(GRANDFATHER exits.)

THE LITTLE BOY

Is Evelyn Nesbit the Harlot of Babylon?

MOTHER

Where did you hear that?

THE LITTLE BOY

I read it in one of Uncle's magazines.

MOTHER

I don't want you going in his room. I'm sure Evelyn Nesbit is a very nice person. She's just confused. She's strayed from the path.

THE LITTLE BOY

What path?

MOTHER

The right path. The one we all want to be on if only we could and if only it weren't so difficult.

THE LITTLE BOY

Not for women it's not. Men are tested almost every day of their Christian lives.

MOTHER

Not everyone's a Christian. You know that.

THE LITTLE BOY

They are in New Rochelle.

(A plane flies above, advertising an appearance by HOUDINI. MOTHER starts digging in the earth.)

THE LITTLE BOY

Houdini! Houdini's coming! Can we go? I'll do anything. Please!

MOTHER

We'll see.

(NEW ROCHELLE and HOUDINI's plane as it circles overhead.)

THE LITTLE BOY

Warn the Duke!

(HE stands watching the plane disappear overhead as we hear it fly away. MOTHER locks at him, troubled.)