

The Infidelity Assassination
By
Isabella Black

Isabella Black
Isabellablack60@gmail.com
(778-968-2227)
V3A 1A9
4217 196Bst Langley

Characters:

Detective Pruitt: A private investigator, has a Sherlock Holmes vibe except not as quick witted. Very inquisitive, and good at analyzing people, seems like the perfect detective. He's a working-class man who lets his own personal biases get in the way of his work.

Adeline Coldwell: The victim of the murder, she was killed by poisoning. Adeline is generous and responsible. She is a young widow. She cares a lot for her friends, many of them trusted and confided in her before she died, making her the keeper of their secrets.

Georgiana: A good friend of Adeline, she moved in with Adeline shortly after Adeline became a widow. She moved in with Adeline due to financial crisis, she owes a lot of money to a lot of people, including Adeline, Adeline allowed Georgiana to move in after she was evicted from her home. Georgiana is incredibly narcissistic and proud, she used to be an heiress, so she feels she's above everyone.

Henry Carmichael: A wealthy bachelor and close confidant of Adeline. He is very reserved and hard-working though, he tends to have a sense of self-importance, he looks down on people such as, Georgiana, who are frivolous and irresponsible. Adeline knew about the secret affair he was having with a mutual friend.

Finn Oakley: A long-time friend of Adeline's and fiancé of Winifred. Finn is charming, ambitious and kind. He has known Adeline since they were children and introduced her to her late husband. Adeline found out he was having an affair behind Winifred's back and confronted Finn about it, Adeline had been trying to convince Finn to leave Winifred and spare Winifred the heartbreak at the time of her death.

Winifred Lowell: Finn's fiancé. Winifred is very gullible, a huge romantic, and not the brightest however, she is easily jealous. Winifred met Adeline because of Finn, the two of them weren't the closest. Winifred suspected that since Finn was spending so much time with Adeline that the two of them were having an affair, Finn seemed to spend more time with Adeline than Winifred. Winifred was extremely jealous of Adeline's relationship with Finn.

Edith Newton: Adeline's long-time maid. Edith is a hard-worker and is very obedient, she became Adeline's confidant after Adeline was widowed, Edith knew almost everything Adeline knew. However, Edith was angry with Adeline because Georgiana was living with them, Edith and Georgiana don't get along, and Edith blamed Adeline for allowing Georgiana to behave the way she does.

Scene 1:

The show opens with Georgiana sitting on a chair, centre stage, with a spotlight on her. The detective is questioning her about what happened the night before. The setting is a large house in New York City in 1928.

Detective Pruitt: Hello, Georgiana.

Georgiana: *(trying to charm him)* Detective, I didn't do it if that's what you're implying.

Detective Pruitt: I was just saying hello.

Georgiana: Oh, well if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

Detective Pruitt: Well, I do have a couple, yes. *(pause)* Shall we begin?

Georgiana: I suppose.

Detective Pruitt: You were living with the deceased is that correct?

Georgiana: Yes.

Detective Pruitt: And she was supporting you financially?

Georgiana: That's correct.

Detective Pruitt: That must have been nice, being able to live a luxurious life and not have to pay for it.

Georgiana stiffens-begins to protest but Detective Pruitt cuts her off.

Detective Pruitt: You knew each other well then?

Georgiana: I suppose.

Detective Pruitt: What do you mean you suppose? If you were living with her how did you not know her well?

Georgiana: We did know each other well, she has always been there for me, despite our differences.

Detective Pruitt: What happened the night Adeline was murdered, Georgiana?

Georgiana: Well, we were preparing for Winnie and Finn's engagement party...

The scene changes to Adeline, Georgiana, and Edith getting ready for Winifred and Finn's engagement party.

Georgiana: What time are they arriving again, Addie? I want to make sure everything is ready for when they arrive.

Adeline: They should be here any moment.

Edith Enters

Georgiana: Edith! How do I look? I found this old frock in the back of my closet.

Edith: You had me take the tags off it for you yesterday Miss.

Adeline chuckles to herself

Adeline: Now, now Edith, I think Georgiana looks splendid. Whether the dress is new or not doesn't matter.

Georgiana looks visibly upset but, before she can say anything the doorbell rings.

Adeline: That'll be them! (*Adeline rushes to the door to greet Winifred and Finn.*)

The scene freezes except for Georgiana

Detective Pruitt: Who was expected to attend that night?

