

**THE 39 STEPS - Audition Side: Richard Hannay, Clown 1 (Salesman 1, Paperboy, Mrs. Higgins),  
Clown 2 (Salesman 2, Policeman, Porter)**

**\*this side is required for the Clowns\***

SALESMAN 1. Wonder what won the two o'clock at Windsor.

SALESMAN 2. I'll get a paper.

SALESMAN 1. I'll go to the lavatory.

*(They get up. Squeeze round each other.)*

SALESMAN 1. Excuse me. Sorry. Sorry.

SALESMAN 2. Sorry. Sorry.

HANNAY. Sorry.

*(SALESMAN 1 exits. SALESMAN 2 sticks his head out of the window. Whistles through his teeth. SALESMAN 1 immediately back on as a PAPERBOY in a flat cap.)*

PAPERBOY. Evenin paper! Latest news! Evenin paper!

Latest –

SALESMAN 2. Evenin paper please?

PAPERBOY. Evening paper sir? Thankoo sir!

*(gives him a paper)*

SALESMAN 2. *(gives him a penny)* Thankoo.

PAPERBOY. Evenin paper! Latest news! Evenin paper!

Latest –

*(Exits. Immediately back on as SALESMAN 1)*

SALESMAN 1. Excuse me. *(Squeezes past.)* Sorry. Sorry.

SALESMAN 2. Sorry. Sorry.

HANNAY. Sorry.

*(SALESMAN 1 sits down. He greets SALESMAN 2.)*

SALESMAN 2. Hello!

SALESMAN 1. Hello!

SALESMAN 2. *(opens paper)* Good Lord!

SALESMAN 1. What is it?

SALESMAN 2. Been a woman murdered in a fashionable West End flat!

*(HANNAY freezes.)*

SALESMAN 1. All these sex dramas. Don't appeal to me! What won?

SALESMAN 2. What won what?

SALESMAN 1. The two O'clock at Windsor.

SALESMAN 2. Two O'clock at Windsor?

*(Turns paper over. They read the back. HANNAY peers at the front.)*

Bachelor Boy.

SALESMAN 1. Good.

SALESMAN 2. At seven-to-four on.

SALESMAN 1. Not so good.

*(SALESMAN 2 back to front page. HANNAY sits back quickly.)*

SALESMAN 2. Anyway where was we? Ah yes. *(reads)* Stabbed in the back she was. Portland Mansions. Portland Place.

SALESMAN 1. By the BBC? That's the place to put someone to sleep!

*(They laugh uproariously. Wink at HANNAY.)*

What was she like? One of the usual?

SALESMAN 2. *(reads)* Well-dressed woman about thirty-five. *(looks up)* Terrible!

SALESMAN 1. Terrible!

*(They look at HANNAY.)*

HANNAY. Terrible!

SALESMAN 2. *(reads)* The tenant Richard Hannay is missing.

SALESMAN 1. You do surprise me!

SALESMAN 2. Approximately thirty-seven. Dark wavy hair. Piercing blue eyes. Pencil moustache.

*(HANNAY hides his moustache with his hat.)*

HANNAY. Excuse me?

SALESMEN. Yes?

HANNAY. Might I have a look at your paper?

**SALESMAN 1.** Certainly.

**HANNAY.** Thank you.

*(HANNAY takes the paper. Pores into it. Looks up to see both men staring at him. They grin unnervingly.)*

**SALESMAN 2.** Think I'll pop out to the buffet car. Finished?

*(snatches paper from HANNAY)*

Fancy anythin'?

**SALESMAN 1.** No thank you.

**HANNAY.** No thank you.

**SALESMAN 2.** Right you are.

*(He leaves the compartment. Squeezes past.)*

**SALESMAN 2.** Excuse me. Sorry. Sorry.

**SALESMAN 1.** Sorry. Sorry.

**HANNAY.** Sorry.

*(SALESMAN 1 glances out of the window.)*

**SALESMAN 1.** Good Heavens! Place is stiff with police!

*(HANNAY freezes. SALESMAN 1 pulls down window. Calls out.)*

Excuse me Constable! Caught the West End murderer yet?

*(SALESMAN 2 appears in a police hat.)*

**POLICEMAN.** We'll catch him, don't you worry sir!

**SALESMAN 1.** That's the spirit!

*(POLICEMAN changes into porter's hat.)*

**PORTER.** All aboard for the Highlands! Next stop the highlands!

*(Changes into PC hat.)*

**POLICEMAN.** Anything suspicious let us know sir!

**SALESMAN 1.** Oh yes. Don't you worry!

*(PC changes into porter's hat.)*

**PORTER.** All aboard! All aboard!

*(SALESMAN 1 puts on paperboy hat.)*

**PAPERBOY.** Final edition sir? Final edition.

*(PORTER changes into SALESMAN 2 hat.)*

**SALESMAN 2.** No thank you!

*(SALESMAN 2 puts on porter hat.)*

**PORTER.** All aboard! All aboard!

*(PAPERBOY puts on salesman hat.)*

**SALESMAN 1.** Alright, alright!

*(PORTER puts on policeman hat.)*

**POLICEMAN.** Keep your eyes peeled won't you sir!

**SALESMAN 1.** Certainly will constable!

**POLICEMAN.** Don't forget sir!

**SALESMAN 1.** No I won't constable.

*(changes into paperboy hat)*

**PAPERBOY.** Read all about it!! Read all about it!!

*(POLICEMAN puts on porter hat.)*

**PORTER.** All aboard! All aboard!

*(PORTER puts on police hat.)*

**POLICEMAN.** Anything suspicious, let us know sir.

*(PAPERBOY changes into SALESMAN 1. )*

**SALESMAN 1.** Will do, constable.

*(POLICEMAN puts on porter hat.)*

**PORTER.** All aboard! All aboard!

*(SALESMAN 1 changes into MRS HIGGINS hat.)*

**MRS HIGGINS.** Is this the 9.41 to Reading?

**PORTER.** Platform Twelve!

**MRS HIGGINS.** Thankoo!

**PORTER.** All aboard let's be havin' yer!

*(blows whistle)*

*(MRS HIGGINS puts on paperboy hat.)*

**PAPERBOY.** Read all about it!! Read all about it!!

**PORTER.** All aboard! All aboard!

*(blows whistle)*

**PAPERBOY.** Final Edition! Final Edition!

**PORTER.** All aboard! All ab –

*(blows whistle)*

*(HANNAY the actor can't take any more.)*

**HANNAY.** Oh just get on with it!!

**BOTH CLOWNS.** Thankoo!

*(Clowns run off. Train shrieks. Chugs out of the station.)*