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# THE LAST GUEST AT THE DARJEELING HOTEL

By Stephen L. Poole

August 2014  
Version 141224



Darjeeling, India, with Mt. Kanchenjunga

1                                   **THE LAST GUEST AT THE DARJEELING HOTEL**

2

3                                   An Original Play

4                                   By Stephen L Poole

5                                   Version 141224

6                                   Main Work Completed August 22, 2014

7                                   Minor additions December 24, 2014

8

9    CHARACTERS

10   COLONEL

11   DOCTOR

12   PREMIER                    The Premier is a voice over a speaker- indicated by all caps dialog.  
13                                   The voice is emotionless, until the final scene.

14   PROFESSOR

15   MRS. BANERJEE (MRS. B), MRS KALANI

16   RAVINDRA (RAVI)

17   LAB TECH 1 (LAB 1)

18   LAB TECH 2 (LAB 2)

19   ART ANNOUNCER (ART)

20

21   GENDER ASSIGNMENT: Ravindra is a guy and Mrs. Banergee is a lady, but the other  
22   characters could be male or female. I think the casting works best if the Doctor and  
23   Professor are both male. The Lab Techs, Colonel and Premier can be male or female. I  
24   would love to hear a really sick, sadistic lady Colonel!

1 PROLOGUE

2 ART Good evening and welcome to the American Radio Theater. Please  
3 join us tonight for a game of Hide and Seek as we present an  
4 original radio play by Stephen L. Poole. The name of the play is  
5 “The Last Guest at the Darjeeling Hotel”. As you may know,  
6 Darjeeling is a town high in the mountains of north India near the  
7 Himalayas. It was used by the British to escape the heat of the  
8 Indian summers and to this day still looks like a quaint English  
9 village perched on an Indian mountain top. Darjeeling is known  
10 for its English-style boarding schools, Tibetan monasteries,  
11 beautiful vistas and, of course, its famous tea. If you wanted to  
12 get away from it all, Darjeeling would be the place to go.

13 Tonight you will meet a cast of unusual characters. Some are  
14 good, some are not so good, some are downright evil - but we  
15 won't be telling you which is which or who is who. There are very  
16 few names used in our story, as if everyone is hiding  
17 something...or hiding from something. Well, I did tell you it was a  
18 game of Hide and Seek. So lean back, take out your world atlas,  
19 and see if you can find out who...or where...is the Last Guest at  
20 the Darjeeling Hotel.

21 But before we visit Darjeeling we are taking you to a much darker  
22 place, an “undisclosed location” we call the Lab. This is a place  
23 you do not want to visit, and these are characters you definitely do  
24 not want to meet.

25 ACT I

26 SCENE 1 – AT THE LAB, MEETING WITH THE PREMIER

27 [MUSIC – CREEPY TECHNO MUSIC]

28 SFX HEAVY METAL DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES. FOOTSTEPS ECHO  
29 DOWN A LONG CORRIDOR.

30 COLONEL (ANNOYED) I see you have finally decided to join us, Doctor!

31 DOCTOR (TIRED AND ANNOYED) Us? You are the only one here, Colonel.

32 SFX FOOTSTEPS STOP. CHAIR SLIDES ACROSS THE FLOOR. THE  
33 DOCTOR SITS DOWN.

34 COLONEL The Premier will be here any moment now!

1 DOCTOR Need I remind you, Colonel, that the Premier is NEVER here. He  
2 just calls it in as usual.

3 COLONEL His presence is everywhere! He is... what are you doing?

4 DOCTOR What does it look like? I'm sitting down. I had a long night in the  
5 Lab.

6 COLONEL You must STAND when the Premier arrives!

7 DOCTOR Why?

8 COLONEL Out of respect, that's why!

9 DOCTOR Don't be stupid. He can't see us.

10 COLONEL Don't ever call me that! I have more power than you and if you...

11 SFX THE PREMIER'S SIGNAL: WHEE-UUU WHEE-UUU WHEE-UUU

12 DOCTOR You can shut up now. That is the Premier's signal. Good morning,  
13 Premier.

14 COLONEL Good morning, Premier!!!

15 PREMIER STATUS REPORT

16 COLONEL Not good, Premier. I am afraid the Professor is gone.

17 PREMIER EXPLAIN

18 COLONEL How can I put this – we seemed to have lost him.

19 PREMIER IS HE DEAD? YOU WERE WARNED NO HARM WAS TO COME  
20 TO HIM.

21 COLONEL No Premier! He is not dead! And I assure you no harm has come  
22 to him. It is just that, well...

23 DOCTOR Perhaps I can explain better, Premier

24 PREMIER GO ON, DOCTOR

25 DOCTOR The Professor is fine and in good health. It is just that he has  
26 gone into hiding.

27 PREMIER EXPLAIN HOW THAT IS POSSIBLE.

1 DOCTOR The Professor is a very intelligent man. He knows we want him.  
2 He knows we want what he KNOWS. And he knows we have a  
3 limited amount of time to question him. Therefore, his best  
4 strategy was to go into hiding in a very secure location...and wait  
5 us out.

6 PREMIER WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY “A SECURE LOCATION”

7 DOCTOR Well, as I said before the Professor is very intelligent, and has  
8 travelled widely around the world for his research. He probably  
9 knows dozens – no, hundreds! – of places where he could hide.  
10 With his mind and memory I am sure he has meticulously plotted  
11 a number of escape routes leading to safe houses. When he felt  
12 we were closing in on him, when he began to feel trapped, he  
13 executed an escape plan to some such location... and now is  
14 waiting for us to give up the chase. But I have an idea how to find  
15 him.

16 COLONEL Oh, this is ridiculous!

17 PREMIER QUIET COLONEL. LET ME HEAR THE DOCTOR’S SUGGESTION.

18 DOCTOR My thinking is like this: it is something like an endgame strategy  
19 in chess. The Professor knows he cannot win, so he will put his  
20 King – meaning himself – in his most secure location and play for  
21 a draw.

22 COLONEL And what is that supposed to mean?!?

23 DOCTOR It means – Colonel - that the location he has chosen will have no  
24 ...further...exits! That means he will retreat to a place where he is  
25 essentially trapped. It will be the last mountain top, the farthest  
26 island, the most remote valley. He will run as far as he can run,  
27 find a room to hide in, lock the door, and throw away the key.  
28 And there - watching the door with his back against the wall – he  
29 will wait. He will wait for us to stop pursuing him, to declare a  
30 draw. It’s the Endgame, and the only way he can win is  
31 by...not...losing!

32 PREMIER YOU HAVE NOT EXPLAINED HOW YOU PLAN TO FIND HIM.

33 DOCTOR I was coming to that, Premier. We have extensive information  
34 about his movements over the years. Passport stamps, visas,  
35 travel receipts – they form a comprehensive paper trail that follows  
36 the Professor around the world for the last ten years and more.

1 PREMIER GO ON.

2 DOCTOR I need time to examine this paper trail. I believe I can find his  
3 perfect hiding spots by analyzing where he went, how long he  
4 stayed, what research he performed. Then I believe I can identify  
5 his safe houses - locations from which there is no further escape.  
6 If I am correct, that will be the flaw in his strategy. Find the end  
7 of the line, and you will find him. *Non plus ultra!*

8 COLONEL Non plus nonsense! This will take forever! We don't have that  
9 much time!

10 PREMIER I AGREE WITH THE COLONEL. WE DO NOT HAVE TIME.

11 DOCTOR But, Premier, this is the best strategy to recover the  
12 Professor...intact, unharmed. If you allow the Colonel to pursue  
13 his ham-fisted methods...

