

150 THE GREAT ADVENTURE

speaking plainly. You were once engaged to marry Lady Alice Rowfant. But a few days before your valet died you changed your mind and left her in the lurch in Spain. Lady Alice Rowfant is now in England. She has been served with a subpoena to give evidence at the trial. And if the trial comes on she will have to identify you and tell her story in court. (*Pause.*) Are you going to put her to this humiliation?

(*CARVE walks about. Then he gives a gesture of surrender.*)

CARVE. The artist is always beaten! (*With an abrupt movement he pulls undone the bow of his necktie.*)

(*The stage is darkened to indicate the passage of a few minutes.*)

SCENE 2

(*CARVE is attempting to re-tie his necktie.*

LORD LEONARD ALCAR is coming away from door back. JANET enters from door, L.)

JANET. (*Under emotion, to CARVE.*) Then you've done it! (*CARVE ignores her.*)

ALCAR. Yes, and I feel like a dentist.

JANET. You've sent them all away.