

LITTLE BOY I
START

(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.

(THE LITTLE BOY calls up to 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 looks at him, troubled.)

END