

LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME - THE DEAN'S AUDITION PIECE

ARTHUR: Good day, Uncle. (He shakes hands with the Dean) I'm delighted to see you.

DEAN: How are you, Arthur my boy ? Upon my word, you're looking well. Did you have a good honeymoon?

ARTHUR: I'm not married yet, Uncle.

DEAN: You're not ? Are you quite sure ?

ARTHUR: Quite sure, Uncle.

DEAN: That's an extraordinary thing! I felt sure I married you last month - I mean - I performed the ceremony.

ARTHUR: Perhaps it was Lord Goring, Uncle.

DEAN: Goring? Yes, that's it. Goring, of course. Feller with a blank sort of face and no brains. That's what made me think of you. Well, my boy, and when is the happy day?

ARTHUR: Next Thursday, Uncle, and would you mind seeing if you've made a note of the date?

It would be rather awkward if you weren't there.

DEAN: Don't you believe it, my boy. There are plenty of husbands who'd be only too grateful if the clergyman hadn't turned up on their wedding day. Still, I don't suppose you feel like that, do you?

(He takes out a diary)

ARTHUR: Not at the moment.

DEAN: (consulting his diary) Ah, yes, here we are. Safe and sound. Thursday, the twenty-fourth, marrying Arthur between Lord Jedburgh and Lady Stoke.

ARTHUR: I'd rather be married singly, if you don't mind, Uncle.

DEAN: Oh, you needn't worry, my boy. They won't interfere with you. They're being buried.

ARTHUR: Buried !

DEAN: Yes. Old Jedburgh is being sent home pickled from India. It'll cause quite a stir. You ought to feel yourself honoured.

ARTHUR: Well, I hope you won't think me eccentric, Uncle, but I did rather want my marriage to be a cheerful occasion.

DEAN: My dear Arthur, there's nothing cheerful about marriage. The sooner you learn that, the better. As a matter of fact, I always recommend a funeral before a wedding. It puts all the parties in a proper frame of mind. Is nobody else coming?

ARTHUR: Auntie Clem and Aunt Margaret. They seem to be a little late.

DEAN: Thought I'd be the last. Spent half an hour at Frolland's looking at a beautiful little eighteenth-

century clock they have there. Perfect period specimen.

ARTHUR: Still adding to your collection, Uncle?