by

Patrick Collins

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DEDICATION

The Playwrights Publishing Company received the following script from Mrs Katherine Collins who sent it in after the death of her husband in 2,000. During his lifetime Patrick had written plays and pantomimes for his local church. We were so impressed with this lady's dedication to the work of her deceased husband that we are pleased to be able to offer Patrick's play to a worldwide audience.

PATRICK GEORGE COLLINS

The following Appreciation was read out at Pat's funeral in St Luke's Church on St Thomas' Day, 3rd July 2000.

Pat was born at Evesham in Worcestershire and remained a countryman at heart all his life, loving all natural history as well as music, literature and cricket. He was a King's Scout. He sang in his church choir as boy and man. His job with a bank later moved him to London where he settled in the Bromley area and where he later met and married Katherine in 1965. They joined St Luke's Church where Pat served as Choir member and later as Churchwarden

Pat wrote several plays for St Luke's Church - Jonah, Naaman, Demon Defeated, Town and Country sketches and a Mummers Play, which were performed with great success, and were followed by the noted pantomimes at Christmas which raised money for the Homeless. He wrote a book "The Witnesses" - a story about the birth and death of Christ as told by Witnesses at the time. Pat died aged 70 years.

Pat was loved and appreciated for his high principles and good sense of humour. He had a wide knowledge of many subjects, including Christian theology, and had a strong faith in God. He was a thoughtful and perceptive person who would speak out straightforwardly but would be willing to change his mind and admit it if events proved him wrong. At heart he was a kind person who cared about the underdog as well as those closest to him. He will be sorely missed.

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Dramatis Personae.

Mother

Jane - elder daughter

Anne - younger daughter

Liz. - Anne's friend in London

Roger - friend of Anne

Jason - middle-aged friend of Liz.

Bob - friend of Liz.

Tony - friend of Liz.

Kevin - friend of Liz.

Three plain clothes police officers:

Sergeant, George(ina) and Fred(a).

Sally - friend of Mother.

SCENE ONE - THE KITCHEN AT THE BARNS' FARM.

(Anne sits alone at the table, occasionally looking at her watch. Enter her Mother from the garden.)

Mother

I'm sorry to have kept you waiting dear, I intended to come directly but I've been admiring the horse chestnuts across the river. They always look so beautiful at this time of year with the afternoon sun on them. They shine like gold today - did you notice them?

Anne

Yes they were very pretty - but I didn't want to talk to you about trees mother - there's something important I want to ask you.

Mother

I'm sure it's not so important that it can't wait until I've poured us each a cup of tea. It's already made and should be drawn by now (pours out two cups). Now what have you got to say that's so vitally important?

Anne

(Drinks some tea then puts the cup down) I'm afraid this is going to shock you mother, but I'm going away.

Mother

Oh - on holiday you mean?

Anne

No mother, forever, or at least for a long time.

Mother

(After long pause) Well I must admit it is a shock, dear, even though it's not totally unexpected. What does Jane say?

Anne

I haven't told her yet. I thought that you should be the first to know - and to tell you the truth I'm afraid what her reaction will be.

Mother

Jane's a sensible girl, even if she can be rather brusque at times. Where is she by the way? She's usually punctual at tea-time.

Anne I left her at the stables. She said she'd be about half an hour later than usual. I'm not sure what's keeping her. Something to do with a harness I believe.

Mother I think the best thing will be to talk this over together, and while we're waiting for her let's have another cup of tea. Oh, that sounds like her now.

(Enter Jane)

Jane Sorry I'm late mother. I hope you haven't guzzled all the tea between you.

Mother There must be at least two more cups left. Pour yourself one and then sit down. I've got something to tell you that's rather serious.

Jane Ah - a family conference - what's the matter? Have we had the bailiffs in?

Mother Of course not. Something Anne just told me has rather upset me.

Jane You're not 'in trouble' are you Sis, as they said in the good old days? Silly girl - I thought you were far too clever for that.

Mother This is no time for joking Jane - your sister is leaving us

Anne I'm sorry I haven't told you Jane, but I thought that I should speak to mother first.

Jane So that's it. I can't say I'm very surprised.

Anne What do you mean? I've never said anything.

Jane No you haven't but you've not had your mind on your work for over six months. Many a time I've seen you with that far away look in your eyes. I'm not such a fool as you take me for you know.

