

SCENE 1 - ELWOOD, DR. SAMPSON, NURSE KELLY

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 -

(He starts to rise)

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.

ELWOOD

From what?

SANDERSON

From trauma. Spelled T-R-A-U-M-A. It means shock. Nothing unusual about it. There is the birth trauma. The shock to the act of being born.

ELWOOD

That's one we never get over--

SANDERSON

You have a nice sense of humor, Dowd--hasn't he, Miss Kelly?

KELLY

Oh yes, Doctor.

ELWOOD

May I say the same about both of you?

SANDERSON

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've 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

Of course.

(to Kelly)

Did Wilson get what he went after?

(Kelly nods)

KELLY

Yes Doctor.

SANDERSON

What was Mrs. Simmons' attitude, Miss Kelly?

KELLY

Not unusual, Doctor.

SANDERSON

Mr. Dowd, if this were an 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 nobody has ever seen in a white rabbit six feet high.

ELWOOD

(smiles at Harvey)

Not very often, Doctor.

SANDERSON

I like you, Dowd.

ELWOOD

I like you too, Doctor. And Miss Kelly here. I like her too.

SANDERSON

So she must be committed here temporarily. Under these circumstances I would commit my own grandmother.

ELWOOD

Does your grandmother drink too?

SANDERSON

It's just an expression. Now will you sign these temporary commitment papers as next-of-kin--just a formality?

ELWOOD

You'd better have Veta do that, Doctor. She always does all the signing and managing for the family. She's good at it.

SANDERSON

We can't disturb her now.

ELWOOD

Perhaps I'd better talk it over with Judge Gaffney?

SANDERSON

You can explain it all to him later. Tell him I advised it. And it isn't as if you couldn't drop in here any time and make inquiries. Glad to have you. I'll make out a full visitor's pass for you. When would you like to come back? Wednesday, say? Friday, say?

ELWOOD

You and Miss Kelly have been so pleasant I can come back right after dinner. About an hour.

SANDERSON

(taken aback)

Well--we're pretty busy around here, but I guess that's all right.

ELWOOD

I don't really have to go now. I'm not very hungry.

SANDERSON

Delighted to have you stay--but Miss Kelly and I have to get upstairs now. Plenty of work to do. But I tell you what you might like to do.

ELWOOD

What I might like to do?

SANDERSON

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? If you go through that door--and turn right just beyond the stairway you'll find the occupational therapy room down the hall, and beyond that the conservatory, the library and the diet kitchen.

ELWOOD

For Veta's sake I believe I'd better do that, Doctor.

SANDERSON

Very well then.

(Rises, shakes hands)

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.

SANDERSON

And I will say that for a laymen you show an unusually acute perception into psychiatric problems.

ELWOOD

Is that a fact? I never thought I knew anything about it. Nobody does, do you think?

SANDERSON

Well--the good psychiatrist is not found under every bush.

ELWOOD

You have to pick the right bush. Since we all seem to have enjoyed this so much, let us keep right on. I would like to invite you to come with me now down to Charlie's Place and have a drink. When I enjoy people I like to stay right with them.

SANDERSON

Sorry--we're on duty now. Give us a rain-check. Some other time be glad to.

ELWOOD

When?

SANDERSON

Oh--can't say right now. Miss Kelly and I don't go off duty until ten o'clock at night.

ELWOOD

Let us go to Charlie's at ten o'clock tonight.

SANDERSON

Well--

ELWOOD

And you, Miss Kelly?

KELLY

I--

(looks at Sanderson)

SANDERSON

Dr. Chumley doesn't approve of members of the staff fraternizing, but 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. Tips hat,
exits.)

KELLY

Whew--now I can breathe again!

SANDERSON

Boy, that was a close shave all right, but he seemed to be a pretty reasonable sort of fellow. That man is proud--what he has to be proud of I don't know. I played up to that pride. You can get to almost anybody if you want to. Now I must look in on that Simmons woman.

KELLY

Dr. Sanderson--You say you can get to anybody if you want to. How can you do that?

SANDERSON

Takes study, Kelly. Years of specialized training.