

## **The Cottage - Audition Side 5 - Richard and Sylvia**

**RICHARD.** He seems nice.

**SYLVIA.** Bit of a philanderer.

**RICHARD.** Ah.

**SYLVIA.** My mind is all in a jumble.

**RICHARD.** It's wonderful to see you, Sylvia.

**SYLVIA.** What were you going to do with that gun then?

**RICHARD.** Hm? (*Remembering his mission.*) Oh. Scare the fellow.

**SYLVIA.** Beau Van Kipness?

**RICHARD.** (*Surprised once more.*) You know him?

**SYLVIA.** Indeed.

**RICHARD.** (*Back to the hunt.*) Is he here?

**SYLVIA.** He is.

**RICHARD.** (*Curious.*) Where?

**SYLVIA.** Hiding.

**RICHARD.** (*Impressed.*) Successfully.

**SYLVIA.** I suppose so.

**RICHARD.** (*Bravely.*) Coward.

**SYLVIA.** Quite.

**RICHARD.** (*Back to a fool in love.*) You're looking so lovely.

**SYLVIA.** Your eyes haven't changed a bit. Warm. Gentle.

**RICHARD.** I've dreamt of this moment. (*Re: the gun.*) Well, not this moment exactly...but-seeing you again.

**SYLVIA.** I always thought it unsettling that your body wasn't found.

All these years I've mourned you. You've got a tombstone. Your parents think you're dead. All of Shrewsbury thinks you're dead.

**RICHARD.** How are my parents?

**SYLVIA.** Dead!

**RICHARD.** How awful.

**SYLVIA.** Oh, William.

**RICHARD.** Oh, Sylvia.

**SYLVIA.** How I've longed for you.

**RICHARD.** And I you.

*They rush to each other. In their haste, Richard's gun drops to the ground. It goes off with a very loud bang. They scream.*

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**SYLVIA.** I thought you said it wasn't loaded!

**RICHARD.** I thought it wasn't! I've never been good with guns!  
Perhaps it was slightly loaded.

**SYLVIA.** That leads to slightly dead doesn't it?

*Richard takes the gun, clearly not an expert, and examines it.*

**RICHARD.** It's empty now. For certain.

**SYLVIA.** Let me see it.

*She expertly examines the gun.*

Gate. Cylinder: Chamber. Hammer. *(Then.)* Right. Good then.