

ELWOOD

Side #1 (monologue)

ELWOOD: *(to invisible person)* 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? Well thank you. And what is your name my dear? Miss Elsie Greenawalt? *(to chair)* Harvey, it's a Miss Elsie Greenawalt. How are you today, Miss Greenawalt? That's fine. Yes, my dear. I would be happy to join your club. I belong to several clubs now – The University Club, The Country Club and the Pinochle Club at the Fourth Avenue Firehouse. I spend a good deal of my time there, or at Charlie's Place, or over at Eddie's Bar. And what is your club, Miss Greenawalt? *(HE listens then turns to empty chair)* Harvey, I get the Ladies Home Journal, Good Housekeeping and the Open Road for Boys for two years for six twenty-five. *(Back to phone)* It sounds fine to me. I'll join it. *(to chair)* How does it sound to you, Harvey? *(back to phone)* Harvey says it sounds fine to him also, Miss Greenawalt. He says he will join too. Yes – two subscriptions. Mail everything to this address. . . I hope I will have the pleasure of meeting you sometime, my dear. Harvey, she says she'd like to meet me. When? When would you like to meet me, Miss Greenawalt? 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. My sister will be delighted. 343 Temple Drive – I hope to see you in a very few minutes. Goodbye, my dear. *(hangs up)* She's coming right over. *(Moves to HARVEY)* Harvey, don't you think we'd better freshen up? Yes, so do I. *(He takes up hats and coats and exits.)*

ELWOOD

Side #2 – Monologue

ELWOOD: I had just helped Ed Hickey into a taxi. Ed had been mixing his rye with his gin, and I felt he needed conveying. 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. He said to me: "Ed Hickey is a little spiffed this evening, or could I be mistaken?" Well, of course he was not mistaken. I think the world and all of Ed but he was spiffed. Well, anyway, we stood there 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 part of the whole thing. He said – "What a coincidence! My name happens to be Harvey."

ELWOOD, MRS. CHAUVENET, VETA, MYRTLE

Side #3

(Elwood's audition in this scene is to make sure the mime and interaction with Harvey is the focus of the scene.)

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. (**HE** *turns toward air beside him.*) Harvey, you've heard me speak of Mrs. Chauvenet? We always called her Aunt Ethel. She is one of my oldest and dearest friends. (**HE** *inclines head toward space and goes "Hmm!" and then listens as though not hearing the first time. Nods as though having heard someone next to him speak.*) Yes – yes – that's right. She's the one. This is the one. (To **MRS. CHAUVENET.**) He says he would have known you anywhere. (*Then as a confused, bewildered look comes over* **MRS. CHAUVENET's** *face and as she looks to left and right of* **ELWOOD** *and cranes her neck to see beside him –* **ELWOOD** *not seeing her expression, crosses her towards* **VETA** *and* **MYRTLE MAE.**) You both look lovely. (**HE** *turns to the air next to him.*) Come on in with me, Harvey – we must say hello to all of our friends - - (**HE** *bows to* **MRS. CHAUVENET.**) I beg your pardon, Aunt Ethel. If you'll excuse me for one moment – (**HE** *puts his hand gently on her arm, trying to turn her.*)

MRS. CHAUVENET: What?

ELWOOD: You are standing in his way – (**SHE** *gives a little – her eyes wide on him.*) Come along, Harvey. (**HE** *watches the invisible Harvey cross to the door, then stops him.*) Uh-uh!

(**ELWOOD** goes over to the door. **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 MAE**, bowed in agony.) Go right on in, Harvey. I'll join you in a minute. (**HE** pantomimes as though slapping him on the back, and ushers him out. Then **HE** turns and comes back to **MRS. CHAUVENET**.) Aunt Ethel, I can see you are disturbed about Harvey. Please don't be. He stares like that at everybody. It's his way. But he liked you. I could tell. He liked you very much. (**HE** pats her arm reassuringly, smiles at her, then calmly and confidently goes out at right. After his exit – **MRS. CHAUVENET**, **MYRTLE**, and **VETA** are silent. Finally **VETA** – with a resigned tone – clears her throat.)

VETA: (Looking at **MRS. CHAUVENET**.) Some tea – perhaps?

MRS. CHAUVENET: Why, I – not right now – I – well – I think I'll be running along.

MYRTLE: But –

VETA: (Putting a hand over hers to quiet her.) I'm so sorry –

MRS. CHAUVENET: I'll – I'll be talking to you soon. Goodbye -
goodbye – (**SHE** exits rather quickly.)

