



# A HEARTLESS WOMAN

BY

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Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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# A Heartless Woman

A short play

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## Characters:

HENRY – MAN IN HIS LATE 40s owner of the Krebs’s Detective Agency

SOPHIE – WOMAN IN HER EARLY 30s Henry’s personal assistant and secretary

WOMAN – WOMAN IN HER MID 40s first victim of “The Ripper”

***The city of Chicago. Krebs's Detective Agency. Gloomy autumn evening. Rain pouring outside. Henry is sitting behind his desk and smokes a cigarette. An open case file is laying on the desk in front of him. Eerie silence fills the room. Sophie is sitting outside the office in the main hallway of the Krebs's Detective Agency. The silence is suddenly disturbed by the sound of the telephone.***

Sophie: Krebs's Detective Agency how can we help you?

Sophie: Oh Inspector! What a nice surprise we were not expecting you to call us so soon.

Sophie: Really!? A big breakthrough in the case? And the suspect has been apprehended?

Sophie: Oh my... that's really terrific news.

Sophie: Of course Sir. I'll notify Mr. Krebs immediately.

Sophie: Thank you for your help. Have a safe night.

***Sophie hangs up and knocks on the door of Henry's office.***

Henry: Open!

***Sophie opens the doors and enters the room. The smell of sweat, cigarettes and Scotch fills her nostrils.***

Sophie: Good God ... Henry... I've told you countless times already. NO SMOKING IN THE BUILDING! I won't even mention the fact that you're completely drunk.

Henry: Not completely... Besides I'm the reason why you're working as a secretary in here. So try and at least show me some gratefulness by leaving me and my habits alone.

Sophie: God you're impossible... At least open the window when you decide to smoke. And for the love of God... GO TAKE A SHOWER.

Henry: Yeah, yeah... I promise to do that later. Probably... Where's the statement that this broad from across the street gave us?

Sophie: I've almost completed Miss's Harris statement. Should be done in a matter of minutes.

Henry: Get to it then.

Sophie: Inspector Krebs called a few minutes ago.

Henry: Splendid... and what does my lovely brother want this time?

Sophie: There's been a breakthrough in the DL3 incident. Apparently they found the guy.

Henry: Impossible! "The Ripper" captured by a bunch of imbeciles led by my brother?

Sophie: Henry I know how you feel after what happened to...

Henry: DON'T YOU DARE SAY HER NAME!

Sophie: Your brother feels terrible that he wasn't able to protect her. Trust me, he truly regrets what happened. But he's not the one to blame. The truth is you just don't know how to cope with her loss. You have regrets. And that doesn't surprise me. Just look back at how you were treating her. You were a terrible husband. So cold and emotionless...

***Sophie suddenly stops and looks at Henry. She regrets her words. She knows that deep inside there is still the old cheerful Henry that she remembers from the old times when she started her work at the agency. She wants to apologize for her outburst but she feels a sharp pain in her chest. As someone had put a knife right through her heart. She isn't able to say anything. She knows that she hurt Henry. She puts her hand to her chest.***

Henry: I'm sorry Sophie. But my brother is wrong. They didn't catch "The Ripper".

Sophie: How do you know?

Henry: Because I am the one responsible for my wife's death.

Sophie: So that's why... How can you be so calm about it?!

Henry: Calm? Oh no I was actually really surprised back then. I had no idea that her last words would be the same as my first's...

Sophie: Your first's...?

Henry: No not that way. It's something else. Don't worry you'll understand soon. First of all it's not like we were actually married or anything. Officially yes but the reality was a bit different.

Sophie: So, there was no love after all?