

While I was scheming, I felt badly about Barbara, for she was one of the few girls I ever really felt close to. But I had to get rid of her because she would never have stood for my plan to swindle Peggy.

One night, I awakened from a sound sleep to find her missing.

MISSING
DALLAS

Beating of Barb
Dorothy in 1900

"Barbara, where are you? Barbara! Are you in the bathroom?"

No answer. I waited anxiously, with the lights out, until about three-thirty in the morning when a taxi drove up. Barbara tiptoed silently into the house and slipped smoothly into bed. I waited silently for about 30 seconds. Then I said: "Why are you being so careful?"

Being completely certain that she'd carried her entrance off, she was startled when she realized she'd been found out.

"Oh, my God, you certainly scared me!"

"Why are you being so careful?"

"I didn't want to wake you up."

"Where have you been?"

"I went to get my ring."

"Your ring?"

"Yes, my ring."

While I was worrying over how I would get rid of Barbara she had provided the perfect excuse.

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bara, she had provided the perfect excuse.

"Now, let's start all over again, Barbara. Where have you been?"

"I told you. I went to get my ring."

"Where was your ring?"

"A guy was holding it for me."

"A guy was holding your ring and you went to get it? Would you like to tell me why he was holding your ring?"

"Okay! Earlier tonight, I needed \$10 to send my mother a flowergram for her birthday. I didn't have the money, so I pawned my ring to this guy who works at the dance hall. He gave me his address, and said that when I got the \$10 I could pick up the ring any time after midnight. Around twelve-thirty, you were sleeping. So I called a cab and went

to his house to pick up the ring."

"I see. Did you get the ring?"

"Yes, I got it."

"Did you get screwed, too?"

"Why do you ask that?"

"I think I have a goddamn good reason to be asking that! Did you get screwed, too?"

"No, I didn't."

"You're a goddamn liar. Come here a minute."

I pulled her over to me, and put my hand between her legs. She was damp.

"Now, you're going to lay there, when you're wet all over, and tell me he didn't screw you?"

"All right! I did give him a tumble. I had to. He told me he wouldn't give it back unless I went to bed with him. I wanted the ring because it means an awful lot to me. He doesn't mean anything to me. It was just a matter of laying

Tells Barb Sr
wasn't
par

...didn't mean anything to me. It was just a matter of laying
on my back for ten minutes while he screwed me. When he
put it in, I hardly felt it. I got no enjoyment out of it, but
I've got my ring back. Is ten minutes such a big thing?"

"Is it such a big thing? Why, you big goddamn stupid
son-of-a-bitch! You're living with me, and telling me you
love me! I'm taking care of your daughter, and trying to be
the best man on earth! And you go out and get screwed, and
then have the gall to say, 'Is ten minutes such a big thing?'"

"I'll tell you something right now, Barbara. In the morn-
ing, when you get up, you can pack your things and the
child's. Call up your mother, and tell her you're on your
way back to Denver."

I was talking loudly and roughing her up, but I really
didn't want to hurt her. We'd been close, and I had enjoyed

OK
TO
Denver
he is on her

her baby. I was mad, but in control.