

The Haunted Baronet

(a supernatural mystery; approximate running time: 45 minutes)

CHARACTERS: (3 men; 3 women)

THE LIVING

SIR BALE MARDYKES, a middle-aged baronet

MRS. JULAPER, the middle-aged housekeeper of Mardykes Hall

JANET FELTRAM, a young housemaid

DOCTOR JAMES TORVEY, a middle-aged gentleman

TOM MARLIN, an elderly fisherman

THE DEAD

SIR GUY MARDKYES, Sir Bale's ancestor, age 60 when he died

MARY FELTRAM, Janet Feltram's mother, age 23 when she died

Note: The play can be performed with a cast of six with doubling:

Sir Guy Mardykes/Tom Marlin

TIME: 1850

PLACE: England. The countryside surrounding the small town of Golden Friars in Northumberland. A single unit set simultaneously depicts the luxurious but careworn parlor of Mardykes Hall, and Snakes Island, a mossy fog-rimmed islet with a lone oaken stump in its center.

SYNOPSIS: An avaricious baronet, Sir Bale Mardykes, blames his timid young housemaid, Janet, for stealing bank notes which he himself mislaid. Despite a raging storm, she flees the house in despair and drowns in the lake. Janet's corpse is carried to Sir Bale's home, and after several hours, she is miraculously restored, but utterly transformed. Her mishap has caused her gentle soul to be taken over by Sir Bale's former lover who cleverly lures him into gambling away his fortune and his estate.