1. What happens in the beginning of Act II?

In the beginning of Act II, Mrs Boyle’s dead body has been removed and everyone is assembled in the room. Trotter takes over the charge and is seen sitting. All the members of the Manor House are present for his questioning and interrogation.

1. Whom does he interrogate first? What is his/her answer?

He interrogates Mollie first. He asks her if she can recollect what had exactly happened. She replies that she couldn’t think as her head was numb. She was able to hear a loud noise coming from the radio. She didn’t know who turned it so loud and it wasn’t possible for her to hear any other sound. She further mentions that she heard a door creak and shut and she came out of the kitchen.

1. Why does Giles get angry at Trotter? What does he say to Trotter?

Trotter’s cross-questioning makes Mollie nervous and she starts weeping. On finding her in this condition: weak and petrified, Giles gets angry at Trotter and asks him sharply to stop bullying her as she was all exhausted.

1. How does Trotter react on Giles’ retaliation?

Trotter retaliates by saying that he was interrogating a murder. And as so far nobody had taken the matter seriously, also Mrs Boyle who refused to give any information was found dead. He further adds that if they don’t get to the bottom of things quickly, there would be another death.

1. What is the connection of the murder with Longridge Farm, according to Trotter?

According to Trotter, the connection is the only two addresses in the notebook that were discovered from the site of the murder. One was 24 Culver Street where there was only one possible victim who is dead. And second is Monkswell Manor where there is wider scope.

1. Mention where Giles and Wren were? What were they doing?

Giles was in the bedroom. The extension telephone wire was also dead then and he looked out of the window to see if he could see any sign of the wires being cut there, but couldn’t. Just after he had closed the window again when he heard Mollie scream and he at once rushed down.

Wren says that he was in the kitchen trying to know if there was anything he could do to help Mollie. He adds further that he was there as he loved cooking and after that he went upstairs to his bedroom. He went up because he wanted to be alone and also he wanted to brush his hair and tidy them.

1. What arose Trotter’s suspicion regarding Giles and Mr Wren? What justification was provided?

Trotter was surprised at the fact that Giles and Mr Wren did not meet each other at the stairs. Justification was provided that Christopher came down by the backstairs as it was nearer to his room.

1. Where was Mr Paravicini? What did he say next?

Mr Paravicini was playing the piano in the drawing room. He was playing the tune very softly with just one finger. He says that he heard someone whistling and then the radio being played really loud which upset his ears. And then suddenly he heard Mollie screaming.

1. What was Miss Casewell doing?

Miss Casewell was writing letters in the library and she couldn’t hear anything until Mollie screamed. She further said that she immediately arrived to the place.

1. How does Trotter become suspicious of Miss Casewell?

On cross-questioning, Casewell says that she hurriedly came to the place after Mollie screamed. Trotter realizes that there wasn’t any unfinished letter left on the writing desk in the library. Miss Casewell says that she brought it with her and that raised Trotter’s suspicions. He couldn’t believe how a person would get time to pick up an unfinished letter, fold it and then put in the handbag before going to see what the matter was.

1. Where was Major Metcalf? What did he notice around?

Major Metcalf was in the cellar generally looking around and observing. He said that he was looking into the cupboard place under the stairs near the kitchen which has a lot of junk and sports equipment. He also noticed that there was another door inside it and he opened it. He saw a flight of steps and he went down out of curiosity. There were cellars again.

1. What was spoken of the fingerprints of the murder?

Christopher suggests that there could be fingerprints of the murderer. To which Metcalf says that indeed his fingerprints would be there. However, most of the murderers would be careful and wear gloves. Trotter comments that there could be some criminals who would be carelessly committing mistakes to not wear gloves.

1. Who is the murderer according to Giles?

According to Giles, it is the one who killed that woman in Culver Street, the one who is the eldest of those three children at the farm. He is a mentally abnormal young man who is now twenty three years of age. Giles directly targets Wren.

1. How does Wren respond to Giles accusation? What does Trotter say?

Wren panics and keeps repeating that he has been framed. To which Metcalf and Mollie calm him down. Trotter tries to explain him that the police don’t frame anyone unless they get any solid evidence nor they arrest anyone on the basis of suspicions.

1. What do Mollie and Trotter converse after everyone has left?

After everyone has left, Mollie asks him if he really thinks that the eldest of those three boys at the Farm could be the killer actually. Trotter replies that he doesn’t really know but he is quite sure that the woman who joined with her husband in ill-treating and starving those children has been killed and that the woman magistrate who was responsible for placing them there has been killed. Even the telephone wire that links with police headquarters has been cut. Mollie thinks that it could have been cut due to the snow. Trotter says that it was intentionally cut. Trotter adds that he is going by the probability which points towards the condition of the murderer- his mental instability, childish mentality, deserting from the Army and the psychiatrist’s report and also that his mother was alcoholic and she died soon after her children were soon taken away from her. The husband was an Army Sergeant and if he is alive he would be probably discharged from the Army. Trotter further adds that he has no idea where the man is, but it is quite possible that even the father must be mentally unsound. Mollie adds that it could be possible after being a prisoner with the Japanese and having suffered terribly, if he came home to find his wife dead and that children had undergone a terrible experience: one of them dead due to the ordeals, the father too would lose his mental balance and would want to seek revenge.

1. Who are the next two suspects? Why?

The next suspect after Wren is Metcalf and also Paravicini. Metcalf is a middle-aged soldier. He also seemed to be quite upset when the police had rung up. Paravicini could also be the next suspect who looks old and foreign. He seems to be a younger man by the way he walks. He has a got a make up on his face. Casewell had noticed that it’s possibly a disguise.

1. What do they both discuss about the sister?

About the sister they discussed how she could also be one of the suspects. It’s quite possible that she must have pulled up the muffler, and the man’s felt hat is pulled own. Normally the voice of the person would reveal the gender of the person but here one couldn’t find out. Mollie suspects if it could be Miss Casewell. Trotter says that she looks a little old for this act and says that it could be Mollie herself.

1. How does Trotter suspect the couple: Mr and Mrs Ralston? How did Mollie react after being questioned about Giles?

Trotter feels that the suspect could be Mollie herself. Mollie was as old as the suspect. Further he says that it could possibly be Giles too. Trotter asks Mollie since how long she had been married. Mollie replies that it was a year and it was very silly to suspect Giles.

1. What details were provided by Mollie about Giles?

Mollie says that they had been married since a year. They met at a dance in London during a party just three weeks before they got married. He doesn’t have any family as all are dead. Giles’ father was a barrister and his mother died when he was just a baby.

1. What does Trotter comment on the initial information provided about Giles? Which different possibilities does Trotter come up with?

Trotter says that Mollie only knows those things which Giles has told her. She has no idea as per her knowledge. Trotter further adds that there could be number of possibilities too. Since the war there are many such examples that the police get. Homes have been broken up and families dead. There aren’t any backgrounds and young people try to settle their own affairs themselves by meeting and marrying. Initially there used to be a lot of enquiries made, but now the girl marries a man and she doesn’t discover for a year or two if he is a bank clerk escaping with bank money or an Army deserter.

1. What shocks Mollie about Giles? Why? What evidence is produced by Mollie?

Mollie is shocked when she comes to know that Giles had been to London. According to Mollie he had been across the country to get a net made of wire for the chickens. Trotter produces ABC (an evening newspaper) from Giles’ darkish overcoat that he had carried a day before. The newspaper was of a day earlier and is sold on the streets about 3.30 pm.

1. How does Christopher arrive?

Christopher jumps and hides the newspaper under the cushion in the armchair. Christopher asks for Sergeant and wishes that he could only get away from him somehow in some way by hiding some where in the house. He feels so because he thinks he has been targeted by her husband specially.

