

Scene #3
Selsdon
Lloyd
...Others

Lloyd It's like Myra Hess playing on through the air raids.

Selsdon Stop?

Poppy Stop.

Belinda Stop.

Lloyd Thank you, Belinda. Thank you, Poppy.

Exeunt Belinda and Poppy.

Lloyd Selsdon . . .

Selsdon I met Myra Hess once.

Lloyd I think he can hear better than I can.

Selsdon I beg your pardon?

Lloyd From your entrance, please, Selsdon.

Selsdon Well, it was during the war, at a charity show in Sunderland . . .

Lloyd Thank you! Poppy!

Selsdon Oh, not for me. It stops me sleeping.

Enter Poppy from the wings.

Lloyd Put the glass back once more.

Selsdon Come on again?

Lloyd Right. Only, Selsdon . . .

Selsdon Yes?

Lloyd A little sooner, Selsdon. A shade earlier. A touch closer to yesterday. All right? Freddie!

Enter Frederick.

Lloyd *(to Selsdon)* Start moving as soon as Freddie opens the door. *(To Frederick.)* What's the line?

Frederick 'I've heard of people getting *stuck* with a problem, but this is ridiculous.'

Lloyd Start moving as soon as you hear the line, 'I've heard of people getting stuck with a *problem* . . .'

Frederick 'Stuck with a *problem*'?

Lloyd 'Stuck with a *problem*, but this is ridiculous.' And I want your arm through that window. Right?

Selsdon Say no more. May I make a suggestion, though? Should I perhaps come on a little earlier?

Lloyd Selsdon . . .

Selsdon Only there does seem to be something of a hiatus between Freddie's exit and my entrance.

Lloyd No, Selsdon. Listen. Don't worry. I've got it.

Selsdon Yes?

Lloyd How about coming on a little earlier?

Selsdon We're obviously thinking along the same lines.

Exit Selsdon through the window.

Lloyd Am I putting him on or is he putting me on? *Right, Freddie, from your exit.*

END

Philip (*flapping the tax demand*) I've heard of people getting stuck with a *problem*, but this is ridiculous.

Exit Philip into downstairs bathroom.

Enter Burglar as before, but on time.

Burglar No bars, no burglar alarms. They ought to be prosecuted for incitement.

He climbs in.

No, but sometimes it makes me want to sit down and weep. When I think I used to do banks! When I remember I used to do bullion vaults! What am I doing now? I'm breaking