

# Dynamite!!

By

Roger Hall

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NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS  
**PLAYMARKET**.ORG.NZ  
AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP

info@playmarket.org.nz  
+64 4 382 8462

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All enquiries to the author's agent:

**Playmarket**

NEW ZEALAND'S SCRIPT ADVISORY SERVICE  
& PLAYWRIGHTS' AGENCY

ph + 64 4 382 8462 fax + 64 4 382 8461  
info@playmarket.org.nz  
Level 2, 16 Cambridge Terrace  
PO Box 9767 Te Aro Wellington  
Aotearoa New Zealand  
www.playmarket.org.nz



*DYNAMITE!!*

*a melodrama  
by*

*Roger Hall*

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PLAYMARKET

SCRIPT ADVISORY SERVICE  
AND AGENCY

BOX 9737, 22000 47 Place,

WELLINGTON.

MC  
HARRY  
SERVANT\*  
MARY  
TOM  
SUSAN  
SQUIRE  
CARELESS JACK  
JAILER\*  
BLASTER  
MRS BLASTER  
CONSTABLE  
JANE (MAIDSERVANT)  
ARABS/FRENCHMEN\*

\*Parts can be doubled.

PIANO PLAYER

MC

Greetings to you one and all  
And welcome to our play  
The author called it Dynamite  
it might blow you away.  
Our hero here is Harry  
though late he plays his hand.  
He serves the British Empire  
in a far off heathen land  
India is where he strives  
For Victoria our Queen.  
Britannia, of course still rules the waves,  
the way it's always been.

We'd like you all to cheer him  
When he appears on stage  
He's brave and straight and always true:  
A product of his age

Back home in dear old England  
His faithful Mary waits  
She and little Tom and Sue  
Have little on their plates.  
Mary's had to struggle now  
For nigh on two whole years  
Yes, when you realise her plight  
You'll have to hold back tears.

Over there is "Careless" Jack  
Who's suffered in the past  
He's so in love with Mary  
But he hasn't got a chance

Squire Rackham is our villain  
A very mean one too  
Each time he makes an entrance  
We want you all to boo

The Blasters here, man and wife  
We hope they'll raise a laugh.  
They raise most things with dynamite  
But they could use a bath.

Jane's a faithful servant  
Wronged many years ago

Thrown out into the cruel world  
Where Fate has brought her low.

At the great hall she once did live  
She worked upstairs and down.  
But she was treated cruelly;  
Now she's a minion at the Crown

So hie we now to India  
The city called Bombay  
Harry's writing home again  
Tis he who starts our play.....

SCENE 1: PROLOGUE

CORNER SET INDIA

FX INDIAN MUSIC. CICADAS

HARRY IS WRITING A LETTER.

HARRY      My Dearest Mary, Why have I not heard from you for so long? Why have you not acknowledged all the money I have sent? Has some terrible illness befallen you? Or the children? How I long to see you all, those beloved faces which I have not seen these past five years.

SERVANT BRINGS IN DRINK AND EXITS.

HARRY      PROPOSES A TOAST TO HIMSELF To our young Queen, Victoria. RESUMES WRITING  
I pray you receive this for I have wonderful news. My fortune has been made; I leave this country of mutiny, hideous heat and fevers, and I set sail for home within the week on the merchant clipper Queen Adelaide. From where I sit I can see her now riding at anchor in the harbour.....  
REVEAL MODEL BOAT BOBBING GENTLY (IN LARGE BOWL OF WATER.....)  
My love to you my darling Mary, and to Sue and Tom.....SIGNS Harry.  
HE CLAPS HIS HAND SERVANT APPEARS. This letter to go immediately.

SERVANT BOWS. AS HE LEAVES (ASIDE) The English fool. For two years I have been his servant and for two years his money and his letters get no further than me.....EXITS

HARRY Yes. Within a few weeks, I will be back in the arms of Mother England! And in the arms of my wife and children.

SCENE 2. INTERIOR PRIMROSE COTTAGE

A SUMMER'S EVENING

MARY IS SITTING AT A TABLE SEWING SHIRTS.  
SHE IS TIRED.

BACK CENTRE STAGE TOM AND SUSAN ARE IN THEIR SIMPLE BEDS. A CHAIR IS BETWEEN THEM

MARY PAUSES. HER EYES HURT.  
SHE CHECKS HER PURSE. SHE HOLDS IT UPSIDE DOWN NOTHING. IT IS EMPTY. SHE STIFLES A SOB.

