

GEORGE. Yeah, yeah—wants the accounts payable... What's the matter with you?

BILLY. The money! The eight thousand! I—I—

GEORGE. What, Uncle Billy? What happened to it?

BILLY. I don't know! I was going to deposit it, and when I went to the bank—I didn't have it.

GEORGE. Eight thousand dollars, Uncle Billy, the bank examiner's in town and it's not our money—it belongs to the depositors!

BILLY. I'm so sorry, George, I just don't know what happened!

GEORGE. Well, the first place you look is in your coat pocket. I told you to put it there when you left.

BILLY. Oh, I'm no good to you George, I'm no good!

GEORGE. Let's go then, we have to retrace your steps—we'll leave no stone unturned!

(MUSIC: Transition music.)

JOSEPH. And as George and Billy went looking for the deposit, Potter had a meeting with the state bank examiner, a Miss Sadie Vance.

SADIE. The whole town's turned upside down with the Bailey boy's homecoming: Congressional Medal and all.

POTTER. I guess they do things like that.

SADIE. May I look at your paper?

POTTER. Go ahead.

(SFX: A newspaper opening, an envelope falling to the ground.)

SADIE. This is a deposit from Bailey.

POTTER. That old fool Billy Bailey gave me that newspaper.

SADIE. Well, you're going to deposit it for him, right? Potter?

POTTER. To think he would make such a foolish mistake. Look at how much it is.

(SFX: SADIE flipping through a pile of cash.)

SADIE. There's eight thousand dollars here.

POTTER. What a Christmas present—and he doesn't even know it!

SADIE. Just a minute here, Potter. I know you've been giving the Baileys a hard time far back as I can remember. Why?

SADIE

POTTER. I don't have to give answers to you. You're just a state examiner.

SADIE. Yes I am. But I am unimpressed by your buying off everyone in town. Oh! That's it. You could never buy the Baileys.

POTTER. What?!

SADIE. You heard what I said. The Baileys have always stood for something you always wanted and are so jealous of: They're honest.

POTTER. You're fired!

SADIE. You can't fire me. I'm state appointed. And, what's more, I am not going to turn my back. This is stealing from the Baileys. Something like this would certainly cause them to fold.

POTTER. Yes, and after twenty-five years... Finder's keepers, you know that. He gave me the money, it was his own fault. Besides, there's not a court in the county that would find me guilty.

SADIE. And we all know why.

POTTER. How's your family, Sadie?

SADIE. My family?

POTTER. I know how little state positions pay. What would you say to a little Christmas bonus?

SADIE. I want no part of this.

POTTER. That's not what I've heard.

SADIE. What are you insinuating, Potter?

POTTER. I will not be turned down.

SADIE. What do you want me to do?

POTTER. I want you to pay the Baileys a surprise visit. You'll see the records, they'll be short, you know the rest. At last, the Baileys will be where they belong: Down for good!

SADIE. I know just what to do.

(SFX: Door opens and shuts.)

(MUSIC: Transition / Underscore.)

GEORGE. And did you put the envelope in your pocket?

BILLY. Yeah... maybe...

GEORGE. Uncle Billy, we've got to find that money!

BILLY. I'm no good to you, George. I...

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