

PLAY #6 HELIOTROPE WITH DIAMONDS

by

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CHARACTERS

BINKS	A servant, and a thief
GRINDEL	A police officer posing as a servant
MRS. WEATHERLY	A wealthy woman
TWO OFFICERS	

HELIOTROPE WITH DIAMONDS

(At Rise: MRS. WEATHERLY stands center stage in a heliotrope dress with a lavish display of diamonds around her neck. Off to one side, BINKS confers with some officers in uniform. GRINDEL stands way. BINKS approaches GRINDEL and talks quietly with him.)

BINKS

There's Mrs. Weatherly. You understand what's to be done? When the party gets going, she'll begin pontificating from the middle of the room. The guests will be gathering around and laughing. Some listening. Most pretending to listen.

(The sounds of these things happen as BINKS describes them. Lights shift to MRS. WEATHERLY.)

MRS. WEATHERLY

As I was saying, just last week, Bertha had just finished folding the laundry, and I was sitting by the pool...

GRINDEL

What about the officers?

BINKS

A bunch of buffoons. Don't worry about them.

MRS. WEATHERLY

I had an overwhelming desire for a Cosmopolitan... I was just ready to call for Binks... When...

(She freezes. Lights to BINKS and GRINDEL.)

GRINDEL

Yes... She'll be talking... And then...

BINKS

Then you'll come by with the tray of King Crab Cakes with the silver serving dish of fennel cream sauce.

GRINDEL

Like so...

(GRINDEL carries a tray to MRS.

WEATHERLY and offers her a crab cake.)

BINKS

You'll offer it to her, which of course she'll take.

MRS. WEATHERLY

Thank you, Grindel.

BINKS

And some cream sauce to go on top of it.

GRINDEL

Cream sauce, madam?

MRS. WEATHERLY

Of course. Thank you, Grindel. As I was saying, Bertha let out a tremendous scream. I had Binks check in on her and, most embarrassingly there was a dead mouse all tousled up in the dry linens. Can you believe it?

BINKS

Then, you'll accidentally dump the cream sauce in her lap.

MRS. WEATHERLY

That will be all, Grindel. Must have been the cat doing its work in the servants quarters. I had Binks dispose of it of course.

(GRINDEL dumps the cream sauce in her lap. MRS. WEATHERLY screams.)

MRS. WEATHERLY

Gracious! Grindel! What have you done?! Binks?!

BINKS

She'll bend over to deal with the mess in her lap.

(MRS. WEATHERLY bends over.)

You'll upright the serving dish and place it under her neck.

(He does.)

Unlatch the necklace.

(He does.)

And it'll fall into the serving dish.

(It does.)

Place the lid back on the serving dish.

(He does.)

At that point, I've arranged to have the lights shut

off.

(The lights go out. People scream.
BINKS coolly goes and picks up the
dish.)

When the lights come back on.

(He reaches the door.)

We'll both be gone.

(He exits.)

Simple as that.

(He closes the door. The lights come
on. GRINDEL is on the floor. MRS.
WEATHERLY grabs her neck and gasps.)

MRS. WEATHERLY

My diamonds! Grindel!?

(Gasps from the guests.)

GRINDEL

Ladies and gentleman. Please remain calm.

MRS. WEATHERLY

What? I've been robbed!

(In through the door comes BINKS held
by two police officers.)

GRINDEL

Not so fast.

MRS. WEATHERLY

Did you have something to do with this, Grindel?

GRINDEL

I have everything under control, Madam Weatherly.

MRS. WEATHERLY

Binks?!

GRINDEL

I've been one step ahead of Mr. Binks. Thanks to my
buffoonish officers and myself, Mr. Binks will be
taken to where he belongs.

(GRINDEL takes the serving dish from
the officers, opens it, puts his hand
inside. Nothing.)

Where are the diamonds?!

(MRS. WEATHERLY faints.)

Binks? What's going on here?

(BINKS smiles.)

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY