

SCENE THREE

The Courtyard

SAM sees The Taverna and stops. HARRY and BILL come on behind him. They have made their way up from the JETTY. HARRY is a bit breathless from lugging his expensive and elegantly-monogrammed luggage to The Taverna.

HARRY

I'm glad to get off that boat.

BILL

That was nothing. You should try a kayak in the Okavango Swamps.

HARRY

Yes—I read your book 'A Bloke and a Boat in Botswana'.

BILL

Thanks, Harry—I heard I'd sold a copy somewhere.

HARRY

Travel-books are my passion. A distraction from the daily rigors of the London rush hour.

SAM

Do you two want to hear something interesting? You see this Taverna?

HARRY

I'm rather impressed. I remember an old hut here—I was dreading bedding down with the goats.

BILL

Give me goats before camels. There was this time in the Kalahari, the sun was beating down...

SAM

Sorry to interrupt "Indiana"—but the point is this is my Taverna... I built it! Well, I designed it. Drew up the plans—what?—twenty-one years ago...? I can't believe she's actually gone and built the damn thing.

HARRY

Who?

SAM

Donna. Who else? This is something I scribbled on the back of a menu, I had no idea.

BILL

How do you know it's yours ?

SAM

Buildings are like babies. You always know your own.

BILL

I wouldn't know about babies. I've been living out of a back-pack all my life.

HARRY

The 'Happy Wanderer', eh?

(To BILL)

Do you think the island will inspire some prose?

BILL

I hope so. When I got the wedding invite I sold my editor a piece on 'Childhood Haunts Revisited'.

HARRY

Were you born here?

BILL

I was born in the US—but my mother's Greek. No, the only time I came to Greece was to visit with my Great-Aunt on the mainland —and that was twenty-one years ago.

HARRY

So now you can write about Sam's Taverna and the tourists will flock.

BILL

No. I think this island should remain the secret idyll I've always remembered.

SAM

Yes, but if you lived here, maybe the idyll would be the boat-load of tourists with big bucks.

HARRY

At least they might have some staff then. Where is everybody?