrey!

Audrey: Professor! Lord Dindigul!...

(Hannah hesitates, stumped by Steve's new character.)

Carlos: Carlos.

(Hannah wanders around the room, reading her lines from various props and staging.)

Audrey: **(Reading lines)** What are you all doing here? I told Irene I was just visiting the washroom.

Lord Dindigul: To flush the evidence?

(Audrey looks at the bottle she is holding.)

Audrey: **(Reading lines)** This? But wasn't the victim killed by some sort of puncture wound?

Professor Henry: Lord Dindigul's sabre, but he claims the victim was already dead by that point.

Audrey: **(Reading lines)** And you believe him?

Lord Dindigul: What were you planning on doing that night on deck, before I interrupted you? Trying to dispose of that, I imagine.

Audrey: **(Reading lines)** It is just tonic.

Carlos: Why did you lie to us about being on deck that night Miss Kettle?

(Audrey walks over to the porthole window.)

(Hannah reads her lines off the palm of her hand.)

Audrey: **(Reading lines)** You must understand, I was desperate.

(Amy tosses water over Hannah through the glassless window.)

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvising)** Darn those rough seas.

(Hannah looks at the lines written on her hands; they have smudged from the water.)

Audrey: **(Reading lines)** But I didn't... milk him?

Carlos: **(Improvising)** Kill him!

Audrey:	**(Improvising)** Right.
Professor Henry:	But why, Audrey?

(Hannah continues attempting to read the smeared lines on her hand.)

Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** I... I terribly hurt my... my anu-
Professor Henry:	**(Interrupting. Improvising)** Inus, you were terribly hurt by Mr Inus. Go on.

(Michael pulls up his shirt to reveal Hannah's lines written on his chest.)

Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** He was the lawyer of the man that killed my husband. I was devoted to Albert. He was taken 6 months ago in a car…

(Hannah reaches the end of the line and traces her finger to the start of a new line.)

Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** …accident. The defendant had been driving recklessly, but Mr Inus claimed my husband had been drunk that night. He must have falsified the evidence; my Albert never drank.
Carlos:	So, you wanted him dead.

(Steve pulls up his shirt to reveal Hannah's lines.)

Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** Yes. I did. Lord Dindigul was right, I was out on deck that night trying to dispose of the poison. But the bottle is full, you see, I never used it.
Lord Dindigul:	What changed your mind, if we are to believe what you say?

(Adam lifts his shirt to reveal Hannah's lines.)

Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** It is true! You must believe me! I didn't poison him because he was already dead! **(Everyone freezes in shock.)**

(The company waits for blackout. The lights begin to dim very, very slowly. Once they reach blackout, they immediately fade back up. Quickly, the cast change the set for the dining room, placing the jetty ramp as a 'table' in the middle. Michael tries to soak up the water that was thrown on Hannah using anything he can find.)

Scene 7 – Dining Room

(Prof. Henry, Lord Dindigul, Audrey and Carlos are all still on stage. Irene enters with a small gin bottle, very similar to Audrey's poison.)

Irene: I found the gin. Have you found the killer?

(Irene goes to place the bottle on the 'table'.)

(Amy cannot get the bottle to stand without it falling down the ramp. Giving up, she places it on the floor.)

Lord Dindigul: We are to believe that Mr Inus was already dead by the time Audrey got to him.

(Lord Dindigul places the poison on the 'table'.)

(The bottle continuously falls over, so Adam uses his foot to angle the ramp parallel to the floor. Steve comes over to scold him, and Adam drops the ramp flat on Steve's foot.)

Carlos: **(Biting through pain)** If I am to summarise the case thus far, Miss Kettle planned to poison Mr Inus, but found he was already dead. The Lord admits that he had stabbed the man but, again, he was already dead.

Irene: Well, if we are all coming clean, I had similar intentions when I left dinner to powder my nose. Not to sound like a scratched record, but he was already dead then as well.

Carlos: **(Shocked)** Ay!

(Carlos picks up a bottle to drink.)

(He accidentally grabs the poison, not the gin.)

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvising)** Carlos. That was the poison.

Carlos: **(Improvising)** No it wasn't.

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvising)** Yes it was.

Carlos: **(Improvising)** No it wasn't. I grab the gin.

Lord Dindigul: **(Improvising)** That's the gin.

(Adam points to the gin. Fuming, Steve exits.)

Lord Dindigul: Right then, that just leaves you, Professor.

(Lord Dindigul walks by the porthole window.)

(Adam slips on the water from the previous scene but manages to steady himself.)

