

CARDIN (with a slightly forced heartiness) : I'll be going back with a pretty girl who belongs to me. I'll show you off all over the place Dr. Engelhardt, and the nurse at the desk, and to the fat girl in the cake shop, and to Fischer. (Laughs) The last time I saw him was at the railroad station. He took me back of the baggage car. (With an imitation of an accent) "Joseph", he said, "you'll be a good doctor; I would trust you to cut up my Minna. But you're not a great doctor, and you never will be. Go back where you were born and take care of your sick. Leave the fancy work to the others". I came home.

KAREN : You'll be coming home again some day.

CARDIN: No. Let's not talk about it. (After a moment)  
You'll need some clothes?

KAREN : A few. Oh, your Dr. Fischer was so right. This is where you belong.

CARDIN : I need an overcoat and a suit. You'll need a lot of things heavy things. It's cold there now, much colder than you'd expect

KAREN : I've done this to you. I've taken you away from everything you want.

CARDIN : But it's lovely in the mountains, and that's where we'll go for a month.

KAREN : They they've done it. They've taken away every chance we had. Everything we wanted, everything we were going to be.

CARDIN : And we've got to stop talking like that. (Takes her by the shoulders) We've got a chance. But it's just one chance, and if we miss it we're done for. It means that we've got to start putting the whole business behind us now. Now, Karen. What you've done, you've done and that's that.

KAREN: What I've done?

CARDIN (impatiently) : What's been done to you.

KAREN: What did you mean? (When there is no answer) What did you mean when you said what you've done?

CARDIN (shouting) : Nothing. Nothing. (Then very quietly) Karen, there are a lot of people in this world who've had bad trouble in their lives. We're three of those people. We could sit around the rest of our lives and exist on that trouble, until in the end we had nothing else and we'd want nothing else. That's something I'm not coming to and I'm not going to let you come to.

KAREN : I know. I'm sorry. (After a moment) Joe, can we have a baby right away ?

CARDIN (vaguely) : Yes, I guess so. Although we won't have much money now.

KAREN : You used to want one right away. You always said that was the way you wanted it. There's some reason for your changing,

CARDIN : My God, we can't go on like this. Everything I say to you is made to mean something else. We don't talk like people any more. Oh, let's get out of here as fast as we can.

KAREN (as though she is finishing the sentence for him) : And every word will have a new meaning. You think we'll be able to run away from that? Woman, child, love, lawyer, no words that we can use in safety any more. (Laughs bitterly) Sick hightragic people. That's what we'll be.

CARDIN (gently) : No, we won't, darling. Love is casual that's the way it should be. We must find that out all over again. We must learn again to live and love like other people.

KAREN : It won't work.

CARDIN: What?

KAREN : The two of us together.

CARDIN (sharply) : Stop talking like that.

KAREN : It's true. (Suddenly) I want you to say it now,

CARDIN : I don't know what you're talking about.

KAREN : Yes you do. We've both known for a long time. I knew surely the day we lost the case. I was watching your face in court. It was ashamed and sad at being ashamed. Say it now, Joe. Ask it now.

CARDIN : I have nothing to ask. Nothing (Quickly) All right. Is it was it ever

KAREN (puts her hand over his mouth) : No. Martha and I have never touched each other. (Pulls his head down on her shoulder) That's all right, darling. I'm glad you asked. I'm not mad a bit, really.

CARDIN : I'm sorry Karen, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you, I

KAREN : I'll say it for you. You wanted to wait until it was all over, you really never wanted to ask it at all. You didn't know for sure; you thought there might be just a little truth in it all. (With great feeling) You've been good to me and loyal. You're a fine man. (Afraid of tears, she pats him, walks away) Now go and sit down, Joe. I have a lot of things to say. They're all mixed up and I must get them clear.

CARDIN : Don't let's talk any more. Let's forget and go ahead.

KAREN (puzzled) : Go ahead?

CARDIN : Yes, Karen.

KAREN : You believe me, then ?

CARDIN : Of course I believe you. I only had to hear you say it.

KAREN : No, no, no. That isn't the way things work. Maybe you believe me, I'd never know whether you did or not. You'd never know whether you did, either.

We couldn't do it that way. Can't you see what would happen? We'd be hounded by it all our lives. I'd be frightened always, and in the end my own fright would make me would make me hate you. (Sees slight movement he makes) Yes, it would. I know it would. I'd hate you for what I thought I'd done to you. And I'd hate myself too. It would grow and grow until we'd be ruined by it. (Sees him about to speak) Ah, Joe, you've seen all that yourself. You knew it first.

CARDIN (softly) : I didn't mean it that way; I don't know.

KAREN (smiles) : You're still trying to spare me, still trying to tell yourself that we might be all right again. But we won't be all right. Not ever, ever, ever. I don't know all the reasons why. Look, I'm standing here. I haven't changed. (Holds out her hands') My hands look just the same, my face is the same, even my dress is old. We're in a room we've been in so many times before; you're sitting where you always sit; it's nearly time for dinner. I'm like everybody else. I can have all the things that everybody has. I can have you and a baby, and I can go to market, and we can go to the movies, and people will talk to me and (Suddenly notices the pain in his face) Oh, I'm sorry. I mustn't talk like that. That couldn't be true any more.

CARDIN : It could be, Karen. We'll make it be like that.

KAREN : No. That's only what we'd like to have had. It's what we can't have now. Go home, darling.

CARDIN (with force) : Don't talk like that. No matter what it is, we can't leave each other. I can't leave you.

KAREN : Joe, Joe. Let's do it now and quick; it will be too hard later on.

CARDIN : No, no, no. We love each other. (His voice breaks) I'd give anything not to have asked that question, Karen.

KAREN : It had to be asked, sooner or later and answered. You're a good man the best I'll ever know and you've been better to me than but it's no good now, for either of us ; you can see that.

CARDIN : It can be. You say I helped you. Help me now; help me to be strong and good enough to (Goes towards her with his arms out) Karen!

KAREN (drawing back) : No, Joe ! (Then, as he stops) Will you do something for me?

CARDIN : Anything but leave you.

KAREN : Will you will you go away for two days a day and think this all over by yourself away from me and love and pity? Will you? And then decide.

CARDIN (after a long pause) : Yes, if you want, but it won't make any difference. We will

KAREN : Don't say anything. Please go now. (She sits down, smiles, closes her eyes. For a moment he stands looking at her, then slowly puts on his hat) And all my heart goes with you.

CARDIN (at door leaving) : I'll be coming back. (Exits, slowly, reluctantly, closing door).

KAREN (a moment after he has gone) : No, you won't. Never, darling.