

E.J. LOFGREN (CAB DRIVER)

Side #1 – Monologue

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. *(crosses to desk.)*

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 the sunsets when it's rainin'. We have a swell time and I always get a big tip. But afterward – oh – oh *(starts to exit again.)*

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 – *(turns to door.)*

VETA: But my brother would have tipped you, anyway. He's very generous. Always has been.

CAB DRIVER: Not after this he won't be. Lady, after this, he'll be a perfectly normal human being and you know what bastards they are! Glad I met you. I'll wait. *(exits left)*

E.J. LOFGREN (CAB DRIVER) & VETA, MYRTLE, JUDGE, & CHUMLEY
Side #2

CAB DRIVER: I'm lookin' for a little short – (*seeing VETA.*) Oh, there you are! Lady, you jumped outta the cab without payin' me.

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

CAB DRIVER: All the way out here from town? \$2.75.

VETA: (*looking in purse*) \$2.75! I could have sworn I brought my coin purse – where is it? (*Gets up, goes to table, turns pocketbook upside down, in full view of audience. Nothing comes out of it but a compact and a handkerchief.*) Myrtle, do you have any money?

MYRTLE: I spent that money Uncle Elwood gave me for my new hair-do for the party.

VETA: Judge, do you have \$2.75 I could give this man?

JUDGE: Sorry. Nothing but a check.

CAB DRIVER: We don't take checks.

JUDGE: I know.

VETA: Dr. Chumley, do you happen to have \$2.75 I could borrow to pay this cab driver?

CHUMLEY: (*just entered center, wearing white starched jacket.*) Haven't got my wallet. No time to get it now. Have to get on with this injection. Sorry. (*exits left.*)

VETA: 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 gonna 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: But I told you it would only be a few minutes. I want you to drive us back to town, anyway.

CAB DRIVER: And I told you I want my money now or I'm nosin' the cab back to town, and you can wait for the bus – at six in the morning.

VETA: Well, of all the pig headed, stubborn things-!

MYRTLE: I should say so.

JUDGE: What's the matter with you?

CAB DRIVER: Nothin' that \$2.75 won't fix. You heard me. Take it or leave it.

E.J. LOFGREN (CAB DRIVER) & ELWOOD
Side #3

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. This is my sister, Mrs. Simmons. My charming little niece, Myrtle Mae Simmons. Judge Gaffney and Dr. Chumley. (*ALL how coldly.*)

CAB DRIVER: Hi-

ELWOOD: Have you lived around here long, Mr. Lofgren?

CAB DRIVER: Yeah, I've lived around here all my life.

ELWOOD: Do you enjoy your work?

CAB DRIVER: It's O.K. I been with the Apex Cabs fifteen years and my brother Joe's been drivin' for Brown Cabs pretty near twelve.

ELWOOD: You drive for Apex and your brother Joe for Brown's? That's interesting, isn't it, Veta? (*VETA reacts with a sniff.*) Mr. Lofgren – let me give you one my cards. (*Gives him one.*)

CHUMLEY: Better get on with this, Mr. Dowd.

ELWOOD: Certainly. One minute. My sister and my charming little niece live here with me at this address. Won't you and your brother come and have dinner with us sometime?

CAB DRIVER: Sure – be glad to.

ELWOOD: When – when would you be glad to?

CAB DRIVER: I couldn't come any night but Tuesday. I'm on duty all the rest of the week.

ELWOOD: You must come on Tuesday, then. We'll expect you and be delighted to see you, won't we, Veta?