

Kate / Joe

[REDACTED]

MOTHER. (With an accusing undertone.) Why did he invite her here?

KELLER. Why does that bother you?
MOTHER. She's been in New York three and a half years, why all of a sudden . . . ?

KELLER. Well, maybe . . . maybe he just wanted to see her . . .
MOTHER. Nobody comes seven hundred miles "just to see."

KELLER. What do you mean? He lived next door to the girl all his life, why shouldn't he want to see her again? (MOTHER looks at him critically.) Don't look at me like that, he didn't tell me any more than he told you.

MOTHER. (A warning and a question.) He's not going to marry her. How do you know he's even thinking of it?

MOTHER. It's got that about it.
KELLER. (Sharply watching her reaction.) Well? So what?

MOTHER. (Alarmed.) What's going on here, Joe?
KELLER. Now listen, kid . . .

MOTHER. (Avoiding contact with him.) She's not his girl, Joe; she knows she's not.

KELLER. You can't read her mind.
MOTHER. Then why is she still single? New York is full of men, why isn't she married? (Pause.) Probably a hundred people told her she's foolish, but she's waited.

KELLER. How do you know why she waited?
MOTHER. She knows what I know, that's why. She's faithful as a rock. In my worst moments, I think of her waiting, and I know again that I'm right.

KELLER. Look, it's a nice day. What are we arguing for?
MOTHER. (Warningly.) Nobody in this house dares take her faith away, Joe. Strangers might, but not his father, not his brother.

KELLER. (Exasperated.) What do you want me to do? What do you want?

MOTHER. I want you to act like he's coming back. Both of you. Don't think I haven't noticed you since Chris invited her. I won't stand for any nonsense.

KELLER. But, Kate . . .
MOTHER. Because if he's not coming back, then I'll kill myself!

Better not

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