14 COLONEL Now see here!

15 DOCTOR ...there won't be much left to recover. Or to interrogate.

16 PREMIER I HAVE AGREE WITH THE DOCTOR. YOU HAVE TEN DAYS TO  
17 COMPLETE YOUR SEARCH. I EXPECT RESULTS IN TEN DAYS.  
18 REMEMBER, I DO NOT ACCEPT FAILURE. THAT IS ALL.

19 (PAUSE)

20 COLONEL(ANGRY) If you ever insult me again, I'll...I'll...

21 DOCTOR I am pleased to insult you again right now, to your fat face, you  
22 fool! If it weren't for your stupid impatience we would not have  
23 lost him in the first place! Now get out of my way! I have much  
24 work to do and not much time to do it in. If you need me, I'll be in  
25 the Lab.

26 SFX FOOTSTEPS STOMP DOWN THE HALL AS THE DOCTOR LEAVES.  
27 HEAVY DOOR OPENS AND SLAMS SHUT

28 COLONEL That's right. Not much time. Not much time at all. Premier, are  
29 you still listening?

30 PREMIER OF COURSE

31 COLONEL When he fails...and I KNOW he will fail...then, please, turn him  
32 over to me!

1 PREMIER AGREED

2 COLONEL Turn them both over to me – the Professor and that meddling  
3 Doctor!

4 PREMIER AGREED. AS LONG AS YOU GET RESULTS, AGREED.

5 ACT I

6 SCENE 2 – WITH THE DOCTOR IN THE LABORATORY

7 SFX BACKGROUND SOUND OF A HEART MONITORING MACHINE:  
8 BEEP...BEEP...BEEP...

9 DOCTOR You two! Stop playing video games and come here!

10 LAB 1 Yes, sir?

11 LAB 2 You want us?

12 DOCTOR You are working for me now. Special project.

13 LAB 1 At last, some action! I was getting tired of babysitting.

14 LAB 2 What do you want us to do, Doctor?

15 DOCTOR I want you to track a man down to the ends of the earth...

16 LAB 1 Great! I'll get packed!

17 DOCTOR ...without leaving this laboratory.

18 LAB 1, 2 [DISAPPOINTED] Awwww...

19 DOCTOR Come with me.

20 SFX THREE SETS OF FOOTSTEPS GO DOWN THE HALL.  
21 BACKGROUND BEEPING FADES OUT. DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES. SILENCE.

22 DOCTOR We will work in here in the computer room.

23 LAB 1 What do you want us to do?

24 DOCTOR Call up everything we know about the Professor's travel for the  
25 last ten years. If we don't find anything promising, we will dig  
26 another ten years.

27 LAB 2 What exactly are we looking for?

1 DOCTOR Good question... How should I describe it? Maybe the word is  
2 "Remoteness".

3 LAB 2 "Remoteness"?

4 DOCTOR Yes, I have an idea he would go somewhere far away...from which  
5 he could go no farther. The most remote place he could get to.  
6 Literally, to the end of the earth.

7 LAB 1 But that could be anywhere!

8 DOCTOR No, not anywhere. It has to be somewhere he has been to before  
9 and has spent some time there. He would have to be very familiar  
10 with the place. Intimate. He would have burned it into his  
11 memory.

12 LAB 2 Still, it is a big world out there, and looking at these records this  
13 guy has gone everywhere.

14 DOCTOR Yes, but there should be relatively few places where the only way  
15 he could return is by the same route that got him there.

16 LAB 1 Ohhh-kay. I am beginning to get the idea. "One way in – one way  
17 out".

18 DOCTOR Precisely!

19 LAB 1 Piece of cake! I'll have it done by lunch.

20 LAB 2 I'LL have it done by break time!

21 DOCTOR That's the spirit! Let's break the problem up into three. You can  
22 do South America. I know he spent a lot of time in Incan ruins.

23 LAB 1 Got it.

24 DOCTOR Why don't you follow his path in Polynesia. He seems to have  
25 visited every island in the Pacific!

26 LAB 2 Great! I'll get my sun block.

27 DOCTOR I'll tackle Asia. India, Cambodia, Burma – I mean Myanmar. A lot  
28 of territory for us to cover and we don't have much time.  
29 Remember, it has to be a place that, as you said, is "one way in –  
30 one way out", a place he stayed long enough to be intimate with,  
31 and a place he would be willing to go back to.

1 LAB 1, 2                    We are on it!

2 SFX                            CHAIRS SCRAPE ACROSS THE FLOOR. SOUND OF FURIOUS  
3                                    TYPING

4 DOCTOR (TO HIMSELF) Still, it is a big world out there, and this ...guy ...has gone  
5                                    everywhere. I wonder where he could be?... I wonder where he  
6                                    could be?... I wonder where he could be?... [VOICE FADES]

1 ACT II

2 [MUSIC: A SHORT BURST OF INDIAN MUSIC, A FEW CHORDS ON A SITAR, THEN...]

3 RAVI [BRIGHTLY] Welcome sir! Welcome to the Darjeeling Hotel!

4 PROFESSOR Thank you very much. I remember you. Your name is ...  
5 Ravindra. Is that correct?

6 RAVI You are most correct, sir! Thank you for remembering my name,  
7 but – please - everyone just calls me Ravi. I believe you have  
8 stayed with us before, sir. Am I correct?

9 PROFESSOR Uh, yes... I was here some years ago. As I remember the hotel  
10 belongs to a Mrs. ...Banerjee. Is she available? I would very much  
11 like to talk to her if possible.

12 RAVI Yes sir, I will ask the memsahib [PRONOUNCED “MEM-SAAB”] to  
13 come see you. If you would please to wait here please.

14 PROFESSOR Thank you.

15 SFX SHUFFLING FEET AS RAVI LEAVES THE LOBBY. THE ENSUING  
16 SILENCE IS GRADUALLY FILLED WITH THE LOUD TICKING OF A  
17 GRANDFATHER CLOCK

18 PROFESSOR (TALKING TO HIMSELF) Yes, I remember this lobby. Dark. Old. Very  
19 English, very Raj. Loud ticking clock. Photographs on the wall.  
20 Ah, yes, [SLOWLY READING LABEL IN DIM LIGHT] “Scottish  
21 officers entertaining the Ladies of St. Cuthbert’s, 1928”. And here  
22 is “New Year Gala Fancy Dress Ball, 1932”. But it’s not all Raj.  
23 Here is Ganesh by the door. [PRAYING TO THE STATUE OF  
24 GANESH] “Om, Sri Ganesh. Protect me on my journey.”

25 What else was here? Ah, yes, a garden courtyard...there, off to the  
26 right. I remember you could see the mountains, the Himalayas  
27 just over the fence. But now it is all fogged in, and I can’t even see  
28 to the end of the lawn. But that’s fine. The fog will cover and hide  
29 the details...