1. What does Mollie advise Wren on his erratic behavior?

Mollie advises Wren that he need not bother about Giles and his suspicions. She tells him that he cannot go on like that- trying to run away from things. He needs to grow up.

1. Which further information about Wren is revealed to the readers? Does he reveal further about himself?

The readers understand that Christopher Wren is not his real name and he wasn’t really training to become an architect. No, the audience only gets to know that his school mates would call him little Christopher Robin Wren, it being an association of ideas. He doesn’t reveal his real name but tells that he ran away from the Army because it was nasty and he hated it. Christopher says that he somehow fit the description of the unknown murderer.

1. What does the audience understand about Wren’s mother? What does Mollie say on that?

Wren says that it would have been alright if his mother wouldn’t have died. She would have taken care of him and looked after him too. Mollie says that one can’t go on being looked after or cared for all your life. At times things happen and one must endure them. One has to go on as if everything is fine.

1. What does Mollie speak of herself?

Mollie tells Christopher that even she hasn’t forgotten a part of her past that was dark. It wasn’t concerning Giles but long before he came into her life. It was when she was perhaps like a child and so it was very horrible and awful. She tries to get it out her head but is unable to do so.

1. What does Christopher plan next? What does Mollie of it?

Christopher plans to steal away Trotter’s skis. Though Mollie feels it would be awfully foolish and as if he would be confessing that he was guilty.

1. What happens when Giles enters in the middle of Mollie and Wren’s conversation?

When Giles enter there is a sign of awkwardness visible between Mollie and Wren. She was about to say what the topic was but Mollie suddenly goes to the kitchen to cook food. Christopher avoids the situation too and suggests that he would better help Mollie.

1. What kind of altercation takes place between Giles and Wren?

Wren suggests that he would go to the kitchen to help Mollie. Giles warns him not to. He justifies it by saying that mutual private conversations aren’t very healthy to do at present. He should better be away from the kitchen and away from his wife. He keeps warning him and telling him that he doesn’t want his wife to be the next victim. Wren gets offended and asks Giles if he thinks he is a murderer. Giles vehemently replies that he believes the killer is moving in the house and he is suspicious of Wren. At this point, they start arguing that there is another suspect too. Wren says that he is worried for Mollie too suggesting that Giles could be a killer too.

1. How does Mollie react to this dispute between Wren and Giles? What does Giles do next?

Mollie asks Christopher to leave the place. Giles says that Mollie appears to be crazy to be prepared to shut herself in the kitchen with a person who has the madness to kill someone. Mollie defends Wren and says that he isn’t like that. He is just slightly unhappy but surely not dangerous.

1. How do Mollie and Giles become suspicious of each other?

Giles starts feeling that Mollie has been unnecessarily supportive to Wren. He feels there is something brewing between both of them. He confronts Mollie and asks her if they had met each other before and when he came he pretended to have met her for the first time. He feels that it was completely out of the way the way he came to stay at an out of the way place like that. Giles says that it’s quite likely that she has been meeting Wren secretly at London.

1. What does the couple discuss about visiting London?

Giles feels that Mollie had been visiting Wren secretly at London. Mollie immediately retorts that she hasn’t been to London since a long time. Giles asks her tauntingly again to which Mollie says that she is lying. Giles finally says that he found a bus ticket which was found in her gloves that she wore the previous day. He says that he had picked up while talking to Trotter. Finally, she accepts of having gone to London and then cross questions Giles. She says that she had found the evening paper which was in the overcoat pocket. They end up in a heated argument blaming one another but none of them confess why they had been to London.

1. What is misplaced from the house? Where were they? What was probably the intention of doing so?

Trotter’s skis are misplaced. The skis were in the cupboard near the kitchen door. The intention was not to allow anyone to go out of the house because anyone of them could have been a murderer.