

# Side 4

## **Hector MacQueen**

Dialect: American (New York or Mid-Atlantic)

Description: Secretary to Ratchett. Nervous, excitable, and eager to please, but easily flustered.

## **Hercule Poirot**

Dialect: Belgian/French accent (consistent, not cartoonish)

Description: World-famous detective. Precise, observant, fastidious, with an eccentric sense of humor. Must carry authority while also being engaging to the audience.

**POIROT.** *Monsieur* MacQueen, please sit down.

**MACQUEEN.** Of-of-of course. Are they all right?

**POIROT.** They will be fine, I assure you. Now tell me, please, what exactly were your duties as secretary to your employer?

**MACQUEEN.** Well I-I wrote his letters and did his errands and things.

**POIROT.** And you knew him only as Samuel Ratchett.

**MACQUEEN.** How else would I know him?

**POIROT.** His real name was Bruno Cassetti.

**MACQUEEN.** Holy God. Are you sure of that?

**BOUC.** Then you know about the Armstrong case?

**MACQUEEN.** You bet I do. My father was the district attorney for the state of New York and he brought the case against that...son of a bitch. I'm sorry, but you have no idea what he did to that family. And they were so kind to me!

**POIROT.** Can you tell us who was in the Armstrong household?

**MACQUEEN.** Mrs. Armstrong had a sister. She went to graduate school, but after the tragedy she moved to Europe and I think she got married. Her name was *Helena*. And also Mrs. Armstrong's mother would come to visit. She was an actress.

**POIROT.** Anyone else?

**MACQUEEN.** There was a governess and a baby nurse, and then poor Suzanne. She was a French housemaid – she came from Paris – and my father's office thought she might be implicated, and...and she was so distraught from the accusations that she –