SUSAN Are you not coming to say Goodnight to us, Mother

MARY Of course. I'm sorry.

SHE PUTS HER SEWING AWAY IN THE WARDROBE.

TOM I'm thirsty.

MARY DIPS A MUG INTO BUCKET OF WATER FOR HIM TO DRINK.

TOM And hungry.....

SUSAN Shush. You know mother has given us all that she has. I am sure tomorrow there will be more for us to eat. There will be, won't there, Mother?

MARY IS NOW BY THEIR BEDS.

MARY Of course, Susan. *ASIDE* Oh would that it were so! The mere pittance I earn from sewing is getting less and less. *ALoud* Tom. Susan! Time to say your prayers.

SUSAN Please God, send our father home to us as soon as possible.

TOM Can God hear us, from so far away?

SUSAN Of course He can, Tom.

TOM And Father, can Father hear us?



SILENCE

MARY        ASIDE It seems not. He used to write regularly and send money, but I have not heard from him these past two years. Maybe he had the fever. Or was caught in a Mutiny The money I earn from sewing pays a pittance. And now I am left with nothing.

TOM         Can he? Can Father hear us?

MARY        ALOUD He knows we pray for him every night. I am sure that one day soon he will walk through this door, with money aplenty. KISSES THEM There now, go to slee--SHE IS ABOUT TO PULL THE CURTAIN

FX        NOISE OF A FAR-OFF EXPLOSION.

MARY LOOKS FRIGHTENED

SUSAN       What was that?

MOTHER     That's the railway gang. They use dynamite to clear things that are in the way.

SUSAN       What sort of things?

MARY        Hills...trees.....(ALMOST A WHISPER) people's homes.

SUSAN       Why can't they go round them?

MOTHER     Railways go straight for what they want. It is progress. Roads will be a thing of the past.

TOM         I heard someone say some homes get dynamited whether the owners wish to sell or no.

SUSAN       But that is wrong.

MARY        It is. But there are powerful forces out there, and poorer folk can do little to stand in their way. Squire Rackham is making a fortune selling part of his estates to the Railways.

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

SUSAN      Could that be Father?

MARY RUNS TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT.

MARY      DISAPPOINTED It is Careless Jack.

CARELESS JACK ENTERS

CHILDREN GET OUT OF BED AND RUN TO HIM.

JACK      I have brought you some eggs.

MARY      Oh. Thank you.

HE DROPS AN EGG IN HANDING THEM OVER.

MARY CLEANS IT UP.

JACK      And presents. They're just wooden whistles I've carved.

TOM/SUE   Thank you.

TOM      I wish you were our father.

JACK      Oh would that I were. HE IS IN LOVE WITH MARY.

TOM      Why are you called Careless Jack?

JACK      What?

MARY      Shush!

JACK      I...I...I was not always thus. I...HE IS PUZZLED

MARY      There now, back to bed and go to sleep.  
SHE DRAWS THE CURTAIN ACROSS THEIR BEDROOM.  
(ASIDE) Once he was a bright lad, some said fine breeding. But a fearful blow to his head rendered him in the state he is. But he is the truest, most loving friend a wom--a family can have.

JACK      Have you heard lately from Harry?

MARY DOES NOT ANSWER

JACK      And have you money to pay the rent?

AGAIN MARY CANNOT ANSWER

HE OPENS HER PURSE. TIPS IT UPSIDE DOWN.

JACK        As I thought..... It is two years since you heard from him. You cannot go on like this. You need someone to look after you. All I ask is that you let me provide for you.

MARY        You Jack? Provide for us. How? You...what could you do?

JACK        I don't know.....but somehow, I will find a way!

JACK DEPARTS

MARY CHECKS TO SEE THAT THE CHILDREN ARE ASLEEP. SHE PUTS THE EGGS AWAY (POSSIBLY GOES OFF STAGE A MOMENT)

SQUIRE RACKHAM APPEARS.  
THE MC LEADS AUDIENCE IN BOOING

SQUIRE     The children are abed, that fool has gone...for all intents and purposes, she is alone....

HE THROWS OPEN THE DOOR AND ENTERS THE COTTAGE.

MARY        RE-ENTERS. SEES HIM. (FEARFULLY) Squire Rackham!!!

