

The Play That Goes Wrong – Audition Sides

DENNIS sides

DENNIS Side 1:

	CHRIS
How are you feeling, Perkins?	
	DENNIS
A little shaken, sir. But I'll be fine.	
	CHRIS
You and Charles Haversham, you were close?	
	DENNIS
Yes, sir. Very close.	
	CHRIS
You don't appear very upset—	
	DENNIS
On the contrary, I've barely—He was such a kindly, charming man.	
	CHRIS
It's true.	
	DENNIS
You met him?	
	CHRIS
Once at a local police station. He was a consultant on a fraud case I was working on.	
	DENNIS
I see.	
	CHRIS
How long have you been working at Haversham Manor?	
	DENNIS
Eighty years.	
	CHRIS
Eighty / years?	
	DENNIS
<i>(Corrects himself.)</i> Eight years! Eight / years.	
	CHRIS
Eight years. And have you enjoyed your time here?	

DENNIS

My time with Mr. Haversham has been nothing but a joy. I feel that since I've come here I have been seen not only as a butler but also as a friend and a confidant. If you need me I'll be in my quarters. Exits.

CHRIS stares at him furiously.

DENNIS

Exits!

DENNIS realizes and turns to go.

DENNIS side 2:

DENNIS

Good heavens, Arthur, come inside. You won't believe what a nightmare this evening has been.

MAX

What do you mean? Woah, Winston, down from the chaise longue!

(MAX mimes holding down the invisible dog. MAX holds the imaginary dog back from going into the audience.)

DENNIS

Mr. Haversham was murdered tonight.

MAX

Mr. Haversham? Surely you don't mean Charles Haversham?

DENNIS

And not only that, his brother Cecil was also killed tonight.

MAX

Yes, well that explains the strange goings-on I have seen in the grounds this evening.

DENNIS

Strange goings-on?

MAX

A mysterious figure stood by the window to this very room and I noticed that the latch on the window was forced and Winston found this on the ground beneath it.

(MAX produces a handkerchief from his pocket and passes it to DENNIS.)

A lace handkerchief. With a deep red mark with a distinctive scent.

(DENNIS smells the handkerchief then reads off his hand.)

DENNIS

Cyanide! *(pronounced "ky-a-nid-ee.")*

MAX

Precisely! Cyanide.

(DENNIS becomes upset he has made yet another mistake and turns upstage to hide his emotion. MAX briefly comforts DENNIS, and he turns back to the audience.)

MAX

--and you can tell from the shape of the mark it's been used to hold a bottle.

(DENNIS reveals that a bottle has been crudely drawn onto the handkerchief.)

But not only that, it's embroidered with the initials F.C.

DENNIS

Florence Colley Moore.

MAX

Indeed.