30 SFX TICKING CLOCK FADES OUT. SHUFFLING FEET AS MRS.  
31 BANERJEE AND RAVI ENTER THE LOBBY.

32 MRS. B Can I help you sir?

- 1 PROFESSOR Ah, Mrs. Banerjee. How nice to see you again. Do you remember  
2 me? I stayed here some years ago.
- 3 MRS. B Oh! Professor! Of course I remember you! Welcome back to our  
4 small hotel. I am afraid it is now off season due to the monsoon,  
5 so we are basically closed. But I am very happy to open up a room  
6 for you. Ravi! Prepare the Garden Suite.
- 7 RAVI Yes, Memsahib!
- 8 PROFESSOR Oh, please, I would much prefer the room I stayed in before. I  
9 think it was number...17.
- 10 MRS. B Seventeen? Oh, sir, that room is very cold and the view is all  
11 fogged in now. A garden suite would be much more cheerful.
- 12 PROFESSOR I appreciate that, but I have, uh...fond memories...of 17 so that  
13 would be my preference.
- 14 MRS. B Well, sir, if that is your wish. Ravi! Open room Seventeen.
- 15 RAVI Yes, Memsahib!
- 16 SFX SHUFFLING FEET AS RAVI LEAVES THE LOBBY
- 17 MRS. B Would you like to rest in the lounge while Ravi is preparing the  
18 room?
- 19 PROFESSOR Actually, I would prefer to head straight to the room now if I may.
- 20 MRS. B Well, of course, sir. I will show you the way.
- 21 PROFESSOR Please! I'm sorry. It's just that I want to see if I can remember  
22 how to get to room 17... after all these years, that is.
- 23 MRS. B (A LITTLE ANNOYED) As the gentleman wishes. Please proceed.
- 24 PROFESSOR Now let me see... it was down this hallway...past a lounge on the  
25 left...here. Small stairway on the right. Then there was a wide  
26 doorway to the dining room here. The terrace was ahead. Then...  
27 then...
- 28 MRS. B (TRIUMPHANT) Shall I show you the way?
- 29 PROFESSOR No wait! Sorry, back up. Ah, yes, here – the small stairway on the  
30 right.
- 31 MRS. B (FRUSTRATED) It would be quicker if I show you!

1 SFX PROFESSOR AND MRS. B CLIMB UP SOME CREEKY STAIRS

2 PROFESSOR (IGNORING HER) Up these stairs, right again, another narrow corridor.  
3 Then left. Then – ha – number Seventeen.

4 MRS. B (SARCASTIC) The sahib has excellent “fond memory”.

5 RAVI I am almost finished, sir. I opened the shutters, but all you can  
6 see today is the fog. I will fetch you some fresh towels, may I?

7 SFX SHUFFLING FEET AS RAVI LEAVES THE ROOM

8 PROFESSOR Same old room. I remember you could see a famous mountain  
9 from this window. Mt. Kan...Mt. Kancha...

10 MRS. B AND PROFESSOR AT THE SAME TIME, TRYING TO BEAT EACH OTHER TO  
11 THE PUNCH

12 MRS. B AND PROFESSOR “KAN-CHEN-JUN-GA!”

13 MRS. B AND PROFESSOR LAUGH

14 MRS. B Very good, Professor – Kanchenjunga.

15 PROFESSOR That used to be our little joke, remember Mrs. Banerjee?

16 MRS. B I remember you used to be a very difficult guest. You would not  
17 let anyone into the room unless they said “Kanchenjunga”. It  
18 drove us all crazy!

19 PROFESSOR Sorry about that, but I just wanted to know that I was  
20 pronouncing it correctly. [PAUSE] Now that we are alone, may I  
21 speak to you confidentially?

22 MRS. B (CURIOUS) Oh, of course, sir. What would you like to discuss?

23 PROFESSOR Did I understand that you are basically closed now? That there  
24 are no other guests?

25 MRS. B That is correct, sir. Except for Ravindra, I have let the staff go for  
26 the season. But of course we can accommodate you.

27 PROFESSOR And would it be an imposition for you to keep my presence here,  
28 uh, shall we say...confidential?

29 MRS. B All my guest information is strictly confidential, sir!

30 PROFESSOR So if...someone else... were to arrive here, inquiring about me...

- 1 MRS. B Are you hiding from the police, sir? Then I cannot...
- 2 PROFESSOR Oh, no, no, nothing like that! It's just that... well, you may  
3 remember that I am a... researcher... and I often get questioned  
4 by...reporters...about my latest projects. It's very annoying. I  
5 specifically choose this room so I could work in peace and privacy,  
6 and I would like not to be disturbed.
- 7 MRS. B Well, sir, just so we understand each other, I will keep your stay  
8 here strictly secret from everyone...except the authorities. By law  
9 I must report who is staying here...but ONLY if I am asked to.  
10 And since we are closed, and no one knows that anyone is staying  
11 here, it is very unlikely I WILL be asked. To everyone else you can  
12 be "The Invisible Man" by H. G. Wells!
- 13 MRS. B AND PROFESSOR LAUGHING AT HER JOKE.
- 14 PROFESSOR Thank you, Mrs. Banerjee! You have set my mind completely at  
15 ease.
- 16 MRS. B ([WARMLY]) Not at all, Professor, not at all. Now, what about meals?
- 17 PROFESSOR Please, I will take care of my own meals.
- 18 MRS. B Very well. Can we fetch your luggage now?
- 19 PROFESSOR No luggage. Just what I have in my pockets.
- 20 MRS. B Shall I have Ravindra prepare a fire? It is a little chilly in here and  
21 there is a coal stove...
- 22 PROFESSOR No, thank you. I prefer a little chill and I can start the fire if I  
23 need to.
- 24 MRS. B Well, then, if there is anything you desire, just ...
- 25 PROFESSOR (A LITTLE IMPATIENT) Just some PRIVACY, please!
- 26 MRS. B (A LITTLE HURT) Very well, sir. I will leave you to your ...privacy!
- 27 PROFESSOR (SORRY) Oh, Mrs. Banerjee!
- 28 MRS. B (COLDLY) Yes? What is it now?
- 29 PROFESSOR Mrs. Banerjee – you are a lifesaver!
- 30 MRS. B (ALL IS FORGIVEN) Why thank you sir.

- 1 PROFESSOR Now please close the door.
- 2 SFX SOUND OF SQUEEKY DOOR CLOSING, LOCK CLICKING, RUSTY  
3 KEY TURNING IN LOCK. SILENCE.
- 4 PROFESSOR Safe and sound at last. Yes, it's all coming back to me now.  
5 Writing desk, single bed, small coal stove, washbasin and  
6 wardrobe. And I believe I spent many hours in this very same  
7 chair.
- 8 SFX SOUND OF CHAIR SQUEEKING AS PROFESSOR SITS DOWN.
- 9 PROFESSOR And as for my luggage...let's see what I have in my pocket. Ah,  
10 yes – excellent. “Best Poems of the English Language.” That  
11 should pass the time. Let's start with...
- 12 SFX SOUND OF FLIPPING PAGES
- 13 PROFESSOR Here it is. (CLEARING THROAT)
- 14 “My heart aches, and a drowsy numbness pains my sense, as  
15 though of hemlock I had drunk, or emptied some dull opiate to the  
16 drains one minute past, and Lethe-wards had sunk....
- 17 VOICE FADES AWAY

1 ACT III

2 SCENE 1 – BACK AT THE LAB

3 [MUSIC – CREEPY TECHNO MUSIC]

4 SFX FADE IN SOUND OF KEYBOARD TYPING. NOW THE TYPING IS  
5 SLOW, TIRED.

6 DOCTOR (TO LAB TECHS) Stop that infernal typing!

7 SFX TYPING SLOWS TO A HALT WITH A FEW LAST RELUCTANT  
8 KEYSTROKES. LAB TECHS SIGHING – STARTING TO UNWIND

9 DOCTOR Alright, team. We have been at it for three days now. We are  
10 running out of time. Tell me what you have. Let's start with you –  
11 South America. Where did he go?

12 LAB 1(TIREDLY) Everywhere! All the major Inca cities – Machu Picchu, Cajamarca,  
13 Cuzco. Then he scoured the Nazca Plains and the Atacama Desert.  
14 Wrote a number of papers on the Nazca Lines. One of his theories  
15 is that...