Georgiana: Winifred Lowell and Finn Oakley, as the guests of honour, they're newly engaged you know. As well as Henry Carmichael, the industrialist. Myself. Addie, sorry Adeline Coldwell, may she rest in peace and Edith Newton, the housekeeper. It was a small affair.

Detective Pruitt: Thank you, please, continue.

Scene unfreezes

Adeline: (*greeting Winifred and Finn*) How lovely to see you both! Did you make it here alright?

Finn: Of course, Adeline, thank you, for everything, you really didn't have to throw a party for us.

Adeline: It's my pleasure. You are my oldest friend, of course. Edith, do you mind taking the coats upstairs?

Edith: Of course, Ms. Adeline.

Adeline: Georgie, would you like to show our guests to the living room?

Georgiana: Right this way everyone! Winnie, you look simply stunning tonight, you really are radiating that newly engaged glow.

Winifred: Thank you, Georgiana.

Adeline: Georgiana, why don't you get our guests some refreshments? Winifred, could I possibly have a word with you alone?

Winifred: Of course, Adeline.

Winifred and Adeline exit, leaving Finn and Georgiana onstage, the lights go out.

Scene 2:

Winifred sits on the same chair as Georgiana on centre stage, the detective is questioning her.

Detective Pruitt: Winifred Lowell is that correct?

Winifred: Yes, Detective.

Detective Pruitt: Adeline was hosting an Engagement party for you, is that correct?

Winifred: Yes, Detective.

Detective Pruitt: How well did you know Adeline, Winifred?

Winifred: Not very well, Detective.

Detective Pruitt: Then why was she hosting your engagement party?

Winifred: She's a long-time friend of my fiancé, Finn.

Detective Pruitt: I see, and why did she pull you aside to speak with you at the party?

Winifred: Well, it was a bit odd actually...

The scene changes to Adeline and Winifred alone in the study.

Winifred: What's the matter Adeline? Is something wrong?

Adeline: No, not really. I just wanted to check in with you, you know make sure everything is alright. I know the two of us have never been the closest of friends but, as you know, I've known Finn forever, all I want is for the two of you to be happy. Marriage is a life-long commitment and one can become very uninterested if not completely happy.

Winifred: Finn and I are very happy, Adeline, and very much in love. If you're implying that is not the case, you are sorely mistaken.

Adeline: Of course, I would never want to imply anything.

The scene freezes except for Winifred

Winifred: She seemed nervous, almost as if she knew something I didn't...

The scene unfreezes.

Adeline: I know how much you care for Finn, are you sure he feels the same?

Winifred: Of course, he feels the same! Or else we wouldn't be engaged! If I didn't know any better, I would think you don't want us to be married at all!

Adeline: Nonsense, Winifred, of course I want you to be married, I just want to make sure your heart will not be broken.

Winifred: Adeline, I'm sorry about your marriage, I understand that losing someone can be hard, especially your beloved James but, that doesn't mean you're allowed to go around spoiling other people's lives!

Adeline: This has nothing to do with James, Winifred. This entirely has to do with you and Finn, you're both still so young, with so much life left in you, I don't want you to be feeling like you're rushing into anything!

The scene freezes except for Winifred

Winifred: James was her late husband, he was a dear kind man, I didn't know him long before he died. Throughout the entire night I couldn't help but feel sorry for Adeline. I don't know how she could have possibly been feeling. Nothing like an engagement party to remind you of the one you love. (Pause) But thinking back on this conversation, I still can't help but feel as though she was hiding something...

Detective Pruitt: What do you think she was hiding from you?

Winifred: I think she's lonely and she's been spending a lot of time with my Finn, they've known each other for years of course, so I can understand.

Detective Pruitt: What are you implying Ms. Lowell?

Winifred: I think she's in love with him.

Scene 3:

Edith is being questioned.

Detective Pruitt: Good Evening, Mrs. Newton.

Edith: (*Seems incredibly nervous*) Good Evening Mr. Pruitt...I mean Detective Pruitt.

Detective Pruitt: Why are you so nervous, Edith? I just want to ask you a few questions.

Edith: I...I'm not nervous, sir.

Detective Pruitt: Alright then, shall I begin?

Edith: Please.

Detective Pruitt: How well did you know Adeline Coldwell?

Edith: Oh, very well sir.

Detective Pruitt: And what was your relationship with her like?