SQUIRE     (ASIDE) This comely wench. How I yearn for a taste of those pretty lips. Before long, I will have my way with her! MC BOOS (ALOUD) You know why I am here?

MARY        The rent. Yes...I--

SQUIRE     You are seven weeks behind. Fourteen shillings

MOTHER     I know sir. But where do I turn to?

SQUIRE     Fourteen shillings paid tonight or out you go.  
(ASIDE) I need this cottage so the railway can pass through here. And if she cannot find the money, well then I shall have some sport with her.

MARY But how can I pay? My work pays less and less. My purse is empty. See for yourself--SHE TIPS IT UPSIDE DOWN--A SOVEREIGN FALLS OUT OF IT.

MARY/SQUIRE A sovereign!

MARY MOUTHS THE WORD "JACK!" (RECOVERING) A sovereign. Why, that pays my rent....and for the next three weeks.

SQUIRE Damme!! (ASIDE) The railway has to come through. The family fortune is all but gone; I have lost money at the card tables to try and recover it. The Railway is my last chance or I might lose it all--the Hall, the lands, the estate....I shall have to find other ways to get rid of her.... HE SEIZES HER (ALoud)Your husband away all these years. do you not miss the pleasures of love--

MARY The pleasures of love, sir. Not of hate.

SQUIRE They can be strangely intertwined.... Those pretty lips. Come a kiss before I go.

MARY Never! Never! I will be true to the man I love. Always! MC/AUDIENCE CHEERS

HE THROWS HER TO THE GROUND. SMOULDERS . EXITS

MARY Oh Harry.....where are you? Where are you? My life can sink no lower.....SHE SINKS SOBBING TO HER KNEES AS THE SCENE ENDS.

SCENE THREE

MODEL BOAT IN LARGE BOWL.

FX WINDS AND STORM  
THE BOAT SINKS  
(SAD MUSIC ON PIANO.....)

HARRY SUDDENLY APPEARS, SOAKING WET, SWIMMING THROUGH THE SEA.

MC CHEERS

HARRY I'll get to England if I have to swim every stroke of the way!

SCENE FOUR

CORNER SET A SIMPLE INN.

AN INN SIGN: THE CROWN

JANE The Crown Inn. Where I'm a maidservant, but treated like a dog.

MR AND MRS BLASTER AT A TABLE.  
THEY SPEAK LIKE YOKELS  
THEY ARE DRUNK AND HAPPY.  
THEY FINISH THEIR DRINKS AND SUMMON JANE.

BLASTER Over here!! Replenish these glasses.

JANE I should be used to it by now. It's been like that all my life. Ordered around, never enough to eat, never quite warm enough. I had one moment of joy in this world, but even that was taken away from me. Lost for ever.

JANE TAKES GLASSES AWAY.

BLASTER Oh wife, we've never had so much money in our lives! Thanks to the railways.

MRS 'Tis your skills, Blaster. Our fortunes have exploded you might say.

BLASTER 'Cos I discharge my duties.

MRS We're going up in the world.

BLASTER Fused together. THEY BOTH LAUGH AT THEIR OWN WIT.

JANE BRINGS THE DRINKS  
BLASTER PINCHES HER BEHIND. SHE TURNS INDIGNANTLY, BUT BALASTER AND MRS BLASTER BOTH LAUGH.

SQUIRE RACKHAM ENTERS. LOOKS ROUND.  
JANE SEES HIM. AVERTS HER FACE (OR PARTIALLY COVERS IT WITH A HOOD).  
SQUIRE ORDERS DRINKS FROM HER. JOINS THE BLASTERS

SQUIRE Are you the expert at explosives?

BLASTER I am sir.

SQUIRE     And are you a man for hire?

BLASTER    I am sir.

SQUIRE     And ask no questions?

BLASTER    I do not, sir.

JANE BRINGS THE DRINKS FOR THE THREE OF THEM THAT SQUIRE HAS ORDERED. SHE IS ALERTED BY WHAT THEY ARE SAYING AND SHE REMAINS WITHIN EARSHOT.

BLASTER    Your good health.

MRS         And someone else's misfortune.

SQUIRE     You know Primrose cottage?

BLASTER    I do sir.

SQUIRE     Would that cottage disappear off the face of this earth, I would be a happy man....a grateful man.

MRS         And what about the contents of the cottage, sir?

SQUIRE     The contents of the cottage. Oh yes. No point in getting rid of the cottage unless the contents disappeared, too.

MRS         Chattels and the like?

