

DON'T DRINK THE WATER

KILROY I wonder if that's the way it's going to be from now on. Every time we arrest one of their spies, they arrest one of our caterers.

BURNS I better help the chef. Mr. Hollander is driving him crazy. He hates European food.

KILROY Mr. Magee, are you aware that the Sultan of Bashir is due here Friday? I suggest we postpone it for a more auspicious moment.

MAGEE Nonsense, Mr. Kilroy. I should have this cleared up by Friday.

KILROY And if you don't?

MAGEE If I don't, business will go on as usual. *I'm* running this Embassy.

(SUSAN enters)

SUSAN Oh, Mr. Magee, may I please speak with you?

MAGEE Certainly. Mr. Kilroy, please. I'm sorry about your accommodations but we are jammed and it is temporary.

(*They carry the cot offstage*)

SUSAN Mr. Magee, I hope you're not upset by my parents.

MAGEE Upset?

SUSAN They're really sweet people; they just have their own way of expressing themselves. Don't let their form of communication throw you . . .

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MAGEE Listen, you don't have to explain parents to me. I have two parents. I *had* two parents. My mother is in court trying to disown me.

SUSAN Mr. Kilroy explained to us that your father is Ambassador Magee.

MAGEE Did he also tell you if I don't make it here I'm finished?

SUSAN Oh. It's not that bad. Everybody makes mistakes. Every time I pick up the papers I read about another diplomatic crisis cropping up somewhere in the world.

MAGEE Have you noticed my name is in every article?

SUSAN Funny. You're just the opposite of Donald.

MAGEE Who's Donald?

SUSAN He's my fiancé. He's so confident and totally in command.

MAGEE Well, I'm confident too. Between major international blunders.

SUSAN Well, I don't know about anybody else, but I'm beginning to like it here.

MAGEE Gee, it's awfully sweet of you to take that attitude. I really appreciate it.

SUSAN I mean it. It's very exciting and romantic. Most people spend their whole lives without anything like this happening to them.

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MAGEE So your father keeps telling me.

SUSAN Danger stimulates me. You know how many babies were born in England in World War II as a result of the blitz?

MAGEE Well, if it's danger you want, take a look out there—
(*Gesturing toward the window*) Must be two dozen professional killers.

SUSAN (*Looking*) It's hard to see much . . .

MAGEE Here. Knock off that light— You'll be able to see all the guards and secret police . . .
(*He turns off the light; the moonlight streams through the window*)

SUSAN Oh sure, look at them out there—they've got machine guns . . . Are you married, Mr. Magee?

MAGEE One thing about my work—you don't usually get to meet any attractive American women.

SUSAN Oh? Don't you have a girl friend, or someone back home?

MAGEE Actually, my work has caused me to travel a lot. Suddenly. What do you do? Are you a model or an actress or something?

SUSAN No. I danced. In the New York City Center Ballet. And I was a folk singer and I worked in a coffeehouse in Greenwich Village.

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MAGEE Waitress?

SUSAN I repaired motorcycles. Right now my big interest is painting.

MAGEE No kidding. I paint. You'd hate my work though, it's all very abstract. I stand back and splash oil all over everything and then I run all over it with my sneakers and I stick my lunch on it—in fact, my lunch came in second at a showing in Cape Cod.

SUSAN I adore abstract art.

MAGEE Really. I'm a big Jackson Pollack man. His drippings best express my mental state. After dinner if you're interested, I'll show you a little statue I made out of some old automobile parts and a bedpan.

SUSAN I'd love it.

MAGEE (*Coming close to her and speaking intimately*)
Y'know, you're really very pretty.

SUSAN Thank you.
(*The CHEF comes onstage, seemingly agitated*)

CHEF Forgive my intrusion, Mr. Magee, but I must know what is the decision for dinner.

MAGEE What's the problem?

CHEF It's him.

MAGEE Who?