

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. She

""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 her")