

EGGHEAD

SALLY: What an awful job! Now they've got to be suspicious of me and you and Harvey, and Madeline and Gottfried, Roth and Amanda, and Roger. I think that Mr. Finney thinks we've got a cell.

HANK: What have you been up to?

SALLY: Nothing. Did you know they're not allowed to drink?

HANK: Come on. What is that?

SALLY: There isn't much time. Perry's coming---

HANK: Of course he's coming.

SALLY: I think he's guilty.

HANK: Of what?

SALLY: I think he's simply what they say and I don't think you ought to let him speak.

HANK: You listen to those guys!

SALLY: I thought so before.

HANK: Sal, darling, all they said was guess work and insinuation. You haven't had experience---

SALLY: I'm not a child, Hank. And I have a right to my own opinion.

HANK: Opinion isn't evidence.

SALLY: I knew you'd say that! And I do have evidence--I think. Only there's no time to check it---(She starts for the study. Hank stops her.)

HANK: Sal, you're tired. And I'm tired. I've been attacked and pressured all day long.

SALLY: What happened? I wish you wouldn't keep things from me.

HANK: Oh, I don't mind attacks. They pep me up. What's painful--is the people who avoid me.

SALLY: Who? Tell me.

HANK: Amanda, for one.

SALLY: Amanda!

HANK: Yup!

SALLY: That's positively eerie!

HANK: The, funny, there's support where you least expect it. Some old judge down in Edwardsville... (He pulls the country paper from his pocket). Here. Some old Yankee. God his dander up. I must remember to show it to my class. It illustrates how wrong the Marxists are when they allow only economic motivation.

SALLY: Hank, I mean what I said.

HANK: Let's not discuss it.

SALLY: I will discuss it.

HANK: Sal, please. I've had about as much as I can take and I've got a headache.

SALLY: Can I get you an aspirin? Coffee? Tea?

HANK: Coffee'd be fine. That's the first human thing you've said.

SALLY: I'll put it on.

HANK: I'm disappointed in Harvey. I guess that's why I've got a headache.

SALLY: What did he do?

HANK: Oh, he's acting chicken.

SALLY: He's decided that Madeline has a subversive past.

HANK: What?

SALLY: She told me. She was here.

HANK: I'm surprised she came.

SALLY: Well, after all, Hank, if I'm right--

HANK: Lay off, Sal.

SALLY: How about some free speech for me around here? If I'm right and if you let Perry go ahead and speak -don't you see? -it'll be a mess-- for the whole college--including us.

HANK: I'm not going to act out of fear.

SALLY: You put out all those statements--can't you see how you'll look if it turns out you let yourself be used?

HANK: If. I can't act from a supposition. A hysterical supposition.

SALLY: I'm not hysterical! And I'm not a child!

HANK: Then show me a basis.

SALLY: He ran for office on the Communist Party ticket!

HANK: Even your friends the FBI admitted that's a lie! What else!

SALLY: People he went around with...

HANK: He went around with people who accepted him!

SALLY: ...Things he said... and things that he belonged to... and the talk...I sound like Porky Wells.

HANK: Yes, you do.

SALLY: You're disappointed in me.

HANK: I wish you were with me.

SALLY: I suppose in your first marriage, Barbara carried all the banners!

HANK: Barbara understood. I've been wrong not to involve you more.

SALLY: Oh, Barbara understood! Well, I've been told many times that Barbara had ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF HUMOR AT ALL. I'll start your coffee.

HANK: She didn't have much humor.

(He sags with fatigue. Retreats to his study, starts to pick up his mail. Finds the open file drawer, closes it, and sees file on the cabinet. Turns the papers, puzzled. Begins to read one of them.)

SALLY: (coming back) I'm sorry I said that. Where are you? (She joins him in the study) I'm sorry I said---

HANK: (the papers in his hand) What's this?

SALLY: It's things that Perry wrote. I found them in you file. I read them. Do you mind?

HANK: I guess not.

SALLY: Papers and letters. You do mind.

HANK: It seems like spying.

SALLY: I want to know about him. Hank, our whole future has gotten tied up with him. I want to know.

HANK: Will you do something for me? (Puts folder on file) You've got a good instinct for people. When Perry gets here, will you look him in the face? Forget the debates-pro-con. See him as a human being.

SALLY: All right. But I know you're going to let him speak.

HANK: I worry more than you do about the future, the children about how we'd manage if something happened and I lost this appointment. But the thing that has to come first is what's right. That's the first heritage we have to leave the children. . . They won't get much out of the bank account.