

INT-APARTMENT LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

HERMAN walks in from a long day at work. CLAIRE is seated. She has a glass of champagne ready for each of them.

HERMAN
Champagne? What's the occasion?

CLAIRE
First a toast. To surprises.

HERMAN
All right, then. To surprises.

They toast and drink.

HERMAN
What are we supposed to do now?
Smash our glasses in the fireplace
like Russians?

CLAIRE
I'm waiting.

HERMAN
Waiting for what?

CLAIRE
My surprise.

HERMAN
What surprise?

CLAIRE
Oh, Herman, you never were one for
the grand gesture. I hate to ruin
it for you, but it's not my fault.
Your man telephoned for you here.

HERMAN
What man?

CLAIRE
He didn't tell me his name, but he
told me all about the new house and
the remarkably modern vacuum
system. How stylish.

HERMAN
I see.

CLAIRE

Well, Herman, who is he?

HERMAN

He's an architect. Formerly in my employ.

CLAIRE

When were you planning on telling me?

HERMAN

I suppose now is as good a time as any.

CLAIRE

Maybe we can drive round and see it after dinner.

HERMAN

No. You need never see the house.

CLAIRE

What are you talking about? Why on earth not?

HERMAN

Because I intend to live in it with another woman.

(pause)

I've also taken the liberty of selling this house. You may stay through the end of the week, but then you and the children must go. I've rented you an apartment downtown. Two bedrooms in a walk-up. Was that a grand enough gesture for you?

She throws the drink in his face.