

PAULA: (To Fefu.) I liked your talk at Flossie Crit.^①

FEFU: Oh god, don't remind me. I thought I was awful. Come, I'll show you your rooms. (She starts to go up.)^②

PAULA: I thought you weren't. I found it very stimulating.

EMMA: When was that? . . . What was it on?

FEFU: Aviation.

PAULA: It wasn't on aviation. It was on Voltairine de Cleyre.

JULIA: I wish I had known.

FEFU: It wasn't important.

JULIA: I would have gone, Fefu.

FEFU: Really, it wasn't worth the trouble.

EMMA:^③ Now you'll have to tell Julia and me all about Voltairine de Cleyre.

FEFU: You know all about Voltairine de Cleyre.

EMMA: I don't.

FEFU: I'll tell you at lunch.

EMMA: I had lunch.

JULIA: You can sit and listen while we eat.

EMMA: I will. When do we start our meeting?

FEFU: After lunch. We'll have something to eat and then we'll have our meeting. Who's ready for lunch?

(The following lines are said almost simultaneously.)

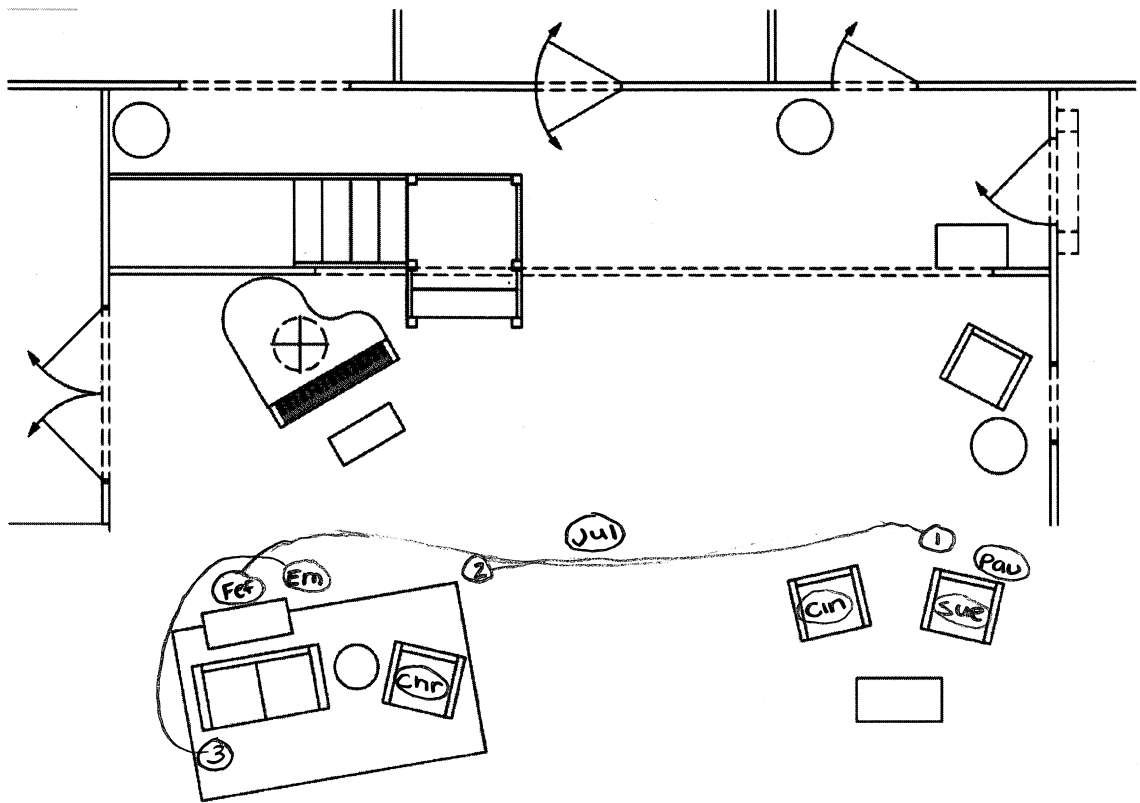
CINDY: I am.

JULIA: I'm not really hungry.

CHRISTINA: I could eat now.

PAULA: I'm ready.

SUE: I'd rather wait.



1) Fef brings drinks 2 Sue/Pau

2) Fef X back

3) Em X DS to couch

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EMMA:^① I'll have coffee.

FEFU: . . . Well . . . we'll take a vote later.

CINDY: What are we doing exactly?

FEFU: About lunch?

CINDY: That too, but I meant the agenda.