16 DOCTOR Look, skip the theories for now, just tell me where he was!

17 LAB 1 Like I said – he went everywhere. But he didn't spend more than  
18 a few weeks in any one of those places. Then about six years ago  
19 he entered the Amazon Basin in Bolivia... and disappeared. A  
20 year later he staggered naked into Manaus, in Brazil, a thousand  
21 miles away. He was delirious and nearly dead. Spent months in a  
22 hospital.

23 DOCTOR Did he leave any notes about where he had been?

24 LAB 1 Nothing, nada. I'm not even sure that he knows where he had  
25 been. But, as soon as he was released from the hospital he  
26 headed straight back to Bolivia... and Tiahuanaco!

27 LAB 2 Where the heck is that?

28 LAB 1 Just south of Lake Titicaca, in the Andes Mountains. It's an  
29 ancient complex of temples and pyramids that pre-dates the Incas.  
30 Nearly 13,000 feet elevation, but it has some of the largest stone  
31 temples found anywhere in the world. Some stones weigh  
32 hundreds of tons! Nobody knows how they were built at that high

1 altitude – it would be like building the great pyramid on top of Mt.  
2 Rainier!

3 DOCTOR How long was he there?

4 LAB 1 Half a year. He lived in the ruins and searched all the mountains  
5 around there.

6 DOCTOR Interesting...interesting. Let's put a pin in Tiahuanaco...for now.  
7 Okay, island hunter – what have you got?

8 LAB 2 Well, I'd have a great tan if I had gone everywhere he did.

9 LAB 1 You wish!

10 DOCTOR Let's stay focused!

11 LAB 2 Okay, well, same story – he went everywhere in the Pacific. After  
12 Bolivia he turned up in Rapa Nui. You know, Easter Island? The  
13 big stone heads? And he spent about two months there. Then he  
14 just started tearing across the Pacific – the Marquesas, all the  
15 islands around Tahiti, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Friendly  
16 Islands, finally New Zealand and Hawaii. He stuck mostly to  
17 Polynesian Islands.

18 DOCTOR Aren't they all Polynesian Islands?

19 LAB 2 No! That's the point. There is another ethnic group called  
20 Melanesians, clustered around New Guinea and the Solomon  
21 Islands. And another group... these tiny dots here ...called  
22 Micronesia. But the Professor had a theory that the Polynesians  
23 had visited EVERYWHERE in the Pacific: Micronesia, Melanesia.  
24 Even these tiny rocks far from Hawaii. Even California and Alaska.  
25 All without the aid of SatNav or GPS. It is as if they knew where  
26 they were going before they got there.

27 LAB 1 Or that they were looking for something?...

28 LAB 2 That was his theory! He believed Polynesians used their skills as  
29 navigators not just to settle the islands but to search for  
30 something that had been lost...

31 DOCTOR Okay, okay. We could spend all day speculating about the  
32 Professor's theories. Maybe we can even get him to give us a  
33 lecture – if we can ever reach him! I need locations, not  
34 speculations.

1 LAB 2 WHICH I was getting to. Which brings us to... here,  
2 Kapingamarangi.

3 LAB 1 Kapingi ma what???

4 LAB 2 Ka-pin-ga-ma-ran-gi. It's this tiny island here, near the equator.  
5 It's out in the middle of nowhere, but it's a Polynesian Island, and  
6 all the islands around it are Micronesian or Melanesian. Only 300  
7 people live there. The highest elevation is one foot above sea level.  
8 Something about this place caught the Professor's interest. He  
9 spent more time here than any other island. Most of the time he  
10 was scuba diving around the reef.

11 LAB 1 Maybe he likes collecting tropical fish?

12 LAB 2 Doubt it. I think he was looking for some... artifact.

13 DOCTOR Okay, it's an unusual island and he spent a lot of time here diving.  
14 Anything else to favor it?

15 LAB 2 Your criteria – “remoteness”, and...one-way in, one-way out.

16 DOCTOR Interesting. How so?

17 LAB 2 Only way to get there is a ship from this other remote island,  
18 Ponepei. It comes once a month. The Prof was there four months.

19 DOCTOR Okay, good work. Looks promising. Put a pin in Ka-pin...ga...

20 LAB 2 Kapingamarangi.

21 DOCTOR Right. Well, I guess it's my turn. Time-wise, the Professor  
22 suddenly left the Pacific three years ago and headed for South  
23 East Asia. Same old story – ruins in Cambodia, Laos, Burma,...I  
24 mean Myanmar. Then he went to India and spent a few months  
25 there in a town called Darjeeling, near the Himalayas.

26 LAB 1 Darjeeling - like the tea?

27 DOCTOR Correct. Darjeeling is an old British Hill Station famous for its tea  
28 plantations and private boarding schools. It seems the Prof – as  
29 you call him – needed some down time to review his work and to  
30 write up his notes. Apparently he holed up in some quaint old  
31 hotel and wrote his *opus magnum*.

32 LAB 2 His “magnum” what?

1 LAB 1 It's a large gun, dummy!

2 DOCTOR Try again. It means "great work", masterpiece. He wrote it, but  
3 never published it. The manuscript has never been seen.

4 LAB 2 Is THAT what we are looking for???

5 DOCTOR Quiet! Lower your voices....

6 (SPEAKING CONFIDENTIALLY) Look, among the three of us I  
7 don't know WHAT the Premier is after, but I don't want to drag  
8 this thing out any longer. We've made this man suffer enough  
9 already. I just want to re-connect with him, ask some questions –  
10 get some answers... and let him go! I'm not supposed to tell you  
11 this, but I've known this "Professor" for many years. He is  
12 eccentric, but not crazy, and certainly not dangerous. He doesn't  
13 deserve to be interrogated by a beast like the Colonel!

14 LAB 1 Hey, man, we're just doing the job we are paid to do, ya know? No  
15 office politics, okay?

16 LAB 2 Don't want to get on the wrong side of anybody here...especially  
17 not this Colonel guy.

18 DOCTOR Alright, drop it. I just wanted you to know where I stand. You two  
19 just... do your job!

20 [AWKWARD SILENCE]

21 LAB 1 So... where does that leave us?

22 LAB 2 Door number one

23 LAB 1 Tiahuanaco.

24 LAB 2 Door number two

25 LAB 1 Kapinga-ma-whatever.

26 LAB 2 Or Door number three

27 LAB 1 Darjeeling.

28 LAB 2 And the winner is...?

29 [PAUSE]

30 LAB 1 And the winner is...?

1 DOCTOR (SIGH) I've made up my mind... but I want to keep it secret for now.

2 LAB 2 After all the work we did?!?

3 LAB 1 We won't tell – promise!

4 DOCTOR Oh, all right...against my better judgment. I'm going for Darjeeling.

5 LAB 2 But why there? I'd go for the island.

6 DOCTOR Both on the island and at the Tiahuanaco ruins the Professor was  
7 out in the open every day. Diving on the reef, searching the  
8 mountains, as you said. Only in Darjeeling did he stay in one  
9 place. Holed up in a hotel, probably shut up in the same room for  
10 three months. That's the kind of safe house – hidey hole - I would  
11 go for. A place where he can run away to, lock the door, throw  
12 away the key...and wait, unseen.