Edith: I've worked for Ms. Adeline for several years. In fact, I was previously working for her late husband, he was who hired me, you see. But Ms. Adeline has always been very kind, always confided in me, especially since Mr. Coldwell passed.

Detective Pruitt: Confided in you?

Edith: Yes, Detective.

Detective Pruitt: What things did she confide in you about?

Edith: Oh, everything sir. Everyone has always told Ms. Adeline of their troubles and secrets. Of course, when Mr. Coldwell was alive, she confided in him. But since he died, she has turned to me, we spoke a lot before you see but, now it's going to be so different...

Detective Pruitt: If I'm understanding correctly, you know everything Adeline knew.

Edith: That is correct. In fact, I know why Henry Carmichael was late that night.

The Scene changes to Henry's entrance. We hear a doorbell ring and Edith goes to answer it.

Edith: Mr. Carmichael, I almost thought we wouldn't be seeing you at all this evening.

Henry: Sorry, I'm late Edith, I'll be sure to give Adeline my apologies.

Edith: Of course, sir. Everyone is gathered in the living room.

Edith takes Henry's coat and hangs it on a coat hook. Henry and Edith move into the living room. Henry goes to greet Adeline first.

Henry: I'm so sorry I'm late.

Adeline: Nonsense, you're here now, that's all that matters. If you don't mind my asking why were you late?

Henry: I was caught up at the office

Adeline: Now, Henry, you and I both know that's not true. Why were you really late?

Henry: You, know why I was late Adeline, must I repeat it out loud?

Adeline: I need to know it wasn't because of me.

Henry: Of course, it wasn't because of you. I couldn't stand the thought of seeing Finn and Winnifred together. Finn, lying to her, acting like a fool.

Adeline: What do you expect him to do?

Henry: Be with me! It's what we both want; I can't stand the secrecy anymore. I can't watch him with her, knowing he calls me after she's gone. Winifred may not be the brightest, but she doesn't deserve to be lied to.

Adeline: I almost thought you wouldn't come because of our last telephone call when I said I wasn't sure I could go through with our plan.

Henry: As upset as I am about the last time we spoke, I understand. I don't want Winifred to get hurt, she's a sweet girl, she deserves someone who truly cares about her, not just someone who's using her as a cover.

Adeline: So, you agree with me then? That Winifred should be the one to decide.

Henry: Not at all. Winifred won't leave him, she's blinded by love, nothing we can say or do that will ever change that.

Adeline: Not even the truth?

Henry: Not even if the truth.

Adeline: What about Finn?

Henry: I'll have to speak with him myself.

Adeline: Speak with Finn? I'm not sure that's a good idea.

Henry: Adeline, if he doesn't tell her himself then she'll never let go, she'll never be truly happy and neither will he, they'll both feel like they're missing something. I can convince him to listen to reason, I know you've tried but, Finn and I have this bond, a bond that extends past any of this.

Adeline: I don't know, when I see them together, it seems like he really does care about her and I know she cares about him. I'm not sure anything we can do can change that. Besides, what if we're doing the wrong thing by trying to break them apart?

Georgiana swans over to Adeline and Henry.

Georgiana: Henry, you finally decided to show, did you?

Henry: Hello, Georgiana.

Georgiana: (*Holding a full drink*) Adeline, Hanky Panky?

Adeline: No, thank you, not right now.

Georgiana: Perhaps I'll just have to drink it myself then.

Adeline: Henry, would you like a cocktail? Georgie's recently become quite the Bar tender.

Henry: Then perhaps she should get a job.

Adeline shoots Henry a look.

Henry: No, thank you. I'll just have whiskey.

Georgiana leaves but, leaves the cocktail on Edith's tray. Scene freezes

Detective Pruitt: How did Georgiana seem that night?

Edith: Oh, her usual self, strutting around like she owns the place.

Detective Pruitt: You don't like Georgiana?

Edith: Heavens no! You've met her, you know what she's like. She thinks she's better than everyone else, Ms. Adeline was no exception to this.

Detective Pruitt: But Adeline was funding Georgiana.

Edith: That's never stopped Georgiana from thinking she was better than Ms. Adeline, she was once an heiress and still has that mentality.

Scene 4:

Henry is being questioned about his late arrival.

Detective Pruitt: Henry Carmichael, I've heard your name before.

Henry: I was in the paper last week.

Detective Pruitt: Ah yes, you just opened a new factory upstate, correct?