Mother Nobody thinks you're a fool, Jane. In many ways you're the shrewdest of the three of us. But what about the stables? Can you keep things going without Anne's help?

Jane

I hope you won't be offended, Anne, but I think we might actually manage better without you. You've got no real interest in the stables and I know that there are at least a couple of girls to the village who would jump at the chance of a job there. As a matter of fact I was talking to Fiona only last week and she seemed interested in coming in as a partner. She's quite well off and, with her money behind us, we might even be able to expand.

Anne

I'm not offended, Jane, in fact you're quite right in all you say.

Mother

Good. I'm glad that everyone is behaving sensibly and now, Anne, I think you should tell us why you to leave and what you intend to do.

Anne

Jane's already as good as told you why I want to leave when she said my heart wasn't in the job. I promised that I'd give it a go for two years and I've really tried hard, but I'm not like Jane you see, she loves horses but I could never get to like them. They're so big and smelly and they always seem so stupid.

Jane

They're a lot less stupid than some people I could mention.

Anne

As to what I intend to do - I'm going to London. I've been keeping in touch with Liz Bearcroft who I knew at college. She's doing very well there and she says that they're crying out for qualified designers.

Jane

Ah - the lure of the bright lights. I suppose you think you're going to walk into a top job as soon as you arrive?

Mother

Anne's very well qualified Jane, they thought a lot of her at college.

Jane

A first class diploma from the Worcester College of Arts and Design - big deal! That'll cut a lot of ice in London. It's London she's going to Mother - not Wyre Piddle.

Anne

I always knew you were jealous of me, Jane, but there's no need to show it so blatantly.

Mother

Now you're both being stupid. I'm sure Jane wasn't being jealous Anne, and Jane, I think you could have expressed yourself better; you know how seriously Anne takes her art.

Jane

I'm sorry Anne. I shouldn't have said that. I know you've got talent and flair. I only meant that the competition will be very strong. It's bad enough even here in the riding business.

Anne

I'm sorry too, Jane - I know you didn't mean to be offensive but you must see that I'm in a rather emotional state at present.

Mother

Good. I'm glad that's understood - now let's talk seriously. London's an expensive place Anne. Where are you going to live and what are you going to live on while you're looking for work?

Anne

As to where I'm going to live – that'll be no problem. Liz. has a very nice flat with a reasonable rent. The girl she was sharing it with has had to leave rather suddenly. Liz said she'd be really pleased if I shared it with her.

Mother

That sounds very satisfactory. Is she a nice girl?

Anne

One of the best. We were good friends at college. Our interests were very similar.

Jane

That's good - but what about the money you'll need?

Anne

I know, I've thought about that too. This is very awkward, mother, but the money Dad left me in his Will that would come to me when I'm thirty five - how much does that amount to?

Mother

I'm not sure dear without getting in touch with the Bank, but with interest it must be over thirty thousand pounds.

Anne	As such as that! Now listen please. Let me have twenty thousand of that money now -		
	you can leave the rest in the bank - I promise you I shan't ask for it.	That should be	
	more than enough to keep me afloat until I start earning regularly.		
Mathar	I'm not gura I should. There's no formal arrangement but your fathe	er woo warw alaar	

Mother I'm not sure I should. There's no formal arrangement but your father was very clear about his wishes.

Anne But he made his will when I was twelve - how could he know what might happen in the future?

Mother Your father had some rather old-fashioned ideas Anne, but he was an intelligent man nonetheless.

Anne I know, Mother, I'm sure he was but if I don't take my chance now, I may never have the opportunity again. You'll regret it all your life if you say no.

Mother Perhaps you're right - what do you think Jane?

Anne I don't think it's any business of hers, Mother.

Mother Perhaps not, but I'm still asking for her opinion - what do you think Jane?

Jane Anne's right. It's no business of mine. If she wants to take her money, good luck to her but she needn't come to me if she finds things more difficult than she expects.

Anne Thanks Sis, and I shan't sponge on you - never fear - it won't be necessary.

Jane Well if that's agreed, I'll get back to the stables – I've still got an hours work to do there and then I'm off to Worcester to se a man about the point-to-point. Don't stay up for me mother, I may be late. Goodnight Sis – see you tomorrow, if not before. (exit)

Mother I'm glad Jane took it so well, even if she was rather outspoken.

