

MURDERED TO DEATH

- PRATT *(looking at the cover of the book)* Very interesting. Very interesting indeed.
- (PRATT places the book on the desk.)*
- So . . . you all maintain that when the shots were fired you were in your rooms.
- CHARLES Except for me, old boy. Just nipped outside for a spot of air.
- THOMKINS And me, sir. I was in the downstairs lavatory.
- PRATT I'm aware of that, Thompson. Pity you weren't out of there a bit faster.
- THOMKINS I would have been, sir, but it was rather difficult. When I opened the door, the Colonel was holding the gun in a firing position. I thought my number was up.
- PRATT *(mystified)* What number?
- THOMKINS It's just a saying, sir.
- PRATT Mmn. Can you explain, Colonel?
- CHARLES Simple really. It's the same as . . . thought I'd had it . . . had my chips.
- PRATT No, why you had the gun!
- CHARLES Oh, sorry, old chap, get you now. I rushed in, spotted the gun lying there, picked it up.
- THOMKINS And that's when I saw him, sir.
- PRATT I'm quite aware of that, Thompson.
- THOMKINS Sorry, sir. Just trying to clarify the events.
- PRATT *(moving to THOMKINS)* When I want clarity, I'll ask for it . . . I usually manage without.