ELWOOD & MISS KELLY & DR. SANDERSON

Side #4

KELLY: You're Mr. Dowd?

ELWOOD: Elwood P.

KELLY: I'm Miss Kelly.

ELWOOD: Let me give you one of my cards. (*fishes in vest pocket – pulls out card.*) 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.

ELWOOD: Perfectly all right, and if you lose it – don't worry, my dear. I have plenty more.

KELLY: Won't you have a chair, please, Mr. Dowd?

ELWOOD: Thank you. I'll have two. Allow me. (*HE brings another chair down from UC to L of chair L of table. Puts extra hat and coat on table c. Motions HARVEY to sit in chair L. of table. HE stands waiting.*)

KELLY: Dr. Sanderson is very anxious to talk to you. He'll be here in a minute. Please be seated.

ELWOOD: (*Waving her toward chair r. of desk.*) After you, my dear.

KELLY: Oh, I really can't thank you. I'm in and out all the time. But you mustn't mind me. Please sit down.

ELWOOD: (*Bowing.*) After you.

KELLY: (*SHE sits in chair r. of desk. HE sits on chair he has just put in place.*) Could I get you a magazine to look at?

ELWOOD: I would much rather look at you, Miss Kelly, if you don't mind. You really are very lovely.

KELLY: Oh – well. Thank you. Some people don't seem to think so.

ELWOOD: Some people are blind. That is often brought to my attention. And now, Miss Kelly – I would like to have you meet – (*Enter SANDERSON from r. MISS KELLY rises and backs up to below desk. ELWOOD rises when SHE does, and HE makes a motion to the invisible HARVEY to rise, too.*)

SANDERSON: (*Going to him, extending hand.*) Mr. Dowd?

ELWOOD: Elwood P. Let me give you one of my cards. If you should want –

SANDERSON: (*Crossing to c.*) Mr. Dowd – I am Dr. Lyman Sanderson, Dr. Chumley's assistant out here.

ELWOOD: Well, good for you! I'm happy to know you. How are you, Doctor?

SANDERSON: That's going to depend on you, I'm afraid. Please sit down. You've met Miss Kelly, Mr. Dowd?

ELWOOD: I have had that pleasure, and I want both of you to meet a very dear friend of mine –

SANDERSON: Later on – be glad to. Won't you be seated, because first I want to say –

ELWOOD: After Miss Kelly-

SANDERSON: Sit down, Kelly – (*SHE sits l of desk, as does ELWOOD – who indicates to HARVEY to sit also.*) Is that chair quite comfortable, Mr. Dowd?

ELWOOD: Yes, thank you. Would you care to try it? (*HE takes out cigarette.*)

SANDERSON: No, thank you. How about an ashtray? (*KELLY Gets up – gets it from wall l. ELWOOD and HARVEY rise also. ELWOOD beams as he turns and watches her. KELLY puts ashtray by DOWD, who moves it to share with HARVEY.*) Is it too warm in here for you, Mr. Dowd? Would you like me to open a window? (*ELWOOD hasn't heard. HE is watching MISS KELLY.*)

KELLY: (*Turning, smiling at him.*) Mr. Dowd – Dr. Sanderson wants to know if he should open a window?

ELWOOD: That's entirely up to him. I wouldn't presume to live his life for him. (*During this dialogue SANDERSON is near window. KELLY Has her eyes on his face. ELWOOD smiles at HARVEY fondly. KELLY sits l. of desk.*)

SANDERSON: Now then, Mr. Dowd, I can see that you're not the type of person to be taken in by any high-flown phrases or beating about the bush. (*SITS on lower corner of desk.*)

ELWOOD: (*politely.*) Is that so, Doctor?

SANDERSON: You have us at a disadvantage here. You know it. We know it. Let's lay the cards on the table.

ELWOOD: That certainly appeals to me, Doctor.

SANDERSON: Best way in the long run. People are people, no matter where you go.

ELWOOD: That is very often the case.

SANDERSON: And being human are therefore liable to mistakes. Miss Kelly here? (*THEY nod*) This afternoon, you say? (*THEY nod. ELWOOD gives HARVEY a knowing look.*)

KELLY: We do hope you'll understand, Mr. Dowd.

ELWOOD: Oh, yes. Yes. These things are often on the basis of a long and warm friendship.

SANDERSON: And the responsibility is, of course, not hers- but mine.

