

Side 3 Canon/Kay

CANON. That there isn't any way out. You can bear this thing well, or you can bear it badly – but you can't refuse to bear a thing that exists and that you cannot alter.

KAY. When we get to Wadi Haifa I'll charter an aeroplane. We'll fly right off into the wilds –

CANON. Fugitives!

(KAY is silent, uneasy.)

Come and sit down, Kay.

(KAY sits left of the center table.)

What are you running away from?

KAY. But you know!

CANON. Oh, yes, I know. I'm waiting for you to face facts.

KAY. I haven't the least idea of what you mean.

CANON. Haven't you? I'll ask my question again. *Why do you mind so much?*

KAY. Because it's – intolerable!

CANON. Quite. And yet there are other ways of looking at it. You might feel just annoyed. Or you might feel pity that a friend whom you loved should have been so deeply hurt as to cast all conventions aside. But instead this business has got right under your skin – *(He pauses, rises, and moves above the table. He stands over KAY.)* It's yourself you're running away from, Kay. You've had a happy life. You've been generous and kindly and you've always had good reason to think well of yourself. Naturally you don't like to feel guilty.

KAY. *(angrily)* What do you mean by guilty?

CANON. *(quoting)* "And the Lord sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him and said unto him, 'There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing save one little ewe lamb. *(He pauses.)* And the rich man took the poor man's ewe lamb.'"

Start

KAY. It wasn't like that at all!

CANON. "And David said to Nathan, 'As the Lord liveth, the man that has done this is worthy to die... because he did this thing and because he had no pity.' And Nathan said to David, 'Thou art the man.'"

KAY. It wasn't like that, I tell you. Simon and Jackie weren't the least bit suited to each other. He realised that as soon as he met me. What on earth do you think he ought to have done? Gone on with it? Made three lives miserable? He couldn't have made Jackie happy if he wasn't happy himself.

CANON. *(moving above the table and replacing the chair up right)* That is always assumed. A convenient assumption!

KAY. Surely it's better to rectify a mistake before it's too late? The only commonsense thing to do was for Simon to tell Jackie the truth. You'd think if she was so fond of him she'd want to put *his* happiness first.

CANON. *(turning to her)* How very young you are, Kay!

KAY. Well, what's wrong with that?

CANON. *(coming down right center)* Nothing. You were very fond of Jackie always, weren't you?

KAY. Yes, she was my greatest friend at school. I was devoted to her always.

CANON. And she to you?

KAY. Yes.

CANON. And she came to you and asked you to help her – to give the man she loved a job, so that they could marry?

KAY. Yes.

CANON. *(moving below the table to KAY)* You've always had everything you wanted, haven't you, Kay? There's never been any reason why you shouldn't have it. But there was a reason this time.

KAY. *(rising)* What are you trying to say? *(She turns up left center.)* You're blaming me for everything?

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