

INT. SHELDRAKE'S OFFICE - DAY

Sheldrake is pacing in front of his desk. A couple of suitcases are standing in a corner of the room. The intercom buzzes, and Sheldrake presses the lever down.

SECRETARY'S VOICE

Mr. Baxter is here.

SHELDRAKE

Send him in.

A beat, then the door opens, and Bud marches in determinedly.

~~BUD~~

~~Mr. Sheldrake, I've got good news
for you --~~

SHELDRAKE

And I've got good news for you,
Baxter. All your troubles are over.

~~BUD~~

(reacting to the echo)

~~Sir?~~

SHELDRAKE

I know how worried you were about
Miss Kubelik -- well, stop
worrying -- I'm going to take her
off your hands.

~~BUD~~

(stunned)

~~You're going to take her off my
hands?~~

SHELDRAKE

That's right.

(indicating suitcases)

I've moved out of my house -- I'm
going to be staying in town, at the
Athletic Club.

~~BUD~~

~~You left your wife?~~

SHELDRAKE

Well, if you must know -- I fired
my secretary, my secretary got to
my wife, and my wife fired me.
Ain't that a kick in the head?

~~BUD~~

~~Yeah --~~

SHELDRAKE

Apt Bud + Shel
M-M
Middle

Now what was your news, Baxter?

~~BUD~~

(recovering with difficulty)

~~It's about Miss Kubelik -- she's
all right again -- so she went back
home.~~

SHELDRAKE

Swell. And don't think I've
forgotten what you did for me.

(opens door to
adjoining office)

This way, Baxter.

~~Bud advances slowly toward the door.~~

INT. ADJOINING OFFICE - DAY

It is a slightly smaller and less lavish edition of Shel Drake's office. Shel Drake ushers Bud through the door, points to the chair behind the desk.

SHELDRAKE

Sit down. Try it on for size.

~~Bud obeys like an automaton, lowers himself into the chair.~~

SHELDRAKE

You like?

(indicating office)

It's all yours.

~~BUD~~

~~Mine?~~

SHELDRAKE

My assistant, Roy Thompson, has
been shifted to the Denver office,
and you're taking his place.

(no reaction from Bud)

What's the matter, Baxter? You
don't seem very excited.

~~BUD~~

~~Well, it's just that so many things
have been happening so fast -- I'm
very pleased -- especially for Miss
Kubelik. Now that I've gotten to
know her better, I think she's the
kind of girl that definitely ought
to be married to somebody --~~

SHELDRAKE

Oh, sure, sure. But first the
property settlement has to be
worked out -- then it takes six

weeks in Reno -- meanwhile, I'm
going to enjoy being a bachelor for
a while.

(starts back toward
his own office)

Oh, by the way, you can now have
lunch in the executive dining
room --

BUD

Yes, sir.

He removes his dark glasses reflectively.

SHELDRAKE

That's just one of the privileges
that goes with this job. You also
get a nice little expense account,
the use of the executive washroom --

(breaks off, peers at
Bud's face)

Say, what happened to you, Baxter?

BUD

I got kicked in the head, too.

SHELDRAKE

Oh?