ACT I

Scene 1

The library of the old Dowd family mansion. Myrtle Mae is discovered coming through the door as telephone rings. She goes to it.

MYRTLE
Mrs. Simmons? Mrs. Simmons is my mother, but she has guests this afternoon. Who wants her? (listens to phone and then calls off R) Mother. It’s the Society Editor of the Evening News Bee--

VETA
Oh--the Society Editor. (she fixes her hair and goes to phone. Her voice is very sweet. She throws out chest and assumes a dignified pose) Good afternoon. This is Veta Simmons. Yes- a tea and reception for the members of the Wednesday Forum. My mother, you know (waves hand toward portrait)the late Marcella Pinney Dowd founded the Wednesday Forum.

MYRTLE
Come on! Miss Tewksbury is almost finished with her number.

VETA
She’ll do an encore.

MYRTLE
What if they don’t give her a lot of applause?

VETA
I’ve known her for years. She’ll do an encore.

MYRTLE
Mother, please- she’s almost finished.

VETA
Everything’s ready. (into phone) Yes, Miss Ellerbe, this is the first party we’ve had in years. There’s a reason but I don’t want it in the papers. We all have our troubles, Miss Ellerbe. The guest list? Oh, yes--

MYRTLE
Mother--come!

VETA
If you’ll excuse me now, Miss Ellerbe. I’ll call you later.

Hangs up.

(CONTINUED)
MYRTLE
Mother- Mrs. Chauvenet just came in!

VETA
Myrtle, you must be nice to Mrs. Chauvenet. She has a grandson about your age.

MYRTLE
But what difference will it make, with Uncle Elwood?

VETA
Myrtle Mae! Remember! We agreed not to talk about that this afternoon. The point of this whole party is to get you started. Oh, Myrtle--you’ve you so much to offer. I don’t care what anyone says, there’s something sweet about every young girl. But you’ve got to meet somebody, Myrtle. That’s all there is to it.

MYRTLE
If I do they say, That’s Myrtle Mae Simmons! Her uncle is Elwood P. Dowd--the biggest screwball in town. Elwood P. Dowd and his pal--

VETA
(putting hands on her mouth)
You promised. Now when the members come in here and you make your little welcome speech on behalf of you grandmother-- be sure to do this (gestures towards portrait on mantle)

MYRTLE
And then after that, I mention my Uncle Elwood and say a few words about his pal Harvey.

VETA
Myrtle Mae--that’s right! Let everybody in the Wednesday Forum hear you. You said that name. You promised you wouldn’t say that name and you said it.

MYRTLE
I’m sorry mother.

VETA
This is unkind of you Myrtle Mae. Elwood is the biggest heartache I have. Even if people do call him peculiar he’s still my brother and he won’t be home this afternoon.

MYRTLE
Are you sure?
VETA
Of course I’m sure. (crosses and looks through door) Oh dear, Miss Tewksbury’s voice is certainly fading!

MYRTLE
But not fast enough.

They begin to exit through door

VETA
Lovely, Miss Tewksbury-- perfectly lovely. I loved it.

They are off. Enter from other side Elwood P. Dowd. As he enters, although he is alone, he seems to be ushering and bowing someone else in with him. He bows the invisible person over to a chair. He speaks to the invisible person.

ELWOOD
Excuse me a moment. I have to answer the phone. Make yourself comfortable, Harvey.

Phone rings
Hello. Oh, you’ve got the wrong number. But how are you, anyway? This is Elwood P. Dowd speaking. I’ll do? And what is your name my dear? (to chair) Harvey, it's a Miss Elsie Greenawalt. (back to phone) How are you today, Miss Greenawalt? Yes my dear, I would be happy to join your club. I belong to several clubs now. And what is your club? It sounds fine to me. I’ll join it. (to chair) How does it sound to you Harvey? (back to phone) Harvey says he will join too. I hope I will have the pleasure of meeting you some time, my dear. Why not right now? My sister seems to be having a few friends in and we would consider it an honor if you would come and join us. I hope to see you in a few minutes. Goodbye, my dear.

Hangs up
She’s coming right over. Hervey, don’t you think we better freshen up? Yes, so do I.

Exits up stairs. Veta reenters from off R

VETA
I can’t seem to remember where I put that guest list. I must read it to Miss Ellerbe

Myrtle and Mrs. Chauvenet enter from R.

MYRTLE
Here’s mother, Mrs. Chauvenet. Here she is.

(continued)
MRS. CHAUVENET
Veta Louise Simmons! I thought you were dead.

VETA
Aunt Ethel! Oh no. I am very much alive, thank you.

MRS. CHAUVENET
And this full grown girl is your daughter-- I've known you since you were a baby.

MYRTLE
I know.

MRS. CHAUVENET
What's your name, dear?

VETA
Thus is Myrtle--Aunt Ethel. Myrtle Mae.

MRS. CHAUVENET
Where's Elwood?

VETA
He couldn't be here, Aunt Ethel. Now let me get you some tea.

MRS. CHAUVENET
Elwood isn't here?

VETA
No.

MRS. CHAUVENET
Oh, shame on him. That was the main reason I came. Do you realize, Veta, that it has been years since I have seen Elwood? Does Elwood see anybody these days?

VETA
Oh, yes-- Aunt Ethel. Elwood sees somebody.

MYRTLE
Oh, yes.

MRS. CHAUVENET
Is Elwood happy, Veta?

VETA
Elwood is very happy, Aunt Ethel. You don’t need to worry about Elwood.

    Elwood reenters down the stairs.

(CONTINUED)
MRS. CHAUVENET
Elwood! Elwood Dowd!

ELWOOD
Aunt Ethel! What a pleasure to come in and find a beautiful woman waiting for me!

MRS. CHAUVENET
Elwood-- you haven’t changed.

VETA
Come along, Aunt Ethel. You mustn’t miss the party.

MRS. CHAUVENET
Stop pulling at me. Elwood, what night next week can you come to dinner?

ELWOOD
Any night. Any night at all, Aunt Ethel.

VETA
Elwood, there’s some mail for you today. I took it up to your room.

ELWOOD
Did you, Veta? That was nice of you. Aunt Ethel– I want you to meet Harvey. As you can see he’s a Pooka. Harvey, you’ve heard me speak of Mrs. Chauvenet? We always called her Aunt Ethel. Yes– Yes– thats right. Shes the one. This is the one. He says he would have known you anywhere. Come on in with me, Harvey. We must say hello to all of our friends. I beg your pardon, Aunt Ethel. If you’ll excuse me for one moment.

MRS. CHAUVENET
What?

ELWOOD
You are standing in his way. Come along Harvey. Uh-uh.

He turns and pantomimes as he arranges the tie and brushes off the head of the invisible Harvey. Then he does the same thing to his own tie. They are all watching him, Mrs. Chauvenet in horrified fascination. The heads of Veta and Myrtle bowed in agony.

Go right on in, Harvey. I’ll join you in a moment. Aunt Ethel, I can see you are disturbed about Harvey. Please don’t be. He stares like that at everybody. But he liked you. I could tell. He liked you very much.

He pats her arm and exits R. All are silent. Veta clears her throat.

