

EXT. ALLEY - CURRAN THEATER - NIGHT

Karen moves toward the stage door. She passes a recess in the wall - perhaps an exit - about halfway.

EVE'S VOICE

(softly)

Mrs. Richards...

Karen hesitates, looks. Eve is barely distinguishable in the shadow of the recess. Karen smiles, waits. Eve comes out. A gooseneck light above them reveals her...

She wears a cheap trench coat, low-heeled shoes, a rain hat stuck on the back of her head... Her large, luminous eyes seem to glow up at Karen in the strange half-light.

KAREN

So there you are. It seemed odd,
suddenly, your not being there...

EVE

Why should you think I wouldn't be?

KAREN

Why should you be? After all, six
nights a week - for weeks - of
watching even Margo Channing enter
and leave a theater-

EVE

I hope you don't mind my speaking
to you...

KAREN

Not at all.

EVE

I've seen you so often - it took
every bit of courage I could raise-

KAREN

(smiles)

To speak to just a playwright's
wife? I'm the lowest form of
celebrity...

EVE

You're Margo Channing's best
friend. You and your husband are
always with her - and Mr.
Sampson... what's he like?

KAREN

(grins)

Bill Sampson? He's - he's a
director.

EVE

He's the best.

KAREN

He'll agree with you. Tell me, what do you between the time Margo goes in and comes out? Just huddle in that doorway and wait?

EVE

Oh, no. I see the play.

KAREN

(incredulous)

You see the play? You've seen the play every performance?

(Eve nods)

But, don't you find it - I mean apart from everything else - don't you find it expensive?

EVE

Standing room doesn't cost much. I manage.

Karen contemplates Eve. Then she takes her arm.

KAREN

I'm going to take you to Margo...

EVE

(hanging back)

Oh, no...

KAREN

She's got to meet you-

EVE

No, I'd be imposing on her, I'd be just another tongue-tied gushing fan...

Karen practically propels her toward the stage door.

KAREN

(insisting)

There isn't another like you, there couldn't be-

EVE

But if I'd known... maybe some other time... I mean, looking like this.

KAREN

You look just fine...

(they're at the stage door)

... by the way. What's your name?

EVE

Eve. Eve Harrington.