

Bleak House – Audition Piece

Mr Vholes (Doubles with the part of Krook) / Richard

- VHOLES: Mr Carstone, I am at your service.
- RICHARD: *(Shaking his hand vigorously)* Mr Vholes, it is good to see you, sir.
- VHOLES: I have undertaken to represent your interests, sir. Therefore it is part of my professional duty to understand those interests. I am here to listen, sir.
- RICHARD: Splendid. Let us be seated, Mr Vholes. *(They sit on the bench)* So tell me, have you studied the case?
- VHOLES: Mr Carstone, let me be frank with you. I wish, sir, to maintain my reputation as a plain dealer, for the sake of my daughters, if for nothing else. I take every opportunity of stating to a client such as yourself, how that client is situated.
- RICHARD: Go on.
- VHOLES: Mr Carstone, if you are to continue to play for this considerable stake, you must have funds. There are funds in hand at present, for the moment I ask for nothing, there are funds in hand. But for the onward play, more funds are needed, unless Mr Carstone is to throw away what he has already ventured, which is wholly and solely a point for his consideration. But I must tell you, sir, that I can appear and act for you only to the extent of the funds you can raise, to do otherwise would be to wrong my daughters, not to mention my aged father in the Vale of Taunton, and my resolution, sir, is to wrong no-one.
- RICHARD: I am glad to hear it, Mr Vholes. The truth is, I have no more money myself, but I have recently married, and my wife has a little money which I know she would part with, with a little persuasion.
- VHOLES: Mr Carstone ...
- RICHARD: Don't think of Ada's and my affairs as being separate, Mr Vholes. Ada's rights are bound up with mine in this case, they cannot be separated. Her interests and mine are bound together as surely as we are. Mr Vholes, consider my wife's money at your disposal.