

*Harvey*

Mary Chase

**VETA**  
**SANDERSON**

*The scene takes place in Dr. Sanderson's office. Veta, worried about her brother, seeks his help in committing him.*

VETA. Doctor — everything I say to you is confidential? Isn't it?

SANDERSON. That's understood.

VETA. Because it's a slap in the face to everything we've stood for in this community the way Elwood is acting now.

SANDERSON. I am not a gossip, Mrs. Simmons. I am a psychiatrist.

VETA. Well — for one thing — he drinks.

SANDERSON. To excess?

VETA. To excess? Well — don't you call it excess when a man never lets a day go by without stepping into one of those cheap taverns, sitting around with riffraff and people you never heard of? Inviting them to the house — giving them food and money. If that isn't excess I'm sure I don't know what excess is.

SANDERSON. I didn't doubt your statement, Mrs. Simmons. I merely asked if your brother drinks.

VETA. Well, yes, I say definitely Elwood drinks and I want him committed permanently. , because I cannot stand another day of that Harvey. I have to set a place at the table for Harvey. We have to move over on the sofa and make room for Harvey. We have to answer the telephone when Elwood calls and asks to speak to Harvey.

SANDERSON. This person you call Harvey — who is he?

VETA. He's a rabbit.

SANDERSON. Perhaps — but just who is he? Some companion — someone your brother has picked up in these bars, of whom you disapprove?

VETA. (Patiently) Doctor — I've been telling you. Harvey is a rabbit — a big white rabbit — six feet high — or is it six feet and a half? Heavens knows I ought to know. He's been around the house long enough.

SANDERSON. (Regarding her narrowly) Now, Mrs. Simmons, let me understand this — you say . . .

VETA. (Impatiently) Doctor — do I have to keep repeating myself? My brother insists that his closest friend is this big white rabbit. This rabbit is named Harvey. Harvey lives at our house. Don't you understand? (She leans forward) Doctor — I'm going to tell you something I've never told anybody in the world before. Every once in a while I see that big white rabbit myself.

SANDERSON. (Not convinced) Mrs. Simmons —

VETA. (Straightening) And what's more — he's every bit as big as Elwood says he is. Now don't ever tell that to anybody, Doctor. I'm ashamed of it.

SANDERSON. I can see that you have been under a great nervous strain recently.

VETA. Well — I certainly have.

SANDERSON. Grief over your mother's death depressed you considerably?

VETA. Nobody knows how much.

SANDERSON. Been losing sleep?

VETA. How could anybody sleep with that going on?

SANDERSON. Short-tempered over trifles?

VETA. You just try living with those two and see how your temper holds up.

SANDERSON. Loss of appetite?

VETA. No one could eat at a table with my brother and a big white rabbit. It's too much, Doctor. I just can't stand it.