E Craigmore/Sandra

CRAIGMORE

I see – and this island landing theory of yours is where your rummaging through my bags comes into play and your obsession over this old map of Gardner Island.

                       SANDRA  
Yes, Mrs. Craigmore – because I remember catching a glimpse of the map before and wanted it... as evidence.

                       CRAIGMORE

It didn’t occur to you that my husband was a flyer during the war and that this map is one of his papers.

                       SANDRA

The map was included with your papers.

                       CRAIGMORE  
When you’re married, Sandra, things tend to combine.

                       SANDRA  
It’s not only that, but it’s also about what’s on the map.

CRAIGMORE

The map shows a small island, apparently marked with airfields.

SANDRA

Exactly – airfields!

CRAIGMORE

Which makes sense for someone who was a pilot.

SANDRA  
Not for this island.

CRAIGMORE

Sandra...

SANDRA

Because Gardner Island doesn’t have any airfields.

CRAIGMORE

Sandra!

SANDRA  
There are no airfields on Gardner Island – and yet the map marks places to land! Why would there be a map of Gardner Island in your possession? Why would your husband even have a map for a strategically unimportant island that made no contribution to the war effort? Why would the map mark areas to land where there are no airfields - unless there was some sort of surprise landing planned?

CRAIGMORE

More importantly, why, in the name of God – if you’ll excuse the name-dropping - even if Amelia Earhart did survive, why would she return with a fake identity?

SANDRA  
I can only imagine, Mrs. Craigmore – but then, spending years in a Japanese prison camp... whatever you must have endured there... It must have been harrowing for you. No wonder you are so reserved, so private, so controlled. Perhaps that’s why you insist on your street being patrolled. Perhaps that’s why you installed your emergency button. Who could blame you for wanting to return home to a quiet life?

CRAIGMORE

Quiet life? You saw my schedule for next week!

SANDRA  
You hide in plain sight, Mrs. Craigmore – like a clue that’s too obvious to be a clue. No one tries to know you because you’re everywhere and so people think they do know you – but they don’t... not really. You speak to well-wishers behind a lectern or a dinner table or some other fog of formality – and that’s all you do have... just “well-wishers.” You have no photographs of your family or friends on the walls or on your tables. You have no family to speak of – no brother, sister, cousin, aunt, or anything in-between. You even married a man who was isolated from his own family. Why is that? You have no friends - except Ms. Gentry - and she was Amelia Earhart’s best friend. It makes sense she’s the one person who knows who you are and has stayed silent out of loyalty.

CRAIGMORE  
So I come back to America - and what, Sandra... invent a new identity for myself?

SANDRA  
No - you stole someone’s identity.

CRAIGMORE

Ah - I’m a thief, as well, I see.

SANDRA  
You stole the identity of Aileen Kosterman.

CRAIGMORE

Now we come full circle, because I am Aileen Kosterman.

SANDRA  
No.

CRAIGMORE

Don’t tell me no, Sandra.

SANDRA

You were all very close – you, Aileen Kosterman, and Ms. Gentry. You must have admired Aileen very much to take her identity when you returned from the war – but aided by the United States government, that’s what you did – and you lived with her name until you married your husband. That explains why there are hardly any photographs of you before twenty years ago. The photograph on the wall is one of the few exceptions – and there Aileen Kosterman’s face is blocked by a shadow. That’s one of the few images of Aileen Kosterman before the war. We even checked newspaper clippings from Cortland.

CRAIGMORE

Cortland?

SANDRA

Nebraska. That’s where Aileen Kosterman grew up.

CRAIGMORE

You mean, that’s where I grew up.

SANDRA

And lived until you went to college.

CRAIGMORE

And lived until I went to college.

SANDRA  
And then after college?

CRAIGMORE

I moved to New York – to Ardsley.

SANDRA

There are no records of you in Ardsley.

CRAIGMORE

Since when do they even keep records in Ardsley?

SANDRA

I checked and I can’t find any records of you anywhere in Ardsley – or anywhere else in Westchester County – until October, 1946 when you got that job at the bank.

CRAIGMORE

The problem with conspiracies, Sandra, is that they are like oranges rolling downhill – constantly picking up speed until, in the end, they splatter fantastically.

SANDRA  
Aileen Kosterman was never in Ardsley.

CRAIGMORE

Even the idea that the United States government would assist in such a farce...

SANDRA

They did – because you did them a service and you wanted your privacy... and...

CRAIGMORE

And?

SANDRA

Because of the Russians.

CRAIGMORE

Ah, it was only a matter of time before they showed up.