(CONTINUED)
MRS. CHAUVENET
Well. I think I’ll be running along now.

MYRTLE
But...

VETA
I’m so sorry...

MRS. CHAUVENET
I’ll- I’ll be talking to you soon. Goodbye. Goodbye.

She exits. Myrtle runs to look into other room off R.

MYRTLE
He’s introducing Harvey to everybody. I can’t face those people now. I wish I were dead.

VETA
Come back here. Stay with me. We’ll get him out of there.

MYRTLE
Oh, Mrs. Cummings is leaving. Uncle Elwood must have told her what Harvey is. Oh. he’s talking to Mrs. Halsey.

VETA
Is Harvey with him?

MYRTLE
What a thing to ask! How can I tell? How can anyone tell but Uncle Elwood?

VETA
Oh Elwood, could I see you a moment, dear? (to Myrtle) I promise, you your Uncle Elwood has disgraced us for the last time in this house. I’m going to do something I’ve never done before. Now lift your head and smile and go back in as though nothing has happened.

Myrtle exits as Elwood enters through door

VETA
Elwood, would you mind sitting down and waiting in here for me until the party is over? I want to talk to you. It’s very important.

ELWOOD
Of course, sister. I happen to have a little free time right now and you are welcome to all of it, Veta. Do you want Harvey to wait too?

(CONTINUED)
VETA

Yes, Elwood, I certainly do.

As she exits, we hear the click of a lock. Elwood crosses to bookshelf and selects a book.

ELWOOD

Ah- Jane Austen. Sit down, Harvey. Veta wants to talk to us. She says its very important. I think she wants to congratulate us on the impression we made at her party.

Listens, then as if answering a question...


Blackout.

Scene 2

The main office of Chumley’s Rest- a sanitarium. The time is an hour after the end of scene 1. At rise, Miss Ruth Kelly, head nurse at Chumley’s Rest, is seated taking notes as she talks to Veta Simmons. As she talks to Veta, she writes on a slip of paper with a pencil.

KELLY

Mrs. O. R. Simmons, 343 Temple Drive, is that right?

Veta nods

KELLY

And you wish to enter your brother here at the sanitarium for treatment. Your brother’s name?

VETA

It’s - oh-

KELLY

Mrs. Simmons, what is your brother’s name?

VETA

I’m sorry. Elwood P. Dowd. That’s it.

KELLY

His age?

VETA

47 on the 24th of last April.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KELLY
    47. Is he married?

VETA
    No, Elwood has never married.

KELLY
    You have him with you know?

VETA
    He’s in a taxicab down in the driveway.

    Kelly presses a button and rings a buzzer. Enter
    Wilson.

KELLY
    Mr. Wilson, would you step down to a taxi in the
    driveway and ask a Mr. Dowd if he would be good enough
    to step up to room number 24?

WILSON
    Ask him?

KELLY
    This is his sister, Mrs. Simmons.

WILSON
    How do- why certainly- be glad to escort him.

VETA
    Thank you.

KELLY
    Now, I will see if Dr. Sanderson can see you.

VETA
    Dr. Sanderson? I want to see Dr. Chumley himself.

KELLY
    Oh, Mrs. Simmons. Dr. Sanderson is the one who sees
    everybody. Dr. Chumley sees no one.

VETA
    Well, I don’t like to be pushed off onto any second
    fiddle.

KELLY
    Dr. Sanderson is nobody’s second fiddle. He’s young, of
    course, and he hasn’t been out of medical school very
    long, but Dr. Chumley tried out 12 and kept Dr.
    Sanderson. He’s really wonderful-- to the patients.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

VETA
Very well. Tell him I am here.

KELLY
Right away.

Kelly exits.

VETA
Oh dear— oh dear.

Wilson and Elwood appear.

ELWOOD
Veta— isn’t this wonderful?

Wilson takes him forcefully off. Veta is still jumpy and nervous. Enter Dr. Lyman Sanderson. He sees Veta and pulls down his jacket and gets a professional bearing. Veta has not heard him come in. She is busy with her compact.

SANDERSON
Mrs. Simmons?

Veta is startled and jumps

VETA
Oh— oh dear. I didn’t hear you come in. You startled me. You’re Dr. Sanderson?

SANDERSON
Yes. Will you be seated, please?

VETA
Thank you. I hope you don’t think I am jumpy like that all the time but I—

SANDERSON
Of course not. Miss Kelly tells me that you are concerned about your brother.

VETA
Yes, doctor. he’s— this isn’t east for me doctor.

SANDERSON
Naturally, these things aren’t easy for families of patients. I understand. How long has it been since you began to notice any peculiarity in your brother’s actions?

(CONTINUED)
VETA
I noticed it right away when Mother dies. I could see that he--that he--

SANDERSON
Take your time, Mrs. Simmons. Don’t strain. Let it come.

VETA
I want him committed out here permanently, because I cannot stand another day of that Harvey. Myrtle and I have to set a place at the table for Harvey. We have to move over on the sofa and make room for Harvey. We have to answer the telephone when Elwood calls and asks to speak to Harvey.

SANDERSON
This person you call Harvey-- who is he?

VETA
He’s a rabbit.

SANDERSON
Perhaps- but just who is he? Some companion of whom you disapprove?

VETA
Doctor- I’ve been telling you. Harvey is a rabbit- a big white rabbit- six feet high- or is it six feet and a half? Heavens knows I ought to know. He’s been around the house long enough.

SANDERSON
Now, Mrs. Simmons, let me understand this- you say-

VETA
Doctor- do I have to keep repeating myself? My brother insists that his closest friend is this big white rabbit. This rabbit is named Harvey. Harvey lives at our house. Don’t you understand? Doctor- I’m going to tell you something I’ve never told anybody before. Every once in a while I see that big white rabbit myself. Now isn’t that terrible? I’ve never even told that to Myrtle Mae.

SANDERSON
Mrs. Simmons-

VETA
And what’s more, he’s every bit as big as Elwood says he is. Now don’t ever tell that to anybody, doctor. I am ashamed of it.

(CONTINUED)
SANDERSON
I can see that you have been under a great nervous strain recently.

VETA
Well, certainly I have.

SANDERSON
Been losing sleep?

VETA
How could anybody sleep with that going on?

SANDERSON
Short tempered over trifles?

VETA
You just try living with those two and see how your temper holds up. Well I am finished with it. It’s too much, doctor. I just can’t stand it.

SANDERSON
Of course, Mrs. Simmons. Of course, it is. You’re tired. You’ve been worrying a great deal. And now I’m going to help you.

VETA
Oh, doctor...

SANDERSON
Just sit there quietly, Mrs. Simmons. I’ll be right back.

___

He exits DL. She sighs with relief and calls out as she takes her coat.

VETA
I’ll just go down to the cab and get Elwood’s things.

___

She exits UL as Wilson, Kelly and Sanderson reenter.

SANDERSON
Mrs. Simmons? Sound the gong, Wilson. That poor woman must not leave the grounds. Go after her!

___

Wilson presses a button on the wall and we hear a loud gong. Wilson exits UL. Sanderson picks up the phone.