SQUIRE     Chattels.

PAUSE

MRS         Wives is chattels.

BLASTER    Indeed they are. And the best there is. GRABS HER.

MRS         Children, too, I wouldn't wonder.

SQUIRE     So....A sovereign now (THE SOVEREIGN WHICH MARY GAVE HIM) and five times this amount when the cottage--

BLASTER And the chattels.

SQUIRE Especially the chattels...disappear. I appreciate there are risks. You get caught, you'll be transported.

BLASTER No sir, no sir, tis worse than transporting, After all these "mysterious" explosions, there is a regular hue and cry. If we or anyone the likes of us are caught with a shred of dynamite, tis the hangman's noose.

MRS MIMES BEING HANGED

MRS We shall give you the dynamite, and you must take it to the house. You secretes the doings and we'll do the rest.

BLASTER STANDS UP AND UNRAVELS A LENGTH OF FUSE FROM ROUND HIS TROUSERS. GIVES IT TO SQUIRE.

SQUIRE And if I am caught?

MRS A gentleman like yourself sir, with your estates--well, if you has explosives 'tis a new pond you be wanting or a fallen tree to be removed.

SQUIRE You'll be hearing from me.

HE EXITS  
THE BLASTERS LAUGH.

HOLDING UP THE SOVEREIGN TRIUMPHANTLY.

BLASTER Come come come. Keep bringing drinks till this be gone.

HE GIVES JANE THE SOVEREIGN.  
JANE NOTICES SOMETHING ON THE COIN.  
SHE LOOKS AMAZED.

BLASTER TO MRS Looks like we're not the only ones to be going up in the world.

BOTH (A TOAST) Primrose Cottage! THEY BOTH LAUGH.



SCENE FIVE

THE DESERT.....MODEL PALMS, PYRAMIDS.

EASTERN/EGYPTIAN MUSIC.

MC Harry was picked up by Arab Dhow, transported to Aden on the Red Sea.

HARRY APPEARS.

MC CHEERS.

HARRY IS MARCHING OVER A SAND TRAY.

HE IS SUFFERING FROM HEAT EXHAUSTION. NO WATER.

HARRY From there, overland by camel train to Cairo.

MC Overland! Some far-sighted fellow should build a canal.

HARRY Don't be a fool--it would never work. Now I'm just a few miles hike from the port of Alexandra.... and there I will pick up a ship --

TWO ARABS WAYLAY HIM.

HARRY You Arab dogs! Take that! HE KNOCKS EACH OF THEM COLD WITH GOOD CLEAN PUNCHES. (OR THEY STAGGER CONVENIENTLY INTO THE WINGS) The Empire brings civilisation to these people..but where's their gratitude!!!! Nothing will stand between me and England!

MC CHEERS

HARRY EXITS

SCENE SIX

PRIMROSE COTTAGE A FEW DAYS LATER.  
JACK IS STANDING THERE WITH MARY.

MARY Tom! Sue! Jack says he has found a way.

TOM AND SUE COME RUNNING IN.

SUE A way? To do what?

JACK To make money.

MARY Isn't it wonderful!

TOM How?

JACK By being a juggler. Look. HE JUGGLES WITH ONE BALL,  
THEN TWO. Also with sticks, see. HE DROPS SOME.

THEY LOOK ON WITH DISMAY

MARY But Careless Jack, will you be able to earn money this way?

JACK I shall...busk.

MARY Busk?

JACK Tis an honourable profession. I...I can think of few other ways to..... make money.

MARY But Jack, you must have made some money. The sovereign.

JACK It was sewn into my Christening gown....my mother must have placed it there. Before...before she gave me away. It was her life savings.

MARY (ASIDE) And Jack's, too, I suspect.

SQUIRE RACKHAM ENTERS (BOOS)

SQUIRE .....(ASIDE) I have a plot to get this simpleton out of the way--for good. I have arranged for the local constabulary to arrive soon after he returns.  
(ALoud) Jack, here's a shilling. There's a suitcase

waiting for me down the road in my carriage. Fetch it for me. And another shilling.....to take the children....

JACK See Mary! I'm earning money already!

SQUIRE And Jack. The case.....don't drop it...will you.

JACK AND THE CHILDREN EXIT.

SQUIRE (ASIDE) At last, I have her alone.

MARY Jack has a scheme to earn the money.

SQUIRE LAUGHS Wishful thinking, Madam. You and I both know it. But there is a way.

