

ROOM WITH A DOOR

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ACT I SCENE 1

A BARE ROOM WITH NO WINDOWS. ONE WALL HAS CLOSED DOOR. A TABLE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM WITH TWO CHAIRS. ONE CHAIR IS EMPTY. A MAN IN PLAIN CLOTHES, B, IS SITTING IN THE OTHER CHAIR. ON THE TABLE IS A DOOR KEY. A SMARTLY DRESSED MAN, A, IS STANDING.

A: You cannot open the door.

B: I can't?

A: It is not permitted.

B: Who says so?

A: We agreed. Do you remember?

B: Ah yes, I remember.

A: You made a promise, remember. You swore on your -

B: (INTERRUPTS) Yes. I remember. But still.

A: Still?

B: But still. I'm thinking...

A: Thinking? Thinking what?

B: What if it's some sort of test?

A: Some sort of test?

B: You know. What if we're supposed to go out. What if we are secretly supposed to want to go out? Do you know what I mean?

A: I can assure you that we are not supposed to open that door.

B: What if he's testing us. What if there is something special on the other side.

A: I can assure you that there is nothing special behind that door. We are definitely, certainly, not supposed to open that door. I am definitely, certainly not going to open that door. You are definitely, certainly not going to open that door.

B: You're trying to distract me. Are you on his side?

A: I'm not on anyone's side. I'm only trying to reassure you.

B: Do you know where it leads?

A: Stop asking questions about the door.

B: (LOOKS AT KEY) That's the key, isn't it? Isn't that the key?

A: It might be. It's not your concern.

B: Why is it there? Did you put it there? Did he put it there?

A: Please do not concern yourself with that key. That key is there for my benefit.

B: Are you part of the test?

A: There is no test.

B: If you were part of the test, you would say it wasn't a test, wouldn't you?

A: Stop over-thinking things. We both agreed not to open the door, remember?

B: Yes, I remember. But I don't remember you.

A: Me?

B: I don't remember you agreeing. Not exactly.

A: That doesn't matter. I'm not remotely interested in that door. I'm staying here. I've said that already. I'm staying here.

B: (LOOKS AROUND) Something isn't quite right here.

A: How do you mean?

B: Something's up!

A: Up?

B: Something's fishy. You know more than you're letting on.

A: Why do you say that?

B: You know what's outside.

A: Outside?

B: Aha! Now I understand.

A: You do?

B: Maybe it doesn't lead outside at all. That's it, isn't it?

A: Now then, please stop this nonsense. Stop all of this speculation about the door.

B: You know, don't you? You know where that door leads, don't you? I can see it in your eyes. It's written all over your face. You know!

A: It doesn't matter what I know. It doesn't matter where the door leads. You're not going through it. You promised, remember?

B: I was tricked. He tricked me.

A: Please stop this door nonsense. It's for your own good.

B: For my own good? I don't like your tone (LOOKS AT KEY). What if I grabbed that key?

A: You won't.

B: What if I grabbed that key and opened the door. What would you do then?

A: You are not going to grab that key. Don't even think about grabbing that key.

B: Maybe I should take it. Maybe I should take that key and open the door.

A: Listen! You are not going to grab that key - I'm warning you.

B: Warning? What are you going to do about it?

A: You will see.

B: Oh so it's threats is it? (MOVES TO TAKE THE KEY)

A: (SHOUTS) Stop!

B FREEZES

A: Alright. I'll tell you what's behind the door. Sit back down.

 B SITS BACK DOWN

B: Ok then, tell me.

A: You won't like it.

B: Won't I?

A: Are you sure you want to know? Think carefully before you answer. You must be sure.

 B PAUSES IN THOUGHT

A: This is very dangerous. We are in a very dangerous situation.

B: Dangerous?

A: You know.

B: I've just remembered something. Something about him.

A: I told you. Didn't I try to tell you how dangerous it all was?

B: I'm frightened.

A: Didn't I try to tell you to forget about the door?

 THE DOOR HANDLE TURNS AND STARTS TO OPEN

B: Oh god it's opening!

 THE DOOR SLOWLY OPENS

B: Oh god!

 A MAN, BENTLEY, FALLS THROUGH THE DOOR ONTO THE FLOOR IN HEAP. THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT. BENTLEY STRUGGLES TO GET UP.

A: (TO BENTLEY) Ah, Mister Bentley.

 BENTLEY PULLS HIMSELF UP

A: Take a seat.

BENTLEY: (GROGGILY) Thank you.

A SOMEWHAT BEFUDDLED BENTLEY SITS IN THE EMPTY CHAIR
AND CLUTCHES HIS HEAD.

A: Would you like a drink of water?

BENTLEY REGAINS HIS SENSES.

BENTLEY: I want to go home!

BENTLEY DARTS TOWARDS THE LOCKED DOOR AND TUGS THE
HANDLE IN VAIN.

A: Now then sir, sit down. You cannot open the door.

BENTLEY: (SHOUTS) Help!

A: You cannot open the door.

CURTAIN