Main gate. Allow no one out. We’re looking for a patient.

hangs up

(MORE)
CONTINUED:

SANDERSON (cont’d)
I shouldn’t have left her alone! What have we available, Miss Kelly?

KELLY
Number 13 is ready doctor.

SANDERSON
Have her taken there immediately and I will prescribe preliminary treatment. I must contact her brother. Get him on the telephone for me, will you please, Miss Kelly?

KELLY
But doctor, I didn’t know it was the woman who needed the treatment. She said it was for her brother.

SANDERSON
Of course she did. She apparently knew her brother was about to commit her, so she came out to discredit him. Get him on the telephone, please.

KELLY
But doctor, I thought the woman was all right so I had Wilson take the brother up to No. 24. He’s there now.

SANDERSON
No gags, please Kelly.

KELLY
Oh, I did, doctor. I did. Oh, doctor, I’m terribly sorry.

SANDERSON
Oh, well then, if you’re sorry, that fixes everything.

*He starts to pick up the phone and then buries his head in his hands.*

KELLY
I’ll do it, doctor. I’ll do it.

*She takes the phone.*
Miss Dunphy—will you please unlock the door to number 24 and ask him to step down to the office right away. There’s been a terrible mistake and Dr. Sanderson wants to explain—

SANDERSON
Explain? Apologize!

*She hangs up.*

(CONTINUED)
KELLY
Doctor— I feel terrible. I didn’t know. Judge Gaffney called and said Mrs. Simmons and her brother would be out here and when she came in here—

Sanderson starts to exit
Where are you going?

SANDERSON
I’ve got to tell the chief about it, Kelly. He may want to handle this himself.

KELLY
He’ll be furious. I know he will.

SANDERSON
The responsibility is all mine, Kelly.

KELLY
But this man, Dowd—

SANDERSON
Don’t let him get away. I’ll be right back. Keep him here, Kelly.

Sanderson exits. Wilson reenters.

KELLY
Did you catch her?

WILSON
Slick as whistle. Shoulda heard her yell! She’s wacky, all right. Brought her in through the diet kitchen. She’s screaming and kicking. I’ll hold her if you’ll come change her clothes.

KELLY
Just a second, Wilson. Dr. Sanderson told me to stay here till her brother comes down.

WILSON
Make it snappy.

Wilson exits as Elwood enters carrying another hat and coat over his arm.

KELLY
You’re Mr. Dowd?

ELWOOD
Elwood P.

(CONTINUED)
KELLY
I’m Miss Kelly.

ELWOOD
Let me give you one of my cards. If you should want to call me- call me at this number. Don’t call me at that one. That’s the old one.

KELLY
Thank you. Won’t you have a chair, please, Mr. Dowd?

ELWOOD
Thank you. I’ll have two. Allow me.

He brings another chair down. He sets extra hat and coat on table and motions Harvey to sit in chair.

KELLY
Dr. Sanderson is very anxious to talk to you. He’ll be here in a minute.

ELWOOD
And now, Miss Kelly, I would like to have you meet-

Sanderson enters.

SANDERSON
Mr. Dowd?

ELWOOD
Elwood P. Let me give you one of my cards. If you should want to-

SANDERSON
Mr. Dowd- I am Dr. Lyman Sanderson, Dr. Chumley’s assistant out here.

ELWOOD
Well, good for you! I am happy to know you. How are you, doctor?

SANDERSON
That’s going to depend on you, I am afraid.

ELWOOD
I want both of you to meet a very dear friend of mine-

SANDERSON
Later on. Be glad to. You have us at a disadvantage here. You know it. We know it. Let’s lay our cards on the table. Miss Kelly and I have made a mistake here this afternoon, Mr. Dowd, and we’d like to explain it to you.

(Continued)
KELLY
We do hope you’ll understand, Mr. Dowd.

SANDERSON
Your sister. She is a very sick woman. Came in here insisting you were in need of treatment. That’s perfectly ridiculous.

ELWOOD
Veta shouldn’t be upset about me. I get along fine.

SANDERSON
Exactly. Your sister was extremely nervous and she became hysterical. She began talking so emotionally about this big white rabbit—Harvey—yes, I believe she called him Harvey—

ELWOOD
Harvey is his name.

SANDERSON
She claimed you were persecuting her with this Harvey.

ELWOOD
I haven’t been persecuting her with Harvey. Veta shouldn’t feel that way. And now, Doctor, before we go any further, I must insist you let me introduce—

SANDERSON
Let me make my point first, Mr. Dowd. This trouble of your sister’s didn’t spring up overnight. Her condition stems from trauma. It means shock. Nothing unusual about it. To sum it all up—your sister’s condition is serious, but I can help her. She must, however, remain out here temporarily.

ELWOOD
I have always wanted Veta to have everything she needs.

SANDERSON
Exactly.

ELWOOD
But I wouldn’t want Veta to stay out here unless she liked it out here and wanted to stay here.

SANDERSON
Mr. Dowd, if this were and ordinary delusion—something reflected on the memory picture—in other words, if she were seeing something she had seen once—that would be one thing. But this is more serious. It stands to reason that nobody has ever seen a white rabbit six feet high.
CONTINUED:

ELWOOD

Not very often, Doctor.

SANDERSON

She must be committed out here temporarily. Under these circumstances, I would commit my own grandmother. Now, we don’t usually do this— but just to make sure in your mind that your sister is in good hands— why don’t you look around here?

ELWOOD

For Veta’s sake I believe I’d better do that, doctor.

SANDERSON

Very well, then. It’s been a great pleasure to have this little talk with you, Mr. Dowd.

ELWOOD

I’ve enjoyed it too, doctor— meeting you and Miss Kelly. Since we all seemed to have enjoyed this so much, let us keep right on. I would like to invite you to come with me down to Charlie’s Place at ten o’clock tonight.

SANDERSON

Well—

ELWOOD

And you, Miss Kelly?

KELLY

I—

SANDERSON

Since you’ve been so understanding perhaps we could manage it.

ELWOOD

I’ll pick you up out here in a cab at ten o’clock tonight and the four of us will spend a happy evening. I want you both to become friends with a very dear friend of mine. You said later on— so later on it will be. Goodbye, now.

Motions goodbye to Harvey and exits.

SANDERSON

Boy, that was a close shave all right, but he seemed to be a pretty reasonable sort of fellow. There’s only one thing I don’t like about this Dowd business.
KELLY
  What’s that?

SANDERSON
  Having to make that date with him. Of course, the man has left here as a good friend and booster of the sanitarium—so I guess I’ll have to go with him tonight—but you don’t have to go.

KELLY
  Oh.

  Enter William Chumley.

CHUMLEY
  Dr. Sanderson! Miss Kelly!

KELLY AND SANDERSON
  Yes, Doctor?

CHUMLEY
  The difficulty of the woman who has the big white rabbit—has it been smoothed over?

SANDERSON
  Yes, doctor. I spoke to her brother and he was quite reasonable.

CHUMLEY
  While I have had many patients out here who saw animals, I have never had a patient with an animal that large.

SANDERSON
  Yes, doctor. She called him Harvey.

CHUMLEY
  Unusual name for an animal of any kind. I will now go upstairs with you and look in on this woman. It may be that we can use my Formula 977 on her. I will give you my advice in prescribing the treatment, doctor.