13 LAB 2 Yeah, but... a tropical island!

14 LAB 1 They probably don't even have walls and doors there, let alone  
15 keys.

16 DOCTOR And that's the problem, it's hard to hide where there are no walls  
17 and doors. So, I am off to see if I can find the door he is hiding  
18 behind. India and back, should take me about five to six days.  
19 Cutting it close, but if I'm right we can wrap this thing up. Can I  
20 rely on your discretion...your secrecy?

21 LAB 2 Of course! Sealed lips!

22 LAB 1 Mums the word!

23 DOCTOR Alright. I'll be back within a week. Ciao! Or "Namaste", whatever  
24 they say in India.

25 LAB 1 Good luck!

26 LAB 2 Bring us back some tea!

27 SFX FOOTSTEPS RECEDE AS THE DOCTOR LEAVES. DOOR OPENS  
28 AND SHUTS. SILENCE

29 LAB 1 I guess it's back to babysitting again.

30 LAB 2 You get the first shift. I'm beat!

1 SFX DOOR CREEKS OPEN. SLOW HEAVY FOOTSTEPS APPROACH  
2 AND STOP AS COLONEL ENTERS THE LAB

3 COLONEL (SARCASTIC) So, is there a Doctor in the house? No? That's strange.  
4 Sudden indigestion, perhaps? No stomach for this work?

5 LAB 1(NERVOUS) Funny. He was here a minute ago.

6 LAB 2 (NERVOUS) You just missed him.

7 COLONEL And, of course, you wouldn't happen to know where he went?  
8 Would you now...

9 LAB 1 No idea.

10 LAB 2 Who could say? It's a big world out there.

11 COLONEL A pity. I was looking for a new assistant. Someone I can RELY on.

12 LAB 1(JOKINGLY) Is the pay better?

13 LAB 2 (JOKINGLY) What are the benefits, ha,ha....[SEES THE COLONEL IS NOT  
14 AMUSED]...uh, ha...ha

15 COLONEL Oh, great benefits. For one – you get to stay ALIVE!

16 LAB 1 (SCARED) Please! We are just doing our job.

17 COLONEL And the pay IS better...if you are around to collect it. Any takers,  
18 or will it be necessary to TERMINATE some extraneous  
19 employees?

20 LAB 2 (WEAKENING) We...we promised the Doctor...

21 COLONEL You don't owe him ANYTHING! After this fiasco he won't even be  
22 around. Will you keep your promise to a dead man?

23 LAB 1(SCARED) We don't want any...trouble. Just...trying to do...our job...

24 COLONEL I'll make it easy for you. You can still report to the Doctor –as long  
25 as he is around – but now you have a “dotted line”... to ME! A  
26 SECRET “dotted line”. Agreed?

27 LAB 2 Well, if it will help the cause. I guess...

28 LAB 1 And you will keep it secret, right?

1 COLONEL Oh, you can TRUST me! So, we are ALL agreed? Good! Now, the  
2 first item on that “dotted line” is...where did the good Doctor go?

3 PAUSE

4 COLONEL ANYONE?!?

5 LAB 2 (DEFEATED) India.

6 COLONEL (SURPRIZED) India?! Where in India?

7 LAB 1 Darjeeling.

8 COLONEL (PUZZLED) Darjeeling?! You mean...like the tea?

9 LAB 1(DEFEATED) Yes, Darjeeling...like the tea.

10 ACT III

11 SCENE 2 – IN DARJEELING

12 [MUSIC : A SHORT BURST OF INDIAN MUSIC, A FEW CHORDS ON A SITAR, THEN...]

13 DOCTOR [TALKING TO HIMSELF] Well, I’ve been in Darjeeling for a day  
14 and a half now, looking for some clue to the Professor’s  
15 whereabouts. Fascinating town. An eclectic mix of English  
16 cottages, Hindu shrines and Buddhists temples. The boarding  
17 schools here look like Eton and Rugby... surrounded by the  
18 Himalayas. I have checked a dozen hotels, hostels and inns so far  
19 – with no luck. (DEEP SIGH) Looks like one more hotel up ahead,  
20 at the end of the road...[PAUSE] ... at the end of the road. Last  
21 hotel...at the end of the road.

22 SFX FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL AS DOCTOR APPROACHS HOTEL.  
23 THEN ON WOOD AS HE ENTERS THE LOBBY. IN THE  
24 BACKGROUND IS THE TICKING OF A LARGE GRANDFATHER  
25 CLOCK

26 DOCTOR Hello, anybody here?

27 SFX SHUFFLING FOOTSTEPS AS RAVI ENTERS LOBBY

28 RAVI(BRIGHTLY) Welcome sir! Welcome to the Darjeeling Hotel!

29 DOCTOR Thank you. Mind if I look around?

30 RAVI I am sorry to say, sir, that we are closed for the season. Monsoon  
31 is coming...soon, sir.

1 DOCTOR No, I don't want a room. I would just like to look around. Looks  
2 like a nice little hotel. Do you get many foreign guests here?

3 SFX SHUFFLING FOOTSTEPS AS MRS B ENTERS LOBBY

4 MRS. B (A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS) Can I help the gentleman? I am Mrs. Banerjee, the  
5 owner.

6 RAVI (SUSPICIOUSLY TO MRS. B) The sahib wants to "look around".

7 DOCTOR How do you do! I know you are closed, but I would like to check  
8 out your hotel... you know, for a future visit.

9 MRS. B You are planning to return to Darjeeling?

10 DOCTOR Yes! I am a doctor...and I have some ...colleagues at...uh, St.  
11 Paul's school that have invited me to return for a few months  
12 during the school term. Possible next year.

13 MRS. B (SUSPICIOUS) I see...doctor.

14 DOCTOR So...I would be very grateful if I could see some of the rooms...for a  
15 future visit, like I said. If it is not a great inconvenience, that is...

16 MRS. B Oh, very well. Ravi, give me the keys. I will show  
17 the...doctor...around.

18 RAVI (COOLY) Yes, ma-am.

19 SFX KEYS JINGLING

20 MRS. B This way, please.

21 SFX TICKING CLOCK FADES AWAY. FOOTSTEPS ON WOODEN  
22 FLOOR AS MRS B AND DOCTOR ENTER THE HALLWAY.

23 DOCTOR Do you get many foreign guests here?

24 MRS. B Occasionally. Here is our best room, the Garden Suite.

25 SFX DOOR OPENING

26 DOCTOR Very nice. Nice view of the garden. But do you have anything a  
27 little more...private.

28 MRS. B The doctor wishes to have some privacy?

1 DOCTOR Well, it's just that I intend to do some writing while I am here.  
2 You know, finish up some papers I've been working on.

3 MRS. B That is interesting. Just like...oh, never mind.

4 DOCTOR Yes? Was there someone else here to do some writing? I am sure  
5 being this close to the boarding schools you get  
6 many...professors...as guests. Yes?

7 MRS. B Yes... We do get many professional types, including doctors and  
8 professors. St. Joseph and St. Paul schools are just down the  
9 road. Here is our dining room, if you care to look.

10 DOCTOR Very nice. Excuse me, where does this stairway go. You have  
11 some more rooms upstairs?

12 MRS. B Yes, we have upstairs rooms. But I usually don't open them until  
13 the ground floor has filled up. It can be very cold and isolated up  
14 there.

15 DOCTOR Just what I am looking for. May I see?

16 MRS. B If you insist. The doctor most certainly desires "privacy"!

17 SFX DOCTOR AND MRS. B CLIMB UP SOME CREEKY STAIRS

18 DOCTOR Where does this corridor lead?

19 MRS. B Just a few last rooms in the back. I don't think you would like...

20 DOCTOR Please, let me just take a look. You say you have no guests here  
21 now?

22 MRS. B That is correct, doctor. We are closed for the season. The hotel is  
23 completely empty.

24 DOCTOR So it is no problem to peek into a room, is it? Would you mind if I  
25 looked at this room, the last room in the corridor, the room  
26 farthest from the front? The last room... Room Seventeen.

