

Andrew Lloyd Webber, The Prologue

("A railway cutting. A wild, stormy Summer night. The Signal Man is in his signalbox. He receives a

"Walter Hartright:"
Hallo! Below there! Hallo!

("A lightning flash")

"Walter Hartright:"
Signal Man? Down there...Hallo!

("Pause")

"Signal Man:"
Who calls to me in the dead of the night?

("Walter steps out of the shadows into the light of the Signal Man's lantern.")

"Walter Hartright:"
Hartright. My name is Walter Hartright.

("He climbs down to the Signal Man's level.")

"Signal Man:"
What are you doing here, on a night like this?

"Walter Hartright:"
I'm lost sir. I'm trying to find my way to Limm'ridge House-
The train broke down and I'm forced to walk.

"Signal Man:"
Branch train broke down - what you say is true.

"Walter Hartright:"
Yes, I heard the wires singing in the wind -
The noise of them led me to you.

"Signal Man:"
Why are you going to Limm'ridge House?

"Walter Hartright:"
I have the post of drawing master -
I must arrive tonight for I start tomorrow...
Sir, you look upon me with such dread.

("Pause")

"Signal Man:"
Last night I had a vision
That a stranger would appear
He stood right where you are -
A man such as yourself.
"Alarm on the line!" he said
Alarm on the line!

So I tapped out the message.
And the answer came back
"All well both ways"

But he said "You'll mark my words
When a year to the day
The dead lie on the tracks!
The dead lie on the tracks!"

"Walter Hartright:"

I can assure you sir, I know of no imminent danger!

"Signal Man:"
A man such as yourself!

("Suddenly there is a strange sound in the air. The telegraph wires sound again in the signal box")

"Signal Man:"
They are calling me from down the line.
There's danger somewhere along the line.

("The sound of the wires grows to a terrible pitch. From behind Hartright, from the depths of the tunnel")

"Walter Hartright:"
("startled") Oh, my God!

"Anne:"
You've got to help me!
There's someone after me!

"Walter Hartright:"
How can I help you?

"Anne:"
I'm being followed
And I've done nothing wrong!

"Walter Hartright:"
It's very late for you to be out here alone -

"Anne:"
You must believe me
That I am free from blame.

"Walter Hartright:"
Who do you run from?

"Anne:"
I dare not say his name!

"Walter Hartright:"
Where do you live?
I'll try to help you if I can.

"Anne:"
I have my secret
My precious secret
But can I trust you?
But can I trust you?

("Her tone changes. She reaches out to him.")

"Anne:"
They cannot take away my secret -
Though it's something I can't share with you.
It's locked inside my heart, my secret -
But there's someone I must tell it to.

Secrets kept inside can hurt you
Mine is sharper than a knife
If I tell the one I seek
I may save her life.

("She is in distress.")

""Walter Hartright:""
Please you needn't fear me
Truly you can trust me
I would never harm you.

I'm no threat - I'm Walter...
Walter Hartright.
I'll help you to get home.

""Anne:""
I have no home at all
Nothing but my secret.
I have just my secret.

("Hartright reaches out and gently takes her hand. The noise of a pony and chaise approaching. S

""Anne:""
There's someone coming!
And I must get away -
I have to get away!
But can I trust you?

("She moves off towards the tunnel")

""Walter Hartright:""
Don't go in there!
He said there's danger on the line.

""Anne:""
("echoing") I'll tell my secret
For secrets must be told.

("She disappears back into the tunnel. A servant enters.")

""Servant:""
You must be Mister Hartright?

""Walter Hartright:""
Yes

""Servant:""
I'm sent to bring you straight to Limm'ridge House.

""Walter Hartright:""
Did you see her?
A woman, dressed in white.

""Servant:""
I saw no one.

""Walter Hartright:""
A woman all in white?

""Servant:""
Sir, I saw no one
I saw no one

("The servant picks up Hartright's bags and exits with them. Hartright looks around then exits after h