

All they want to do is tell you the story of their lives. . . . But sometimes you hear some good jokes. . . . Now, here's someone I know. . . . Hello, Marvin.

MARVIN. (*A man about 65.*) Hello, Tom. Good to see you back.

TOM. You remember my son, Gene.

MARVIN. Yes. Hello.

GENE. Hello, Mr. Scott.

MARVIN. Well, young feller . . . you look great . . . (*To Tom.*)

TOM. Do I? Well, thank you . . .

MARVIN. How's Margaret? (*Tom goes very dramatic . . .*)

pauses for a moment and bites his lip . . . Marvin looks at Gene.)

GENE. Mother's . . .

TOM. Margaret's in an oxygen tent in the hospital.

MARVIN. (Surprised that Tom is here . . . looks at Gene . . . then to Tom.) I'm terribly sorry to hear that, Tom.

TOM. Heart. (He shakes his head and starts to get emotional.)

GENE. (Embarrassed.) We're just going to grab a bite and get back. Mother's sleeping, and if we were there, she'd want to talk.

MARVIN. I'm sorry to hear that, Tom. . . . When did it happen?

TOM. (Striving for control . . . his emotion is as much anger that it could happen . . . and self-pity . . . as anything else . . .)

This morning . . . I was in the kitchen, getting something for Margaret, when suddenly I heard her scream . . . "Tom . . .

Tom . . ." and I ran upstairs . . . and there she was stretched out on the bedroom floor . . . "Nitro . . . nitro" . . . she said.

. . . We have nitroglycerine all over the house, you know . . . since her last two attacks. . . . So, I get her the nitro and call

the doctor . . . and now she's in an oxygen tent in the hospital . . . (The bell starts to ring to call them to table . . .)

MARVIN. Well, I hope everything's all right . . . Tom . . .

GENE. Thank you . . .

TOM. What happened to those martinis? . . . We've got to go into dinner and we haven't gotten them yet.

GENE. We can take them to the table with us.

TOM. I have to drink mine before I eat anything. . . . It brings up the gas. . . . Where the Hell are they? (And he beads off. . . .)

MARVIN. (To Gene.) He's quite a fella . . . (And they move off . . . as Rotarians start singing to the tune of Auld Lang Syne . . . "We're awfully glad you're here . . . etc. . . ." As the lights fade on this group . . . they come up on the hospital bed . . . and Margaret . . . the Nurse is sitting there . . . reading her movie magazine . . . the oxygen tent has been moved away. As the lights come up on the hospital room . . . Tom and Gene enter quietly . . . cautiously . . . The Nurse gets up . . . Gene approaches the bed . . .)

GENE. (Whispers to Nurse.) Anything?