

“BLUE CARDIGAN” by Alexander Lee-Rekers

CHARLOTTE has shown up at the door of a young woman who, until recently, had been conducting an affair with her husband.

CHARLOTTE: The funeral was dignified. As pleasant as it could be, considering the circumstances. You were missed, in case you were wondering. Comments and whispers, a snigger or two from colleagues, anybody in the know. I suppose I should thank you for not turning up at the very least. *(Silence.)* We spoke about you, right before the end. Philip didn't want to die some estranged cliché so we sat with a bottle of wine and he told me everything. He didn't blame you, which angered me at the time. Now it seems honourable, in a funny sort of way.

I never wanted to meet you. I didn't think I'd ever find myself in front of you, only ... I was wondering, Helen, if you might have his blue cardigan? I've torn the house apart looking for it, and well, naturally, I thought about the possibility of it being here at yours. That's all I want: to wring the last of him from the things he loved.

Performance Notes:

- *What was it like for Charlotte to meet her husband's lover for the first time? What happened, if anything, before this piece began?*
- *Are these the words Charlotte thought she'd say? The blue cardigan is clearly her objective, but was this approach what she'd planned, how she thought the interaction might play out?*
- *This speech spans over two paragraphs. What is the significance of the pause, of the break on the page between each section? What happens in that space in-between?*