SUE: Well,^② I thought we should first discuss what each of us is going to talk about, so we don't duplicate what someone else is saying, and then we have a review of it, a sort of rehearsal,^③ so we know in what order we should speak and how long it's going to take.

EMMA: We should do a rehearsal in costume. What color should each wear. It matters.^④ Do you know what you're wearing?

PAULA: I haven't thought about it. What color should I wear?

EMMA: Red.

PAULA: Red!

EMMA: Cherry red or white.

SUE: And I?^⑤

EMMA: Dark green.

CINDY: The treasurer should wear green.

EMMA: It suits her too.^⑥

SUE: And then we'll speak in order of color.

EMMA: Right. Who else wants to know? (*Cindy and Julia raise their hands. To Cindy.*)^⑦ For you lavender. (*To Julia.*)^⑧ Purpurra. (*Fefu raises her hand.*)^⑨ For you,^⑩ all the gold in Persia.

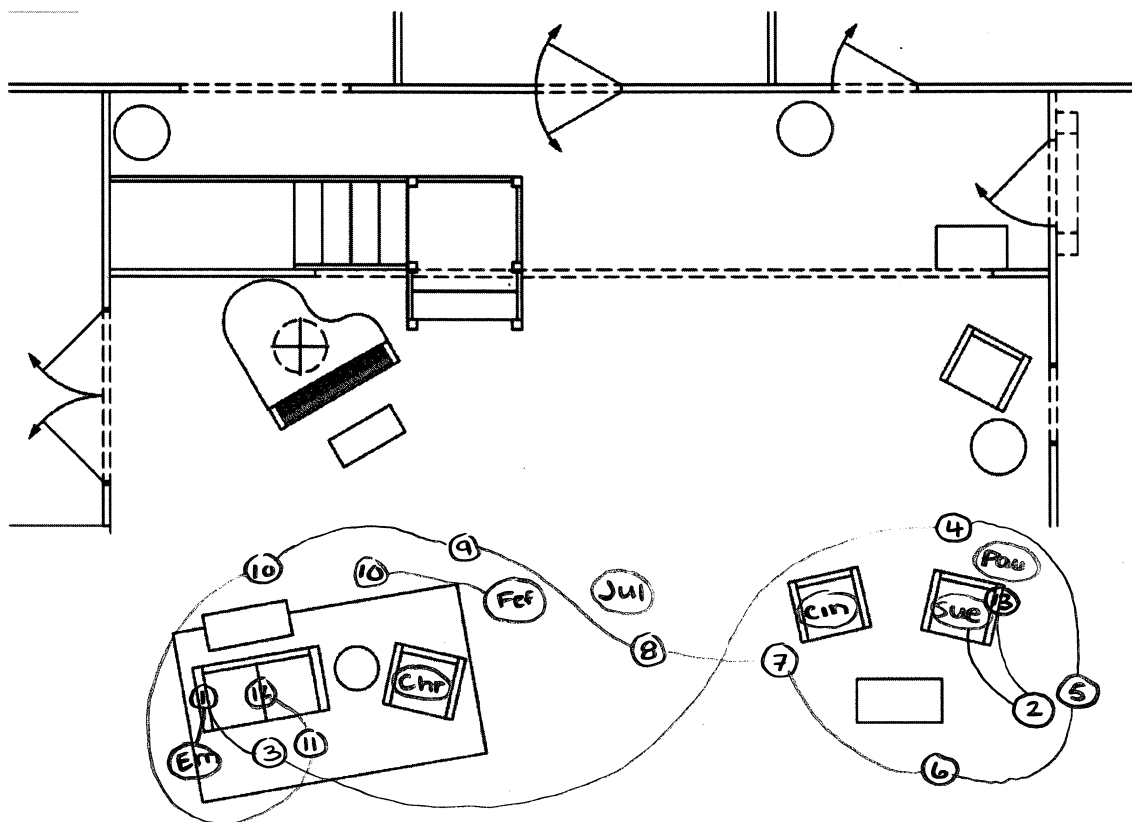
FEFU: There is no gold in Persia.

EMMA:^⑪ In Peru. I brought my costume. I'll put it on later.

FEFU: You're not in costume?

EMMA: No. This is just a dress. My costume is . . .^⑫ dramatic. I won't tell you any more about it. You'll see it.

SUE: I had no idea we were^⑬ going to do theatre.