SANDERSON
  Thank you, doctor.

CHUMLEY
  And now—may I ask—what is that hat and coat doing on that table? Whose is it?

SANDERSON
  I don’t know.

(continued)
CONTINUED:

KELLY
Perhaps it belongs to a relative of one of the patients?

*Chumley picks up hat.*

CHUMLEY
Here—what’s this—what’s this? Two holes cut in the crown of the hat. See!

KELLY
That’s strange!

CHUMLEY
Some new fad—put them away.

*Kelly takes them offstage as Wilson enters.*

WILSON
Hello Dr. Chumley. Look—somebody’s ganna have to give me a hand with this Simmons dame—order a restraining jacket or something. She’s terrible.

CHUMLEY
We’re going up to see this patient right now, Wilson.

WILSON
She’s in the hydro tub now. Oh. I left the water running on her!

*He runs off followed by Kelly. Enter Betty Chumley.*

BETTY
Willie, you haven’t forgotten Dr. McClure’s cocktail party? We promised them faithfully.

CHUMLEY
That’s right. I have to upstairs now and look in on a patient. Be down shortly—

*Chumley exits. Betty calls after him.*

BETTY
Give a quick little diagnosis, Willie. We don’t want to be late.

*Enter Elwood. He doesn’t see Betty at first. He looks around the room carefully.*

Good evening.

(CONTINUED)
ELWOOD
Good evening.

BETTY
I am Mrs. Chumley, Dr. Chumley’s wife.

ELWOOD
I am happy to know that. Dowd is my name. Elwood P. Let me give you one of my cards.

BETTY
Thank you. Is there something I can do for you?

ELWOOD
What did you have in mind?

BETTY
You seem to be looking for someone.

ELWOOD
Yes, I am. I am looking for Harvey. I went off without him.

BETTY
Harvey? Is he a patient here?

ELWOOD
Oh, no. Nothing like that. He is what you might call my best friend. He is also a pooka. He came out here with me and Veta this afternoon.

BETTY
Where was he when you last saw him?

ELWOOD
In that chair there with his hat and coat on the table.

BETTY
Perhaps he left?

ELWOOD
Apparently. I don’t see him anywhere.

BETTY
What was that word you just said—pooka?

ELWOOD
Yes, that’s it.

BETTY
Is that something new?

(CONTINUED)
ELWOOD
Oh no, as I understand it, that’s something very old. I do hope you get an opportunity to meet him. I’m sure he would be quite taken with you. If Harvey happens to take a liking to people he expresses himself quite definitely. If he’s not particularly interested, he sits there like an empty chair or an empty space on the floor. Mrs. Chumley-

BETTY
Yes-

ELWOOD
Did you know that Mrs. McElhinney’s Aunt Rose is going to drop in on her unexpectedly tonight from Chicago?

BETTY
Why, no I didn’t-

ELWOOD
Neither does she.

BETTY
Well, I don’t know anybody named- Mrs.-

ELWOOD
Mrs. McElhinney? Lives next door to us. Wonderful woman. Harvey told me about her Aunt Rose. That’s an interesting little news item and you are perfectly free to pass it around.

BETTY
Well, I-

ELWOOD
Would you care to come downtown with me now, my dear?

BETTY
Thank you very much but I am waiting for Dr. Chumley and if he came down and found me gone he would be irritated. I’ll tell you what I’ll do however.

ELWOOD
What will you do, however?

BETTY
If your friend comes in while I’m here I’d be glad to give him a message for you.

ELWOOD
Would you do that? I’d certainly appreciate that.
BETTY
No trouble at all. What would you like me to tell him?

Betty takes out Elwood’s card and writes the notes down on the back.

ELWOOD
Ask him to meet me downtown, if he has no other plans.

BETTY
Any particular place downtown?

ELWOOD
He knows where. Harvey knows this town like a book.

BETTY
Harvey what?

ELWOOD
Just Harvey.

BETTY
I’ll tell you what.

ELWOOD
What?

BETTY
Doctor and I are going right down town to 12th and Montview. Dr. McClure is having a cocktail party. We could give your friend a lift into town.

ELWOOD
I hate to impose on you but I would certainly appreciate that.

BETTY
No trouble at all.

ELWOOD
It’s been very pleasant to meet you, and I hope to see you again.

BETTY
Yes, so do I.

ELWOOD
Goodnight, my dear. You can’t miss Harvey. He’s very tall. (shows with hands) Like that.

Elwood exits as Chumley, Sanderson and Kelly reenter.

(Continued)
CHUMLEY
That Simmons woman is uncooperative, doctor. She refused to admit to me that she has this big rabbit. Insists it’s her brother. Give her two of these at nine, another at ten if she continues to be so restless. You know where to call me if you need me. Ready, pet?

BETTY
Yes, Willie- and oh, Willie- There was a man in here- a man named- let me see (looks at card) Dowd. Elwood P. Dowd.

SANDERSON
That’s Mrs. Simmons’ brother, doctor.

BETTY
He was looking for someone. Some friend of his. He said it was someone he came out here with this afternoon. He said he last saw his friend sitting in that chair there with his hat and coat.

KELLY
Dr. Sanderson-

BETTY
I told him if we located his friend we would give him a lift into town. Was that alright, Willie?

CHUMLEY
Of course- Of course.

BETTY
His friend’s name was Harvey.

KELLY
Harvey!

BETTY
He didn’t give me a last name. He mentioned something else about him-pooka- but...

SANDERSON AND CHUMLEY
Harvey!

BETTY
He said his friend was very tall. Well, why are you looking like that, Willie? This man was a very nice, polite man and he merely asked that we give his friend a lift into town-

(CONTINUED)
SANDERSON
Where—where did he go, Mrs. Chumley? How long ago was he in here?

CHUMLEY
Get me that hat! By George, we’ll find out about this!

Kelly goes to get hat. Brings it to Chumley.

BETTY
I don’t know where he went. Just a second ago.

Sanderson picks up phone as Chumley begins looking through an address book.

SANDERSON
Main gate—

CHUMLEY
Gaffney—Judge Gaffney—

SANDERSON
Henry—did a man go out through the gate a minute ago? He did? He’s gone?

Sanderson hangs up phone as Kelly reenters with hat. Chumley picks up phone.

CHUMLEY
Judge Gaffney. This is Dr. William Chumley. Judge— you telephoned out here this afternoon about having a client of yours committed? How is that name spelled? With a W, not a U—Mr. Elwood P. Dowd. Thank you, judge.

Hangs up. Takes hat from Kelly, thinking.

Dr. Sanderson— I believe your name is Sanderson?

SANDERSON
Yes, doctor.

CHUMLEY
You know that much, do you? You went to medical school—you specialized in the study of psychiatry? You graduated— you went forth.

Holds up hat and runs two fingers up through holes in it.
Perhaps they neglected to tell you that a rabbit has large, pointy ears! That a hat for a rabbit would have to be perforated to make room for those ears?
SANDERSON
Dowd seemed reasonable enough this afternoon, doctor.