MARY There is?

SQUIRE Were I allowed freedom of access to your cottage when no one else is at home.

MARY No one?

SQUIRE But you. Think of it -- dalliance-- and in return-- security.PAUSE. HE PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND HER. I am surely not entirely displeasing.  
AUDIENCE BOOS

MARY You are vileness itself. You are a sink of iniquity.  
SHAKES HIM OFF  
AUDIENCE CHEERS

SQUIRE Damme, I have a good mind to give you a taste of the pleasures that I offer you right here and now.

THE BLASTERS ENTER, DRUNK

QUIRE You fools. What are you doing here?

BLASTER Surveying the site, Squire.

MRS Pretty cottage, this.

BLASTER Aye. Pity that the railway has to go through her(e)---

SQUIRE Hold your tongue

MARY        GASPS The railway! Through here!!!!

JACK ENTERS WITH THE CASE.

JACK        I've got it, I've got it!

HE CARELESSLY LETS THE LID FALL OPEN  
WE CAN SEE IT CONTAINS DYNAMITE. REACTION

ALL        Dynamite!!!!

MARY        You are the one responsible for the explosions.

SQUIRE     Not at all.

TOM        (TO SQUIRE) Jack's been juggling. To earn us some  
money. He's been practising.

SQUIRE     Show us. We have an audience for you to practice on.

MARY        No, Jack, I don't think--

JACK        Yes, yes!

JACK STARTS JUGGLING WITH THREE STICKS.  
HE DROPS ONE, THEN CONTINUES.  
AS HE DOES SO, BLASTER AND MRS BLASTER SUBSTITUTE THREE  
STICKS OF DYNAMITE .

THEY ALL SCREAM.

(BACK UP LINE IF ONE OF THE DYNAMITE STICKS GETS  
DROPPED--  
MRS BLASTER You needs a fuse to light it! SHE SHOWS  
IT)

THE BLASTERS LOOK OUT OF THE COTTAGE DOOR. SEE SOMETHING.  
POINT WITH ALARM  
THEY HIDE IN THE WARDROBE

A CONSTABLE ENTERS.

SQUIRE     (POINTING AT JACK HOLDING THE DYNAMITE) There is  
the villain--caught red-handed. what more evidence  
do you want?

CONSTABLE        None, Squire Rackham. TO JACK Come on Jack,  
'tis the jail for you.

MARY AND CHILDREN    But Jack is innocent!!!!

CONSTABLE SHAKES HEAD    Tis a sorry end, you've come to.

JACK                Don't let me go alone: keep me company.

CHILDREN GO WITH HIM. MARY IS ABOUT TO FOLLOW BUT  
SQUIRE GRABS HER BY THE ARM.

SQUIRE        Now my pretty (wench)---

THE BLASTERS EMERGE FROM CUPBOARD

SQUIRE    Get out of here and keep out of sight, you fools.

THE BLASTERS SCUTTLE OUT.

SQUIRE AND MARY LEFT ALONE

SQUIRE        Your loyal friend bound for prison and the gallows.  
Your husband gone these long years. You are all alone.  
You have a choice Madam. To be cast out into the  
pitiless world. Or live a life of luxury by succumbing  
to my pleasures.

MARY            Never, sir! never! I would sooner die.

SQUIRE        No doubt you would. But what about little Tom and  
Sue? It is not just your fate lies in your hands. How  
will they fare? Tom...just the right age to go up  
chimneys. And as for Susan.....you know what fate  
would befall her.....

MARY            (ASIDE) Alas--'tis true. I may be forced to accept for  
their sake.

SQUIRE FORCES A KISS UPON HER. THEN SHE BREAKS  
FREE.

MARY            (RESOLUTE) No! Never!

SCENE SEVEN  
JACK IN PRISON

A JAILER SITS NEARBY

JACK Sentenced to be hanged.

JAILER Hanged. Knew you would be. Could have been worse

JACK Worse?

JAILER It could have been Australia.  
Will be a sad day for your good parents.

JACK My parents are long dead. Is hanging....is hanging very painful?

JAILER I don't know sir. I've never been hanged. LAUGHS  
IMMODERATELY Excuse me--just indulging in gallows  
humour. Don't forget to order your final breakfast.  
Order what you like sir, as long as it is a beef and  
oyster pie.