Adam:	**(To Michael)** Well you didn't clean that very well.
Lord Dindigul:	We have all admitted our secrets, we all wanted to see Mr Inus dead for one reason or another, but someone got to him first. What real business do you have on this ship, or shall we call that hotel again and find out if there even is a conference? Tell us the truth. Tell us who you really are.
	(Hannah grabs the bottle of gin, reading off the label.)
Audrey:	**(Reading incorrect lines)** Heavy, dry, and not suitable for children...
	(Adam quickly passes Hannah the poison bottle instead.)
Audrey:	**(Reading lines)** I mean, if he says he didn't know the man, then I believe him.
Irene:	Like he believed you? All you have done is lie on this ship. You've lied to all of us, even yourself!
Hannah:	You're the one who's lying to themselves, Amy! Is it so hard for you to believe that Michael might actually, genuinely like me?
	(Adam thrusts a script into Hannah's hands.)
Audrey:	Umm, I mean, I don't think there is a single one of us on this ship who hasn't twisted the truth. Are any of us really who we say we are?
	(Steve enters as Mrs Carlos, adjusting his fake boobs and wig.)
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Carlos?
Mrs Carlos:	Si. Mrs Carlos.
Professor Henry:	**(Improvising)** What are you doing here?
Mrs Carlos:	**(Improvising)** I'm here to solve the murder.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Really? Now?
Mrs Carlos:	**(Improvising)** Si.
	(Steve silently urges Michael to continue the scene.)
Professor Henry:	I knew Mr Inus. I knew him very well. We fought a case together; he took the lead and had me working behind the scenes. But we were losing, and quite frankly I couldn't lose another case. So, I adjusted some of the evidence in our favour. I'm not proud of it, in fact that's why I left the practice. But Inus just wouldn't let it go, he held it over my head for months. He could ruin me in a single call. I finally decided that's enough. I wouldn't let this man have that power over me any longer.
Mrs Carlos:	You came here to kill Mr Inus, just like the others, only you got there first.
	(Michael slips on the water by the porthole, then steadies himself.)
Professor Henry:	I went to his room, not long after we left the dock. I was sure to not board

	ahead of the others, should he be discovered before they arrived. But, when I got there, he was already dead.
Mrs Carlos:	**(Shocked)** Ay!
	(Mrs Carlos swigs from a bottle in shock.)

(Steve accidentally grabs the poison instead of the gin, again.)

Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Mrs Carlos. That was the poison. Again.
Mrs Carlos:	**(Improvising)** No it wasn't.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Yes it was.
Mrs Carlos:	**(Improvising)** No.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Yes.
Mrs Carlos:	**(Improvising)** No.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Yes.
Mrs Carlos:	**(Improvising)** No.
Lord Dindigul:	**(Improvising)** Si!

(Steve exits, exploding with frustration. Adam gestures Michael to continue the scene.)

Professor Henry:	I couldn’t say anything because I knew that everyone would think I'd killed him. But, well, with all of you confessing…
Lord Dindigul:	If Mr Inus was already dead, then surely it had to be... Professor, pass me the gin.

(Adam slips on the water by the porthole, falling over. He tries to stand, but his back has given out.)

Hannah: Adam!

Lord Dindigul:	**(Repeating cue)** Professor, pass me the gin.

(Michael sees an opportunity, unscrews the gin, and tosses the content over Adam.)

Hannah: Michael!

Irene:	**(Improvising)** Audrey, what are you doing?

Hannah: He could be hurt.

Amy: Stop breaking character!

Hannah: You have been absolutely horrid to me ever since this show started.

Amy: That's not true. It was ever since I caught Michael's tongue down your throat.

Hannah: What has that got to do with this?

Amy: Because it should be mine!

Hannah: Your tongue?

Amy: No! My mouth!

Michael: Who decided this?

Amy: Micheal, when we kissed-

Michael: **(Interrupting)** Last Summer... in a performance of Shakespeare.

Hannah: It was just a stage kiss?!

Adam: You did Shakespeare?

Amy: But didn't you feel something?

Michael: No.

Amy: But... well... well, what about now?

(Amy lunges towards Michael and kisses him. Hannah grabs her by the hair and drags her off of him.)

Amy: What on Earth do you think you're doing?

Hannah: What do *you* think *you're* doing?

(Hannah and Amy start shoving each other and bickering.)

Adam: Michael, kiss me!

Michael: How will that help?!

(Adam and Michael start rowing. Stever enters manically, now playing Captain Barnaby, but still wearing fake boobs. Everyone stops and looks.)

Hannah: **(Together. VO)** Captain?
Amy: **(Together. VO)** Captain?
Michael: **(Together. VO)** Captain?
Adam: **(Together. VO)** Captain?

Captain Barnaby: **(Improvising)** Captain Barnaby, Captain Carnaby's curiously unmentioned identical twin brother.

(Steve pulls out the fake boobs and tosses them into the wings.)

Captain Barnaby: It seems like you have it all figured out. *I* murdered him.

Lord Dindigul:	You thought you could just walk away and blame it on one of us. Why I ought to!

(Adam remains lying down.)

Professor Henry:	Lord Dindigul! Get off of him...

(Michael looks at Adam who is clearly meant to be attacking the Captain.)

Professor Henry:	What I want to know is why? We've all revealed our motives. **(The lights dim. Captain Barnaby steps forward.)**

(Steve expects a spotlight on him, but it lands on Amy and Hannah instead. Steve shuffles into the light.)

