

BETTY and ELWOOD

BETTY. Good evening.

ELWOOD. (*Removing his hat and bowing.*) Good evening.
(*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.
(*Starts one step. Looking.*)

BETTY. Thank you. Is there something I can do for you?

ELWOOD. (*Turns to her.*) What did you have in mind?

BETTY. You seem to be looking for someone.

ELWOOD. (*Walking.*) Yes, I am. I'm looking for Harvey. I
went off without him.

BETTY. Harvey? Is he a patient here?

ELWOOD. (*Turns.*) Oh, no. Nothing like that. (*Cross to door
down L.*)

BETTY. Does he work here?

ELWOOD. (*Looking out down L. door.*) 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. (*Behind chair L. of desk.*) 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. (*Looks in
SANDERSON'S office.*)

BETTY. What was the word you just said—pooka?

ELWOOD. (*Crossing C. He is looking in hallway C.*) Yes—
that's it.

BETTY. Is that something new? (*Looks in hallway.*)

ELWOOD. (*Coming down.*) Oh, no. As I understand it. That's
something very old.

BETTY. 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 quite fond of my sister, Veta. That's
because he's 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. (*Sit chair R. of table.*)

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

ELWOOD. Mrs. Chumley—

BETTY. Yes—

ELWOOD. Did you know that Mrs. McElhinney's Aunt Rose is going to drop in on her unexpectedly tonight from Cleveland?

BETTY. Why, no I didn't—

ELWOOD. Neither does she. That puts you both in the same boat, doesn't it?

BETTY. Well, I don't know anybody named—Mrs.—

ELWOOD. Mrs. McElhinney? Lives next door to us. She is a wonderful woman. Harvey told me about her Aunt Rose. That's an interesting little news item, and you are perfectly free to pass it around.

BETTY. Well, I—

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 will 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.

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 down-town?

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

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

ELWOOD. Just Harvey.