

A: NELLY, MARY

[Mary is Nelly's elderly mother; they live together. Nelly runs the grain mill, which she inherited from her father.]

MARY: I know, I know, I know, I know, don't hit me; don't hit me, baby.

NELLY: What do you mean telling people a tale like that. You know I bought that mill.

MARY: You bought it, baby; I know you bought it.

NELLY: Well, they said in town, you told I'd killed dad to get it.

MARY: I said he died mysteriously.

NELLY: He died of old age, he was ninety-six for God's sakes.

MARY: He died mysteriously!

NELLY: In his sleep like you will; died of old age like you will. What in hell do you mean telling something like that?

MARY: I didn't mean to baby. I don't mean to--

NELLY: --You're as batty as a goddamned loon.

MARY: They don't like me is what it is. They know I watch them. They don't like me in town, I knew they didn't. I don't say those things. They tell things on me.

NELLY: You're crazy as hell is what it is; you're out of your goddamned mind is what it is.

MARY: Baby, don't talk like that. They tell fibs on me. They say--

NELLY: Showing them bruises and saying I beat you; when the hell did I even beat you? You know goddamned well how you get those bruises. You fall down! You bruise! You run into things! You're old. You bump things. Who the hell takes care of you and you telling lies on me like that, mama, what do you mean?

MARY: I don't mean to.

NELLY: They don't listen to you; to say things like that.

MARY: They don't listen to me, Nelly.

NELLY: It doesn't do you any good, they come right in and tell me.

MARY: Don't hurt me.

NELLY: I think you better go on up to your room!

MARY: No, don't lock the door.

NELLY: If I leave the house I'll lock the door or you'll wander out and get hurt. You'll fall down the stairs and tell I beat you.

MARY: I don't want to go up there; the evil town is all around me up there.

NELLY: Go upstairs mama.

MARY: It's painted on the windows--

NELLY: Well, pull the shades if you don't want to see them.

MARY: My skin, my whole body is just flaking away--this evil town!