AUDITION SIDES DO NOT HAVE TO BE MEMORIZED. Just be familiar with them. Pick up to two to read.

1. MOLLIE RALSTON

Character: Young woman, recently married, warm and hospitable but increasingly anxious. She needs to show vulnerability, emotional range, and the ability to become frightened without losing her composure.

Audition Side — "Something Is Wrong"

I keep telling myself that everything is perfectly all right. This is our home. We opened it only yesterday. People are supposed to feel safe here.

But there are things I can't explain. The telephone doesn't work, the snow has cut us off from everyone, and now we have a police officer telling us that someone in this house may be in danger.

Giles, I know what you're going to say. That I'm imagining things. Perhaps I am.

But I have the strangest feeling that someone here is hiding something.

And if that's true... I don't know who I can trust.

2. GILES RALSTON

Character: Mollie's husband. Young, confident, protective, occasionally jealous and suspicious. Needs good chemistry with Mollie and the ability to convey suspicion without becoming melodramatic.

Audition Side — "You Don't Know Me"

Mollie, you've known me long enough to know when something is bothering me.

I don't like the way these people look at us. Everyone has an explanation for why they're here, and somehow every explanation raises another question.

And now you're telling me I should simply relax?

I'm trying to protect you. That's all I've ever wanted to do.

But if there's something you haven't told me, I'd rather hear it from you than discover it from someone else.

So tell me the truth. Whatever it is, I'll deal with it.

3. CHRISTOPHER WREN

Character: Eccentric, energetic, charming, unpredictable. He should be funny without playing himself simply as a clown. There should be something slightly unsettling beneath his enthusiasm.

Audition Side — "What a Wonderful Place!"

Isn't this marvelous?

Snow everywhere, no trains, no telephone, and not another soul for miles! Most people would find that terrifying.

I find it absolutely wonderful.

You see, when people are trapped together, they stop pretending. They become honest.

Well... eventually.

I've always thought you can learn a great deal about someone by watching what they do when they're frightened.

For example, you.

You smile whenever you're nervous.

And he becomes very quiet.

And I become rather talkative.

Isn't that interesting?

4. MRS. BOYLE

Character: Older, wealthy, critical, impatient, demanding, and judgmental. She should be difficult without becoming a caricature.

Audition Side — "This Place"

I simply cannot understand why anyone would choose to live in a place like this.

It's isolated, inconvenient, and completely impractical. The roads are terrible, the heating is inadequate, and apparently the telephone is useless.

I've stayed in much better establishments.

And the people are hardly reassuring.

That young man is peculiar. The young woman is nervous. The other gentleman says very little.

Frankly, I don't know what everyone is so worried about.

If there were a murderer in this house, surely someone would have noticed by now.

5. MAJOR METCALF

Character: Retired military man. Reserved, disciplined, observant, polite but intimidating. He should suggest that he notices considerably more than he says.

Audition Side — "Observe First"

In my experience, Inspector, people reveal themselves when they believe nobody is watching.

A nervous person talks too much.

A dishonest person usually talks too little.

And a frightened person will often tell you precisely what they think you want to hear.

That's why I prefer to listen.

You've asked everyone here where they were and what they were doing.

That's sensible.

But you haven't asked the more important question.

Why are they lying?

6. MISS CASEWELL

Character: Young to middle-aged woman with a guarded, somewhat mysterious personality. Independent, emotionally controlled, and difficult to read.

Audition Side — "I Don't Discuss My Past"

I don't see why everyone is so interested in me.

I've told you where I came from.

I've told you where I've been.

I've answered your questions.

What more do you want?

Some things are private.

There are experiences in a person's life that aren't improved by being dragged into conversation with strangers.

So if you're asking whether there's something I'm not telling you...

Yes.

There is.

But that doesn't mean it has anything to do with what happened here.

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7. PARAVICINI

Character: Mysterious, theatrical, charming, and unsettling stranger. **Can be played by a male or female actor.** The actor should be comfortable with an unusual accent/voice and stylized physicality without turning the character into a cartoon.

Audition Side — "How Very Interesting"

How very interesting.

You say the road is closed?

Completely closed?

Then I suppose we are all prisoners here together.

How exciting.

You must forgive me. I find unusual circumstances rather fascinating.

Everyone becomes different when there is no way to leave.

The polite ones become rude.

The confident ones become frightened.

And the people who have something to hide...

Well.

They become very interesting indeed.

8. DETECTIVE SERGEANT TROTTER

Character: Young police detective. Intelligent, energetic, authoritative, persistent, and increasingly suspicious. This is one of the strongest dramatic roles and requires good command of the room.

Audition Side — "Nobody Leaves"

I'm going to ask everyone to remain calm.

That doesn't mean I believe everything is all right.

In fact, quite the opposite.

We have a serious situation, and until I know exactly what happened, nobody leaves this house.

I know you're frightened.

I know some of you are angry.

And I know at least one person in this room isn't telling me the truth.

So I'm going to ask the question again.

Where were you?

What did you hear?

And who were you with?

Take your time.

Because sooner or later, the truth is going to come out.