

FRAN HELLO DRU. SIT DOWN
Dru: Thank you, Miss Morrill,

FRAN

(to DRU)

I'll be with you in a minute.

(she to the filing cabinet and looks at the theme papers, her back is to DRU, DRU'S eyes fall on LEE'S paper, she takes it and quickly reads it, FRAN turns, neither speaks for a minute, then...)

May I have that please.

DRU

(as she hands it back)

Oh, it's Lee's. I thought it was my autobiography.

FRAN

I have yours here, Dru.

(she selects another paper and hands it to DRU)

You got permission to leave Princeton.

How is it you're still here.

DRU

Something happened - I was delayed.

FRAN

You lost some money, didn't you?

DRU

Yes. I had to wait for my father to wire me some more.

FRAN

I'm sorry about your money, Dru. We'll do everything we can to find it.

DRU

Miss Morrill, I think I know why you asked me down here. You've heard about the vigilantes. Isn't that so?

FRAN

Yes...

DRU

I'm glad, because I wanted to talk to you about it..Miss Morrill, at first we thought we'd continue the Vidge in secret. But - honestly - we don't want to do anything underhanded. So if you'll give us your permission -

Young & Fair
L. W. W. W.

FRAN

Dru, you know I can't give my permission after the girls voted against the Vidge.

DRU

Miss Morrirt, all we want to do is put a stop to the stealing. Surely you can't object if we volunteer to give our time to it.

FRAN

Dru, please don't try to maneuver me into agreeing that the Vidge is a splendid thing —

DRU

Well, what's wrong with it? You want to find the stolen property — so do we! You want to find the thief — so do we!!

FRAN

Dru — how would you do these things?

DRU

I don't know yet. But if you'll just trust us — we'll find some way.

FRAN

Why do you want to do all this? Surely, it'll be a lot of bother — and not at all pleasant. Why?

DRU

Well, I admit I've got a personal interest. After all, a hundred dollars...

FRAN

I know it's a considerable sum — but does the money mean that much to you? Is that the real reason?

DRU

I don't know what you mean.

FRAN

What is the reason? Doesn't it have something to do with a pleasure you get out of being in command?

DRU

Is there anything wrong with that?

FRAN

That depends. If you seize the command against everybody else's will — if you use the command to frighten and terrorize people —

DRU

Who says I'll do that?!

FRAN

You're practically saying it now. And right there — you've said it openly in your paper!

DRU

Where?! Show me where!

FRAN

Oh, it's not in any particular line — but it's all through! Your malice shoots out in many directions. At things you know nothing about. Labor unions, for example —

DRU

Unions! I know more about them than you do!

FRAN

(controlling herself)

Dru, I didn't mean to discuss unions. I know very little about them.

DRU

But I do know! I know from my father! He got a rotten enough deal to know them inside out! And they're all crooked! All of them — they're run by racketeers and criminals! And I hate them all!

FRAN

There! That's what I mean....

DRU

I've got a right to hate them! My father's fights with unions nearly killed him. During the war, they spread lies about him! They called him a traitor and dragged him up before the Senate! When it was over he was a sick man — in a sanitorium! Do you know what it's like to see your own father — !

DRU(cont.)

(with a quick intake of breath, she reigns herself in, angry that she has revealed her heartbreak)

FRAN

..Dru, I'm sorry about all that. But I beg you — don't carry your father's hatreds into your own life!

DRU

Listen, Miss Morrirt, my father has the right answer. You know what it is? 'Buy 'em or beat 'em!'

FRAN

Dru, that answer will get you a lot of grief!

DRU

But it works — I've found it works! Let me tell you something, Miss Morrirt; Once I was an ugly little kid, afraid of everything, always scared! When my parents were divorced, I lived alone in a big house — and nobody came near me. I'd be alone at school and I'd be alone at home. You know how I worked it out? I started to go to school with my pockets full of toys and candy — I found out that if I wanted a friend, I had to buy one. And pretty soon I knew how to get people to do things for me. When you've found that out, you know all the answers!

FRAN

(quietly)

Did the answers work for you yesterday, Dru? You lost the vote, remember?

DRU

(bitterly)

I wouldn't have if you hadn't interferred!

FRAN

Did you find that the girls flocked to you after it was over? Did they sympathize? How many girls are on you secret Vigilante Committee? How many real friends do you have in the school?

DRU

They were all my friends until you came!

FRAN

Were they your friends? Or did you buy them with house parties and weekends at Princeton? ... Are you still giving out candy and toys, Dru?

DRU

What difference does it make?

FRAN

It does make a difference to you, doesn't it?
(then quietly)

Dru — listen. You're losing your ground with the girls—and you know it. You'll continue to lose ground until you learn you can't go at people with a rubber hose. And the first step is to give up this strong-arm committee of yours.

DRU

I can't! By now the whole school knows about the Vidge. If I back out, I'll look ridiculous!

FRAN

For a while maybe. But soon we'll have a student government here — a real student government. I want you to help me organize it — I want you to be my friend —

DRU

You're trying to bribe me with your friendship!

FRAN

(simply)

Yes I am. It's the best thing I have to offer.

DRU

I've got to go on with the Vidge!

FRAN

Dru, what good will this do you!

DRU

If the Vidge succeeds—if we find the thief —

FRAN

Then you'll probably find an unstable girl who should be in the care of a doctor, not a Vigilante Committee. What if one of your own friends were guilty? Mil, for example —

DRU

Are you insinuating that Mil Cheaver is a thief?

FRAN

I'm merely trying to show you that this is a more delicate thing than inexperienced girls can handle. If it were Mil, you'd say she's not a thief — she's an ailing girl ———

DRU

Now you're saying vile things about Mil! I'm not going to listen to anymore of this!

FRAN

You see, you really can't handle it — you can't even discuss it!

(then more quietly)

I promise we'll try to get to the bottom of this. And I ask you to disband your committee! Please.

DRU

I can't — not now — don't you see! I'll be a laughing stock!!

FRAN

Very well, then — you leave me nothing else.... You're not to leave the grounds until you decide to give it up.

DRU

(in a fury)

You mean you're camping me?

FRAN

Yes.

DRU

I've invited six girls to Princeton. I'm going away for the weekend!

FRAN

If you do you'll be suspended from classes.

DRU

You can't do that! I'll get my father on the phone! My father's on the board of trustees,

(more)

DRU(cont.)

Miss, Morritt. You didn't know that, did you?
..Well? Now may I go to Princeton?

FRAN

You may not. Unless you disband the Vidge.

DRU

(in a rage)

I won't disband it!

FRAN

I hope you change your mind!

DRU

(almost hysterical)

I won't change my mind! You said you wanted
to be friends! Well, we're not going to be
friends! I'm your enemy! And I'm going to get
even — you see if I don't!

(she thunders out of the room)

LIGHTS DIM RAPIDLY