CHUMLEY
Doctor— the function of a psychiatrist is to tell the difference between those who are reasonable, and those who merely talk and act reasonably. I will now have to do something I haven’t done in fifteen years. I will go out after this patient and I will have to bring him back, and when I do bring him back, your connection with this institution is ended as of that moment! Wilson, get the car. Pet, call the McClure’s and say we can’t make it. Miss Kelly, come with me and we’ll get that woman out of the tub.

Chumley exits followed by Kelly. Sanderson turns and exits into his office. Wilson is putting on his coat.

BETTY
Wilson—

WILSON
Yes, ma’am.

BETTY
What is a pooka?

WILSON
You can search me, Mrs. Chumley.

BETTY
I wonder if it would be in the encyclopedia here? They have everything.

Goes to bookcase and takes out a book.
Oh, I don’t dare to stop to do this now. Dr. Chumley won’t want to find me still here when he comes down.

She sets the book down and exits. Wilson picks up the book. Flipping pages.

WILSON
P-o-o-k-a. "Pooka. From old Celtic mythology. A fairy spirit in animal form. Always very large. The pooka appears here and there, now and then and how are you Mr. Wilson?"

Looks at book, startled.
How are you Mr. Wilson? Who in the encyclopedia wants to know??

Looks at the book again and then drops it and runs off. Blackout.
25.

**ACT II**

**Scene 1**

The Dowd library again. About an hour after the end of Act I.

Doorbell is ringing and Myrtle Mae enters and opens the door. Enter Judge Gaffney.

**JUDGE**

Well, where is she?

**MYRTLE**

Where is who?

**JUDGE**

I mean your mother. Where’s Veta Louise?

**MYRTLE**

Judge, she went out to Chumley’s Rest to tell them about Harvey and put Uncle Elwood in.

**JUDGE**

Why did she call me at the club and scream at me to meet her here about something important?

**MYRTLE**

I don’t know.

**JUDGE**

Myrtle, I feel pretty bad about this thing of locking Elwood up. Of course, there was always something different about Elwood.

**MYRTLE**

I don’t doubt that.

**JUDGE**

Yes— he was always so calm about any sudden change in plans. I used to admire it. I should have been suspicious. Take your average man looking up and seeing a big white rabbit. He’d do something about it. But not Elwood. He took that calmly, too. And look where it got him!

*Vera is standing in the doorway looking like something the cat dragged in. Shakes her head sadly; looks into the room and sighs. Myrtle jumps up.*

(CONTINUED)
MYRTLE
Mother! Look, judge!

VETA
I never thought I’d see either of you again.

_ Myrtle and judge help her towards a chair._

MYRTLE
Take hold of her judge. It looks like she is going to faint. Now mother, you’re all right. You’re going to be perfectly all right.

VETA
Please. Not so fast. Let me sit down.

JUDGE
Here you are, girl. Easy, Myrtle—easy.

_Veta sits_

VETA
Oh...

MYRTLE
I’ll get you some tea, mother. Get her coat off, judge.

VETA
Leave me alone. Let me sit here. Let me get my breath.

MYRTLE
Let her get her breath, judge.

VETA
Let me sit here a minute and then let me get upstairs to my own bed.

MYRTLE
What happened to you, mother?

VETA
Omar, I want you to sue them. They put me in and let Elwood out. Just look at my hair!

_She takes off her hat._

MYRTLE
But why? What did you do? You must have done something?

VETA
I didn’t do one thing. I simply told them about Elwood and Harvey and then I went down to the cab to get his things and this awful man stepped out.

_(CONTINUED)_
MYRTLE
A man- what did he do, mother?

VETA
He took hold of me and then he took me in there and he---

JUDGE
Myrtle Mae, perhaps you’d better leave the room.

MYRTLE
Now? I should say not! Go on, mother.

VETA
He took me upstairs and...

JUDGE
I’ll sue them for this!

VETA
And he set me down in a tub of water.

MYRTLE
Oh! For heaven’s sake!

VETA
Myrtle, this man took hold of me, but I fought. He began treating me like I was a--

MYRTLE
A what?

VETA
A crazy woman! You’ve got to do something about it, judge. You’ve got to sue them.

JUDGE
I will, girl.

VETA
I should have known better than to try to do anything about him. Something protects him- that awful Pooka--

MYRTLE
Where is Uncle Elwood?

VETA
How should I know? They let him go.

MYRTLE
Listen, mother, we’ve got to find Uncle Elwood.
CONTINUED:

VETA

Wait until Elwood hears what they did to me. He won’t stand for it. Don’t forget to sue them, judge.

Veta exits upstairs.

MYRTLE

Now see, Mother muffed everything. I’m not giving up. We’ll get detectives. We’ll find him. You don’t realize what we have to put up with. Wait till I show you something he brought home about six months ago, and we hid it out in the garage. You just wait.

JUDGE

All right. I’ll wait.

Myrtle exits off R as Wilson enters through the doorway.

WILSON

Okay- is he here?

JUDGE

What? What’s this?

WILSON

The crackpot with the rabbit. Is he here?

JUDGE

No- and who may I ask are you?

WILSON

Not here, doctor.

Chumley enters

JUDGE

Well, well, Chumley-

CHUMLEY

Good evening, judge. Let’s not waste time. Has he been here?

JUDGE

Who? Elwood- no- but see here, doctor-

CHUMLEY

I have stopped by here to ask Mrs. Simmons of she has any suggestions as to where we might look for him.

JUDGE

Doctor Chumley, I have to inform you that Mrs. Simmons has retained me to file suit against you for what happened to her at the sanitarium this afternoon.

(CONTINUED)
CHUMLEY
A suit! What happened this afternoon was an unfortunate mistake. I’ve discharged my assistant who made it and I am prepared to take charge of this man’s case personally.

Myrtle reenters with a large, wrapped parcel. The important item now is to get this man and take him out to the sanitarium where he belongs.

MYRTLE
That’s right, Judge— that’s just what I think.

JUDGE
Let me introduce Miss Myrtle Mae Simmons, Mr. Dowd’s niece, Mrs. Simmon’s daughter.

CHUMLEY
How do you do, Miss Simmons. Now then, let me talk to Mrs. Simmons.

MYRTLE
Mother won’t come down, doctor. I know she won’t. You try to get mother to talk to him, Judge.

JUDGE
If you’ll come with me, doctor--

CHUMLEY
Very well, judge. Wilson, wait for me.

Chumley and judge exit up stairs.

WILSON
Okay, doctor. (looking at Myrtle) While I’m waiting I sure could use a sandwich and a cup of coffee.

MYRTLE
Certainly.

Myrtle exits off R followed by Wilson.

Elwood enters through UC doorway and crosses to phone and dials.

ELWOOD
Hello, Chumley’s Rest? Is Doctor Chumley there? Oh—it’s Mrs. Chumley! This is Elwood P. Dowd speaking. Tell me, Mrs. Chumley, were you able to locate Harvey? Don’t worry about. I’ll find him. Where am I? I am here. But I am leaving right away. I must find Harvey. Well goodbye, Mrs. Chumley. My regards to you and anyone else you happen to run into. Goodbye.

