

# Mrs. Paddy

~~see no evil, speak no evil." Everyone is quiet for a moment. Then behind them the doors slip open and MRS. PADDY backs slowly into the room, peering down hall from which she eludes her hunters. Closes sliding doors carefully and holds them together. DR. EMMETT (Steps in front of her.)~~

DR. EMMETT. Well, Mrs. Paddy—you have the entire staff searching for you. (MRS. PADDY whirls around and faces the roomful of people rather sheepishly. Tries to dart out again.)

TITUS. Stop her—don't let her get away!

DR. EMMETT. (Steps in front of her.) I think you'd better join us, Mrs. Paddy. We'd like to talk to you. (Points to a chair c. and escorts MRS. PADDY to it. With Olympian dignity, she seats herself, ignoring visitors and patients alike.)

TITUS. Now, we'll find out where those bonds are. (MRS. PADDY, with an air of disdain, brushes imaginary crumbs off her ample bosom. TITUS strides over to MRS. PADDY.) Madam—hand over those bonds!

DR. EMMETT. You'd better let me question her, Senator. She won't talk to you.

TITUS. Oh, yes, she will.

MRS. SAVAGE. Oh, no, she won't.

TITUS. We'll just see about this. (Roars at MRS. PADDY, who winces at the blast.) Well, madam—what have you to say for yourself!

MRS. PADDY. (Turns and glares up at TITUS.) I hate everything in the world, but most of all I hate revolving doors, cuspidors, fights, fuzz, fleas, bumblebees, prickly heat, bats, gnats, pills, pots, pans, butts, bladders, worms, germs, pachyderms and politicians!

TITUS. (Stopped—for the moment.) What does she mean?

MRS. SAVAGE. Weren't you listening?

FAIRY. (Hiccups.) Excuse me, please.

FLORENCE. Fairy!

TITUS. Madam, did you hear what I asked you?

DR. EMMETT. (Steps in front of TITUS.) There's no need to shout at Mrs. Paddy, Senator. She hears you well enough. But she's not going to answer you. She hasn't answered a question in twenty years.

TITUS. (Turns on MRS. PADDY again.) Don't try any tricks on me, madam!

MRS. SAVAGE. Don't make her mad, Titus—she carries a knife. (TITUS takes a quick step back.)

DR. EMMETT. Please—Mrs. Savage. (Turns to TITUS.) Mrs. Paddy doesn't carry a knife. She's hostile but quite harmless. Now, will you be kind enough to yield the floor to me, Senator?

TITUS. Very well—but I want to hear her talk.

MRS. SAVAGE. So do we all.

DR. EMMETT. (Kneels down beside MRS. PADDY.) Mrs. Paddy—this is quite important. Now I want you to nod Yes or No to the questions I ask you. (MRS. PADDY looks at him vacantly.) Now. Did you take some bonds from the table a few minutes ago? (MRS. PADDY waits—nods a vigorous "Yes" followed by a vigorous "No.")

MRS. SAVAGE. She did and she didn't.

FAIRY. Oh, this is exciting. I wish we could open a door and have a body fall out.

DR. EMMETT. Mrs. Paddy—look at me. (She gives him her rapt attention.) Do you remember turning the lights out? (MRS. PADDY nods "No.") Yes, you do. And do you remember a little bundle of papers on the table? (MRS. PADDY stares at top of his head.) Try to remember—think. (MRS. PADDY leans forward and dutifully assumes the pose of the Rodin "Thinker." While they watch for some manifestation of understanding, MISS WILLIE comes in from hall, carrying a shoe-box.)

MISS WILLIE. Dr. Emmett—I found them! (MRS. PADDY leaps to her feet and rushes for box.)

~~TITUS. (Beside her in one stride.) No, you don't! Hand them over to me!~~

MISS WILLIE. But, Senator—

TITUS. I'll take charge of these. (Takes box from her hand and jerks top off. The contents pour on the floor.)

FAIRY. Oh, look—radio tubes!

TITUS. You said you'd found the bonds!

MISS WILLIE. I said nothing of the sort. (MRS. PADDY gets down on her knees to collect her own treasure.)

FAIRY. This restores my faith in witchcraft.

DR. EMMETT. Where did you find them, Miss Willie?

MISS WILLIE. In the basement—in the hot-air duct leading to Fairy's room.