ELWOOD: Your attitude may be old-fashioned, Doctor – but I like it.

SANDERSON: Now, if I had seen your sister first – that would have been an entirely different story.

ELWOOD: Now there you surprise me. I think the world and all of Veta – but I had supposed she had seen her day.

ELWOOD & BETTY CHUMLEY

Side #5

ELWOOD: Would you care to come downtown with me now, my dear? I would be glad to buy you a drink.

BETTY: Thank you very much, but I am waiting for Dr. Chumley and if he came down and found me gone he would be liable to raise – he would be irritated!

ELWOOD: We wouldn't want that, would we? Some other time, maybe? (*HE rises.*)

BETTY: I'll tell you what I'll do, however.

ELWOOD: What would you do however? I'm interested.

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

ELWOOD: (*Gratefully*) Would you do that? I'd certainly appreciate that. (*GOES to desk for his hat.*)

BETTY: No trouble at all. I'll write it down on the back of this. (*Holds up card. Takes pencil from purse.*) What would you like me to tell him if he comes in while I'm still here?

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

BETTY: (*Writing.*) Meet Mr. Dowd downtown. Any particular place downtown?

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

BETTY: (*Writing.*) Harvey – you know where. Harvey what?

ELWOOD: Just Harvey.

BETTY: I'll tell you what.

ELWOOD: What?

BETTY: Doctor and I are going down-town – to 12th and Montview. Dr. McClure is having a cocktail party.

ELWOOD: *(at desk. He writes down on pad on desk.)* A cocktail party at 12th and Montview.

BETTY: We're driving there in a few minutes. 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. Dr. McClure is having this party for his sister from Wichita.

ELWOOD: I didn't know Dr. McClure had a sister in Wichita.

BETTY: Oh – you *know* Dr. McClure?

ELWOOD: No.

BETTY: *(Puts Elwood's card on desk.)* But - - *(sits in chair.)*

BETTY CHUMLEY & ELWOOD

Side #6

BETTY: Willie – remember your promise -. Hello Dr. Sanderson. Willie, you haven't forgotten Dr. McClure's cocktail party? *We promised them faithfully.*

CHUMLEY: That's right. I have to go upstairs now and look in on a patient. Be down shortly – *(EXITS.)*

BETTY: *(Calling after him; as she crosses down to chair left of table, she sits, fixes her shoe.)* Give a little quick diagnosis, Willie – we don't want to be late to the party. I'm dying to see the inside of that house. *(Enter **ELWOOD** from center. He doesn't see **BETTY** at first. He looks around the room carefully.)* Good evening.

ELWOOD: *(removing his hat and bowing.)* Good evening. *(Puts hat on desk. Walks over to her.)*

BETTY: I am Mrs. Chumley. Doctor Chumley's wife.

ELWOOD: I'm happy to know that. Dowd is my name. Elwood P. Let me give you one of my cards. *(Gives her one.)* If you should want to call me – call me at this one. Don't call me at that one, because that's – *(points at card.)* the old one.

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'm looking for Harvey. I went off with without him.

BETTY: Harvey? Is he a patient here?

ELWOOD: Oh, no. Nothing like that.

BETTY: Does he work here?

ELWOOD: Oh no. 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: There doesn't seem to be any hat and coat around here now. 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?

ELWOOD: Oh, no. As I understand it. That's something very old.

BETTY: Oh, really? I had never happened to hear it before.

ELWOOD: I'm not too surprised at that. I hadn't myself, until I met him. I do hope you get an opportunity to meet him. I'm sure he would be quite taken with you.

BETTY: Oh, really? Well, that's very nice of you to say so, I'm sure.

ELWOOD: Not at all. 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. Harvey takes his time making his mind up about people. Choosey, you see.

BETTY: That's not such a bad way to be in this day and age.

ELWOOD: Harvey is fond of my sister, Veta. That's because he is fond of me, and Veta and I come from the same family. Now you'd think that feeling would be mutual, wouldn't you? But Veta doesn't seem to care for Harvey. Don't you think that's rather too bad, Mrs. Chumley?

BETTY: Oh, I don't know, Mr. Dowd. I gave up a long time ago expecting my family to like my friends. It's useless.

ELWOOD: But we must keep on trying.

BETTY: Well, there's no harm in trying, I suppose.

ELWOOD: Because if Harvey has said to me once he has said a million times – “Mr. Dowd, I would do anything for you.”