(CONTINUED)
Hangs up and sees the big flat parcel. He gets an "Ah! There it is" expression on his face and goes over and removes the paper. It is a painting of Elwood and Harvey. He looks at it and then puts it on the mantle, completely obscuring the portrait of Marcella Pinney Dowd. He gathers up the paper and exits back off through door. Veta reenters from stairs followed by Dr. Chumley.

VETA
Doctor, you might as well go home and wait. I am suing you for fifty thousand dollars and that’s final.

Veta has her back to the portrait.

CHUMLEY
Mrs. Simmons. This picture over your mantle. Who painted it?

VETA
Oh, some man. I forgot his name. He was around here for the sittings and then we paid him and then he went away.

CHUMLEY
I suppose if you have the money to pay people, you can persuade them to do anything.

Well, Dr. Chumley, the difference between a fine oil painting and something mechanical like a photograph is this: a photograph shows only the reality; a painting shows not only the reality but the dream behind it. It’s our dreams that keep us going. That separate us from the beasts--

She turns and sees the painting
Oh- doctor- oh- hold me- oh--

CHUMLEY
Steady, now, steady. What’s the matter?

VETA
Doctor- that is not my mother! Oh, doctor. Elwood’s been here.

The phone rings.

CHUMLEY
I’ll take it.

He answers the phone.
Hello? Yes, yes- Who’s calling? Here he is. Mrs. Simmons, it’s your brother.

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

VETA
Oh- let me talk to him. Hello, Elwood. Where are you? What? Oh- just a minute. He won’t say where he is. He wants to know if Harvey is here.

CHUMLEY
Tell him Harvey is here.

VETA
But he isn’t.

CHUMLEY
Tell him.

VETA
Yes- Elwood. Yes, dead, Harvey is here. Why don’t you come home? Oh, oh, oh- well- all right. It won’t work. He says for me to call Harvey to the telephone.

CHUMLEY
Say Harvey can’t come to the telephone. Say he’s in the bathtub.

VETA
Hello, Elwood. Yes, dear. Harvey is here but he can’t come to the telephone, he’s in the bathtub. I’ll send him over as soon as he’s dry. Where are you, Elwood?

   Bangs phone down

CHUMLEY
Did he hang up?

VETA
Harvey just walked in the door. He told me to look in the bathtub- it must be a stranger. But I know where he is. He’s at Charlie’s Place.

   Chumley starts to leave
Doctor- where are you going?

CHUMLEY
I am going over there to get your brother and take him out to the sanitarium where he belongs.

VETA
Don’t go after him. You’ll regret it if you do.

CHUMLEY
Nonsense.

   Chumley exits through door.

(CONTINUED)
VETA
Myrtle Mae! See who’s in the bathtub. Oh!

Blackout.

Scene 2

Main office of Chumley’s rest. The time is four hours after the end of Act II, Scene 1. Wilson is helping Sanderson pack up his things.

WILSON
Tough your gettin’ bounced. I had you pegged for the one who’d make the grade.

SANDERSON
Those are the breaks.

WILSON
When you taking off?

SANDERSON
As soon as Dr. Chumley gets back.

WILSON
Four hours he’s been gone and not a word from him. I may not see you again doctor so I want to wish you a lot of luck and I’m mighty sorry.

SANDERSON
Thanks, Wilson. Good luck to you, too.

WILSON
Look- If there’s no sign of the doctor, I’m goin’ into town and look for him. He should know better’n to go after a psycho without me.

SANDERSON
I’d like to help look for the doctor, too.

They exit. Elwood enters carrying a bouquet of dahlias.

KELLY
Mr. Dowd!

ELWOOD
Good evening, my dear. These are for you.

KELLY
For me- oh, thank you!

(continues)
ELWOOD
They’re quite fresh, too. I just picked them outside.

KELLY
I hope Dr. Chumley didn’t see you. Did he go upstairs?

ELWOOD
Not knowing, I cannot state.

_Sanderson hears the voices and reenters_

SANDERSON
Dowd! There you are!

ELWOOD
I have a cab outside if it’s possible for you and Miss Kelly to get away now.

SANDERSON
Where is Dr. Chumley?

ELWOOD
Is he coming with us? That’s nice. I must apologize for being a few seconds late. I thought Miss Kelly should have some flowers.

SANDERSON
Just a moment, Dowd.

_He presses a button._
The situation has changed since we met this afternoon. We all have to face reality, Dowd—sooner or later.

ELWOOD
Doctor, I wrestled with reality for forty years, and I am happy to state that I finally won out over it.

_Enter Wilson._

WILSON
Here you are! Upstairs, buddy—we’re going upstairs.

SANDERSON
Just a minute, Wilson. Where did you say Dr. Chumley went, Dowd?

ELWOOD
As I said, he did not confide his plans in me.

WILSON
You mean the doctor ain’t showed up yet?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KELLY
Not yet.

WILSON
Where is he? Listen, you talk fast or I’m working you over.

ELWOOD
I’d rather you didn’t do that.

SANDERSON
Did you see Dr. Chumley tonight, Dowd?

ELWOOD
Yes, I did. He came into Charlie’s Place at dinner time. Let’s all go there and talk it over.

WILSON
We’re going no place. Now I’m askin’ you a question and if you don’t button up your lip and give me some straight answers I’m gonna beat it out of you!

ELWOOD
What you suggest is impossible. You suggest that I button up my lip and give you some straight answers. It can’t be done.

SANDERSON
Dr. Chumley did come into Charlie’s Place, you say?

ELWOOD
He did. He had asked for me, and naturally the proprietor brought him over. We exchanged the conventional greetings. I said, "How do you do, Dr. Chumley," and he said, "How do you do, Mr. Dowd." I believe we said that at least once.

WILSON
Okay– fool around with him, and the doctor is probably some place bleedin’ to death in a ditch.

ELWOOD
If those were his plans or the evening he did not tell me.

SANDERSON
Go on, Dowd.

ELWOOD
Dr. Chumley sat down in the booth with us. Dr. Chumley and Harvey got into a conversation—quietly at first. Later it became rather heated and Dr. Chumley raised his voice.

(CONTINUED)
WILSON
Yeah- why?

ELWOOD
Harvey seemed to feel that Dr. Chumley should assume part of the financial responsibility of the meal but Dr. Chumley didn’t seem to want to do that.

KELLY
I can believe that part of it!

ELWOOD
Dr. Chumley then urged Harvey to go with him over to Blondie’s Chicken Inn. Harvey wanted to go to Eddie’s instead. While they were arguing, I went to order another and when I came back they were gone.

WILSON
Where did they go? I mean where did the doctor go?

ELWOOD
I don’t know.

WILSON
Okay- you’re lying and we know it.

ELWOOD
I never lie, Mr. Wilson.

WILSON
That’s all this guy is, is a bunch of lies! You two don’t believe this story he tells about the doctor sittin’ there talkin’ to a big white rabbit, do you?

ELWOOD
And why not? Harvey was there. At first the doctor seemed a little frightened of Harvey but that gave way to admiration as the evening wore on. The evening wore on! That’s a nice expression. With your permission, I’ll say it again. The evening wore on.

WILSON
With your permission, I’m ganna knock your teeth down your throat!

Sanderson has grabbed Wilson and is struggling with him. Kelly has picked up the phone.

