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are you?"
 Jeanie felt terribly sorry for the red-faced Alex. He was swallowing nervously. "No -- no, of course not. Come on in." His eyes looked puzzled as he observed Jeanie among them, but he seemed too stunned to say anything further.

Eloise was really in her element. "Sit down, gang." Her fingers switched on the radio almost eagerly. "This should really be good." Her eyes moved to Jeanie. "Aren't you going to sit?"

Jeanie shook her head. "I may want to leave suddenly."

The other girl shrugged as the program started. Alex had retreated into the darkness on the other side of the room. He seemed suddenly to want to get as far as possible from the radio.

THE actors spoke the lines Jeanie had typed with confidence and sure earnestness. The carefully contrived meeting of Jonathan, Ellen and Jennifer in the country club garden took place as scheduled, with Ellen demanding that Jonathan make a choice between them. Jonathan's answer, "Isn't it pretty obvious?" sent Jennifer off the scene in a huff and left Jonathan and Ellen alone together.

Eloise looked around at her friends, then over at the brooding Alex. "Now?"

He was deep in his corner. He nodded moodily. "Now."

She smiled a satisfied smile and leaned forward slightly.

Jeanie sent one apprehensive glance in Alex's direction, then glued her eyes to the radio, looking neither to right nor left. Ellen was saying, "I'm glad she's gone -- glad she understood without a tiresome scene."

Jonathan said, "I don't think she quite understood. But I wanted her to go. I needed an opportunity to tell you how I really feel about you."

"Yes, Jonathan?" The voice on the radio was breathless. Jeanie stole a glance at El-

oise. She was leaning forward, her eyes glowing, looking like those of the cat who had indeed swallowed the canary. "How do you feel?"

"Frankly, just a little bit bilious."

"What?"

"I think I figured you out for the first time tonight, Ellen. You don't want them. You don't want any man. You just want more conquests to parade. Well, I'm sorry, but I don't intend to be another addition to your string."

"Why, you -- you insolent --"

"Let me finish. Actually, I don't believe I've ever come across even an olive as super-colossal as your vanity. As far as making a choice between you, I wouldn't trade Jennifer's little finger for all your artificial --"

The radio snapped off suddenly. Eloise was standing. Her mouth was twisted slightly. At the moment, despite her perfect features, she looked almost unpleasant. No one said anything. Everybody seemed too shocked. Her eyes sought out Alex in the corner. Her voice was harsh. "Is this your idea of a joke?"

Alex was shaking his head. He seemed dazed. "But I didn't write that! They -- they must have changed my script!"

Her voice was vicious with contempt. "You don't think I believe that, do you, you treacherous -- oh!" She grabbed her wrap and flounced out.

The others looked at each other uncomfortably for a moment. Then Bob laughed suddenly. They all joined in uncontrollably -- all but Alex and Jeanie. He was headed for the telephone to call the city, and she was headed for the safety of the great outdoors.

SHE was standing on the float observing the silent stars, a great peace within her, when she heard loud breathing at her shoulder. Alex's hair was tousled, and his eyes seemed a little wild. He said, "So here you are!"

Jeanie was defiant. "What about it?"

"I called the studio. They said they gave the script just as it was written. Which means that only one person could have changed it."

"Really? And who do you suppose that could be?"

"I don't suppose. I know." He stopped suddenly, lifted her in his arms and carried her to the edge of the float. "Do you know what I'm going to do now?"

Jeanie's struggles were feeble. "Throw me into the lake?"

He nodded, swinging her back slightly. Jeanie closed her eyes and held her breath. Then she had to hold it just a little bit longer than she had thought. She was being very soundly kissed. She opened her eyes, still breathless. "Alex!"

"I'm sorry." He was frowning. "I really intended to throw you in. Something came over me. It won't happen again."

Jeanie smiled, snuggling just a little bit closer.

That was just another one of his scripts she'd have to change.

THE END

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