

# FLAMINGO RED: A COMEDY IN DANGER

## Cast of Characters

MADAME FLAMINGO

CHARLES

DORA

*(The Flamingo Red Tea Room of the Hotel Coeur de Lion is a mediaevally furnished room, toned to its own color in every possible detail. The wall hangings, the carpets, the tea cups, are all of the same light red; the only noticeable exceptions being the silver of the tea-sets and the white of the table-cloths. The dispenser of tea, gowned in a model possible to Guinevere and in the same disturbing hue, is a mystic temperament and we cannot do less than call her MADAME FLAMINGO. A door at the back opens and admits a very young man and a very young lady—as self-conscious as two little birds. MADAME FLAMINGO leads them to a table almost overhanging our orchestra.)*

**MADAME FLAMINGO.** Tea, I suppose?

**THE YOUNG MAN.** Chicken broth for me.

**THE YOUNG LADY.** Do I want chicken broth, Charles?

**CHARLES.** Yes, very badly. And some oyster crackers.

**THE YOUNG LADY.** No, I want tea.

**CHARLES.** You'll wish you'd asked for chicken broth.

**THE YOUNG LADY.** I'll halve it. I want beef tea! *(She is delighted with herself. She looks up to see if CHARLES is amused.)*

**CHARLES.** *(To MME. FLAMINGO:)* We'll let her have beef tea.

*(MME. FLAMINGO smiles maternally and goes out.)*

**THE YOUNG LADY.** What's this room called?

**CHARLES.** The Peacock Blue Bouillon Room

**THE YOUNG LADY.** *(Protesting:)* Do be serious sometimes. It's the Flamingo Red Room.

**CHARLES.** Oh! Who'd have thought it!

**DORA.** I don't like it.

**CHARLES.** Hush. Madame Flamingo'll hear you.

**DORA.** I want to sit on that side of the table.

**CHARLES.** Weigh the matter well. If you want to sit here badly, do; but let's not keep changing.

**DORA.** (*Firmly:*) Yes. I want to sit there.

**CHARLES.** (*As they change:*) If you want to move back don't say so.

**DORA.** (*Sitting down:*) No, I don't like this after all. (*Firmly:*) I want to come back. I don't like this room.

**CHARLES.** Oh Dora, you never used to be this way. (*Changing wearily:*) Come on.

**DORA.** You musn't say things like that. Look at how long we've been married, and yet you criticize me the whole time.

(MADAME FLAMINGO returns with their wants.)

**MME. FLAMINGO.** Beef tea. Chicken broth. (*She hovers around the back of the room.*)

**DORA.** No. I want the chicken broth. You can have the beef tea. The chicken broth is so pretty.

**CHARLES.** I was just thinking that I wanted the beef tea instead.

**DORA.** (*Doubtfully:*) Were you? Then I think I'll keep the beef tea, if you don't mind at all. It's so nice and dark.

**CHARLES.** (*Firmly:*) You can't do this all our life, Dora.

**DORA.** It's perfectly simple. I'm drinking what I ordered. You're drinking what you ordered. Isn't that all right?

**CHARLES.** No. You musn't be wayward that way. Decide for yourself what you're going to have and then keep to it; and leave some time to talk about things worth while.

**DORA.** Things worth while! And you're always making a joke of everything!

**CHARLES.** You know what I mean better than I do. How is your beef tea?

**DORA.** (*Pushing it away:*) I don't want it. You've spoiled it for me. You're always criticizing.

**CHARLES.** It shan't come up again. I'm sorry. They're very charming—the little ways you've got. Drink the beef tea of peace and love me again.

**DORA.** Oh, I love you even when I'm mad, but you are so funny sometimes— *(She lays her hand along the tablecloth.)*

**CHARLES.** *(Hitting it playfully:)* Go away, sir, go away.

**DORA.** *(Flaring up:)* I told you not to do that.

**CHARLES.** *(Put out:)* Oh, very well.

**DORA.** When you know I don't like a thing, I think you might stop it.

**CHARLES.** I thought you were playing. You were playing at first. How am I to know when you're going to get angry or not?

**DORA.** When I say not to do a thing, just stop.

**CHARLES.** That's all very well, but— Oh, eat your beef tea, and let's get out.

**DORA.** *(Angry:)* What were you going to say, Charles DARTH?

**CHARLES.** *(Ditto:)* You must learn to do a thing through and through, Dora, without flights here and there, and touchiness and everything else.

*(She rises and picks up her gloves with an exclamation of supreme disillusion.)*

*(MME. FLAMINGO comes forward hurriedly.)*

**MME. FLAMINGO.** Won't you please sit down a moment? I have something to tell you.

**DORA.** *(Calling into her seat:)* What is it?

**MME. FLAMINGO.** This room as you know is the Flamingo Red Room. I have been here for two years now, and I have found that no person can take tea here without quarreling. I have applied to the hotel management many times to change the color scheme but they will not. Please, please do not go away angry.

**CHARLES.** Do you see, Dora?

**MME. FLAMINGO.** It is not you who have been quarreling, it is—It is like a great red dragon driving you to it.

**DORA.** But—we have said things just the same!

**MME. FLAMINGO.** No, it is not you, yourselves, please. It is a red spirit in the room. Stay here, dear, and watch out for him—you will?

**DORA.** Yes—thank you.

**MME. FLAMINGO.** Thank you. (*MME. FLAMINGO retires.*)

*(They look at each other a moment, then silently return to their cups.)*

**DORA.** Are you watching out for it?

**CHARLES.** Yes, are you?

**DORA.** (*Quaintly:*) Yes—

*(They go on drinking.)*

***Finis***