AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

AND THEN WERE THERE NONE

1. OPEN CALL SIDE 1 – VERA

It isn't a story. It's the truth. I didn't kill that child. It was someone else. A man. Peter's uncle. I was in love with him - he was wicked - and I didn't know. He said he loved me, but that he was too poor to marry. There was a rock far out that Peter was always wanting to swim to. Of course, I wouldn't let him. It was dangerous. One day we were on the beach and I had to go back to the house for something I'd forgotten. When I got back, I saw Peter swimming out to the rock. I knew he hadn't a chance, the current had got him already. I flew towards the beach and Hugh tried to stop me. "Don't be a fool;' he said. "I told the little ass he could do it:' I pushed past him - he tried to stop me, but I got away and rushed down. I plunged into the sea and swam after Peter. He'd gone before I could get to him.

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2. OPEN CALL SIDE 2 – JUDGE WARGRAVE

Side A

Exactly, my dear sir. Don't you realize that this clever and cunning criminal is always comfortably one stage ahead of us? That he knows exactly what we are going to do next, and makes his plans accordingly? There's only one place, you know, where a successful murderer could hide and have a reasonable chance of getting away with it…. Here in this room — Mr. Owen is one of us!

Side B

You know, Vera Claythorne, all my life I've wanted to take life — yes, to take life. I've had to get what enjoyment I could out of sentencing the guilty to death. I always enjoyed that — but it wasn't enough. I wanted more — I wanted to do it myself with my own hands. But I'm a Judge of the High Court. I've got a sense of justice. As between our Sovereign Lord the King and the prisoner at the Bar — will true deliverance make — Guilty, my Lord. Yes. Guilty. You were all guilty, you know, but the Law couldn't touch you, so I had to take the Law into my own hands. Into my own hands! Silence in the Court!

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3. OPEN CALL SIDE 3 – LOMBARD

I'm sorry to disappoint all of you. It's just that I plead guilty. It's perfectly true. I left those natives alone in the bush. Matter of self-preservation.
(Coolly.) Not quite the act of a proper gentleman, I'm afraid. But after all, self-preservation's a man's first duty. And natives don't mind dying, you know. They don't feel about it as Europeans do –

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4. OPEN CALL SIDE 4 – DR ARMSTRONG

It was drink that did it. I used to be a heavy drinker. God help me, I was drunk when I operated - quite a simple operation. My hand shaking all over the place — I can remember her now — a big, heavy, countrified woman. And I killed her!

Sister knew, of course, but she was loyal to me — or to the hospital. I gave up drink — gave it up altogether. I went in for a study of nervous diseases. One or two lucky shots. Good results with one or two important women. They talked to their friends. For the last year or two I've been so busy I've hardly known which way to turn. I'd got to the top of the tree.

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5. OPEN CALL SIDE 5 – BLORE

Rogers and his missus did the old lady in. They're feeling quite safe and happy about it - Well - they know there's no immediate danger to them. Then, last night some lunatic goes and spills the beans. What happens? It's the woman cracks. Goes to pieces. Did you see him hanging round her when she was coming to? Not all husbandly solicitude? Not on your sweet life. He was like a cat on hot bricks. And that's the position. They've done a murder and got away with it. But if it's all going to be raked up again now, it's the woman will give the show away. She hadn't got the nerve to brazen it out. She's a living danger to her husband, that's what she is, and him - he's all right. He'll go on lying till the cows come home, but he can't be sure of her. So what does he do? He drops a nice little dollop of something into a nice cup of tea, and when she's had it, he washes up the cup and saucer and tells the doctor she ain't had nothing.

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6. OPEN CALL SIDE 6 – EMILY BRENT

Now that we are alone, I have no objection to telling you the facts of the case - Indeed I should like you to hear them. It was not a fit subject to discuss before gentlemen - so naturally I refused to say anything last night. That girl, Beatrice Taylor, was in my service. I was very much deceived in her. She had nice manners and was clean and willing. I was very pleased with her. Of course, all that was sheerest hypocrisy. She was a loose girl with no morals. Disgusting! It was some time before I found out that she was what they call "in trouble." (Pause.) It was a great shock to me.

Naturally, I refused to keep her an hour under my roof. No one shall ever say I condoned immorality. I told her that I felt soiled by ever having her under my roof - I'm glad to say I broke her down utterly.

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

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7. OPEN CALL SIDE 7 – GENERAL MACKENZIE

I loved her very much. Of course, I was a lot older than she was. She was only twenty-seven, you know. (Pause.) Arthur Richmond was twenty-six. He was my A.D.C. (pause.) Lesley liked him. They used to talk of music and plays together, and she teased him and made fun of him. I was pleased. I thought she took a motherly interest in the boy. Damn fool, wasn't I? No fool like an old fool. Exactly like a book the way I found out. When I was out in France. She wrote to both of us, and she put the letters in the wrong envelope. So I knew — It's all right, my dear. It's a long time ago. But you see I loved her very much — and believed in her. I didn't say anything to him — I let it gather inside — here - (He strikes his chest.) — a slow, murderous rage — damned young hypocrite — I'd liked the boy - trusted him. I sent him to his death.

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8. OPEN CALL SIDE 8 – MARSTON

Absolutely wizard car - a super-charged SportsVarletti Carlotta. You don't see many of them on the road. I can get over a hundred out of her. Yes, two hundred and eight miles from London and I did it in a bit over four hours. Too many cars on the road, though, to keep it up. Touched ninety going over Salisbury Plain. Not too bad, eh?

I've just been thinking - John and Lucy Combes. Must have been a couple of kids I ran over near Cambridge. Beastly bad luck. For me, I was thinking, but it was damned bad luck for them too. Of course, it was pure accident. They rushed out of some cottage or other. I had my license suspended for a year. Beastly nuisance.

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9. OPEN CALL SIDE 9 – ROGERS

There was a mention, sir, of me and Mrs. Rogers, and of Miss Jennifer Brady. There isn't a word of truth in it. We were with Miss Brady when she died. She was always in poor health, sir, always from the time we came to her. There was a storm, sir, the night she died. The telephone was out of order. We couldn't get the doctor to her. I went for him, sir, on foot. But he got there too late. We'd done everything possible for her, sir. Devoted to her, we were. Anyone will tell you the same. There was never a word said against us. Never a word.

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

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10. OPEN CALL SIDE 10 – MRS. ROGERS

Oh, there you are, Rogers. You ought to clear these dirty glasses. You're always leaving the dirty work to me. Here I am with a four-course dinner on my hands and no one to help me. You might come and give me a hand with the dishing up. All these visitors arriving today and the maids not coming till tomorrow. What do they think we are? Well, I can tell you this, Rogers. I'm not staying any place where I'm put upon. Cooking's my business! I'm a good cook – But the kitchen's my place and housework's none of my business. All these guests! I've a good mind to put my hat and coat on and walk out now and go straight back to Plymouth.

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11. OPEN CALL SIDE 11 – NARRACOTT

First lot to be arriving in Jim's boat. Another lot not far behind. Lemons. Slip soles. Cream. Eggs, tomatoes and butter. That's all, wasn't it? Looks neat enough for me. Kind of bare, but rich folks like places bare, it seems. And he was a queer sort of gentleman as built this place. Spent a wicked lot of money on it he did, and then gets tired of it and puts the whole thing up for sale.