27 MRS. B I would not recommend that room, sir. It is, perhaps, our worst  
28 room. That is, the least comfortable.

29 DOCTOR Please let me just...peek in.

30 MRS. B There are much better rooms downstairs.

31 DOCTOR (GETTING IMPATIENT) Indulge me!

1 MRS. B (ANNOYED) Oh, very well! The doctor is very insistent!

2 SFX SOUND OF KEYS TURNING, DOOR CREAKING OPEN

3 SLIGHT PAUSE.

4 MRS. B There! A cold, dark, empty room! Are you satisfied now?

5 DOCTOR Let me look inside. Yes, the last town, the last road, the last hotel,  
6 the last corridor...the last room...the last guest.

7 MRS. B What guest? There is no one here.

8 DOCTOR Oh, nothing. May open the curtains?

9 MRS. B Please do so. Today should be the last good view before the  
10 monsoon clouds cover the mountains.

11 SFX SWISH OF CURTAINS PARTING

12 DOCTOR Beautiful! And, if I am not mistaken, that is Mount Kanchenjunga.

13 MRS. B [LAUGHING]

14 DOCTOR Did I...say it wrong? Kan-chen-jun-ga?

15 MRS. B No, sir. You pronounced it most correctly. You just reminded me  
16 of a former guest. A professor who stayed in this very room some  
17 years ago.

18 DOCTOR (STUNNED) Yes!?! A professor!?! He stayed here??? Do you remember  
19 how many years ago?

20 MRS. B Oh, at least three. A very nice man, but a little eccentric. He  
21 would not let anyone to enter his room unless you said  
22 “Kanchenjunga”.

23 DOCTOR What! What...was...that..? Please, say that again.

24 MRS. B He had a funny habit of making you say “Kanchenjunga” before he  
25 would open the door. It was like his password. He said it helped  
26 him to learn to pronounce it correctly, but really I think he  
27 insisted on saying it just to play a prank on the hotel staff. He  
28 was funny in that way.

29 DOCTOR This is amazing, truly amazing.

30 MRS. B What is so amazing?

1 DOCTOR Oh, uh, I just happen to know a professor like that...many years  
2 ago. Very intelligent, but slightly eccentric.

3 MRS. B It sounds like it could be the very same gentleman.

4 DOCTOR Yes, and what a small world that would be... My! Look at the  
5 time! I really must be going. Thank you for...indulging me. You  
6 have been most helpful...Mrs... Banerjee.

7 MRS. B The sahib has an excellent memory...

8 [MUSIC : A SHORT BURST OF INDIAN MUSIC, A FEW CHORDS ON A SITAR, THEN  
9 FADE OUT]

1 ACT IV

2 SCENE 1- BACK IN THE LAB

3 [MUSIC – CREEPY TECHNO MUSIC]

4 SFX BACKGROUND SOUND OF A HEART MONITORING MACHINE

5 COLONEL You two! Come with me! It is time to get some answers from our  
6 so-called “Professor”! We have wasted our time waiting for the so-  
7 called “Doctor” who has seen fit to take a vacation in India at this  
8 crucial time! Well, I am not waiting any longer! Doctor or no  
9 doctor, I am going to proceed with the interrogation.

10 LAB 1 But the Doctor said not to disturb him until he returned.

11 LAB 2 The Doctor is still looking for him!

12 COLONEL Idiots! You both are idiots! How can the Doctor be looking for a  
13 man...WHEN THAT MAN IS LYING RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF  
14 US!

15 PAUSE FOR EFFECT

16 LAB 1 But the Doctor explained it! The man – I mean, the Professor – IS  
17 here, but his MIND is somewhere else!

18 LAB 2 In Darjeeling...maybe.

19 COLONEL And you fools really believe that? Can’t you see with your eyes –  
20 this Professor of yours IS RIGHT HERE!

21 LAB 1 But he is in a coma...

22 LAB 2 Since that first day, when you started...

23 COLONEL Yes, yes?! In a coma?! Or is he? Did you ever think he could just  
24 be faking it?

25 LAB 1 For ten days? I don’t think that...

26 COLONEL You are not paid to think, just to keep him alive! And you’ve done  
27 an excellent job – he looks better now than when we first brought  
28 him in here. I think he is healthy enough to answer some  
29 questions!

30 LAB 2 Please! Let’s wait for the Doctor to get back. He should be here  
31 any time now!

1 COLONEL Enough waiting! Turn off that beeping thing!

2 SFX HEART MONITOR BEEPER STOPS ABRUPTLY

3 COLONEL Bring that machine over here - that..that.. Defibrillator thing!

4 LAB 1 Please, sir! Not that – it could kill him!

5 COLONEL Really? I thought these were known as Life Savers. Now open his  
6 gown. Charge it up. Give me those paddles.... Now, STAND  
7 CLEAR!

8 SFX THE PREMIER’S SIGNAL: WHEE-UUU WHEE-UUU WHEE-UUU

9 LAB 2 It’s the Premier!

10 PREMIER WHAT IS GOING ON?

11 COLONEL Uh, Premier. I was just about to revive the subject.

12 PREMIER WHERE IS THE DOCTOR?

13 COLONEL Still out chasing wild geese. Time is running out, your Excellency,  
14 to get some answers...

15 PREMIER HAS THE SUBJECT REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS?

16 COLONEL He seems to have just dozed off. Look at the monitors! He’s in  
17 excellent health! Strong as an ox! A little jolt won’t hurt him. It  
18 will wake him right up and we can get on with our interroga... I  
19 mean our “interview”.

20 PREMIER YOU TWO. HOW HEALTHY IS HE?

21 LAB 1 Well, the Colonel is right. There is nothing physically wrong with  
22 the Profess... uh, the Subject. He has just been in a deep coma  
23 for the last 10 days.

24 LAB 2 Or a deep sleep. His REM activity has been constant the whole  
25 time – as if he is in a permanent “dream-state”.

26 PREMIER IS THERE ANY REASON HE CAN’T BE WOKEN UP?

27 LAB 2 Well, no, it should be...

28 LAB 1 The Doctor warned us not to wake him until we know where he is!  
29 I mean, the body is here, but his mind is somewhere else. The

1 Doctor thinks...that the Professor thinks...that he thinks he is in  
2 Darjeeling...maybe.

3 COLONEL Can you believe this, your Excellency? Have you ever heard such  
4 nonsense? I say we proceed now while we still have time.  
5 Otherwise all our efforts will have been wasted!

6 PAUSE

7 PREMIER I AGREE WITH THE COLONEL. YOU MAY PROCEED. YOU TWO  
8 ASSIST THE COLONEL AND MAKE SURE THE SUBJECT IS  
9 NOT...DAMAGED.

10 COLONEL Thank you, your Excellency! Now I don't want any back talk from  
11 you two! Charge up the machine. Give me the paddles. STAND  
12 CLEAR!

13 SFX ZZZZZAAAAAPPP

14 LAB 1 Look! His lips are moving!

15 COLONEL What is he saying?

16 LAB 2 I can't tell. Let me get closer. It...it almost sounds like he's  
17 reciting...a poem!

18 COLONEL Stand back. I'm going to give him another jolt. Increase the  
19 voltage. Now...STAND CLEAR!

20 SFX ZZZZZZZAAAAAAAAAAAAAPPPPPPP!!!!

21 PROFESSOR (WEAK VOICE, MUMBLING) "And now the Storm-blast came, and it was  
22 tyrannous and strong... Struck with over taking wings...chased us  
23 south along...."