The nerve of that guy!

KELLY
Charlie’s Place? Is Dr. Chumley anywhere around there? What? Well, don’t bite my head off!

(CONTINUED)
Hangs up phone.

ELWOOD
Oh! I must be going. I have things to do.

KELLY
Mr. Dowd, what is it that you do?

ELWOOD
Harvey and I sit and play the jukebox. Soon the faces of other people turn towards mine and smile. They are saying "We don’t know your name, mister, but you’re a lovely fellow." They come over. They sit with us. They talk to us. They tell about the terrible things they have done. The big wonderful things they will do. Their hopes, their regrets, their loves, their hates. Then I introduce them to Harvey. And he is bigger and grander than anything they offer me. When they leave, they leave impressed. The same people seldom come back but that’s envy, my dear.

SANDERSON
How did you happen to call him Harvey?

ELWOOD
Harvey is is name?

SANDERSON
How do you know that?

ELWOOD
That was rather an interesting coincidence, doctor. Once night, several years ago I was walking early in the evening along Fairfax street. I started to walk down the street when I heard a voice saying: "Good evening, Mr. Dowd." I turned and there was this great white rabbit leaning against a lamp post. Well, I thought nothing of that because when you have lived in a town as long as I have lived in this one, you get used to the fact that everybody knows your name. Naturally, I went over to chat with him. Well, anyway we stood there and talked and talked and finally I said, "You have the advantage of me. You know my name and I don’t know yours." Right back at me he said: "What name do you like?" Well, I didn’t even have to think a minute: Harvey has always been my favorite name. So I said, "Harvey," and this is the interesting party of the whole thing. He said— "What a coincidence! My name happens to be Harvey."

SANDERSON
Think carefully, Dowd. Wasn’t there someone, somewhere, some time, who you knew— by the name of Harvey?
ELWOOD
No, doctor. No one. Maybe that’s why I always had such hopes for it.

SANDERSON
Come on, Dowd. (pause, putting out his hand) Come on, Elwood-

ELWOOD
Very well, Lyman. But I am afraid that I won’t be able to visit with you for long. I have promised Harvey I will take him to the floor-show.

They exit. Wilson is alone onstage as Chumley enters. Wilson jumps up.

WILSON
Dr. Chumley- Are you alright?

CHUMLEY
All right? Of course I’m all right. I am being followed. Lock that door.

Wilson goes to the door and locks it.

WILSON
Who’s following you?

CHUMLEY
None of your business.

Chumley exits and locks his door behind him. Wilson stands a moment, perplexed. He then shrugs his shoulders, turns off the lights and exits. Then comes the rattle of a doorknob. Door opens and shuts, we hear locks opening and closing. The invisible Harvey has come in. There is a count of eight while he crosses the stage then the door of Chumley’s office opens and closes. Harvey has gone in and then-- Blackout.
ACT III

Scene 1

The sanitarium, a few minutes after the the curtain of Act II.

There is a loud knocking and the sound of Chumley’s voice calling, "Wilson! Wilson!"

Wilson enters and opens the door for Chumley who is white-faced.

WILSON
How didja get out here, doctor? I just saw you go in there.

CHUMLEY
I went out through my window. Wilson- don’t leave me! Get that man Dowd out of here.

WILSON
Yes, doctor.

CHUMLEY
No, don’t leave me!

WILSON
Yes, doctor. (crosses to phone) Dunphy, give that guy Dowd his clothes and get him down here right away.

There is a knock at the door.

CHUMLEY
Don’t leave me!

WILSON
Just a minute, doctor.

Crosses and opens the door. It’s the judge. Judge Gaffney.

JUDGE
I want to see Dr. Chumley.

Enter the judge and Myrtle Mae. Chumley, we’ve got to talk to you. Now Chumley, has it ever occurred to you that possibly there might be something like this rabbit Harvey?

MYRTLE
Of course there isn’t and anybody who thinks so is crazy.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: 39.

Chumley stares at her.

JUDGE
Now then, my client, Mrs. Veta Louise Simmons, under oath, swears that on the morning of November 2nd she turned and saw this great white rabbit, Harvey. He was staring at her. Resenting the intrusion, the plaintiff made certain remarks and drove the creature from the room.

CHUMLEY
What did she say to him?

JUDGE
That’s beside the point.

Sanderson enters and sees Dr. Chumley.

CHUMLEY
Dr. Sanderson, disregard what I said this afternoon. I want you on my staff. You are a very astute young man. I want my sanitarium back the way it was before than man came out here this afternoon.

MYRTLE
It certainly gets on anyone’s nerves the way Uncle Elwood knows what’s going to happen before it happens. Uncle Elwood says Harvey tells him everything. Harvey knows everything. How could he when there is no such thing as Harvey?

Veta enters, cautiously, looking around and then sighs with relief.

VETA
Good. Nobody here but people. I brought Elwood’s bathrobe. Well why are you all just sitting here? I thought you would be committing him.

SANDERSON
It is my opinion that Elwood P. Dowd is suffering from a third degree hallucination and the (pointing to Veta) other party concerned is the victim of auto-suggestion. I recommend shock formula number 977 for him and bed rest at home for— (pointing again)

CHUMLEY
You do?

SANDERSON
That’s my diagnosis, doctor. (to Veta) Mr. Dowd will not see this rabbit any more after this injection. We used it hundreds of psychopathic cases.

(CONTINUED)
VETA
  Harvey always follows Elwood home but if you give him
  the formula and Elwood doesn’t see Harvey, he won’t let
  him in. Then when he comes to the door, I’ll deal with
  him.

MYRTLE
  Mother, won’t you stop talking about Harvey as if there
  was such a thing?

  *Elwood is heard offstage humming.*

JUDGE
  Shh! Here he is.

  *Elwood enters.*

ELWOOD
  Good evening, everybody.

VETA
  Good evening, Elwood. I’ve brought you your bathrobe.

ELWOOD
  Thank you, Veta. (to Chumley) Oh- how did you get along
  with Harvey, doctor?

CHUMLEY
  Shh! I must be alone with this man. Will you all step
  into the other room? I’ll have my diagnosis in a
  moment.

VETA
  Do hurry, doctor.

CHUMLEY
  I will.

  *All exit except Chumley and Elwood.*

ELWOOD
  By the way, doctor, where is Harvey?

CHUMLEY
  Why, don’t you know?

ELWOOD
  The last time I saw him he was with you.

CHUMLEY
  Ah!

(CONTINUED)
ELWOOD
Oh! He’s probably waiting for me down at Charlie’s.

CHUMLEY
That’s it! He’s down at Charlie’s.

ELWOOD
Excuse me doctor. I couldn’t leave without saying good-night to my friend, Dr. Sanderson.

CHUMLEY
Mr. Dowd, Dr. Sanderson is not your friend. None of those people are your friends. I am your friend.

ELWOOD
Thank you, doctor, and I’m yours.

CHUMLEY
And this sister of yours—she is at the bottom of this conspiracy against you. She’s trying to persuade me to lock you up. Today she had commitment papers drawn up. She brought you out here--

ELWOOD
My sister did all that in one afternoon? Veta is certainly a whirlwind.