Henry: Yes.

Detective Pruitt: Is that why you were late to Ms. Coldwell's party?

Henry: The party wasn't technically for Adeline, she was hosting, yes. The party was for Finn and Winnifred.

Detective Pruitt: Yes, I'm aware of that. You still didn't answer my question Mr. Carmichael.

Henry: Yes, I was late because of work.

Detective Pruitt: I was speaking with Edith, Adeline's maid earlier and she mentioned you were late for a different reason.

Henry: I can't imagine why she would say such a thing, I'm a busy man you know. It's a wonder I was able to make it at all.

Detective Pruitt: Of course, did you notice anything out of the ordinary last night Mr. Carmichael?

Henry: Not notably. Although, now that you mention it Georgiana was acting strange, but no more than usual I suppose.

Detective Pruitt: Do you mind elaborating?

Scene changes to back to the end of Adeline and Henry's conversation.

Adeline: You know, I've seen Finn enjoying many of those Hanky Pankies tonight.
(*chuckles to herself*)

Henry: Does Georgiana not owe you quite a bit of money still?

Adeline: Henry not now.

Henry: Addie, you keep pushing it off. You keep giving the girl an allowance when she hasn't even paid back what she already owes and what does she spend it on, illegal alcohol to make Hanky Pankies and new dresses.

Adeline: It's for the party.

Henry: Georgiana is frivolous and irresponsible; she's completely taken advantage of you and your kindness.

Adeline: Henry, she lost everything, she needed someone to help her.

Henry: She lost everything because of her poor decision making, not because something awful happened to her.

Adeline: Poor decision making is an awful thing to happen to someone.

Henry: It's not your mess to clean up Adeline.

Adeline leaves, annoyed. Then the scene freezes.

Henry: I noticed she took my advice shortly after, Georgiana seemed a bit annoyed about it, the two of them were bickering on and off for the rest of the night.

Detective Pruitt: Annoyed enough to commit murder?

Henry: I don't know.

The scene unfreezes.

Edith: *(softy)* I'm glad you said something. Georgiana has been walking around like she's the one who owns this place for far too long. Poor Ms. Adeline took her in while she was still grieving too.

Henry: I know, Edith. Addie is sometimes too kind for her own good. Georgiana lost everything because of her own inability to limit her spending. To think the girl was once an heiress.

Edith: She was never a good heiress, simply gambled all her money away. How does one of such class get involved in such, low-life business?

Henry: Surprisingly easily. *(Gaze drifts over to Adeline, Finn and Winnifred.)*

Scene 5:

Finn is being interrogated but he is fidgeting.

Detective Pruitt: Mr. Oakley, you seem nervous.

Finn: I'm about as good as I can be considering my oldest friend just died.

Detective Pruitt: Yes, I believe your fiancé mentioned something about the two of you being long-time friends.

Finn: Adeline and I grew up together, she's like my second sister. Well, she *was* like my second sister.

Detective Pruitt: I see. You seem to be close to many people at this party.

Finn: Excuse me? This is my engagement party, why wouldn't I be close to many of the people here?

Detective Pruitt: You know what I'm talking about. You and Henry?

Finn: What do you know about me and Henry?

Detective Pruitt: I have it on good authority that you and Mr. Carmichael are in a bit of an entanglement.

Finn: I don't think that's relevant to the case, Detective.

Detective Pruitt: It is when the only person who truly knew anything about your little relationship is dead.

Finn: Look, I barely spoke to Addie that night. Believe me, I tried to speak to her, many times, but I could never get her alone, she always seemed to be with Georgiana.

Detective Pruitt: I'm not interrogating Georgiana right now, though am I?

Finn: No, but—

Detective Pruitt: What happened between you and the *deceased* that night?

Finn: Don't call her that.

Detective Pruitt: What? Deceased? Your friend's dead and she was covering for you, what happened?

Scene changes back to around where we left off, with Finn, Adeline and Winnifred in conversation.

Winnifred: I really think it's amazing, all these people living their lives freely. I mean since the war ended, why shouldn't people be able to just, live?

Adeline: *(While staring directly at Finn)* Why shouldn't people be able to just live? And love whomever they want?

Winnifred: Exactly.

Finn: Thank you again for the party, Adeline. It really does mean a lot to us.

Adeline: (*Bittersweet*) Anything for you.

