

# Green Tea

(a supernatural mystery; approximate running time: 55 minutes)

**CHARACTERS:** (4 men; 3 women)

THE LIVING

JUSTICE ELIJAH HARBOTTLE, age 60

GERTRUDE HARBOTTLE, his beautiful wife, age 35

DOCTOR MARTIN HESSELIUS, age 70

DORA TRIMMER, a housekeeper

THOMAS CARWELL, a servant

THE DEAD

LEWIS PYNEWECK, age 40 when he died

CHIEF JUSTICE TWO FOLD, ancient when he died

MATILDA DUNNIGAN, a juror

JOSEPH JARLCOT, a juror

JANE SULLIVAN, a juror

DINGLY CHUFF, a juror

OFFICER OF THE COURT

FERA ONE, a hideous monkeyish creature of slight stature

FERA TWO, another such creature with a deep raspy voice

**Note:** The play can be performed with a cast of seven with doubling:  
Dora Trimmer/Matilda Dunnigan; Gertrude Harbottle/Jane Sullivan;  
Thomas Carwell/Officer of the Court; Doctor Hesselius/Chief Justice  
Fera One/Dingly Chuff; Fera Two/Joseph Jarlcot;

**TIME:** 1880

**PLACE:** London, England. The study of Justice Elijah Harbottle. There are several well stocked bookcases, a sofa, desk, chairs, and an oriental rug.

**SYNOPSIS:** Justice Elijah Harbottle, who was ruthless in his sentencing of petty criminals, is tracked and tormented by two monkeyish creatures called Fera who are visible only to him. They are the result of his over imbibing a special green tea which his young wife persistently serves in the hopes that he will meet his demise. The judge, in his agony, has visions of confronting the ghosts of the thieves and beggars he has executed, causing him to plead for mercy while reassessing his own humanity.