24 COLONEL What's he saying!?! What's he saying!?!

25 LAB 2 It IS a poem! I've heard it before, but can't remember...

26 LAB 2 I know it! It's from the "Rime of the Ancient Mariner". He's  
27 describing an ...electrical storm!

28 COLONEL Electrical storm?!? I'll give him electrical storm! Increase the  
29 voltage. STAND BACK!

30 DOCTOR STOP!!!

31 SFX A HEAVY DOOR SLAMS

1 DOCTOR WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING!?!  
2 LAB 1 Doctor – you’re back!  
3 LAB 2 It wasn’t our idea! We didn’t...  
4 DOCTOR Shut up you two. Turn off that machine! [TO COLONEL] Put  
5 down those paddles, you fool!  
6 COLONEL I warned not to insult me!  
7 DOCTOR Get away from that man! Are you all mad? Do you want to kill  
8 him?  
9 PREMIER YOUR OWN TECHNICIANS ASSURE ME THE SUBJECT IS IN NO  
10 DANGER.  
11 DOCTOR Oh, he’s a “subject” now, is he? So impersonal – so much easier  
12 to “interrogate”!  
13 PREMIER THERE IS NO TIME TO ARGUE THIS. YOU HAVE BEEN GONE  
14 FOR OVER A WEEK. DO YOU HAVE ANY RESULTS OR NOT?  
15 COLONEL Or have you just been wasting our time?  
16 DOCTOR Results? Yes, I have results. I know where he – the Professor! – is  
17 staying. Where he THINKS he is staying! I know how to reach  
18 him, and how to bring him back! Now listen carefully – I need you  
19 to get him out of that bed, and put him in front of a desk – like a  
20 writing desk. In a big wooden chair – if we have one.  
21 COLONEL Oh, this is ridiculous!  
22 DOCTOR We will need headphones and a microphone. Put the headphones  
23 on the Professor. I will talk to him through the mike. He must  
24 hear only the sound of my voice, no one else – understand?  
25 LAB 1 & 2 Yes, doctor!  
26 DOCTOR And I’ll need some “special effects”, like on an old time radio show.  
27 LAB 2 What kind of special effects?  
28 DOCTOR He will need to hear someone knocking on an old wooden door.  
29 Can you do all that?  
30 LAB 1 Give us about 20 minutes. Let’s drag that old desk in from the  
31 break room.

1 LAB 2 I think there is a big old chair in the basement.

2 DOCTOR Good, good! Get to work! We don't have much time.

3 COLONEL You really believe this little "old time radio show" is going to work?

4 DOCTOR As long as he believes it is real – it will work! Now get busy!

5 ACT IV

6 SCENE 2 IN THE LAB, TWENTY MINUTES LATER

7 [MUSIC – CREEPY TECHNO MUSIC]

8 DOCTOR Premier! We are ready to proceed!

9 PREMIER ARE YOU SURE THIS WILL GET US THE INFORMATION WE  
10 NEED?

11 DOCTOR Now, all I can promise is that I can get the Professor back to a  
12 waking state. For the last ten days he has been imagining himself  
13 to be sitting in a small room in a small hotel in small town in India.  
14 His imagination is so powerful, so precise, that he really believes  
15 he is there – not here. It is like a perfect dream state. What I  
16 need to do is get inside his dream and lead him back to us.

17 COLONEL You are the one who is dreaming if you think this is going to work.

18 DOCTOR You two – is the microphone ready?

19 LAB 1 Here is your mike, it goes directly into his headphones. Press this  
20 switch here to turn it on.

21 LAB 2 And I fitted him with a mike in case he starts mumbling poetry  
22 again. We will be able to hear everything over the speakers, but  
23 he will only be able to hear you.

24 LAB 1 Finally, we are patched in for your sound effects. I'll do the door  
25 knocking whenever you're ready.

26 DOCTOR Excellent! Now, everyone needs to remain completely silent. He  
27 must not suspect that anyone else is here, just me. Understood?

28 LAB 1& 2 Got it.

29 DOCTOR Everyone ready? Good, let's go. First – door knocking, not too  
30 loud.

1 SFX MODERATE DOOR KNOCKING

2 LAB 1 Look – his lips are moving!

3 DOCTOR I can't hear what he is saying! Turn up his volume!

4 PROFESSOR (FAINTLY, THEN LOUDER) "...as I nodded nearly napping, suddenly  
5 there came a tapping, as if someone gentle rapping, rapping at my  
6 chamber door..."

7 LAB 2 That's Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven"!

8 COLONEL He's responding to the knocking! Now we are getting somewhere!

9 PREMIER EXTRAORDINARY

10 DOCTOR Quiet everyone, please! Now, knock again. A little louder this  
11 time.

12 SFX LOUDER DOOR KNOCKING

13 PROFESSOR "...Sir, said I, or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore...but the  
14 fact is I was napping...I was napping...(YAWN)...napping..."  
15 [VOICE GETS WEAKER]

16 COLONEL You are losing him!

17 DOCTOR Quiet please! Alright – really bang on the door this time!

18 SFX LOUD POUNDING ON THE DOOR

19 PROFESSOR (STRONGER VOICE) "...ancient raven, wandering from the nightly  
20 shore. Tell me what thy lordly name is on the night's Plutonian  
21 Shore. Quoth the raven..."

22 DOCTOR (IN A LOUD VOICE, CAREFULLY PRONOUNCED) KAN-CHEN-JUNG-GA

23 PROFESSOR (STARTLED) Wha... What? What did you say?

24 DOCTOR KAN-CHEN-JUNG-GA

25 PROFESSOR Who is that? Who is there?

26 DOCTOR (SLY-LY) Don't you recognize me?

27 PROFESSOR Wait...I know that voice. You are the one they call the "Doctor".  
28 What are you doing here?

29 DOCTOR I came here to get you.

1 PROFESSOR Well, I am not ready to be gotten. You've wasted your time coming  
2 here.

3 DOCTOR Oh, I don't think so. You've been gone for two weeks now. That's  
4 long enough. Time to come home.

5 PROFESSOR (LAUGHING) Ha, ha...two weeks? More like 10 days.

6 DOCTOR How do you know how long it has been? Do you have a calendar  
7 in there? Are you scratching off the days on the wall with a piece  
8 of coal?

9 PROFESSOR Ha, much simpler. I have my book with me. I read it cover to  
10 cover, takes about three days. I've only read through it three  
11 times now, so I...

12 DOCTOR Recited.

13 PROFESSOR What? Wha...what do you mean..."recited".

14 DOCTOR You don't have any book. You have just been reciting poems from  
15 memory. You don't really know how long you have been babbling  
16 on. I do. It has been two weeks. Time to come back now.

17 PROFESSOR Nonsense! Recited indeed! I have my book  
18 right...here...[STARTING TO SOUND UNCERTAIN]

19 DOCTOR Really? Which hand is it in? Raise up your hand with the book in  
20 it. I see you are raising your right hand. But there is nothing in  
21 your right hand, is there?

22 PROFESSOR (CONFUSED) It was right here! I must have...misaid...

23 DOCTOR Never mind the book! You don't have a book or a chair or a desk!  
24 And you are not in a room in Darjeeling, you just THINK you are.  
25 You have the whole place memorized, don't you? Memorized so  
26 well that you have even tricked yourself into believing that it is  
27 real. Well it is not! It's all in your mind! Now it is time to give up  
28 this memory world and come back to the real one.

