

JIGGER That's what I though. And you're out of a job and you got a wife to support --

BILLY Shut up about my wife -- [To MRS. MULLIN] What do you want?

MRS. MULLIN Hello, Billy.

BILLY What did you come for?

MRS. MULLIN Come to talk business.

JIGGER Business!

MRS. MULLIN I see you're still hanging' around yer jailbird friend.

BILLY What's it to you who I hang around with?

JIGGER If there' one thing I can't abide, it's the common type of woman.

BILLY What are you doin' here? You got a new barker, ain't you?

MRS. MULLIN Whyn't you stay home and sleep at night? You look awful!

BILLY He's as good as me, ain't he?

MRS. MULLIN Push yer hair back off yer forehead --

BILLY Let my hair be.

MRS. MULLIN If I told you to let it hang down over yer eyes you'd push it back. I hear you been abeatin' her -- if you're sick of her, why don't you leave her? No use beatin' the poor, skinny little --

BILLY Leave her eh? You'd like that, wouldn't' you?

MRS. MULLIN Don't flatter yourself! If I had any sense I wouldn't of come here . . . the things you got to do when you're in business! . . . I'd sell the damn carousel if I could.

BILLY Ain't it crowded without me?

MRS. MULLIN Those fool girls keep askin' for you. They miss you, see? Are you goin' to be sensible and come back?

BILLY And leave Julie?

MRS. MULLIN You beat her, don't you?

BILLY No, I don't beat her. What's all this damn fool talk about beatin'? It hit her once and now the whole town is -- the next one I hear -- I'll smash --

MRS. MULLIN All right! All right! I take it back. I don't want to get mixed up in it.

BILLY Beating her! As if I'd beat her!

MRS. MULLIN What' the odds one way er another? Look at the thing straight. You been married two months and you're sick of it. Out there's

the carousel. Show booths, young girls, all the beer you want, a good livin' -- and you're throwin' it all away.

Know what? I got a new organ.

BILLY I know.

MRS. MULLIN How do you know?

BILLY You can hear it from here. I listen to it every night.

MRS. MULLIN Good one, ain't it?

BILLY Jim Dandy. Got a nice tone.

MRS. MULLIN Y'ought to come up close and hear it. Makes you think the carousel is goin' faster . . . You belong out there and you know it. You ain't cut out fer a respectable married man. You're an artist type. You belong among artists . . . Tell you what. You come back and I'll give you a ruby ring my husband left me.

BILLY I dunno . . . I might go back . . . I could still go on livin' here with Julie.

MRS. MULLIN Holy Moses!

BILLY What's wrong?

MRS. MULLIN Can y' imagine how the girls'd love that? A barker who runs home to his wife every night! Why, people'd laugh theirselves sick.

BILLY I know what you want.

MRS. MULLIN Don't be so stuck on yerself.

BILLY I ain't happy here and that's the truth.

(JULIE enters from the house)

MRS. MULLIN 'Course you ain't.

(JULIE has entered from house, carrying a tray with a cup of coffee and a plate of cakes on it)

BILLY Do you want anythin'?

JULIE I brought you your coffee.

MRS. MULLIN [To BILLY.] Whyn't you have a talk to her? She'll understand. Maybe she'll be glad to get rid of you.

BILLY Maybe.

(MRS. MULLIN crosses)

JULIE Billy . . . before I ferget. I got somethin' to tell you.

BILLY All right.