

LOLA

Hi ya, Chief.

APPLEGATE

Welcome to the nation's capitol.

LOLA

Thank you, Chief.

APPLEGATE

(X and sit L of her)

Have a good trip?

LOLA

Perfect. The plane crashed in Cleveland.

APPLEGATE

Good, good. Now how about that job in Chicago?

LOLA

Cleared the whole thing up before I left. I got the old boy to embezzle \$100,000.00 and lost it for him at the race track. Then his wife left him and he took to drink. I told him I was through and he jumped out of the window. Twenty-second story.

APPLEGATE

That's high enough. That's fine.

LOLA

Want me to try the Empire State on the next one?

APPLEGATE

No, no Lola. This is a straight seduction job. New boy I just got hold of.

(Rises, S R.)

Look Lola, I've done a terrible foolish thing—I'm really ashamed to confess it. I let this real estate genius talk me into an escape clause.

LOLA

I never heard of it.

APPLEGATE

You'll never hear of it again. I've got too much on my mind. It slipped by me. I'm overworked.

LOLA

I know, poor dear, election's coming up.

APPLEGATE

So when I made this Joe Hardy deal, I—

LOLA

Joe Hardy?

APPLEGATE

That's his name.

LOLA

Gee, they say he's great. Clarence just raved about him.

APPLEGATE

Who's Clarence?

LOLA

You know -

(She makes diving gesture)

APPLEGATE

Look, Lola, here's the tie-up. This is a mass torture deal like the thirty-years war. I've got thousands of Washington fans drooling under the illusion that the Senators are going to win the Pennant.

LOLA

Oh Chief, that's awfully good. There'll be suicides, heart attacks and apoplexy.

(Looks up)

Just like the good old days.

APPLEGATE

(X Lola to L)

But, the key to the whole thing is this fellow.

(Points to sign)

He wants to go back to his wife. For all I know he's sneaking out there right this minute.

(X L)

LOLA

Well don't worry, Chief, you know I'm pretty good at making men forget their wives. This is a routine case. I'll give him the standard vampire treatment.

(Rolls shoulder)

APPLEGATE

There isn't a home-wrecker on my staff better than you, Lola. But this fellow's stubborn.

(X L)