

NOTE: There are internal cuts in this scene for audition purposes. Please refer to this edited scene rather than the full script.

ALAN enters.

DORIAN

Alan, this is kind of you. Thank you for coming.

ALAN

I'd intended never to enter your house again, Gray. But you said it was a matter of life and death...

DORIAN

Yes, it is a matter of life and death, Alan, and to more than one person. Sit down. Alan, in a locked room at the top of this house is the body of a dead man. Don't look at me like that. Who the man is, why he died, how he died, are matters that do not concern you. What you have to do is this -

ALAN

Stop, Gray. I don't want to know anything further. Keep your horrible secrets to yourself, they don't interest me any more.

DORIAN

Alan, this one will have to interest you. I'm awfully sorry, but you're the one man who is able to save me. Alan, you are scientific, you know about chemistry and things of that kind. What you have got to do is to destroy the thing that's upstairs - to destroy it so that not a vestige of it will be left.

ALAN

You're mad, Dorian.

DORIAN

Ah - I was waiting for you to call me Dorian.

ALAN

Do you think I'm going to peril my reputation for you? What is it to me what devil's work you're up to? You drove him to suicide, I should fancy. I will have absolutely nothing to do with it. I don't care what shame comes on you, you deserve it all. I should not be sorry to see you disgraced, publicly disgraced...

DORIAN

(Cutting him off) Alan, it was murder. I killed him. You don't know what he had made me suffer.

ALAN

Murder! Good God, Dorian, is that what you've come to?

DORIAN

All I ask of you is to perform a scientific experiment. You go to hospitals and dead-houses, and the horrors that you do there don't affect you. What I want you to do is merely what you have often done before. Alan, I beg of you to do this. We were friends once, Alan.

DORIAN reaches to touch ALAN intimately.

ALAN

Don't speak about those days, Dorian, they are dead.

DORIAN

The dead linger sometimes. The man upstairs will not go away. Alan, if you don't come to my assistance I am ruined, don't you understand? They will hang me for what I have done.

ALAN

There's no good in prolonging this scene. I absolutely refuse to do anything in the matter. It's insane of you to ask me.

DORIAN goes to the table and picks up a letter.

DORIAN

I am so sorry, Alan, but you leave me no alternative. I have a letter written already.

DORIAN hands the letter to ALAN. ALAN looks at it and becomes pale, sinking into his chair.

DORIAN (Cont.)

You see the address. If you don't help me, I will send it.

ALAN

I cannot do it.

DORIAN

You must. You have no choice.

ALAN

(Pause) Is there a fire in the room upstairs?

DORIAN

Yes, there is a gas-fire with asbestos.

ALAN

I shall have to go home and get some things from the laboratory.

DORIAN

No, Alan, you must not leave the house. Write out on a sheet of note-paper what you want and my servant will take a cab and bring the things back to you.

ALAN

You are infamous, absolutely infamous...

DORIAN

Hush, Alan, you have saved my life.

ALAN

When I have done what you asked me to do, we will never see each other again.

DORIAN

You have saved me from ruin, Alan. I cannot forget that.

*DORIAN takes ALAN's face in his hands
and kisses him as the lights fade to black.*