

**MYRTLE MAE & VETA**  
Side #1

**MYRTLE:** He's introducing Harvey to everybody. I can't face those people now. I wish I were dead.

**VETA:** Come back here. Stay with me. We'll get him out of there and upstairs to his room.

**MYRTLE:** I won't do it. I can't. I can't.

**VETA:** Myrtle Mae! (*MYRTLE stops. VETA goes over to her and pulls her down center, where they are directly in line with doorway.*) Now – pretend I'm fixing your corsage.

**MYRTLE:** (*covering her face with her hands in shame.*) Oh, Mother!

**VETA:** We've got to. Pretend we're having a gay little chat. Keep looking. When you catch his eye, tell me. He always comes when I call him. Now, then – do you see him yet?

**MYRTLE:** No – not yet. How do you do, Mrs. Cummings?

**VETA:** Smile, can't you? Have you no pride? I'm smiling – (*waves off right and laughs.*) and he's my own brother.

**MYRTLE:** Oh, Mother – people get run over by trucks every day. Why can't something like that happen to Uncle Elwood?

**VETA:** Myrtle Mae Simmons, I'm ashamed of you. This thing is not your uncle's fault. (*phone rings.*)

**MYRTLE:** Ouch! You're sticking me with that pin!

**VETA:** That's Miss Ellerbe. Keep looking. Keep smiling. (*she goes to phone.*)

**MYRTLE:** Mrs. Cummings is leaving. Uncle Elwood must have told her what Harvey is. Oh, God!

**VETA:** (*on phone.*) Hello – this is Mrs. Simmons. Should you come in the clothes you have on – what have you on? Who is this? But I don't know any Miss Greenawalt. Should you what? – May I ask who invited you? Mr. Dowd! Thank you just the same, but I believe there has been a mistake. – Well, I never!

**MYRTLE:** Never what?

**VETA:** One of your Uncle Elwood's friends. She asked me if she should bring a quart of gin to the Wednesday Forum!

**MYRTLE:** There he is – he's talking to Mrs. Halsey.

**VETA:** Is Harvey with him?

**MYRTLE:** What a thing to ask! How can I tell? How can anybody tell but Uncle Elwood?

**VETA:** (*calls.*) Oh, Elwood, could I see you a moment, dear? (*To MYRTLE.*) I promise you your Uncle Elwood has disgraced us for the last time in this house. I'm going to do something I've never done before.

**MYRTLE:** What did you mean just now when you said this was not Uncle Elwood's fault. If it's not his fault, then whose fault is it?

**VETA:** Never you mind. I know whose fault it is. Now lift up your head and smile and go back as though nothing had happened.

**MYRTLE:** You're no match for Uncle Elwood.

**VETA:** You'll see. (*ELWOOD is coming.*)

**MYRTLE:** (*as they pass at the door.*) Mother's waiting for you.

**MYRTLE MAE & JUDGE OMAR GAFFNEY**

Side #2

**MYRTLE:** Listen Mother, we've got to find Uncle Elwood – no matter who jumped at you we've still got to lock up Uncle Elwood. (*Turning to Judge.*) Now, see – Mother muffed everything. No matter what happened out there – Uncle Elwood's still wandering around with Harvey.

**JUDGE:** (*Pondering.*) The thing for me to do is take some more notes.

**MYRTLE:** It's all Uncle Elwood's fault. He found out what she was up to – and he had her put in. Then he ran.

**JUDGE:** Oh, no – don't talk like that. (*Crosses up to back of chair.*) Your uncle thinks the world and all of your mother. Ever since he was a little boy he always wanted to share everything he had with her.

**MYRTLE:** I'm not giving up. We'll get detectives. We'll find him. And besides – you'd better save some of that sympathy for me and Mother – you don't realize what we have to put up with. Wait till I show you something he brought home about six months ago, and we hid it out in the garage. You just wait –

**JUDGE:** I'm going up to talk to Veta. There's more in this than she's telling. I sense that.

**MYRTLE MAE & DUANE WILSON**

Side #3

**WILSON:** OK, Doctor. (*MYRTLE is fascinated by WILSON. SHE lingers and looks at him. HE comes over to her, grinning.*) So, your name's Myrtle Mae?

