

Q has contrived to deastralize himself and has taken the money. The only question is do you happen to have forty-nine pounds, nineteen and eightpence about you? I myself, unfortunately, have nothing but small change.

GNOOF. My dear Annerly, by a piece of rare good fortune I happen to-day to have drawn my month's salary. Here it is, a hundred pounds in notes.

ANNERLY (*to himself*). Splendid! Now let us place fifty pounds of them on the edge of the table. It is fourpence more than Q wants but I dare say he'll find some use for it, especially in a world of spirits. Now I want you to follow my instructions implicitly. First of all we place the table in the middle of the room. It is already there. The chairs—(*he picks up chair R. of table and GNOOF picks up that on L.*)—must be carefully set against the wall and so placed that no two of them occupy the same place as any other two. (*They place the two chairs against back wall.*) The pictures and ornaments about the room are to be left entirely undisturbed. The waste paper basket (*GNOOF dives under the table after the basket*) must be reversed so that its contents, if any, rest on the floor of the room instead of the wicker base of the basket. (*GNOOF reverses the waste paper basket.*) Good! The ritual also prescribes that one of the participating parties shall take off his boots.

GNOOF (*climbing out from under the table*). Oh, may I?

ANNERLY. Yes, I thought of you.

GNOOF (*as he takes off his slippers*). I must admit to you, my dear Annerly, that I am not without misgivings about the success of the experiment. (*He is kneeling with his arms resting on L. of table.*) My own mental temperament and disposition may not be of the precise kind necessary for its success.

ANNERLY (*standing above table*). My dear friend, pray have no alarm on that score. I am sure that