ELLA ZIELINSKY P26-27

MISS MARPLE. *(Loudly.)* His mother would have been so proud. As am I, of course. We never get to say these things to people... What is it that stops us?

DOLLY. Common sense.

MISS MARPLE. Yes, but you're forgetting. I often looked after Dermot when his mother died. He was so unsettled by it all, poor chap... It's impossible to be cross with someone if you've had to change their short trousers a hundred times.

*(**CRADDOCK** indignant. He quickly opens and then closes the front door, as if re-entering. Reappears.)*

You're back.

CRADDOCK. It occurred to me that rather than waste time by tracking her down later, I should interview Mrs Bantry properly now, while she's here.

DOLLY. Kill two birds with one stone.

MISS MARPLE. Dolly's just been telling me about the secretary. Miss Ella...

CRADDOCK. Zielinsky. Polish descent.

*(**MISS MARPLE** raises an eyebrow. **ELLA** walks past, muttering in Polish.)*

I simply meant...

DOLLY. The secretary and the butler do not get on. I presume you gathered that?

CRADDOCK. I gathered a great deal from her, actually.

*(**ELLA** paces.)*

ELLA. To go and get herself murdered here! So inconvenient for us.

CRADDOCK. More inconvenient for the victim.

ELLA. What does she know? She's dead.

Jason told me they were going for Marina. Right?

CRADDOCK. Is Miss Gregg an easy woman to work for?

ELLA. She's a dream.

CRADDOCK. Really?

ELLA. *(Gives him a look.)* What do you think? The stories I could tell you... But she's a great artist. So you're made to feel it's a privilege to work with her. Actually, *(Sneezes.)* it's hell.

*(***ELLA** *takes out her atomiser [inhaler]. Inhales.)*

CRADDOCK. If you don't like her, why choose to work for her?

ELLA. Some days, I think I could just walk out that door. Never have to see her again.

CRADDOCK. Why don't you?

ELLA. I...I work for Jason.

So. You worked out "whodunnit"?

CRADDOCK. Is there anyone she suspects?

ELLA. I'm just the secretary. Why would she confide in me?

*(***ELLA** *disappears.)*

MISS MARPLE. Now, that is interesting...

CRADDOCK. Not particularly keen on Miss Gregg.

*(***MISS MARPLE,** *surprised, goes to speak. Doesn't.)*

Mrs Bantry... *(Pretending he doesn't already know.)* Did you happen to notice if Heather Leigh handed her drink to Marina Gregg at any point?