29 PROFESSOR I...I don't believe...you

30 DOCTOR (SOOTHING-LY) Don't you realize – you have won? You outsmarted us and  
31 outlasted us! Your endgame strategy was perfect. You played for  
32 a stalemate, and you got it! We concede. The game is a draw, and  
33 you are free to come out.

1 PROFESSOR But...it...hasn't been long enough...has it?

2 DOCTOR As I said, two weeks. Our deadline has come and gone. Your  
3 information is useless to us now. Come on, let's get you out of  
4 there. You can't hide from me any more – I know right where you  
5 are. Now, I want you to open your eyes – slowly – and look around.

6 PROFESSOR (CONFUSION, THEN RESIGNATION) Oh...oh...ah...I see. I am back in  
7 the "Lab"... as you call it. I would call it a torture chamber worthy  
8 of the Inquisition. And it comes with its very own Torquemada,  
9 the Grand Inquisitor. Right, Colonel?

10 COLONEL (SMUGLY) At your service. I look forward to continuing our, uh,  
11 "conversation".

12 PROFESSOR Oh, and where is that annoying leader of yours, that disembodied  
13 megalomaniac you call El Primo?

14 COLONEL (ANNOYED) If you mean the PREMIER, he is listening to your every word!

15 PREMIER WELCOME BACK, PROFESSOR. WE HAVE A  
16 FEW...THOUSAND...QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU.

17 PROFESSOR Ask a million. You won't get any answers.

18 COLONEL Oh I think we will...

19 DOCTOR ...I think we won't! This game has gone on long enough. We have  
20 no right to be interrogating this man. I am going to release him.

21 COLONEL (SHOCKED) You are going to do WHAT?!?

22 DOCTOR You heard me. You two, give me a hand with these straps.

23 LAB 1 (SCARED) I think I'd rather stay out of this.

24 LAB 2 (SCARED) It's about time for my break.

25 COLONEL (ANGRY) Get away from that man if you want to live!

26 DOCTOR Colonel, this "man" and I am leaving your sweet company. And  
27 don't think I haven't enjoyed our association, because I HAVEN'T!  
28 I've never worked with such a twisted, sadistic, bumbling imbecile  
29 like you. Good riddance! Come with me, Professor. Let us get out  
30 of here.

31 COLONEL (FURIOUS) I TOLD YOU TO NEVER INSULT ME!!

1 SFX GUNSHOT: BANG! SOUND OF BODY FALLING.

2 PREMIER WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS GOING ON?

3 LAB 1 Uh, the...uh...Colonel just shot the...uh...Doctor.

4 PREMIER IS HE DEAD?

5 COLONEL Of course. I never miss!

6 PROFESSOR (BRIGHTLY) One down. Two to go.

7 COLONEL (SEETHING) Not quite so, “Pro-fess-or”! YOU will be the next to go! Give  
8 me those paddles again!

9 LAB 2 But...but... he is awake!

10 LAB 1 You could kill him!

11 COLONEL Hear that, “Pro-fess-or”? Prepare to answer some questions or  
12 suffer...

13 PROFESSOR (THEATRICALY) “...suffer the thousand natural shocks that flesh is  
14 heir to. ‘Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished.” Hamlet, Act  
15 3, scene 1.

16 COLONEL (GETTING HYSTERICAL) Oh, I will give you shocks alright! You pompous  
17 ass! You think you are SO clever with your Shakespeare and your  
18 poetry. I am going to enjoy watching that big brain of yours being  
19 dissected! Now, increase the charge to maximum!

20 SFX LOUD HUMMING INCREASES

21 LAB 2 This is not good!

22 COLONEL Good bye, “Pro-fess-or”. STAND CLEAR!

23 SFX ZZZZZZZAAAAAAAAAAAAAPPPPPPP!!!! SOUND OF BODY FALLING

24 PAUSE

25 PROFESSOR (VERY BRIGHT) Oh this is turning into a LOVELY day!

26 PREMIER (EXASPERATED. FINALLY SHOWING SOME EMOTION)

27 WHAT IS GOING ON THERE?????

28 LAB 1 Uh, the...uh...Colonel seems to have...uh...electrocuted himself.

1 PROFESSOR Two down, one to go. Unless you chaps care to play?  
2 LAB 2 No! I think it is time for early retirement! We quit!  
3 LAB 1 Don't bother sending us our last paycheck!  
4 PROFESSOR Before you go if you could just undo these straps. There...thank  
5 you. Ah, circulation again! Good luck you two.  
6 LAB 2 Thanks! We enjoyed hunting for you.  
7 LAB 1 Next time you plan a trip, take us with!  
8 SFX SOUND OF RUNNING FEET. DOOR SLAM.  
9 PROFESSOR Well, that leaves just you and me, El Primo.  
10 PREMIER (COLDLY) IT'S "PREMIER".  
11 PROFESSOR Right. You know one thing I learned in my travels is that for most  
12 of human history...oh, say many thousands of years... people did  
13 not have titles. There were no Premiers, or emperors or czars or  
14 colonels or even professors. And guess what? There was great  
15 peace in the world for all mankind. But then, for some unknown  
16 reason, titles were invented and with titles came rank and  
17 privileges and castes and...war. So I am going to leave you with  
18 your made-up title...  
19 PREMIER (ANGRY AND POUTY) IT IS NOT "MADE UP"! I AM THE PREMIER!  
20 PROFESSOR As I said - your made-up title, and I will seek out a simpler time  
21 and place to live. A more peaceful time and place.  
22 PREMIER (DESPERATE) YOU CAN'T LEAVE!  
23 PROFESSOR How does the saying go? Something like: "An actor... without an  
24 audience... is anonymous". The audience has left. Goodbye,  
25 whoever you think you are.  
26 SFX FOOTSTEPS START DOWN THE HALL  
27 PREMIER (ANGRY) PROFESSOR! DON'T GO!  
28 PROFESSOR (CALLING BACK) And thank you for a MOST entertaining afternoon!  
29 PREMIER (SOUNDING LONELY) ...PLEASE...DON'T GO...DON'T GO...

1 PROFESSOR (VOICE FADING IN DISTANCE) “Push off and sitting well in order smite  
2 the sounding furrows, for my purpose is to sail beyond the sunset  
3 and the baths of all the western stars....until I die...”

1 EPILOGUE

2 [MUSIC: GENTLE POLYNESIAN MUSIC]

3 SFX SOUND OF WAVES BREAKING ON SHORE, RISES AND FADES

4 MRS KALANI Aloha! Welcome to Kapingamarangi! You look for nice place to  
5 stay? We got many bungalow.

6 PROFESSOR How nice to see you again. Do you remember me? I stayed here  
7 some years ago...Mrs....Kalani?

8 MRS KALANI Oh! Pro-fes-sah! O' course I remember you! Welcome back to  
9 Kapingamarangi.

10 PROFESSOR Please, no "Professor". I'm just a humble beach comber now. If it  
11 is available, I would like to stay in the same bungalow I used  
12 before. I believe it was number...seventeen?

13 MRS KALANI I think you right. Numbah Seventeen, at the end. I come go show  
14 you the way?

15 PROFESSOR That won't be necessary. I remember it all. I remember it all very  
16 well.

17 MRS KALANI You no got any luggage?

18 PROFESSOR No luggage. Just what I have in my pockets. Let's see what it is...  
19 Ah, "The Moon and Sixpence" by Somerset Maugham. Yes, I  
20 remember it all...I remember it all very well.

21

22 THE END