Captain Barnaby:	There was an incident with one of my ships in which a young man died. Mr Inus was the prosecutor. He took everything I had. So, I arranged for this one last trip, unbeknownst to Mr Inus, it too would be his last. Irene, what makes you laugh so?

(Amy misses her cue as she is still focussed on the previous argument. Steve elbows her. She forces out a laugh.)

Irene:	The young man.

(Pulling herself back into character, Amy pushes Steve out of the spotlight, and Hannah scuttles away.)

Irene:	The young man, I do believe, was my brother. What is funny, Captain, is that you wished Mr Inus dead for devastating your business, when it was my hand that dealt you the cards. It was no fault of the boat that had my brother drown.

(Steve squeezes into the spotlight with Amy.)

Captain Barnaby:	You tampered with my vessel? You killed your own brother?!
Irene:	What use it did! There was no money left in his accounts.
Captain Barnaby:	That case nearly destroyed me. I had to crawl on my knees to Inus, ferrying information, just to soften the lawsuit.
Professor Henry:	What information?
Captain Barnaby:	He'd caught ear of an illegal dealership by one of my competitors, he wanted my assistance in bringing them down, so I got him the evidence he needed.
Lord Dindigul:	That was my illegal dealership!

(Adam slowly shuffles, still lying down, towards the spotlight.)

Lord Dindigul:	My family had to hire an entire team of lawyers just to warn him off. You

	gave him the ammunition!
Professor Henry:	**(To Lord Dindigul)** That's where I know your name.

(Michael joins them in the tight spotlight.)

Professor Henry:	I solicited for your family. They are the reason I ended up working alongside Inus, tampering with evidence, losing my credibility.
Audrey:	**(Reading her lines)** What evidence was that exactly?
Professor Henry:	Why does that matter?

(Hannah pokes herself in front of Amy within the spotlight.)

Audrey:	**(Reading her lines)** Grabs Professor… You said you tampered on one of Inus' cases. Did you falsify my husband's blood test? Soiled his name with the accusation of driving under the influence!

(Amy pushes in front of Hannah.)

Irene:	How rich! Plotting against the man you thought freed your husband's killer, when you have been unknowingly cosying up with real villain this entire time. It sounds like every one of you are fools, going after the wrong man.
Audrey:	You are none less the foolish. You wanted your husband dead. You wanted his money. But his will had recently been altered, am I right? I met Mr Inus, by chance, a week ago at the docks. I thought that bumping into him was some sort of sign. That was when I decided to purchase my ticket for this voyage. When we spoke, he mentioned you. His young and beautiful wife. I couldn't stand to see him happy. So, I planted a seed in his mind. A simple notion of doubt about his wife and her intentions. I had to soil every last thought of her, as he had the memory of my husband. I am the reason you won't see a penny of his fortune. So, you see Irene, it appears that we *all* tried to kill the wrong person aboard this ship.

(Hannah impresses even herself, and the company is stunned that she remembered her lines. Blackout. Adam uses the set to try and stand, Hannah and Amy start arguing, Michael tries to split them up, and Steve is yelling over all of them. Lights up. The company notice the stage lights, settle down, and take their bows. Blackout. The fighting continues.)

End of Play

Properties

Act I, Scene 1

- Porthole Window - Remains on stage throughout
- Two Long Crates - Remain on stage throughout
- Steep Ramp - Remains on stage throughout
- Suitcase - Professor Henry
- Two Small Suitcases - Audrey
- Large Suitcase - Irene
- Suitcase - Lord Dindigul
- Bottle of Whisky - Lord Dindigul

Act I, Scene 2

- Door (rigged to tip over safely, and for handle to fall off) - Set by Steve, remains on stage throughout
- Door Sign - Steve
- Smoke Machine - Set backstage
- Tray of Salmon Tins - Captain

Act I, Scene 3

- Large Suitcase (with remote trigger to open) - Adam
- Key on a Chain - Captain
- Pink Balloon Sword - Lord Dindigul

Act I, Scene 4

- Seagull on a Fishing Rod - Amy

Act I, Scene 5

- Bloodied Tissue - Steve

Act I, Scene 6

- Powerful Fan/Leaf Blower - Attached to Porthole Window/Stage Crew

Act I, Scene 7

- Inflatable Dingy - Lord Dindigul

Act I, Scene 8

- Script - Steve

Act I, Scene 9

- Whisky Glass - Set by Adam
- Decanter of Apple Juice - Steve
- Gun - Set by Adam behind suitcase table
- Champagne Bottle - Steve

Act II, Scene 1

- Small Model Ship attached on a long line of String - Set across stage during interval

Act II, Scene 3

- Marine Radiotelephone - Set by Adam
- Stack of Loose Script Pages - Set by Adam

Act II, Scene 6

- Small Bottle of Poison - Audrey

Act II, Scene 7

- Small Bottle of Gin - Irene