JACK But I don't like (beef and oyster)--

JAILER Tis irrelevant. You orders the breakfast and I eats it.  
When you're hanged it has a terrible effect on the  
bowels, so the less you eat the less work 'tis for me.

JACK I don't find that amusing.

JAILER Nor do I, which is why I eats the breakfast. LAUGHS  
It's all right, the maidservant at The Crown knows  
what I likes. She'll bring exactly what I want. One  
good thing: now you're behind bars, the dynamiting  
should cease.

EX DISTANT SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION.

JAILER Or not, as the case may be.

SCENE EIGHT

FRANCE

HARRY STRIDING ALONG COUNTRY ROAD.

HARRY        France at last. I will soon be at Dover and then by ship across the Channel--

MC            Somebody should build a tunnel.

HARRY        You fool! It would never work!

TWO FRENCHMAN APPEAR. ABOUT TO ROB HIM.

HARRY        You French dogs! Take that! HE KNOCKS EACH OF THEM COLD WITH GOOD CLEAN PUNCHES. A good straight left--none of that Hercules crap. If only they'd been part of the Empire, they'd have been decent chaps. We could beat them at cricket.

MC            About the only people you could.

HARRY        Only a few days before I reach England and my beloved family.

SCENE NINE

PRIMROSE COTTAGE

IT IS EMPTY

TOM AND SUE ENTER THE EMPTY COTTAGE. CARRYING A BUCKET  
OF WATER

THE BLASTERS PULL BACK THE BEDROOM CURTAIN TO REVEAL  
THEMSELVES HIDING THERE.

BLASTER Now Mrs Blaster--we have some of the chattels.

THE CHILDREN ARE SEIZED AND DRAGGED BEHIND THE CURTAIN.



SCENE TEN  
PRISON

JAILER      Ah, here comes your breakfast.

JANE BRINGS IT IN.

JAILER      Thank you. It will be appreciated. HE TIPS  
JANE AND STARTS TO EAT IT.  
Well, they all say you are going to a better world.

JACK        It could not be much worse than this one.

JAILER      In that case, we're doing you a favour. HE SLUMPS TO  
THE GROUND.  
JANE GETS JAILER'S KEYS AND UNDOES THE  
LOCK SO THAT JACK CAN ESCAPE.

JACK        Why....? Why are you doing this (for me)?

JANE        Go! He won't remain unconscious for ever! Just go!

SCENE 11  
PRIMROSE COTTAGE

APPARENTLY EMPTY.  
STICKS OF DYNAMITE ARE PROMINENT--MAYBE ON THE TABLE.

MARY RUNS IN.

MARY        Tom, Sue! Amazing news: I went to the jail. And  
              they say that Jack has escap--- Tom? Sue?

SHE NOTICES STICKS OF DYNAMITE.  
GASPS.  
SHE PULLS BACK THE CURTAIN.  
TOM AND SUE ARE ON THEIR BEDS. THEY ARE TIED UP AND  
GAGGED.  
SHE GOES TO RELEASE THEM.  
MR AND MRS BLASTER APPEAR AND SEIZE HER.

MRS B TIES HER TO A CHAIR.

MARY        You villains! You murderous cutthroat--BUT SHE IS  
GAGGED.

BLASTER IS LAYING OUT THE FUSE.....

BLASTER    (ASIDE) This is the best bit. Lay out enough fuse to  
              give us time to get away and set up an alibi.

MRS B        An alibi means being in two places at once.

ALL IS READY.

SQUIRE ENTERS.

BLASTER    All ready to go Squire.

SQUIRE     Good work. (ASIDE) And now to get rid of these  
              country bumpkins!

MRS B        And now the....?

SQUIRE     Yes?

MRS         The rest of our fee: five more sovereigns.

SQUIRE I have them wrapped in my hankie. AS HE UNWRAPS IT, THEY BOTH PEER AT IT CLOSELY. AND SWOON INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH CHLOROFORM.

SQUIRE (ASIDE) Chloroform. 'Twill render them unconscious until they are blasted to another world. Along with the rest of the chattels!!! LAUGHS EVILLY.

BLACK OUT.

SCENE 12

HARRY KICKS OPEN THE ALLEN HALL DOORS FROM THE FOYER. HE IS BATHED IN A SPOT LIGHT. HE IS WEARING A DAZZLING WHITE SUIT.

"RULE BRITANNIA" PLAYS LOUDLY.

