

THE RABBIT TRAP- BY J.P. MILLER
ABBY AND EDDIE

ABBY: How did he find you?

EDDIE: I didn't tell him where we were.

ABBY: You must've!

EDDIE: I mailed him a card when I went into town Tuesday, but I didn't say where---

ABBY: Postmark!

EDDIE: I didn't think of that...

ABBY: Eddie, let's not go. He gave you a vacation. Two weeks.

EDDIE: Honey---

ABBY: Every year it's the same thing! Let's not let him get away with it this time! We didn't get the message! They couldn't find us! We don't know anything about it!

EDDIE: Now, listen, honey---

ABBY: Do you know how many weeks paid vacation you've had in eight years? Three, including last week! In eight years! What does he think you are? Last year, and the year before, he couldn't spare you at all.

EDDIE: I got a nice bonus.

ABBY: So did Gerry! So did Matty and Pete! And they got vacations too!

EDDIE: It was a special deal...

ABBY: Yeah! Special for them! Three years ago he let you have a week, but we had to keep in touch! Remember that? So we stayed in that little hotel in Hampton Bays, and you called in every morning, and we couldn't plan a thing because we didn't know from one hour to the next whether we'd be there, and sure enough we had to come back a day ahead of time! Some vacation! And the year before that, none!!! I forget what his story was that year! Oh, sure, you get a bonus! Two weeks pay! Well, so did Gerry and Matty, and they got two weeks off, besides. And they sent us a card from Pike's Peak; Eddie, I don't care what happens! Let's say we didn't get the message.

EDDIE: But honey, we did get the message.

ABBY: Then we did get it, but we ignored it!

EDDIE: There's such a thing as company loyalty.

ABBY: The company doesn't own you!

EDDIE: If I'm going to move up I have to prove to him I can be depended on to be there when I'm needed.

ABBY: He knows you can be depended on to do what you're told whether it's fair to you or not.

EDDIE: That isn't true and you know it!

ABBY: He knows he can get away with it, so he treats you like dirt! Can't you see that?!?

EDDIE: Now, honey, you've built this whole thing up out of proportion. There are certain things that I have to handle, that's all. Like Campbell Cherokee. That's my account. Maybe something's come up on that. Spellman's learned to depend on me, honey. He's been giving me raises when he couldn't afford it. He's been having trouble collecting on some of the jobs. I told you that. It's not all rosy with him either. And I'm in line to move up a notch any day now. I know it's tough, but---

ABBY: You've been in line a long time, Eddie.

EDDIE: If you're talking about Pete, Honey--Pete was behind me in seniority. I know, and he wasn't a neat drafts-man, but he was better qualified than I am to be a project engineer. I wasn't ever in line for that kind of promotion. Pete has the educational background, don't forget. I have the experience, yes, but Spellman told me he was holding me for just the right spot. I wasn't ready to be a project engineer. I wasn't ready.

ABBY: Oh, darling. Do you mean you weren't ready to take the responsibility of learning a new job? Do you mean--

EDDIE: Now wait a minute!

ABBY: --you weren't ready to fight to be promoted ahead of some of the others.

EDDIE: I've got a record to protect! I can't just grab any promotion, without knowing whether I can make good on it! Only a jerk would do that, and jeopardize his whole future, just to try to get ahead a little faster!

ABBY: Darling--I hope you won't hate me for saying this, but it's true, and you've got to find it out: you don't really believe you deserve to get ahead!

EDDIE: Are you out of your mind?

ABBY: You think everybody who has more education than you ought to be ahead of you.

EDDIE: I'll tell you just how far off base you are, Abby! How could I feel like I lack education over there? Spellman himself was the one who told me I should quit night school. He said two years was enough. Did you forget that? He said I had plenty of book stuff, and I should quit missing out on the overtime. Did you forget that?

ABBY: No. I didn't forget that Eddie. Can I say one thing more? You know how you used to wrap me up in your arms sometimes and I'd say I wasn't afraid of anything on earth while you were holding me like that?

EDDIE: Yes.

ABBY: You don't wrap me up like that any more, and I didn't say things like that anymore, because we both know they wouldn't be true anymore. I feel afraid now. That's a horrible thing to have to say.

EDDIE: Well, just in case you think I've got so weak I can't control my own family. . . Get ready. We're going back to Long Island. Tonight.

ABBY: When you act like this, it doesn't make you seem strong. It makes you seem weaker.

EDDIE: I said get ready!

ABBY: Okay.