

## **CHRISTINE #1 (w/Selwyn)**

**SELWYN.** It was at my wife's suggestion that I became a reviewer.

**CHRISTINE.** Really? You very seldom mention her.

**SELWYN.** Imogen is definitely unmentionable. She was quarrelsome, selfish and drank far too much whiskey.

**CHRISTINE.** And she left you. I know you hate predictable questions but why did you marry her?

**SELWYN.** The best of us have lapses. She was mine. She was an actress, you know.

**CHRISTINE.** I didn't.

**SELWYN.** She was well known in the business. She used to entertain lavishly — actors, angels, writers, producers, critics, agents ...

**CHRISTINE.** Parties?

**SELWYN.** No, one at a time. While I was away.

**CHRISTINE.** And you didn't mind?

**SELWYN.** It diverted her attention at a time when I had a career to establish.

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**CHRISTINE.** I don't believe a word of that. If she was so promiscuous and you were so permissive, you must have been an ideal husband. So why did she leave you?

**SELWYN.** We were always quarreling.

**CHRISTINE.** Even happily married people do that.

**SELWYN.** Not like we did. We reached a point after which anything less than assassination would have been an anticlimax.

**CHRISTINE.** Which, as a master of dramatic build-up, you had to avoid.

**SELWYN.** Precisely.

**CHRISTINE.** Then why didn't you leave her?

**SELWYN.** I had nobody to go to. I rather gathered Imogen had.

**CHRISTINE.** Another man?

**SELWYN.** She was hardly the kind to fly off to a maiden aunt.

**CHRISTINE.** You never knew whom?

**SELWYN.** No.

## **CHRISTINE #1 (w/Selwyn)**

**CHRISTINE.** And you made no attempt to find out?

**SELWYN.** To what purpose?

**CHRISTINE.** I'd have thought it would be a challenge to your detective skills. Besides, you might want a divorce.

**SELWYN.** But I don't. Besides, I love frustrating Imogen. She phoned me the other day with an ultimatum. Divorce me — or else.

**CHRISTINE.** Or else what?

**SELWYN.** I don't know. She's probably working on it. She'll have got my reply this morning. It should give her apoplexy.

**CHRISTINE.** Tut, tut! Vindictive.

**SELWYN.** But enjoyable.

**CHRISTINE.** That accounts for the sadistic streak which has crept into your new novel.

## **CHRISTINE #2 (w/Peter)**

**PETER.** *(He sees Selwyn's body)* Good Lord!

**CHRISTINE.** She's ringing for a doctor, but it's no use. He's dead.

**PETER.** Yes, I'm afraid he is. What happened?

**CHRISTINE.** I think he was shot.

**PETER.** I think you're probably right.

**CHRISTINE.** I'd just come back. I'd ...

**PETER.** What you need is a good stiff drink. May I? *(CHRISTINE nods.)* I'm having a triple Scotch. What's yours?

**CHRISTINE.** Anything.

**PETER.** I think brandy's your best bet. It's the ideal drink when you've just found a body. At least I think it is. I've never really found one before. Er — does he live here?

**CHRISTINE.** Yes.

**PETER.** And you?

**CHRISTINE.** No, I'm his secretary, Christine Scott. I'd been out posting his letters. When I got back ... You must ring the police. No, you can't — the telephone's out of order.

## **CHRISTINE #2 (w/Peter)**

**PETER.** You sit down and drink this. There, knock it back. I thought you said there was someone doing a spot of phoning for you.

**CHRISTINE.** Yes. The woman who was here when I came back. Your wife, I suppose.

**PETER.** No, it couldn't have been my wife.

**CHRISTINE.** Why not?

**PETER.** I haven't got one.

**CHRISTINE.** But she said she lived next door.

**PETER.** I'm the only one next door and I live alone. *(He picks up the scarf from Selwyn's hand)*  
Any idea whose this is?

**CHRISTINE.** Yes. It's mine.

**PETER.** Oh dear.

**CHRISTINE.** I lost it last week.

**PETER.** Well he seems to have found it.

**CHRISTINE.** I'm ...

## **CHRISTINE #2 (w/Peter)**

**PETER.** It was in his hand.

**CHRISTINE.** I ... I ...

**PETER.** I think you'd better have a refill. What did she look like?

**CHRISTINE.** Who?

**PETER.** The lady phoning the doctor. The one I'm living with without knowing it.

**CHRISTINE.** Oh. She was wearing a suede jacket. And jeans. She had dark glasses.

**PETER.** Ah!

**CHRISTINE.** And she had a Scottish accent.