Finn: Adeline can—

Georgiana walks up to their little group to join the conversation and Adeline walks her off-stage, Adeline's intent is noticeable.

Finn: --we speak in private.

Winnifred: (*A little hurt*) She'll be back eventually, I'm sure she just has to discuss some party business.

Finn is clearly elsewhere

Winnifred: Here, take this. (*Places a drink in Finn's hand. She kisses him on the cheek and can be seen mouthing sweet nothings but, no sound is coming out, instead Finn is staring straight ahead, locking eyes with Henry.*)

Finn crosses the room to meet Henry, Winnifred looks hurt and slightly annoyed.

Henry: You look well tonight.

Finn: Thank you. You were late, we were all worried you wouldn't show.

Henry: So, I hear.

Finn: Wonderful night isn't it?

Henry: Yes, splendid.

Finn: The bee's knees.

Henry: (*Pause*) Why haven't you left her?

Finn: You know I can't.

Henry: Why not?

Finn: People will talk, both our reputations will be ruined.

Henry: Nobody needs to know, as far as anyone's concerned, we can be just two friends living together.

Finn: If I leave my fiancé to live with you, people will know. Henry, we'll be arrested. *(Pause, takes a drink.)* I do miss you though, I think about us often.

Scene 6:

Georgiana is being interrogated again, she seemed agitated and caught off guard.

Georgiana: I hope you don't mind me asking however, I thought we were finished?

Detective Pruitt: I just have a few more questions for you.

Georgiana: About what?

Detective Pruitt: Georgiana, why did Adeline pull you aside?

Georgiana: Oh, no reason, really it wasn't important.

Detective Pruitt: Did it have anything to do with the fact that you owe her a rather large sum of money?

Georgiana: You know about that?

Detective Pruitt: A lot of people seem to know about that Georgiana. However, I suppose that's what happens when you go from being a rich heiress to a freeloader.

Georgiana: It really was nothing.

Detective Pruitt: If it was nothing then why don't you elaborate?

The scene changes to just Georgiana and Adeline entering stage left

Georgiana: Ow! Your hurting me! Do you think you could loosen your grip a little bit?

Adeline: Sorry. *(Releases Georgiana)*

Georgiana: What's the matter? You aren't yourself tonight.

Adeline: Georgie, I didn't want to do this but, it needs to be done.

Georgiana: Addie, what's going on?

Adeline: I gave you the money as a loan, so you didn't get hurt...

Georgiana: Addie...is this really the time? Perhaps we can discuss this later.

Adeline: No Georgie! You don't understand, it's been months, I like having you around really, I do! But I feel like I've barely had a moment to breathe since James died. He was so against me helping you, he warned me that you wouldn't pay us back.

Georgiana: Addie, I had no idea...

Adeline: You don't get it Georgie! I used my own money! My own life savings!

Georgiana: But James was so wealthy, why would you ever need to worry about money?

Adeline: You were an heiress Georgie! You had everything and you lost it.

Georgiana: You were worried that would happen to you...

Adeline: I didn't know what my life would look like if I lost James, Georgie. Of course, now I suppose I do know.

Georgiana: Addie, I wish I could tell you I have the money, but I don't.

Adeline: That's not an excuse. I can't keep pretending you don't owe me money.

Georgiana: I just need some more time Addie.

Adeline: I don't know if I can give you more time.

Scene changes back to Georgiana being questioned

Georgiana: Like I said, it was nothing.

Detective Pruitt: It doesn't seem like nothing, did anything else happen that night?

Scene changes to the party, Georgiana and Adeline enter

Georgiana: For goodness sake Addie, your being unreasonable! Besides, this is a party, a celebration and you're ruining it!

Adeline looks angry, meanwhile we see Henry place a tumbler on Edith's tray, Edith walks across the stage and Georgiana takes the tumbler Henry placed.

Georgiana: Here, have a drink to ease your nerves.

Adeline takes the drink reluctantly. Scene freezes.

Georgiana: That's all I can remember before I found her body.

Detective Pruitt: Thank you, I just have one last question, who do you think killed Adeline Coldwell?

Georgiana: *(Produces a handkerchief and starts Dabbing at eyes.)* I have no idea who could have possibly caused this horrible tragedy, Adeline was a dear friend of everyone whom attended. Addie was such a kind soul, she would never hurt a fly, to think that one of these people whom she cared so dearly for could've killed her is truly troubling.

