

HUSBAND (*with dignity*). How do you know which one I meant?

YOUNG WOMAN. You told me them all!

HUSBAND (*pulling her back to his knee*). No, I didn't! Not by a jugful! I got a lot of 'em up my sleeve yet - that's part of what I owe my success to - my ability to spring a good story- You know - you got to learn to relax, little girl - haven't you?

YOUNG WOMAN. Yes.

HUSBAND. That's one of the biggest things to learn in life. That's part of what I owe my success to. Now you go and get those heavy things off- and relax.

YOUNG WOMAN. They're not heavy.

HUSBAND. You haven't got much on - have you? But you'll feel better with 'em off. (*Gets up.*) Want me to help you?

YOUNG WOMAN. No.

HUSBAND. I'm your husband, you know.

YOUNG WOMAN. I know.

HUSBAND. You aren't afraid of your husband, are you?

YOUNG WOMAN. No - of course not- but I thought maybe- can't we go out for a little while?

HUSBAND. Out? What for?

YOUNG WOMAN. Fresh air- walk- talk.

HUSBAND. We can talk here - I'll tell you all about myself. Go along now. (YOUNG WOMAN *goes toward bathroom door. Gets bag.*) Where are you going?

YOUNG WOMAN. In here.

HUSBAND. I thought you'd want to wash up.

YOUNG WOMAN. I just want to - get ready.

HUSBAND. You don't have to go in there to take your clothes off!

YOUNG WOMAN. I want to.

HUSBAND. What for?

YOUNG WOMAN. I always do.

HUSBAND. What?

YOUNG WOMAN. Undress by myself.

HUSBAND. You've never been married till now- have you? (*Laughs.*) Or have you been putting something over on me?

YOUNG WOMAN. No.

HUSBAND. I understand - kind of modest - huh? Huh?

YOUNG WOMAN. Yes.

HUSBAND. I understand women - (*Indulgently.*) Go along.

*She goes off- starts to close door. YOUNG WOMAN exits.*

Don't close the door-thought you wanted to talk.

*He looks around the room with satisfaction - after a pause - rises - takes off his collar.*

You're awful quiet-what are you doing in there?

YOUNG WOMAN. Just- getting ready-

HUSBAND (*still in his mood of satisfaction*). I'm going to enjoy life from now on - I haven't had such an easy time of it. I got where I am by hard work and self denial - now I'm going to enjoy life - I'm going to make up for all I missed- aren't you about ready?

YOUNG WOMAN. Not yet.

HUSBAND. Next year maybe we'll go to Paris. You can buy a lot of that French underwear - and Switzerland - all my life I've wanted a Swiss watch - that I bought right there - I coulda' got a Swiss watch here, but I always wanted one that I bought right there - Isn't that funny - huh? Isn't it? Huh? Huh?

YOUNG WOMAN. Yes.

HUSBAND. All my life I've wanted a Swiss watch that I bought right there. All my life I've counted on having that some day - more than anything - except one thing - you know what?

YOUNG WOMAN. No.

HUSBAND. Guess.

YOUNG WOMAN. I can't.

HUSBAND. Then I'm coming in and tell you.

YOUNG WOMAN. No! Please! Please don't.

HUSBAND. Well hurry up then! I thought you women didn't wear much of anything these days - huh? Huh? I'm coming in!

YOUNG WOMAN. No - no! Just a minute!

HUSBAND. All right. Just a minute. (*YOUNG WOMAN is silent. HUSBAND laughs and takes out watch.*) 13 - 14 - I'm counting the seconds on you - that's what you said, didn't you - just a minute! - 49 - 50 - 51 - 52 - 53 -

*Enter YOUNG WOMAN.*