Anne

I'm glad she's gone mother. It's a terrible thing to say about your own sister but I never feel comfortable when she's around. I don't think she ever understood me. We're so different that at times I wonder whether we're sisters at all. Oh, I'm sorry, mother, I didn't mean that

Mother

(Laughs) Oh, you're sisters right enough and I'm not sure if you ever understood her either. It's not all that unusual, I believe. But are you sure you're doing the right thing?

Anne

Yes mother. I've thought about it a lot and I'm quite sure

(Pause)

Mother

What does Roger think?

Anne

Roger! Why should what Roger thinks matter? I haven't told him anything yet.

Mother

I thought you were quite close and he's a sensible man. I value his opinion, even if you don't

Anne

Roger's pleasant enough but he's like everyone else in this benighted place, as dull as ditchwater. He thinks of nothing but his farm and his stupid cricket – I don't believe he reads anything but the "Farmer's Weekly" and "Wisden"

Mother

I really think you're exaggerating dear. He always struck me as intelligent.

Anne

Oh has he? Well I'll give you an example of his intelligence: we were out one night and I thought I'd see just what he knew about literature. I asked him his opinion of Lawrence and do you know what he said?

Mother

I've no idea, Anne. What did he say?

Anne

He said, "He's pretty useful on a helpful wicket with the new ball but he can be expensive with an old one" – that's the limit of his intelligence

Mother

(Laughs) I think he intended to be funny, dear, but a sense of humour was never your strong point.

Anne If that's humour, I'm glad I've not got a sense of it. But now I'll leave you myself. I may be late coming home too, so good night.

Mother Why? Where are you going?

Anne To Evesham to break the news to some friends. I'm glad everything's sorted out so satisfactorily. Perhaps we can go to the bank tomorrow and finalize matters. Goodnight mother (kisses her and exits)

(Mother remains sitting staring into her lap, then rises and goes out of the kitchen door)

SCENE TWO - A FLAT IN LONDON

(Anne sits reading the evening paper - enter Liz.)

Anne Hello Liz. You're later than I expected. Shall I make you a coffee? I've just had one myself.

Liz. No thanks. I need something stronger. I've had a bitch of a day (pours herself a drink and sits) That's better - now, what have you been doing with yourself?

Anne I'm sorry you had such a trying time - I've been round some of the agencies.

Liz Good - any luck?

Anne No. They had nothing suitable at present but they took my name and put me on their mailing lists. There are lots that I haven't tried yet - I'll do some more tomorrow.

Liz. I made a few enquiries at work myself but nothing doing. Still we can't expect to get set up straight away - it took me a couple of months before anything cropped up at all likely.

Anne I hope I don't have to wait that long.

Liz I'm sure you won't, but have you eaten?

Anne No, I was waiting till you got back.

Liz That's good. I'm going to a little wine bar the yuppies haven't discovered yet. I was hoping you'd come with me so as I want to introduce you to some of my friends. You get a good meal there - reasonable price too.

Anne I 'll be glad to - what time have you booked for?

Liz. We shan't need to leave for over an hour - can you wait that long?

Anne Of course. I had quite a good meal at midday.

Liz. Then we can talk over things before we go - smoke?

Anne Thanks. (Takes cigarette) This tastes strange. Is it Turkish?

Liz. (Laughs) Probably - at least it's safe to say so if anyone asks

Anne You don't mean it's a reefer?

Liz. (Laughs again) That makes it sound positively nineteen-fiftyish. You're not telling me you've never smoked a joint before?

Anne No, I haven't. Isn't it dangerous?

Liz Of course not - they're safer than the straight stuff any day - at least you don't get cancer from them. Everyone in our line uses them - you won't get far without, and if you stick to them and don't experiment with the hard staff you'll be safe enough.

Anne If you're quite sure (takes another drag). I must say it's relaxing

Liz. Better than coffee! Now what do you think of the flat?

Anne Marvelous! It's just as I thought it would be - very convenient too.

Liz I was lucky getting it – I've got some good contacts you see. I think I told you the rent?

Anne Yes. It's rather expensive isn't it?

Liz But darling – you won't find anything cheaper round here. Not worth living in anyway. That's the trouble when an area gets what the estate agents call "fashionable". In come the pinstriped yahoos from the City with their Porsches and cell-phones and up go the rates one hundred per cent - I hope you can afford it.