1) Em sit R couch arm

2) Sue X DSR corner

3) Em stands

4) Em X Pau

5) Em X Sue

6) Em X DS

7) Em X cin

8) Em X Jul

9) Em X Fef

10) Em takes Fef R (2 steps)

11) Em X couch

12) Em sits couch, posing

13) Sue sits back in L ch

skin-level touch across Pau back,

Em grips Pau L arm, hold out

spin sue (Em R arm, sue L arm)

Em (L arm) on Fef (R sh.)

(skin-level) down to hold Fef (R hand)

still holding hands

on each beat of "DRA-MA-TIC"

EMMA: ^①Life is theatre. Theatre is life. If we're showing what life is, can be, we must do theatre.

SUE: Will I have to act?

EMMA: It's not acting. It's being. It's springing forth with the powers of the spirit. It's breathing.

JULIA: I'll do a dance.

EMMA: ^②I'll stage a dance for you.

JULIA: Sitting?

EMMA: On a settee.

JULIA: I'm game.

EMMA: *(Takes a deep breath and walks through the French doors.)*
Phillip! ^③What are you doing?—Hello.—Hello, John.—What?
I'm staging a dance for Julia!

PEFU: ^④We'll never see her again.—Come.

^⑤*(Pefu, Paula, and Sue go upstairs. Julia goes to the gun, takes it and smells the mouth of the barrel. She looks at Cindy.)*

^⑥CINDY: It's a blank.

(Julia takes the remaining slug out of the gun. She lets it fall on the floor.)

JULIA: She's hurting herself. *(Julia looks blank and is motionless. Cindy picks up the slug. She notices Julia's condition.)*

CINDY: Julia. *(To Christina.)* She's absent.

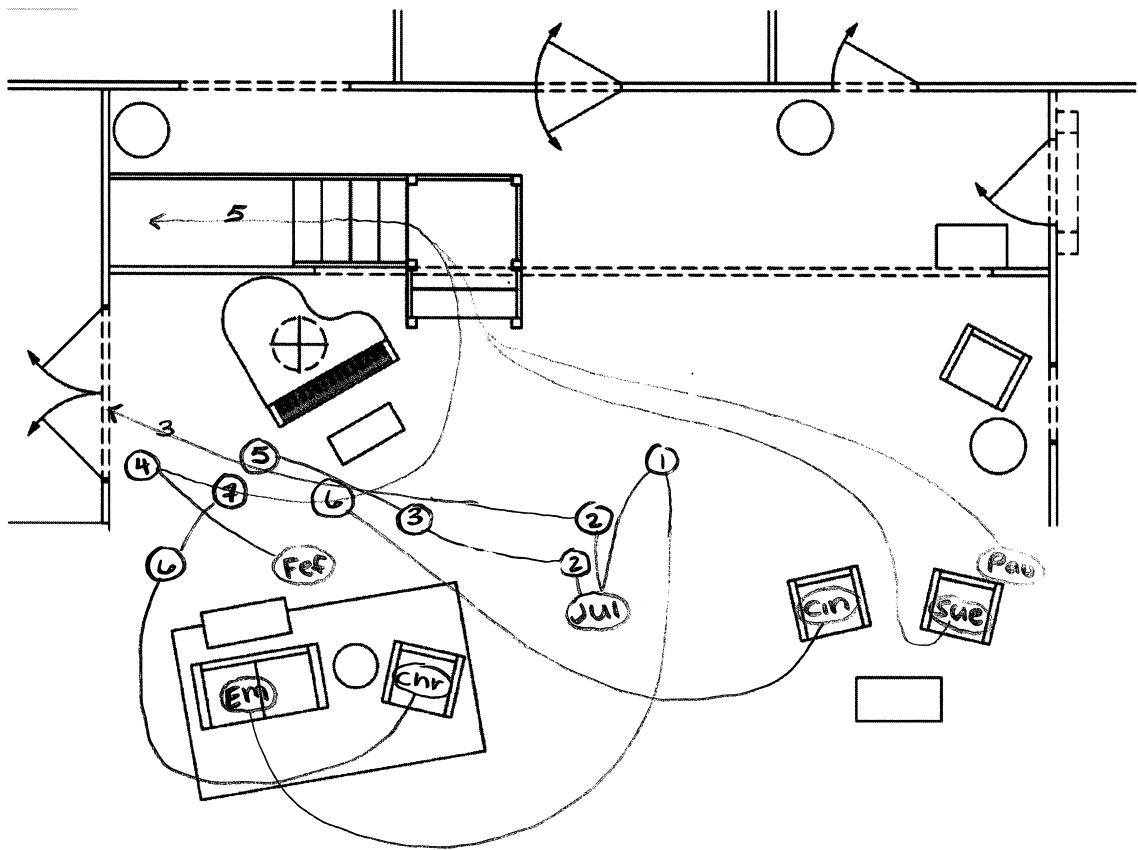
CHRISTINA: What do we do? ^⑦

CINDY: Nothing, she'll be all right in a moment. *(She takes the gun from Julia. Julia comes to.)*

JULIA: It's a blank . . .

