

THE MONOCLED MUTINEER 1 - 1

SHE

Yes?

HE

I'm sorry to arrive unannounced Mrs. Crookshank. It's in regard to your son, Antony.

SHE

You... you were a friend of his?

HE

My name is Maurice. We were very close to each other.

SHE

Oh... Thank you. Thank you for coming all this way to see me.

HE

I promised him. I said I would. Do you know, um, how he... t his...

HE

Killed on active service. A telegram and... a duplicated letter with Antony's name and particulars filling in gaps.

HE

Nothing more?

SHE

A letter from his commanding officer, but abrupt, in a way. My sister lost her eldest boy in action and the response from his commanding officer, his friends' letters, were effusive and loving. But with Antony... nothing like that. Nothing... It's strange, Maurice, but in Antony's letters he never mentioned you.

HE

Well, it was near the end that we really got to know each other well. We talked of the times we'd had as boys. He spoke of his holidays at Seahouses with particular affection. He spoke of you and his sisters. Riding horses on the beach.

## THE MONOCLED MUTINEER 1-2

SHE

How did he die Maurice?

HE

With a very special kind of bravery, Mrs. Crookshank. He was outnumbered, blinded and stumbling, he still kept on running towards the guns. I was very near to him when it happened. Two of us carried him back...

SHE

Did he... did Antony say anything before he died?

HE

Yes, Mrs. Crookshank, he said one word very clearly. He said "mother".

(pause)

SHE

I cannot begin to tell you what your visit has meant for me. If only you would stay a little longer, my husband would be delighted...

HE

Oh, I would love to, Mrs. Crookshank, but unfortunately...

SHE

You have a train to catch.

HE

I did have a train to catch. However, I expect I will have to find other ways of returning to London.

SHE

Oh? Why is that?

HE

I've had some really bad luck. I stayed in a hotel last night, and, well, my wallet and cheque book were stolen. But I don't wish to burden you with my troubles. I'm sure I can manage...