Anne I'm sure I can. Father left me quite a lot of money in his will and I've got half in ready cash and the other half invested. It should be more than enough to see me through until I start earning.

Liz. That's reassuring. I won't ask how much. I'm not one to pry into money matters. Now there's another thing that we must get settled - pretty important too.

Anne What's that?

Liz. Your name. You must see "Anne Barns" just won't do. Imagine it on a programme – "Costumes by Anne Barns" – It sounds like a particularly butch professional tennis player.

Anne I'd never thought about it before but I suppose you're right. What do you suggest?

Liz. We want something with a touch of class about it but not too pretentious - let's think - Annabelle - that's it - Annabelle Barns - it's better but not quite right - we really want another syllable to balance things.

Anne Annabelle Barnett?

Liz. No - worse if anything – I've got it – "Annabelle Garner" - A good solid English name which rolls off the tongue but with just a hint of something out of the ordinary - don't you agree?

Anne

Yes I suppose so - do you really believe I'll ever get my name on a programme or are you just joking? There seems to be an awful lot of people looking for that sort of work.

Liz.

Oh there are, but they're pretty poor as a general rule. They only get where they are by pulling strings and sleeping around. Now <u>you've</u> got real flair. I recognized it when we were at college, and you don't often get one student praising another's work.

Anne

That's good of you Liz. I hope you're right. Now let me pay for the meal tonight as a thank you for all the help you've given me.

Liz

I've not done much for you yet, but thanks, it's a good thought and to tell you the truth I'm a bit short of cash at present. I'll try to see that the others don't sting you too much – they've got expensive tastes when someone else is paying. Now I'm going to have a shower and change. We should be leaving in half an hour at so (exit)

(Anne resumes reading her evening paper).

(SCENE THREE - SIX MONTHS LATER.- THE KITCHEN OF THE BARNS' FARM)

(Jane sits at the table with a cup of coffee - enter mother).

Mother

Hello Jane. I see you've already poured yourself a coffee. I was just making myself a fresh pot.

Jane

Thanks mother, I'll be glad of another. I'm dead tired, I've been working like a navvy for over four hours.

Mother

Did the storm do much damage? Shall we need to get the builders in?

Jane

I don't think so. There's a fair number of slates off but I think we'll manage to replace them between us. The horses were frightened but none of them are hurt so far as I can see, thank God, and most of the fences and jumps are down and a few trees too.

Mother We must be thankful it wasn't worse - has the post arrived?

Jane Yes, about an hour ago. Fortunately none of the roads were blocked.

Mother Was there anything of importance?

Jane No. One or two bills and some advertising stuff – oh and a letter from the Bank - looks

like a statement – here it is.

Mother Thanks – yes, it's just a statement. There was nothing from Anne?

Jane No. I expect she's far too busy to write to her mother and sister.

Mother Maybe it's been lost. I'm sure we'll get a letter soon. It's not like her to delay so long

and I'd like to know her new address.

Jane She'll write when she feels like it – I think that was the door. I'll go (exits)

(Re-enters with Roger) It's Roger, mother. I've asked him to come in.

Mother Hello Roger. It's good of you to call. Would you like a coffee?

Roger Thanks, Mary – I'd love one but I mustn't waste your time or Jane's

Jane That's OK, I was having a break. I've been working all morning clearing up after the

damned storm

Roger That's one of the reasons I called. Is there anything I can do to help? We escaped the

worst of it being farther down the valley.

Jane That's good of you, Roger. We've got most of the mess cleared away but if I could

borrow one of your tractors for a couple of hours I'd be grateful. There are two or three

tress that our little one can't shift.

Roger I'll come up myself this afternoon with the Ferguson. She's getting on no but still has plenty of guts in her. Mother That's' very kind. Are you sure you can spare the time? Roger Of course. I'll be round about two thirty. I've got to go into Evesham this morning, or I'd come before – and that reminds me, is there anything you want from there? Mother I don't think so but I'm grateful for the offer. Do you want anything Jane? Jane No. I'm pretty well stocked up, but thanks all the same. Roger Well, any time I'm going in and you want anything just let me know. Oh there is another thing – have you heard from Anne recently? Mother Not for over a month now and I must admit I'm just a bit worried. I wrote to her three weeks ago and my letter came back marked "Gone away - address not known". Roger I've no doubt you'll hear from her soon. I expect she's very busy. What is she doing now? Mother I think she's involved in a magazine that's recently started up. She wrote to me about four months ago telling me all about it. She seems very enthusiastic. I ordered a copy from Smiths. I thought it was quite interesting, though I don't understand all of it. Jane "Parnassus" it was called, and I couldn't make head or tail of it - but then I'm only a simple country girl. Roger Have you still got it? I'd like to see it.

reports or first class averages.

