LOLA P40-41

Scene Two

(Mid-morning. The film studios. As the film studios set up, **MISS MARPLE** *and* **CRADDOCK** *enter.* **MISS MARPLE**, *on crutches, picks up a film magazine, as she takes a seat.)*

MISS MARPLE. I imagine a man might feel cowed in the presence of a star, particularly a woman of such beauty –

CRADDOCK. She must be over fifty by now!

MISS MARPLE. Meaning?

(Beat.)

CRADDOCK. I can't believe I let you talk me into bringing you with me.

Remember, if anyone asks, you're my Aunt Jane and –

*(***LOLA** *comes rushing in. Frantic.)*

LOLA. Did you see anyone come by?

CRADDOCK. I beg your pardon?

LOLA. Did you see anyone? With a handbag?

CRADDOCK. I'm afraid not but –

LOLA. Oh God!

CRADDOCK. All right, Miss. Calm down. I'm from the police –

LOLA. What?

CRADDOCK. You're perfectly safe. *(Shows his badge.)* Now, tell me what's happened.

LOLA. I... I'm sure it's nothing.

CRADDOCK. Someone took your handbag?

(Beat.)

LOLA. Yes...but it had nothing of value in it.

MISS MARPLE. So why are you so upset?

LOLA. I – I had a few personal things, of – sentimental value. That's all.

CRADDOCK. Where was the bag?

LOLA. Perhaps I left it at my hotel! I'd forget my own head if it wasn't –

*(**MARINA** appears.)*

MARINA. I am so sorry I kept you waiting – *(Sees* **LOLA.***)* Oh. I hope I'm not interrupting...

CRADDOCK. Not at all. *(To* **LOLA.***)* Perhaps I could have a word later, Miss Brewster? It is Miss Brewster, isn't it?

LOLA. I'm filming all day.

CRADDOCK. I will need to interview you. If you could telephone the local police station when you've finished, they can tell you where I am.

LOLA. *(Lightly.)* Of course.

*(**LOLA** turns to go.)*

MISS MARPLE. Miss Brewster? Where did you grow up?

LOLA. Los Angeles.

MISS MARPLE. Don't you call it a purse?

LOLA. *(Slightest hesitation; then smiles.)* When in England...

(Odd moment. **LOLA** *goes.)*

MARINA. We'll have more privacy in my dressing room. Please.

*(**MARINA** leads **CRADDOCK** into her dressing room.* **MISS MARPLE** *follows, on her crutches.)*