

MERRICK. I would prefer it where no one stared at me.

GOMM. No one will bother you here.

TREVES. Certainly not. I've given instructions.

(PORTER and SNOOK peek in.)

PORTER. What'd I tell you?

SNOOK. Gawd almighty. Oh. Mr. Treves. Mr. Gomm.

TREVES. You were told not to do this. I don't understand. You must not lurk about. Surely you have work.

PORTER. Yes, sir.

TREVES. Well, it is infuriating. When you are told a thing, you must listen. I won't have you gaping in on my patients. Kindly remember that.

PORTER. Isn't a patient, sir, is he?

TREVES. Do not let me find you here again.

PORTER. Didn't know you were here, sir. We'll be off now.

GOMM. No, no, Will. Mr. Treves was precisely saying no one would intrude when you intruded.

TREVES. He is warned now. Merrick does not like it.

GOMM. He was warned before. On what penalty, Will?

PORTER. That you'd sack me, sir.

GOMM. You are sacked, Will. You, his friend, you work here?

SNOOK. Just started last week, sir.

GOMM. Well, I hope the point is taken now.

PORTER. Mr. Gomm—I ain't truly sacked, am I?

GOMM. Will, yes. Truly sacked. You will never be more truly sacked.

PORTER. It's not me. My wife ain't well. My sister has got to take care of our kids, and of her. Well.

GOMM. Think of them first next time.

PORTER. It ain't as if I interfered with his medicine.

GOMM. That is exactly what it is. You may go

PORTER. Just keeping him to look at in private. That's all. Isn't it?

(SNOOK and PORTER exit.)

GOMM. There are priorities, Frederick. The first is discipline. Smooth is the passage to the tight ship's master. Merrick, you are safe from prying now.

TREVES. Have we nothing to say, John?

MERRICK. If all that'd stared at me'd been sacked—there'd be whole towns out of work.

TREVES. I meant, "Thank you, sir."

MERRICK. "Thank you sir."

TREVES. We always do say please and thank you, don't we?

MERRICK. Yes, sir. Thank you.

TREVES. If we want to properly be like others.

MERRICK. Yes, sir, I want to.

TREVES. Then it is for our own good, is it not?

MERRICK. Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Gomm.

GOMM. Sir, you are welcome. (Exits.)

TREVES. You are happy here, are you not, John? MERRICK. Yes.

TREVES. The baths have rid you of the odor, have they not?

MERRICK. First chance I had to bathe regular. Ly.

TREVES. And three meals a day delivered to your room?

MERRICK. Yes, sir.

TREVES. This is your Promised Land is it not? A roof. Food. Protection. Care. Is it not?

MERRICK. Right, Mr. Treves.

TREVES. I will bet you don't know what to call this.