I chucked it out after a week or so. It wouldn't have been your cup of tea - no market

Jane

Roger I'm afraid I'm one of the reasons she left, Mary. I never took her seriously and didn't

realise how much it hurt her.

Mother I don't think anyone did, Roger – we're all to blame – but I'm glad she went, although I

miss her terribly. She'd set her heart on doing this sort of thing and she would never

have forgiven herself if she hadn't taken the opportunity when it occurred.

Roger I expect you're right and I think she's sensible enough to come back it things don't work out. I

know when I was about fourteen I was quite convinced I was good enough to play for

the county. I used to imagine myself wearing the old green cap and scoring centuries

galore. I soon learnt my lesson though and now I'm happy enough to turn out for the

village when I've got the time.

Jane That's funny, it was just the same with me. I used to dream of cleaning up at

Badminton and now I spend my time teaching little girls to ride old hacks and

competing in the odd point-to-point.

Mother I'm not sure Anne would look at things quite the same as you do, but we've talked

enough – another coffee Roger?

Roger No thanks, Mary, I've wasted too much of your time, besides I'm late already – I must

be off. See you at two thirty Jane.

Jane Thanks Roger. You're a friend in need.

Roger And you'll let me know if you hear anything, Mary – about Anne I mean.

Mother Of course – goodbye. I'll see you later. I'm sure you'll want a cup of tea after moving

those trees – or something stronger perhaps

Roger That's be great – see you then.

(SCENE FOUR – SIX MONTHS LATER – A LONDON FLAT)

(Anne and Liz have just finished breakfast.)

Anne So it was good party then, Liz?

Liz So – so. Nothing special. Too much drink, too much smoke and too much noise –

apart from that, OK

Anne You always say that but I'm sure you enjoyed it.

Liz Well I've been to worse, and I think I made some good contacts. I'll tell you about it

later but let's have a look at the post first.

Anne Is there anything for me?

Liz Not as far as I can see. No – they're all mine – three appeals – you know where they're

going (throws them unopened in the bin) a couple of bills – they can wait – this one's

from Bob – what does he want? I hope he's not trying to scrounge a few quid again.

Hello – what's this? (opens it and reads) Damn! That's all we need

Anne What's the matter, Liz? Bad news?

Liz Read it yourself. Those grasping bastards of landlords have put the rent up. By a hell

of a lot too.

Anne But this is extortionate. What are we going to do?

Liz We'll have to pay it of course. What else can we do?

Anne I said all along we shouldn't have left the other flat.

Liz Don't start all that again. You know as well as I do that the place had become perfectly

impossible. You agreed with me at the time. And if you hadn't put all your money into

that lousy magazine we'd be a lot better placed than we are now,

Anne I still say "Parnassus" was a good idea. There were teething troubles of course but all it

needed was time. Another six months and it would have taken off.

Liz It wouldn't have taken off in a million years. It was third-rate amateur stuff and you know it.

Anne Don't let's argue, Liz. I couldn't stand it this morning. And I'm not quite broke. I've still got around five thousand pounds invested and though I don't want to break into it, it's there in case of need. That's all I have got though. I asked mother to send me the twelve thousand that was still to come to me from father.

Liz Five thousand is better than nothing. I bet there were fireworks at your place when your sister heard about it – she sounds a real bitch by what you tell me.

Anne She's not as bad as all that – she just looks at things differently from us – but I asked mother to keep it secret.

Liz I hope for your sake she did. But let's look on the bright side. It may that we'll both be having good news soon.

Anne How do you mean?

Liz I heard last night that I'm in line for the fashion editor's job. It's not cut and dried yet but it's ninety per cent certain. If I do get it, there'll be a hefty increase in my salary, and then there's the status of course.

Anne I'm so glad Liz. You deserve it. You work hard and it's about time you had recognition.

Liz You know what they say about counting chickens – have you any plans for this morning?

