

SCENE 2 - ELWOOD, WILSON, JUDGE, DR. CHUMLEY, MYRTLE, VITA

WILSON

Okay--is he here?

JUDGE

What? What's this?

WILSON

That crackpot with he rabbit. Is he here?

JUDGE

No--and who, may I ask, are you?

WILSON

Not here, Doctor--okay--

(to Judge)

Doctor Chumley's comin' in anyway. What's your name?

JUDGE

Chumley--well, well, well--I've got something to say to him!

WILSON

What's your name? Let's have it.

JUDGE

I am Judge Gaffney--where is Chumley?

WILSON

The reason I asked your name is the Doctor always likes to know who he's talkin' to.

(enter Chumley)

This guy says his name is Judge Gaffney, Doctor.

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---

WILSON

Sure he ain't been here? He's wise now. He's hidin'. It'll be an awful job to smoke him out.

CHUMLEY

It will be more difficult, but I'll do it. They're sly. They're cunning. But I get them. I always get them. Have you got the list of the places we've been, Wilson?

WILSON

(pulls paper out of pocket)

Right here, Doctor.

CHUMLEY

Read it.

WILSON

We've been to seventeen bars, Eddie's Place, Charlie's Place, Bessie's Barn-dance, the Fourth Avenue Firehouse, the Tenth and Twelfth and Ninth avenue firehouses, just to make sure. The Union Station, the grain elevator--say, why does this guy go down to a grain elevator?

JUDGE

The foreman is a friend of his. He has many friends--many places.

CHUMLEY

I have stopped by here to ask Mrs. Simmons if she has any other 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--

CHUMLEY

What?

JUDGE

--for what happened to her at the sanitarium this afternoon...

CHUMLEY

A suit!

JUDGE

And while we're on the subject--

WILSON

That's pretty, ain't it, Doctor? After us draggin' your tail all over town trying to find that guy.

CHUMLEY

What happened this afternoon was an unfortunate mistake. I've discharged my assistant who made it. And I am prepare to take charge of this man's case personally. It interests me. And my interest in a case is something no amount of money can buy. You can ask any of them.

JUDGE

Bit this business this afternoon, Doctor--

CHUMLEY

Water under the dam. This is how I see this think. I see it this way--

(Myrtle enters the room)

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. Simmons's daughter.

MYRTLE

How do you do, Dr. Chumley.

CHUMLEY

How do you do, Miss Simmons.

WILSON

Hello, Myrtle--

MYRTLE

What? Oh--

CHUMLEY

Now, then--let me talk to Mrs. Simmons.

MYRTLE

Mother won't come down, Doctor. I know she won't.

(to Judge)

You try to get Mother to talk to him, Judge.

JUDGE

But, see here; your mother was manhandled. She was--God knows what she was--the man's approach to her was not professional, it was personal.

(Looks at Wilson)

CHUMLEY

Wilson--this is a serious charge.

WILSON

Dr. Chumley, I've been with you for ten years. Are you gonna believe--what's your name again?

JUDGE

Gaffney. Judge Omar Gaffney.

WILSON

Thanks. You take the word of this old blister Gaffney---

CHUMLEY

Wilson!

WILSON

Me! Me and a dame who sees a rabbit!

JUDGE

It's not Mrs. Simmons who sees a rabbit. It's her brother.

MYRTLE

Yes, it's Uncle Elwood.

JUDGE

If you'll come with me, Doctor--

CHUMLEY

Very well, Judge. Wilson, I have a situation here. Wait for me.
(he and Judge exit.)

WILSON

OK, Doctor.

(to Myrtle)

So you're name's Myrtle Mae?

MYRTLE

What? Oh-Yes--

WILSON

If we grab your uncle you're liable to be comin' out to the sanitarium on visiting days?

MYRTLE

Oh, I don't really know--I---

WILSON

Well, if you do, I'll be there.

MYRTLE

You will? Oh---

WILSON

Sure. You heard Dr. Chumley tell me to wait?

MYRTLE

Yeah--

WILSON

Tell you what--while I'm waiting I sure could use a sandwich and a cup of coffee.

MYRTLE

Certainly. If you'll forgive me I'll recede you into the kitchen.

WILSON

Yessir--you're all right, Myrtle.

MYRTLE

What?

WILSON

Doctor Chumley noticed it right away. He don't miss a trick. Tell you somethin' else, Myrtle--

MYRTLE

What?

WILSON

You not only got a nice build--but, kid, you got something else, too.

MYRTLE

What?

WILSON

You got the screwiest uncle that ever stuck his puss inside our nuthouse.

(He and Myrtle exit. Stage is empty.)

(Elwood enters, goes to a phone)

ELWOOD

Hello, Chumley's Rest? Is Doctor Chumley there? Oh--it's Mrs. Chumley! This is Elwood P. Dowd speaking. How are you tonight? Tell me, Mrs. Chumley, were you able to locate Harvey?--Don't Worry about it. I'll find him. I'm sorry I missed you at the McClure cocktail party. The people were all charming and I was able to leave quite a few of my cards. I waited until you phoned and said you couldn't come because a patient had escaped. Where am I? I'm here. But I'm leaving right away. I must find Harvey. Well, goodbye, Mrs. Chumley. My regards to you and anybody else you happen to run into. Goodbye.

VETA

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

(goes to phone and picks it up)

CHUMLEY

Mrs. Simmons--

VETA

(into phone)

Yes--Well, all right.

CHUMLEY

This picture over your mantel.

VETA

That portrait happens to be the pride of this house.

CHUMLEY

(looking at her)

Who painted it?

VETA

Oh, some man. I forget his name. He was around here for the sittings, and then we paid him and he went away. Hello--yes---No. This is Dexter 1567.

(hangs up)

CHUMLEY

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