

We're going down to the station to see  
California.

*(SISTER exits center. MEG straight  
on door)*

**MEG**

Come in.

*(JOE enters R, stands just inside door looking at her. MEG continues checking list  
then turns and sees that it is a stranger)*

Oh. Oh, I'm sorry—I thought you were the deliveries.

**JOE**

No, I came about—that is—someone told me you had a room you might be willing  
to rent.

*(Smiles at her)*

**MEG**

Me. Rent a room.

**JOE**

*(Steps in)*

That's what they said—some fellow down at the corner. I'm looking for a nice quiet  
place.

**MEG**

My goodness. I never even thought of renting a room.

**JOE**

I wouldn't be any trouble—I can promise you that.

**MEG**

*(X R 2 steps)*

Well, I'm sure you wouldn't. But you see Mister—Mister—

**JOE**

Joe Hardy.

**MEG**

*(Steps in)*

My husband's name is Joe.

**JOE**

Is that so? That's quite a coincidence.

MEG

*He's away.*

JOE

*(Looks down)*

Oh. That's too bad.

MEG

*Yes.*

JOE

For long?

MEG

Not too long—I hope. He had to go on a trip.

JOE

I guess that's why this fellow though you might have an extra room.

MEG

I wonder who that could be.

SISTER

*(Offstage)*

Meg.

MEG

Oh dear—excuse me. We're cooking for the Bridge Club—a friend of mine and her sister, from my home town. Just make yourself at home.

*(MEG picks up bundle of groceries from chair, exits UC. JOE looks over room, crosses to chair in front of television and sits, sings:)*

JOE

BUT HE'LL COME BACK TO YOU AGAIN.

*(MEG enters UC)*

I'm sorry to have taken so long—

*(JOE jumps up)*

My friends think it will be good for me to take in a boarder.

JOE

I'd certainly appreciate it.

MEG

They are coming right in to meet you as soon as they fix their hair. I have a room that was my husband's den that we use as a guest room. It has a nice studio couch. Would you like to see it?