

## Daniel/Priya

our ally, but the institution serves other masters. And then there is the Professor. By now, word is out that Daniel Burke is dead. If the Professor didn't orchestrate it, he is going to want answers about what happened to his personal banker. Priya Singh has no idea the danger she is in.

*(SHERLOCK and WATSON exit.)*

## A CLOSE ENCOUNTER

*(The scene shifts to a street near the river. PRIYA enters. She has been walking for some time and hasn't slept. She sits and takes a moment to rest. She starts to nod off.)*

PRIYA *(as her eyes close)*. Daniel ...

*(There is a shift. DANIEL BURKE enters into what is now his office.)*

**START** DANIEL. Did you say something, Priya?

*(PRIYA opens her eyes, taking a moment to get her bearings.)*

PRIYA. I said it's a lovely office, Daniel, but wouldn't it be better to meet downstairs, in the dining hall?

DANIEL. No one would dare judge me here. I practically own the place.

PRIYA. I wasn't really worried about anyone judging *you*, Daniel.

DANIEL. Always so proper, our Priya. But there's no reason for concern. After all, we're practically family, you and I.

PRIYA. Family? That's ... very kind of you.

DANIEL. Well, it's true. Your parents were a part of my father's household since before I was born. Oh, I was sorry to hear about ... you know. I always liked them, your mum and dad. Remember how my mum would have them wear their Indian

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costumes when they served at table during dinner parties? I loved that. Everyone thought it was so exotic.

PRIYA. Yes, I remember that.

DANIEL. But look at you now! A nurse! And associating with the likes of Josephine Butler, no less. That's incredible. You must tell me all about it.

PRIYA. I ... I'm sorry. What is this?

DANIEL. What is what?

PRIYA. What am I doing here, Daniel? I've hardly seen you since we were children, and then out of nowhere you send me this note to come and meet you. We've lived in the same city for years, but this is the first time I was aware you even remembered who I was. Why did you ask me here?

DANIEL. It's time to wake up, Priya.

PRIYA. What? **STOP**

DANIEL (*singing*). In Dublin's fair city,

Where the girls are so pretty,

I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone ...

*(There is a shift back to the street by the river. PRIYA wakes to the sound of a DOCK WORKER entering, very drunk.)*

DOCK WORKER (*singing*). As she wheeled her wheelbarrow,

Through streets broad and narrow,

Crying, "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh!"

Alive, alive, oh,

Alive, alive ... *(He stumbles.)* Oh.

*(The DOCK WORKER falls forward, hitting his head on the stone street. He lies still, face down. PRIYA sees her chance, grabs her bag and starts to run off, but stops. She looks back at the man lying on the street.)*

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