

	SIR WILFRID	Mrs. Heilger, you appreciate that you are still on your oath?
	ROMAINE	Yes.
102	JUDGE	Romaine Heilger, you are recalled to this box so that Sir Wilfrid may ask you further questions.
	SIR WILFRID	Mrs. Heilger, do you know a certain man whose Christian name is Max?
	ROMAINE	<i>(starts violently at the mention of the name)</i> I don't know what you mean.
	SIR WILFRID	<i>(pleasantly)</i> And yet it's a very simple question. Do you or do you not know a man called Max?
	ROMAINE	Certainly not.
	SIR WILFRID	You're quite sure of that?
	ROMAINE	I've never known anyone called Max. Never.
	SIR WILFRID	And yet I believe it's a fairly common Christian name, or contraction of a name, in your country. You mean that you have never known anyone of that name?
	ROMAINE	<i>(doubtfully)</i> Oh, in Germany - yes - perhaps, I do not remember. It is a long time ago.
	SIR WILFRID	I shall not ask you to throw your mind back such a long way as that. A few weeks will suffice. Let us say - <i>(He picks up one of the letters and unfolds it, making rather a parade of it)</i> the 17th of October last.
	ROMAINE	<i>(stymied)</i> What have you got there?
	SIR WILFRID	A letter.
	ROMAINE	I don't know what you're talking about.

	SIR WILFRID	I'm talking about a letter. A letter written on the 17th of October. You remember that date, perhaps.
	ROMAINE	Not particularly, why?
	SIR WILFRID	I suggest that on that day, you wrote a certain letter - a letter addressed to a man called Max.
	ROMAINE	I did nothing of the kind. These are lies that you are telling. I don't know what you mean.
	SIR WILFRID	That letter was one of a series written to the same man over a considerable period of time.
	ROMAINE	<i>(agitated)</i> Lies - all lies!
103	SIR WILFRID	You would seem to have been on - <i>(significantly)</i> intimate terms with this man.
	LEONARD	<i>(rising)</i> How dare you say a thing like that? <i>(The POLICEMAN rises and attempts to restrain LEONARD who waves the POLICEMAN aside)</i> It isn't true!
	JUDGE	The prisoner, in his own interest, will remain silent.
	<i>(LEONARD and the POLICEMAN resume their seats.)</i>	
	SIR WILFRID	I am not concerned with the general trend of this correspondence. I am only interested in one particular letter. <i>(He reads)</i> "My beloved Max. An extraordinary thing has happened. I believe all our difficulties may be ended...."
	ROMAINE	<i>(interrupting in a frenzy)</i> It's a lie - I never wrote it. How did you get hold of that letter? Who gave it to you?
	SIR WILFRID	How the letter came into my possession is irrelevant.
2 of 3	ROMAINE	You stole it. You are a thief as well as a liar. Or did some woman give it to you? Yes, I am right, am I not?

	JUDGE	Kindly confine yourself to answering Counsel's questions.
	ROMAINE	But I will not listen.
	JUDGE	Proceed, Sir Wilfrid.
	SIR WILFRID	So far you have only heard the opening phrases of the letter. Am I to understand that you definitely deny writing it?
	ROMAINE	Of course! I never wrote it. It is a forgery. It is an outrage that I should be forced to listen to a pack of lies - lies made up by a jealous woman.
	SIR WILFRID	I suggest it is you who have lied. You have lied flagrantly and persistently in this Court and upon oath. And the reason why you have lied is made clear by <i>(He taps the letter)</i> this letter - written down by you in black and white.
104	ROMAINE	You are crazy. Why should I write down a lot of nonsense?
	SIR WILFRID	Because a way had opened before you to freedom - and in planning to take that way, the fact that an innocent man would be sent to his death meant nothing to you. You have even included that final deadly touch of how you yourself managed accidentally to wound Leonard Vole with a ham knife.
	ROMAINE	<i>(carried away with fury)</i> I never wrote that. I wrote that he did it himself cutting the ham..... <i>(her voice dies away)</i> <i>(all eyes in Court turn on her)</i>
	SIR WILFRID	<i>(triumphantly)</i> So you know what is in the letter - before I have read it.
	ROMAINE	<i>(casting aside all restraint)</i> Damn you! Damn you! Damn you!
	LEONARD	<i>(shouting)</i> Leave her alone. Don't bully her.