Detective Pruitt: So, you have no idea who could have done it?

Georgiana: Not at all.

Scene 7:

Winnifred is being questioned again however, her side of the story starts after Adeline and Georgiana just left the stage.

Detective Pruitt: Winnifred, were you aware your fiancé is having an illicit affair?

Winnifred: Excuse me, Detective?

Detective Pruitt: Yes, I'm afraid Finn *(pause)* is a homosexual.

Winnifred: You're mistaken, Detective, Finn is not a homosexual.

Detective Pruitt: He was having an affair with Henry Carmichael. Adeline knew, Edith overheard Adeline and Henry talking about it at the party. Finn himself confessed it to me. He needs to marry you to keep it hidden.

Winnifred: He could never use me like that.

Detective Pruitt: These kinds of men, they're good at hiding it, nobody would expect you to know.

(Lights come up to reveal the party, everyone is frozen except for Winnifred, Finn and Henry are frozen in conversation.)

Winnifred: But this can't be true, it doesn't make any sense, he loves me he told me he loves me.

Detective Pruitt: I can give you a moment to process if you'd like?

Winnifred: *(Studying Finn and Henry)* How could I have been so blind?

Pause

Winnifred: That's why Adeline wanted me to leave Finn! Oh, I was so cruel to her, I thought she was in love with him, I thought she wanted him for herself, all this time all she wanted was to protect me, she didn't want me to get hurt, she knew the truth.

Detective Pruitt: Yes.

Winnifred: That's why Finn spent just as much time with Henry as he does with Adeline, all this time I just thought they were friends. Detective, I feel awful.

Detective Pruitt: Is there something you want to tell me?

Winnifred: What? Oh! No, I could never, I didn't do it. I swear, I feel awful about the way that I treated her, that's what I meant Detective.

Detective Pruitt: I see and where were you at the time of the murder?

Winnifred: I was enjoying the party like everyone else Detective. Georgiana and Adeline came back to the party and seemed to be arguing about something.

Everyone unfreezes, Georgiana and Adeline enter again, Finn walks back over to Winnifred who is standing in the same spot where he left her.

Georgiana: For goodness sake Addie, your being unreasonable! Besides, this is a party, a celebration and you're ruining it!

Adeline looks angry, meanwhile we see Henry place a tumbler on Edith's tray, Edith walks across the stage and Georgiana takes the tumbler Henry placed. Winnifred watches the commotion.

Georgiana: Here, have a drink to ease your nerves.

Adeline takes the drink reluctantly

Finn: Adeline, can I speak to you in private?

Adeline: Of course. *(Still clearly a bit angry from her argument with Georgiana)*

The scene freezes after Adeline and Finn walk off stage.

Winnifred: *(Absentmindedly)* Adeline never came out of that study. I know I should be angry with Finn, but I know he didn't kill her, he loved her, more than he ever loved me.

Detective Pruitt: She was poisoned, possibly delivered to her in the drink.

Winnifred: Georgiana gave her that drink Detective.

Detective Pruitt: Are you saying you think Georgiana killed Adeline Coldwell?

Winnifred: Well, Edith never could have done it. She practically worships Adeline; besides, Georgiana was the only other person who handled it. She also had the most to gain from Adeline's death, with Adeline dead, so are her debts, Detective.

Detective Pruitt: Of course, thank you Winnifred.

Winnifred: My pleasure.

Scene 8:

Edith is being questioned again.

Detective Pruitt: I hope you don't mind if I ask you a few more questions?

Edith: Not at all.

Detective Pruitt: Georgiana took the drink that killed Adeline off your tray, did anyone meddle with it ahead of time?

Edith: N-no, not that I can recall.

Detective Pruitt: Did *you* make all the cocktails that night?

Edith: No, Georgiana did, she *insisted* that be her contribution to the party planning.

Detective Pruitt: She insisted?

Edith: Yes, she and Ms. Adeline got into a whole argument about it days before.

Detective Pruitt: And where were you when the incident occurred?

Edith: I was serving drinks and making sure everyone was taken care of, just as Ms. Adeline instructed.

Detective Pruitt: Did you notice anything unusual before Adeline died?

Scene changes to the party just after Adeline and Finn left.

Winnifred: Georgiana, what was that about?

Georgiana: Nothing you need to worry about, just focus on enjoying your party, you're engaged!

Edith makes her way back over to Henry.

Edith: Mr. Carmichael, you look a bit ill are you alright?

