

HAMMERSCHMIDT. *(Goes to tray.)* Why did you bring me tea? You know I'm a coffee drinker.

ARPAD. Ah you see that's the brilliance of it. It's raining yes? I deduced that it can rain into an uncovered cup of coffee but not into a pot of tea. Pretty smart eh?

HAMMERSCHMIDT. You could have brought me a pot of coffee, couldn't you?

ARPAD. Hmm. Didn't think of that.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. *(Very fatherly:)* Foolish boy.

ARPAD. Sorry.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. The rolls are soggy.

ARPAD. I covered them carefully.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. With what?

ARPAD. A napkin.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. In the pouring rain.

*(HAMMERSCHMIDT lifts a dripping napkin from the tray.)*

ARPAD. Oh. I see your point. I'll get some fresh ones from the baker down the street.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. No, no, no, no... Don't bother. *(Eating:)* Where did you get this?

ARPAD. At the Carlton, sir...same as yesterday morning.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. Yesterday's dishes are still here. Don't forget to return both trays.

ARPAD. Yes, sir.

*(Silence.)*

I'll light the heater.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. *(Goes behind the counter, strikes a match and lights the gas heater.)*

*(Short pause.)*

HAMMERSCHMIDT. Did you bring everything from the house I asked you to?

ARPAD. Everything you wrote down. I noticed that you didn't list toothbrush or soap so I stopped and purchased them for you on the way.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. You brought soap and a toothbrush to a parfumerie?

ARPAD. *(Looks around.)* Oh. Yeah.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. Tell me Arpad, do you think at all?

ARPAD. Yes. But sometimes my thinking isn't entirely, well I guess you'd say, not entirely thought out. I just wanted to make sure you had everything you need.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. *(Just looks at him.)* When did you go to the house?

ARPAD. I gave the list to Mrs. Hammerschmidt last night and told her to have the things ready for me to pick up early this morning. I don't think she took me seriously.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. Were they ready?

ARPAD. No. But your daughter packed the bag when I got there a little while ago.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. Did they ask where I'm staying?

ARPAD. They asked.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. What did you tell them?

ARPAD. I said I didn't know for sure. I said that you had told me to hold on to the suitcase until you sent me further instructions by telegram.

HAMMERSCHMIDT. What instructions by telegram?