HE STRIDES MAGNIFICENTLY HOMEWARDS. MAYBE SHAKES HANDS WITH SOME OF THE AUDIENCE....

HARRY        Ah...back in dear old England. And now I make haste to return to Primrose Cottage, my wife and children.....

SCENE 13

PRIMROSE COTTAGE

THE BLASTERS HAVE DISAPPEARED.

SQUIRE     Now.....all is in readiness. This fuse gives me enough time to establish my alibi.  
HE LIGHTS THE FUSE  
IT BEGINS TO FIZZ ACROSS THE FLOOR (AT A RATE OF A METRE EVERY SIX SECONDS) TOWARDS THE STICKS OF DYNAMITE.

THE SQUIRE RUNS OUT.  
A MOMENT LATER, JACK RUNS IN.

JACK        I'm back!!! I'm back!!   Mary?

HE SEES HER.  
SHE SQUIRMS FRANTICALLY AND MAKES NOISES TO INDICATE THE FUSE. STILL HE FAILS TO NOTICE THE FUSE.

HE STARTS TO UNDO HER WRISTS.

HER MUFFLED CRIES BECOME MORE FRANTIC.

JACK        But where are the children?

THE FUSE STILL FIZZES. NEARER.

JACK SEES THE CHILDREN.

JACK        What! What has been happening here! Oh you poor things.

HE RUNS TOWARDS THEM. IN DOING SO, HE CRACKS HIS HEAD HARD ON THE LINTEL. HE STAGGERS BACK SEVERAL STEPS. FINALLY HE STEPS BACK ONTO THE FUSE AND EXTINGUISHES IT JUST IN TIME.

HE REMAINS DAZED.

JACK        I remember who I am! I remember my past. Why I---

MARY RELEASES HERSELF FROM THE CHAIR. TEARS OFF THE GAG AND RUNS TO RELEASE THE CHILDREN.

SQUIRE ENTERS HOLDING PISTOL.

SQUIRE     You fool! You escape from jail and haven't the brains to run away. And now you foil my plan. But only temporarily. Better and better. Now I have all four of you in my clutches. I have a spare fuse. A much shorter one.

HARRY SUDDENLY APPEARS.

HARRY     Unhand her, villain!

MARY     ]     Harry!  
CHILDREN ]     Father!!!

HARRY     Aye. Home from India. And by the looks of it, just in time.

SQUIRE    Yes. In time to die.

SQUIRE AIMS HIS PISTOL AT HIM. FIRES.  
HARRY SWAYS NEATLY TO ONE SIDE TO AVOID THE BULLET  
SQUIRE FIRES AGAIN.  
HARRY DODGES THE OTHER WAY.  
THE TWO BLASTERS FALL DEAD OUT OF THE WARDROBE.  
EACH WITH A BLOODY HOLE IN THEIR FOREHEAD.

HARRY     You villain!!! GOES TO THE SQUIRE. Take that!

HE KNOCKS HIM DOWN WITH A CLEAN PUNCH.

JANE APPEARS

JANE     I came to see if----

JACK     LOOKS AT HER   Mother!

JANE     My son. I lost track of you. But the sovereign I sewed into your gown...I marked it....And then it turned up at the Crown so I knew you must be in the district.

JACK     Is that why you drugged the jailer's breakfast?

MAID     Yes. And that man there---

SQUIRE GETTING UP Is your father!

JANE I was a chambermaid up at the Hall....fourteen years old. He seduced me. Then I was turned away.

HARRY Take that!

KNOCKS HIM DOWN AGAIN

CONSTABLE ENTERS

CONSTABLE Careless Jack I arrest you for escaping--

MARY "Careless" Jack no longer. Squire Jack from now on.

JANE And heir to the Hall and surrounding estates.  
The true villain lies at your feet.

SQUIRE 'Tis true. I am the guilty one....and I have the blood of these villains on my hands.

CONSTABLE Tis the gallows for you, sire.

SQUIRE TO JACK My son...

JACK Father.....

BEFORE THEY CAN EMBRACE, CONSTABLE ARRESTS THE SQUIRE.

MARY, HARRY, THE CHILDREN EMBRACE.  
JACK LOOKS ENVIOUSLY AT THEM.  
HE STANDS WITH HIS MOTHER.

SONG FINALE

That ends our story  
Evil has failed  
Despite all temptations  
Good has prevailed

Stick to your loved ones  
Through thick and thin  
That is our moral:  
Virtue will win!!!

END