Farewell to all this. To being harassed and spied on. To being mocked. To being nobody.

He steps into the deep cabinet and closes the doors.

If possible, a screen above the cabinet shows a gradually fading image of Griffin.

Man 3 He risked going into the machine?
Marvel Yes, sir. He was that desperate to get away.
Woman 4 I wouldn’t go into a vanishing machine, if you paid me.
Woman 2 Sssh! What happened next, Mr Marvel?
Marvel Give me some hush, and you’ll find out.

SCENE 7

Griffin’s room.

The image on the screen has faded away completely.

After a moment, the doors of the deep cabinet swing open. The cabinet appears to be empty. Suddenly, the two radiating engines are switched off. A length of rubber tubing snakes out of the cabinet. There is a hissing of gas, then a spark at the back of the cabinet.

Bare, invisible feet cross the room. The window is raised. A moment later, it closes again.

Mrs Thornhill, Mrs Routledge and her two sons, Stephen and William, come onstage.

Stephen [Hammers on the door] Mr Griffin! Ma says you’re to open up at once.
Mrs Thornhill If Dizzy’s dead, I’ll see you swing on the gallows!
William Open up, Griffin!
Stephen He doesn’t mean to let us in, Ma.
Mrs Routledge Break the door down.

Stephen and William force the door open. Mrs Routledge and Mrs Thornhill follow them into the room. They look round.

William No one here.
Stephen He’s disappeared.
Mrs Routledge Fled through the window, most likely.
Mrs Thornhill The dirty coward!

Smoke starts to come out of the cabinet.

Mrs Routledge [Sniffing] Wait! Can you smell …
William [Sniffs] Gas!