



By: Agatha Christie – A Full Length, Murder Mystery
Samuel French

Simon Mostyn has recently married Kay Ridgeway, a rich woman, having thrown over his former lover Jacqueline. At present, the couple is on their honeymoon aboard a paddle steamer on the Nile. With them is Canon Pennefather, Kay's guardian, and Jacqueline, who has been dogging their footsteps all through the honeymoon. Also on the boat are a rich, ill-tempered old woman with her niece and companion, a rather direct young man, a German who nurses a grudge against Kay's father and Kay's maid. During the voyage Jacqueline works herself into a state of hysteria and shoots at Simon, wounding him in the knee. A few moments later Kay is found shot in her bunk. By the time the boat reaches its destination, Canon Pennefather has laid bare an audacious conspiracy and has made sure the criminals shall not go free.

SCENES

Act 1: On the palace steamer *Lotus* in late afternoon.

Act 2 Scene 1: The same; three days later.

Scene 2: The same; five minutes later.

Act 3: The same; the following morning.

CHARACTERS

The characters in *Murder on the Nile* are as follows. (8 m, 5 f)

- **KAY RIDGEWAY-MOSTYN** - A charismatic, rich, young and spoiled socialite.
- **SIMON MOSTYN** - Kay's new husband; from humble beginnings, determined not to use Kay for her money.
- **CANON PENNEFATHER** - A clergyman; Kay's guardian whom she calls Uncle Ambrose – the sleuth and pivotal detective of the play.
- **JAQUELINE DE SERVERAC** - Simon's ex-fiancé and Kay's best friend; raging with jealousy over Simon and Kay's marriage.
- **WILLIAM SMITH (AKA LORD DAWLISH)** - An irreverent man disguising himself as a regular passenger, but is really a wealthy aristocrat; wants to marry Christina.
- **MS. CHRISTINA GRANT** - The sweet niece of Ms. Ffoliot Ffoulkes, looking to break free.
- **MS. HELEN FFOLIOT FFOULKES** - Unpleasant aging socialite; rude, snobbish and gruff.
- **DR. BESSNER** - Medical doctor from a small country in Europe; hates Kay's father and blames him for the financial ruin of his country and his family.
- **LOUISE** - Kay's devious French maid.
- **CAPTAIN** - The ship's captain; drunk
- **McNAUGHT** - Ship's manager.
- **STEWARD** - The ship's Steward.
- **TWO BEAD SELLERS** - Egyptian marketplace dwellers selling beads and fake artifacts.
- **POLICEMAN** - Egyptian police officer.