**MYRTLE:** What? Oh – yes - (*SHE backs up. HE follows.*)

**WILSON:** If we grab your uncle you're liable to 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:** And if you don't see me right away – don't give up. Stick around. I'll show up.

**MYRTLE:** You will - ? Oh –

**WILSON:** Sure. (*HE is still following her.*) 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 precede you into the kitchen. (*SHE tries to go. HE traps her.*)

**WILSON:** Yessir – you're all right, Myrtle.

**MYRTLE:** What?

**WILSON:** Dr. Chumley noticed it right away. He don't miss a trick. (*Crowds closer; raises a finger and pokes her arm for emphasis.*) 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.

*(MYRTLE starts to exit in a huff, and WILSON raises hand to give her a spank, but she turns and so he puts up his raised hand to his hair. They exit.)*

JUDGE GAFFNEY & MYRTLE MAE

Side #4

**MYRTLE:** (*Calling.*) That's right. The stairs at the end of the hall. It goes to the third floor. Go right up. I'll be with you in a minute. (*Crosses to chair left. JUDGE GAFFNEY enters. HE looks displeased.*)

**JUDGE:** (*Entering and looking around.*) Where is she?

**MYRTLE:** Where is who? Whom do you mean, Judge Gaffney? Sit down, won't you?

**JUDGE:** I mean your mother. Where's Veta Louise?

**MYRTLE:** Why Judge Gaffney! You know where she is. She took Uncle Elwood out to the sanitarium.

**JUDGE:** I know that. But why was I called at the club with a lot of hysteria? Couldn't even get what she was talking about. Carrying on something fierce. (*Sits chair r. of table r.*)

**MYRTLE:** Mother carrying on! What about?

**JUDGE:** I don't know. She was hysterical.

**MYRTLE:** That's strange! She took Uncle Elwood out to the sanitarium. All she had to do was put him in. (*Goes back to door, opens it, looks through, calling.*) Did you find it? I'll be right up. (*Waits. Turns to him.*) They found it.

**JUDGE:** Who? Found what? What are you talking about?

**MYRTLE:** When Mother left the house with Uncle Elwood I went over to the real estate office to put the house on the market. And what do you think I found there? (*Sits*)

**JUDGE:** I'm not a quiz kid.

**MYRTLE:** Well, I found a man there who was looking for an old house just like this to cut up into buffet apartments. He's going through it now.

**JUDGE:** Now see here, Myrtle Mae. This house doesn't belong to you. It belongs to your Uncle Elwood.

**MYRTLE:** But now that Elwood is locked up. Mother controls the property, doesn't she?

**JUDGE:** Where is your mother? Where is Veta Louise?

**MYRTLE:** Judge, she went out to Chumley's Rest to tell them about Harvey and put Uncle Elwood in.

**JUDGE:** Why did she call me at the club when I was in the middle of a game, and scream at me to meet her here about something important?

**MYRTLE:** I don't know. I simply don't know. Have you got the deed to this house?

**JUDGE:** Certainly, it's in my safe. Myrtle, I feel pretty bad about this thing of locking Elwood up.

**MYRTLE:** Mother and I will be able to take a long trip now – out to Pasadena.

**JUDGE:** I always liked that boy. He could have done anything – been anything – made a place for himself in this community.

**MYRTLE:** And all he did was get a big rabbit.

**JUDGE:** He had everything. Brains, personality, friends. Men liked him. Women liked him. I liked him.

**MYRTLE:** Are you telling me that once Uncle Elwood was like other men – that women actually liked him – I mean in that way?

**JUDGE:** Oh, not since he started running around with this big rabbit. But they did once. Once that mail-box of your grandmother's was full of those little blue-scented envelopes for Elwood.

**MYRTLE:** I can't believe it.

**JUDGE:** Of course there was always something different about Elwood.

**MYRTLE:** I don't doubt that.

**JUDGE:** Yes – he was always so calm about any sudden change in plans. I used to admire it. I should have been suspicious. Take your average man looking up and seeing a big white rabbit. He'd do something about it. But not Elwood. He took that calmly, too. And look where it got him!