CINDY: It is.

JULIA: She's hurting herself. *(Julia lets out a strange whimper. She*



1) Em X USC

2) Em pulls Jul back

3) Em EX F. doors, Jul follows partway → so she'll see the gun

4) Fef X and close F. doors

5) Sue+Pau+Fef EX^r, Jul X gun → she smells the barrel

6) Cin X Jul, Chr X USR of couch

7) chr X Cin+Jul

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goes to the coffee table, takes a piece of chocolate, puts it in her mouth and goes toward her room. After she crosses the threshold, she stops.) I must lie down a while. ①

CINDY: Call me if you need anything.

JULIA: I will. *(She exits. Cindy tries to put the slug in the rifle. There is the sound of a car, a car door opening, closing.)*

CINDY: Do you know how to do this?

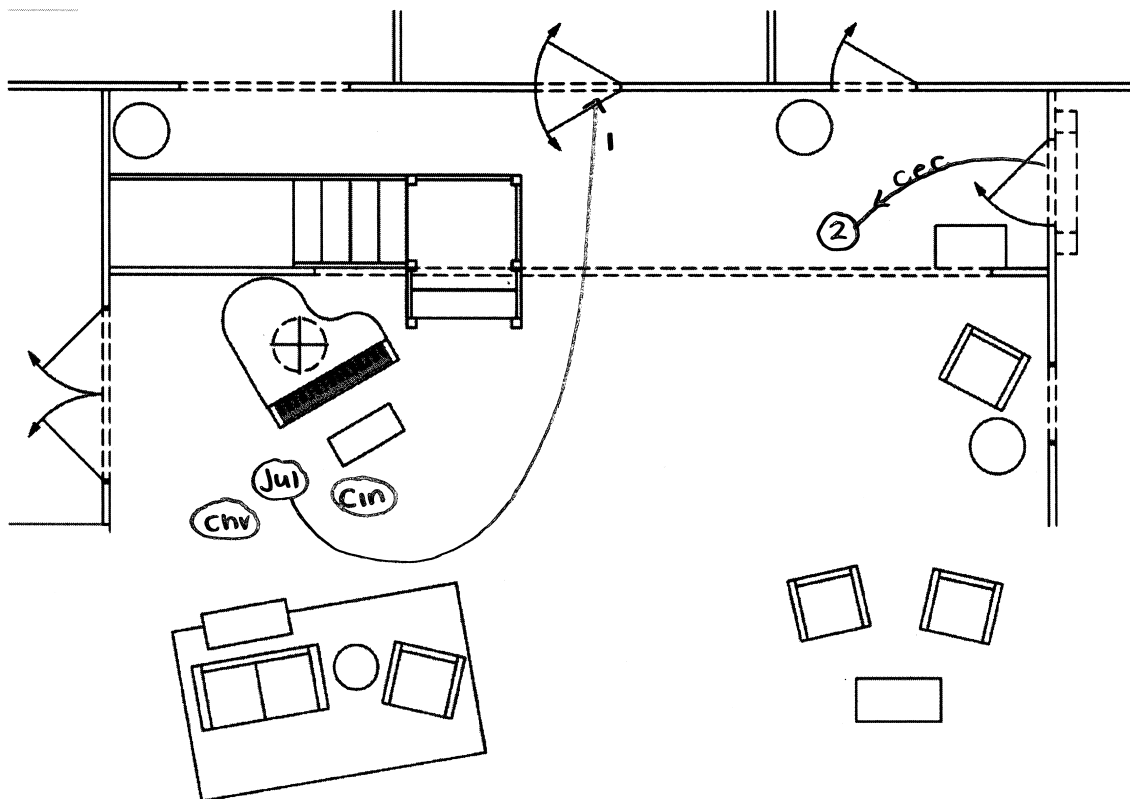
CHRISTINA: Of course not.

②
(Cindy succeeds in putting the slug in the gun. Cecilia stands in the threshold of the foyer.)

CECILIA: I am Cecilia Johnson. Do I have the right place?

CINDY: Yes*

(Cindy locks the gun. Lights fade all around Cecilia. Only her head is lit. The light fades.)



1) Jul EX to bedroom

→ Jul hands gun to cin

2) Cec EN through front door