

# 3  
1-1-43

FATHER

(Xs USB to door)

Thank you, Inspector ... Drop me at the Diner. I already missed my dinner engagement.

(Limps to the doorway)

LEVINE

(In doorway)

Corban, if a gorgeous girl -- with a build like that -- said she was my wife, you know what I'd do? I'd force myself.

(Shakes his head. Exits)

(CORBAN turns slowly, and faces ELIZABETH. THEY stare at each other)

ELIZABETH

Alone at last. I thought our company would never leave.

CORBAN

When are you going?

ELIZABETH

(Xs to cupboard)

I'm here to stay, Danny. I'm not leaving ... again.

CORBAN

Oh, turn it off! Levine is gone -- you can drop the act now.

ELIZABETH

Didn't you like my performance? I thought I carried it off very well.

CORBAN

(Xs to LIZ at sofa)

What do you know about my wife's disappearance?

(SHE smiles at him; starts tidying the table. LIZ X SR. CORBAN stops her)

You wouldn't dare pull a stunt like this unless you knew where she is.

(Still smiling, SHE crosses past him. HE grabs her arm)

Where's Elizabeth?!!

ELIZABETH

I'm right here, Danny darling. I'm yours -- till death do us part -- remember?

(Frees herself, Xs SR)

(SHE walks away, continuing to empty ashtrays, etc.)

CORBAN

Till death do us part ... I guess I'm supposed to panic now.

characters - Father  
- Levine

- Elizabeth  
- Corban

ELIZABETH

Not yet, Danny ... that comes later.

CORBAN

What the hell do you want?

ELIZABETH

Money.

CORBAN

Money? Me!

(Turns US, paces back and forth)

(HE laughs)

That's rich. You think this place is mine? The only mountain I own is a mountain of debts.

ELIZABETH

We know that, Danny. You're not worth anything -- alive.

(Xs R to bar)

CORBAN

I'm not worth any more dead. I haven't anything worth --

(Suddenly startled)

Are you thinking of my insurance?

(SHE smiles at him)

You'd commit murder ... for a hundred thousand dollars?

ELIZABETH

(Casually emptying a small ashtray

into a larger one)

Who said anything about murder? People die in many ways ...

(Points to an ashtray near CORBAN)

(HE does so, automatically. Xs US R  
of Coffee Table)

Natural causes ... accidents ... suicides ...

CORBAN

(Trying to appear casual)

Uh huh ... and what's my category?

(Xs to LIZ USC of Coffee Table)

ELIZABETH

(Smiles at him ... a beat. Xs L to  
Breakfast Table)

Well ... let's save that as a surprise. If I told you how ...  
and when ... and where ... it would take all the fun out of it  
for you.

CORBAN

(False bravado. Xs SR of Coffee Table)

The suspense is killing me. I won't be able to sleep.

ELIZABETH

I'll get you a tranquilizer.

CORBAN

(Xs USC of Coffee Table)  
Oh, yes. You and your bushy-eyed buddy tried to make Levine think I'm crazy. Is that part of your cockeyed plan?

ELIZABETH

You must admit we've gotten off to a pretty good start. All that shouting ... denying I'm your wife ...

CORBAN

I can prove you're not! And when Elizabeth shows up --

ELIZABETH

(X up to sofa)  
... accusing a priest of being a crook ... forgetting about the Commander Hotel ...

CORBAN

(Shouts)  
I NEVER ...  
(Controls himself, softer)  
... stayed at the Commander.

ELIZABETH

Screaming about non-existent snapshots ... seeing imaginary corpses ...

CORBAN

(Less sure of himself. Xs to sofa then Xs SR)  
Set-ups! I admit they were clever ... but they don't prove anything.

ELIZABETH

No? Inspector Levine seems to think --  
(X D around sofa to SL of Coffee Table)

CORBAN

(Xs USC of Coffee Table)  
I don't care what Levine thinks! Any psychiatrist would give me a clean slate in five minutes.

ELIZABETH

Even if you did spend two weeks in a Looney Bin. I think it's so nice of them to call them "rest homes." "Mental Hospifal" sounds so ... depressing.  
(Xs to kitchen door)

CORBAN

It was a rest home!

ELIZABETH

Have it your way, Danny.



(A beat ... then:)

CORBAN

How does all this tie up with collecting my insurance?

ELIZABETH

You'll find out, Danny ... soon enough.

(Exits to kitchen)

(HE paces nervously. Suddenly, HE starts laughing -- a note of hysteria in his laughter)

(LIZ re-enters)

CORBAN

It's funny! It's really funny. You're going through all this -- for what? You think the insurance company is going to hand you cash? They pay by check ... a check for a hundred thousand ... made out to "Elizabeth Corban." How do you think you're going to cash that?

ELIZABETH

(Xs USL of Coffee Table)

Danny, Danny ... don't you think we've thought of that? Every part of our plans fits. Yesterday I opened an account in a bank in New York ... in the name of "Elizabeth Corban." And I deposited ten thousand dollars.

(Xs USR to stool CORBAN)

A vice-president said: "This way, Mrs. Corban ... sign here, Mrs. Corban ... Thank you, Mrs. Corban -- anything we can do for you, don't hesitate to call on us, Mrs. Corban." ... Danny, when I walk in -- wearing black -- to deposit a check for one hundred thousand dollars, I'm sure the president himself will take care of poor, bereaved Mrs. Corban.

CORBAN

Why are you telling me all this? You know damned well I'm going to Levine about it.

ELIZABETH

What are you going to tell him, Danny?

CORBAN

That you came here posing as my wife ... that you opened a bank account in New York so you could cash the check ... after you kill me, but you plan to make it look like I was crazy --

(HE stops short, realizing how fantastic it all sounds)

ELIZABETH

(Smiling)

That's right, Danny, tell him all that ... And Levine himself will make a reservation at the rest home.

ELIZABETH

(Nervously)

Yes?

CORBAN

(Dangles his car keys)

MY key doesn't fit YOUR car!

(ELIZABETH stares at him ... then nervously turns and puts her cigarette out in the ashtray while CORBAN dangles the car keys triumphantly)