CHUMLEY
God, man, haven’t you any righteous indignation?

ELWOOD
Dr. Chumley, my mother used to say to me, "In this world, Elwood, you must be oh, so smart or oh, so pleasant." For years I was smart. I recommend pleasant. You may quote me.

There is a quick knock as Dr. Sanderson enters.

SANDERSON
Doctor, do you agree with my diagnosis?

CHUMLEY
Yes, yes. Call them all in.

SANDERSON
Thank you, doctor. Mrs. Simmons—Judge Gaffney—will you step in here for a minute, please?

Veta, Judge and Myrtle enter.

VETA
Is it settled?

(Continued)
CHUMLEY
I find I concur with Dr. Sanderson.

MYRTLE
Oh, that’s wonderful! What a relief!

CHUMLEY
This injection carries a violent reaction. We can’t give it to him without his consent. Will he give it?

VETA
Of course he will, if I ask him.

MYRTLE
Don’t ask him. Just give it to him.

CHUMLEY
Mr. Dowd, I have a formula—977—that will be good for you. Will you take it?

JUDGE
Elwood, you won’t see this rabbit anymore.

SANDERSON
But you will see your responsibilities, your duties—

ELWOOD
I’m sure if you thought of it, doctor, it must be a very fine thing. And if I happen to run into anyone who needs it, I’ll be glad to recommend it. For myself, I wouldn’t care for it.

VETA
Hear that, doctor? That’s what we have to put up with.

ELWOOD
Veta, do want me to take this?

VETA
Elwood, I’m only thinking of you. Why, you could amount to something. You could be sitting on the Western Slope Water Board right now if you’d only go over and ask them.

ELWOOD
All right, Veta. If that’s what you want, Harvey and I will go over and ask them tomorrow.

VETA
Tomorrow! I never want to see another tomorrow. Not if Myrtle Mae and I have to live in the house with that rabbit. Our friends never come to see us— we have no social life; we have no life at all.

(CONTINUED)
ELWOOD
I’ve always felt that Veta should have everything she wants. Veta, are you sure? (Veta nods.) I’ll take it. Where do I go, doctor?

CHUMLEY
In Dr. Sanderson’s office, Dowd.

ELWOOD
Say goodbye to the old fellow for me, won’t you?

Elwood exits into the office. Chumley exits off L.

JUDGE
How long will this take, doctor?

SANDERSON
Only a few minutes. Why don’t you wait?

Sanderson exits into office.

VETA
Dr. Sanderson said it wouldn’t take long.

MYRTLE
Now, mother, don’t fidget.

Loud knocking is heard at the door.

JUDGE
Come in.

Enter the Cab Driver, E.J. Lofgren.
What do you want?

CAB DRIVER
Oh, there you are! Lady, you jumped outta the cab without payin’ me.

VETA
Oh, yes, I forgot. How much is it?

CAB DRIVER
$2.75.

VETA
I could have sworn I brought my coin purse− where is it?

Looks through purse. Nothing comes out but a compact and a handkerchief.
Myrtle, do you have any money?
Myrtle shakes her head "no."
Well, I’ll get it for you from my brother, but I can’t get it right now. He’s in there to get an injection. It won’t be long. You’ll have to wait.

CAB DRIVER
You’re ganna get my money from your brother and he’s in there to get some of that stuff they shoot out here?

VETA
Yes, it won’t be but a few minutes.

CAB DRIVER
Lady, I want my money now.

VETA
I never heard of anything so unreasonable in my life.

Knocks on the door.
Dr. Chumley, will you let Elwood step out here a minute.

Enter Elwood, Chumley follows.
Elwood, I came off without my coin purse. Will you give this man $2.75? But don’t give him any more. He’s been very rude.

ELWOOD
How do you do? Dowd is my name. Elwood P.

CAB DRIVER
Lofgren’s mine. E.J.

ELWOOD
I’m glad to meet you, Mr. Lofgren. Let me give you one of my cards.

VETA
Oh, Elwood, I’m sure this man has friends of his own.

ELWOOD
Veta, one can’t have too many friends. Here you are—keep the change. I’m glad to have met you. Will you excuse me now?

CAB DRIVER
Sure.

Elwood exits.
Sweet guy.

(CONTINUED)
VETA

You could just as well have waited.

CAB DRIVER

Oh, no. Listen, lady. I’ve been drivin’ this route fifteen years. I’ve brought ‘em out here to get that stuff and drove ’em back after they had it. It changes ’em.

VETA

Well, I certainly hope so.

CAB DRIVER

And you ain’t kiddin’. On the way out here they sit back and enjoy the ride. They talk to me. Sometimes we stop and watch the sunsets and look at the birds flyin’. Sometimes we stop and watch the birds when there ain’t no birds and look at sunsets when it’s rainin’. We have a swell time and I always get a big tip. But afterward—oh—oh—

VETA

Afterwards—oh—oh? What do you mean afterwards—oh—oh?

CAB DRIVER

They crab, crab, crab. They yell at me to watch the lights, watch the brakes, watch the intersections. They scream at me to hurry. They got no faith— in me or my buggy— yet it’s the same cab— the same driver— and we’re goin’ back over the very same road. It’s no fun, and no tips. Lady, after this, he’ll be a perfectly normal human being and you know what jerks they are! Glad I met you. I’ll wait.

Exits. Veta starts to run for the office door.

VETA

Oh, Judge Gaffney—Myrtle Mae! Stop it—stop it—don’t give it to him! Elwood, come out of there.

Pounding on door.

I don’t want Elwood to have it! I don’t want Elwood that way! I don’t like people like that.

MYRTLE

Do something with her, judge—mother, stop it—

VETA

You shut up!

Chumley enters.
CHUMLEY
  What’s this? What’s all this commotion?

JUDGE
  She wants to stop the injection.

VETA
  You haven’t already given it to him, have you?

CHUMLEY
  No, but we’re ready.

JUDGE
  You don’t know what you want. You didn’t want that rabbit either.

VETA
  And what’s wrong with Harvey? If Elwood and Myrtle Mae and I want to live with Harvey it’s nothing to you! It’s our business. Elwood– Elwood!

  Elwood enters. Veta throws herself weeping into his arms. He pats her shoulder.

ELWOOD
  There, there, Veta. Veta is all tired out. She’s done a lot today.

JUDGE
  Have it your own way.

VETA
  Come on, Elwood– let’s get out of here. I hate this place. I wish I’d never seen it!

CHUMLEY
  But see here–

ELWOOD
  It’s whatever Veta says, doctor.

VETA
  Why, look at this! (It’s her coin purse) That’s funny. It must have been there all the time. I could have paid that cab driver myself. Harvey! Come on, Myrtle Mae. Come on, Elwood. Hurry up.

  She exits and Myrtle follows.

ELWOOD
  Good night, Doctor Chumley
VETA (FROM OFFSTAGE)
Come along, Elwood.

Elwood looks beyond Chumley.

ELWOOD
Oh— there you are! Doctor— do you mind?

Gestures for him to step back.
You’re standing in his way.

The invisible Harvey crosses to him as they exit together.
Where have you been? I’ve been looking all over for you—

Blackout.