Henry: I'm fine Edith.

Edith: Are you sure? Perhaps a drink?

Henry: I'm quite alright, thank you.

Edith is going about her business when we hear muffled arguing from off stage. The rest of the scene freezes.

Edith: I know Mr. Oakley would never hurt Adeline, the two of them are far too close for that. The simple idea of one without the other is terrifying.

Detective Pruitt: If you don't think Finn could've killed Adeline then who did?

Edith: Georgiana.

Detective Pruitt: Why?

Edith: She didn't care for Adeline; she only saw her as her own personal bank account.

Detective Pruitt: Thank you, Edith.

Scene 9:

Finn is questioned again about his final moments with Adeline

Detective Pruitt: How did Adeline find out about your relationship with Henry?

Finn: She found us in a compromising, position.

Detective Pruitt: A compromising position...could you elaborate?

Finn: Sexually, detective, a sexually compromising position.

Detective Pruitt: So, she knew the two of you were...involved.

Finn: Yes, very much so.

Detective Pruitt: How long had she known, before she died?

Finn: About a year, she had her suspicions before she found out.

Detective Pruitt: Did it make you angry when she found out?

Finn: No, my decisions are not her fault.

Detective Pruitt: How about when she suggested you leave Winnifred?

Finn: Adeline is my closest friend; without her I don't know what I would do!

Detective Pruitt: It's interesting to me how you were the last one seen with Adeline before she died, considering she was like a sister to you.

Finn: I didn't kill her if that's what you're implying.

Detective Pruitt: Then what happened in that parlour.

Scene changes to parlour with Finn and Adeline.

Finn: You finally took one of Georgiana's drinks.

Adeline: *(Laughs lightly)* Yeah... *(Sets down drink on a nearby table)* You wanted to speak to me about something?

Finn: What's going on Adeline?

Adeline: What do you mean?

Finn: You know what I mean, what were you talking about with Henry?

Adeline: *(Pauses and looks at Finn, a little sadly)* We were talking about the two of you. Finn, I care about you more than anything in the world, which is why, you need to leave Winnifred.

Finn: You know I can't do that Adeline.

Adeline: But I know you want too; I know that if you do, you'll be truly happy.

Finn: Unfortunately, my happiness doesn't matter in this world.

Adeline: I'll help you; I'll say you were having an affair with me, that's why you cut off the engagement. Henry's a powerful man nobody will suspect a thing.

Finn: Even when we start living together?

Adeline: There are things you can do to cover it up, nobody has to know, and you can be happy.

Finn: Marrying Winnifred is the best thing I can do to cover it up.

Adeline: How is that fair to Winnifred? She thinks she's marrying the man of her dreams; she thinks you love her.

Finn: I do love her just—

Adeline: Not the way she wants you too, you could never love her like that. Think about Winnifred's happiness, think about what she deserves. She deserves to know you don't feel the same! She deserves to be happy!

Finn: Adeline you need to stop meddling in peoples lives! Stop trying to fix everything! This isn't something that need fixing!

Adeline: I'm not trying to fix anything I—

Finn: Leaving Winnifred could have me imprisoned or worse, killed.

Adeline: Not if we play our cards right!

Finn: There's no cards left to play! I was dealt a shitty hand and I have to deal with it! I did what's best for me!

Adeline: Playing it safe isn't always doing what's best.

Finn: In this case it is!

Adeline: But—

Finn: You're not in my position, you have no idea what I'm going through. You don't think I want to be with Henry, with the man I love? I want that more than anything. Trust me there's nothing I want more than to be able to just run off into the sunset with him! Sometimes we have to make sacrifices, sometimes, love doesn't win. Not everyone gets a happy ending, not everyone gets to marry the man of their dreams.

Adeline: Don't you think I know that! I got to marry the man of my dreams and he died! I lost him, I just want you to be able to spend any of the time you have left, with Henry. Life is short and I want you to be able to spend it with the one you love.

Finn: I'm sorry, I know you mean well, but I can't do that.

Finn exits stage left; the lights go down then up again to reveal Finn alone on stage being interrogated one last time.

Detective Pruitt: Things got quite heated between the two of you before she died.

Finn: Trust me I wish those weren't my last words to her.

Detective Pruitt: I just have one last question.

Finn: What is it?

Detective Pruitt: Who do you think killed her?

Finn: Georgiana

Detective Pruitt: Why?

