

A (10) Garry and Miss Erikson

GARRY (*into the telephone*) Hallo? Hallo? No, Colonel Pritchard is not here. He died of drink on Tuesday. (*He replaces the receiver, rises, and then empties the ashtray from the table down left.*) *As he picks up the ashtray from the pouffe, MISS ERIKSON, wearing her hat and coat, and carrying a leather shopping bag, enters up left.*

MISS ERIKSON (*standing by the settee*) I am going away now, Mr Essendine. Have you everything you want?

GARRY (*turning to her, with an ashtray in each hand*) Frankly, Miss Erikson, no. I have nothing that I want.

MISS ERIKSON Oh, what a pity.

GARRY (*moving up centre*) Have you? Have any of us - what we want? *He puts both ashtrays on the piano.*

MISS ERIKSON Oh, Mr Essendine, you are only acting! For a moment I was quite upset.

GARRY You lead a very strange life, Miss Erikson; do you enjoy it?

MISS ERIKSON Yes, indeed.

GARRY Tell me all about it from A to Z.

MISS ERIKSON Do you mind if I pinch a cigarette?

GARRY Pinch anything you like, Miss Erikson.

MISS ERIKSON (*turning to the box on the round table and taking a handful of cigarettes*) I smoke so much and I am always running out. It is most silly. *She turns, and in putting them into her bag, she drops half a dozen.*

GARRY You've dropped one! (*He picks them up and puts them into her bag which she holds open.*) Where are you going now, for instance?

MISS ERIKSON I am going to my friend in Hammersmith. She is a German.

GARRY Is she a spy?

MISS ERIKSON Yes, I think so but she is very kind.

GARRY I understand from Fred that she is also a medium.

MISS ERIKSON Oh dear, yes. Sometimes she makes a trance - it is very surprising. She will lie on the ground for many hours making noises.

GARRY What sort of noises?

MISS ERIKSON They are different. Sometimes she sings high up like a bird, other times she may make a little bark. Often, she is very ill.

GARRY I'm not surprised.

A (10) Garry and Miss Erikson

MISS ERIKSON Well, I must be pushing off now, Mr Essendine.

GARRY (*easing down centre a little*) Push away, Miss Erikson. It's been most interesting. Thank you very much.

MISS ERIKSON (*crossing above him*) Not at all. (*She stops and turns right of the piano.*) Good night.

GARRY Good night.