Anne No. Why?

Liz Good. I think you're going to have a visitor.

Anne Who? I don't know of anyone.

Liz I met Jason at the party and told him about you – he seemed interested.

Anne Jason?

Liz Jason Fairclough – you've heard of him of course?

Anne Why yes – isn't he a poet? I've read several things by him. I thought they were good.

Liz. He was a poet. He's a scriptwriter now. He does the books for Tom Fitzgerald's musicals. He writes them under an assumed name because he doesn't want people to think he's prostituting his talent - bloody fool! He must have made more in the last two years than he ever did with his verse.

Anne I'd no idea that you'd met him - do you know him well?

Liz. I've never slept with him if that's what you mean but we've got - well - friends in common. We got talking last night, by accident almost, you know how it is at a party and I told him you were interested in stage work and he said he'd like to meet you. I asked him to look round this morning.

Anne Thanks Liz, that's marvelous but I'm sure he won't come - why should he? - What can I do that would interest him?

Liz. I don't know, but he'll come right enough. He was stone cold sober at the time and when he says he'll do a thing, he'll do it – at least in the short term.

Anne You must tell no about him. How old is he?

Liz. Positively antediluvian - getting on for fifty I should say, but he knows all the right people and he's loyal to his friends. If he takes to you he might be able to help you a lot. By the way, he's gay so you needn't worry on that score. (Bell rings) Someone's coming - it must be him - try and make a good impression - a lot depends on it.

(Enter Jason)

Liz.	Hello Jason - you didn't forget then.
Jason	How could I ever forget you darling? (kisses her) And this must be the friend you were telling me about - Annabelle isn't it?
Liz	Let me make the formal introduction - James this is Annabelle Garner. Annabelle – allow me to introduce you to Jason Fairclough.
Jason	Liz is only trying to annoy me – she knows I loathe formality – but I shan't rise to her.
Liz	That would be too much to expect (laughs). I suppose you want a drink. The usual?
Jason	Yes please my dear and not too much water. You know, Annabelle, a good drink is the last of the fleshly pleasures I have left to me.
Liz.	That's not what I've heard – I shan't be a moment (goes into kitchen) Damn! We've run out of your stuff. I wish you'd drink the same as the rest of us.
Jason	The enjoyment of a really good malt whiskey is the last vestige of my middle-class upbringing. I've tried to like your modern concoctions but I've never succeeded.
Liz	I suppose I'll have to go and get a bottle – lend me a tenner Annabelle.
Anne	My bag is by the door – help yourself.
Liz	Thanks. I'll take two while I'm about it. You can never keep track of the cost of anything nowadays. It seems to vary from week to week – I shan't be long. Sorry you've got to wait Jason – don't misbehave while I'm away. (exits)
Jason	I'm glad she'll be out for a while. Liz is a dear girl but I find her a little overpowering. I suppose she's told you all about me.
Anne	Just a little.

Jason

Quite enough I expect, but I didn't come here to talk about myself and it's not a very interesting subject. What about yourself? Do you like London? You haven't been here very long, have you?

Anne

Just over a year - it's an exciting place - I wouldn't be anywhere else but I'm finding it a struggle to get accepted just now.

Jason

I saw a documentary on television - it must have been four or five years ago, about a lighthouse in the North Sea. It reminded me of London; how the birds of passage come flocking to the lights. Most of them were dazzled and dashed themselves against the glass until they were exhausted and fell into the cold water. Some found a safe perch and rested until they were strong enough to move on and a few of the lucky ones got inside the lantern and stayed there, preening in the light and the warmth. The trouble was - there was no way out and in the end they fell to the floor shrivelled and dead and were swept out by the keepers. But I'm regressing to my misspent poetical years – what are you doing at present my dear?

Anne

I was with "Parnassus" until it closed. I haven't had a regular job since then.

Jason

It's a pity it folded. A good idea badly carried out. But Liz tells me you're interested in the theatre – is that so?

Anne

Yes, costume design mainly.

Jason

Have you any examples of your work handy? I should very much like to see them.

Anne

I think I can find some ... yes, I thought so. These are some designs for a student performance of "The Duchess of Malfi." It got quite good reviews.

Jason

(Looks at the folder) I like them. They've got a lot of promise. Of course this is too fussy, but I expect you realise that by now.

Anne

I'm afraid not – what do you mean?