Finn: I've thought about it a lot, played it all back in my head a thousand times. Georgiana was the only one who came in contact with Adeline's drink, the only one who could've supplied the poison. I don't know where she got it or how she did it, but it makes sense. Without Adeline, all of Georgiana's problems are solved.

Detective Pruitt: Thank you Finn, I have no further questions.

Finn: You're not going to arrest me?

Detective Pruitt: For What?

Finn: You know what.

Detective Pruitt: Not today.

Finn: Thank you, Detective.

Scene 10:

Everyone has been gathered, the detective finally comes on stage to determine the killer.

Detective Pruitt: After thoroughly interviewing each of you, I have been able to determine who the killer is among us.

Edith: Um, Detective?

Henry: Not now, Edith, the Detective's going to arrest the killer.

Detective Pruitt: Thank you, Mr. Carmichael. As I was saying, each of you had your own reasons for wanting Adeline Coldwell dead, however, one of you had just lost everything and needed a quick fix to their problem. *(Pause)* Georgiana Elliott.

Georgiana: Me?

Detective Pruitt: Yes, you owed Adeline a large sum of money which you were unable to pay off, you had been avoiding paying Adeline for some time, constantly trying to find some way to get out of paying her. However, when she confronted you at the engagement party you realized what you had to do, there was only one way that debt would be taken care of, murder.

Georgiana: But, I would never! I loved Addie with all my heart, she was my closest friend--

Detective Pruitt: You didn't intentionally plan to kill her that night in-fact, you were probably avoiding it, but after she confronted you, you knew desperate times called for desperate measures. You couldn't possibly have your precious image ruined. Therefore, you are guilty, there is nothing you can do to get you out of the mess you made. I'm taking you in. *(To Henry and Finn)* And you two are lucky I'm not taking you in for *your* illegal actions.

Detective Pruitt escorts Georgiana off stage, the lights dim, and the others move to their positions before Adeline and Georgiana came on stage arguing.

Henry: *(Empties a small glass vial into a tumbler)* Edith, be a dear and take this drink to Finn for me?

Edith: Of course, Mr. Carmichael. *(Starts to cross the stage with Georgiana and Adeline come on stage arguing like before.)*

Georgiana: For goodness sake Addie, your being unreasonable! Besides, this is a party, a celebration and you're ruining it!

Georgiana takes the tumbler from Edith's tray Edith doesn't notice which one she took.

Georgiana: Here, have a drink to ease your nerves.

Adeline takes the drink reluctantly

Finn: Adeline, can I speak to you in private?

Adeline: Of course. *(Still clearly a bit angry from her argument with Georgiana)*

Scene freezes except for Henry.

Henry: *(To the audience)* After Adeline and Finn spoke Georgiana would find Adeline dead in the parlour. *(We see Adeline collapse and Georgiana enter prepared to apologize, instead she crouches next to Adeline.)*

Georgiana: *(Shaking Adeline)* Addie? Addie? Addie, wake up! Please wake up!

Henry: Georgiana had no intention of killing Adeline that night and neither did I. *(Everyone else enters the room to Georgiana's cries, Georgiana turns on Finn immediately.)*

Georgiana: You! You were the last one with her! What did you do to her? How could you?!

Finn: I didn't do anything, when I left Adeline was perfectly fine.

Scene Freezes

Henry: (*Gazing at Finn*) I'm not a murderer, I'm a man in love. The poison wasn't meant for dear Adeline, she was just an innocent bystander. The poison was meant for Finn. (*Turns back to the scene and it unfreezes*) Perhaps we should call someone? I have the number of a Private Investigator.

Winnifred: Private Investigator? Do you think that's necessary?

Henry: I got it from a friend, just in case and yes, I do think it's necessary. (*Produces a business card and passes it to Edith*) Edith, give this man a call.

Edith: (*Reading the card*) Detective Pruitt, his office is rather close.

Henry: Yes, hopefully he will make it here promptly.

Edith exits

Henry: (*To audience*) I can understand how confused you all must be right now. However, in this world you cannot be a homosexual and in love. (*Looks at Finn who is by Adeline's side, again*) Finn refused to listen to reason, I knew, I know, the only way for us to truly be together is in death. It's morbid, yes, but necessary. (*Finn looks up at Henry, they hold a gaze, then Finn notices Winnifred watching him.*) (*Lights go out*)

THE END