

HILDY
Mother!

MRS. BALDWIN
Don't you mother me! Playing cat-and-mouse with my poor boy! Keeping him looked up -- making us miss two trains -- and supposed to be married tomorrow!

HILDY
Mother, I can explain everything.
I'll go with you in five minutes and --

MRS. BALDWIN
You don't have to go with me at all!
Just give me my son's money and you can stay here forever as far as I'm concerned. Stay with that murderer you caught!

MRS. BALDWIN
(continuing)
Which one of these men is it? They all look like murderers to me!

MURPHY
Where does she get that stuff?

SCHWARTZ
Shall we tell her what she looks like?

ENDICOTT
Wait a minute! What murderer did you catch, Hildy?

HILDY
I don't know what she's talking about.
I never said any such thing.

MRS. BALDWIN
I'm quoting my son, and he has never lied to me.

The reporters move toward Hildy and Mrs. Baldwin speaking simultaneously.

REPORTERS

I knew something stunk around here --
Who says she caught him --? What do
you mean she caught a murderer --?
etc.

HILDY

(desperately)

But I never said anything like that!

MRS. BALDWIN

Yes, you did!

MOLLIE

She never told her that!

Flanked by two policemen, Mrs. Baldwin, dishevelled, with
her hat over one ear, is marching toward the Press Room,
bound for vengeance. Bruce, considerably upset, is with her.
As they reach the door to the Press Room, Mrs. Baldwin stops.

MRS. BALDWIN

You wait outside, Bruce.

BRUCE

But, mother --

MRS. BALDWIN

(firmly)

No! You'll weaken when you see that
little Jezebel! I'm going to tell
her what I think of her!

She plumps her hat down more firmly on her head and marches
into the Press Room followed by the two policemen. Bruce
remains outside the door.

Taking in door as it opens and Mrs. Baldwin, followed by the
policemen, comes in.

HILDY

(leaping forward)

Mother!

MRS. BALDWIN

(pointing out Burns
to the officers)

That man there!

HILDY
(hugging Mrs. Baldwin)
Mother! Oh, I'm so glad to see you!
Are you all right? Tell me.

Mrs. Baldwin indignantly shakes her off.

HARTMAN
What's the idea here?

POLICEMAN
This lady claims she was kidnapped.

HARTMAN
What?

MRS. BALDWIN
They dragged me all the way down the
stairs --

HARTMAN
Just a minute. Did -- did --
(points to Burns)
-- this man have anything to do with
it?

MRS. BALDWIN
He was the one in charge of
everything! He told them to kidnap
me!

BURNS
(amazed)
Are you referring to me, Madam?

MRS. BALDWIN
You know you did!

HARTMAN
What about this, Burns? Kidnapping,
eh?

BURNS
(round-eyed)
Oh, trying to frame me, eh! I never
saw this woman before in my life!

MRS. BALDWIN

Oh, what a thing to say! I was standing right here - after the girl jumped out of the window.

HARTMAN

Did you get the Mayor?

DEPUTY

He's coming over.

BURNS

(to Mrs. Baldwin)

Now, Madam -- be honest. If you were out joy-riding, drunk, and got into some scrape, why don't you admit it, instead of accusing innocent people?

MRS. BALDWIN

(beginning to doubt her senses)

You ruffian! How dare you say a thing like that?

HILDA

Please, Mother, he's just crazy!

MRS. BALDWIN

(to Sheriff)

I'll tell you something more. I'll tell you why they did it!

BURNS

(fidgeting)

Come on, Sheriff. We've got to get bail.

MRS. BALDWIN

(continuing crescendo)

I was in here -- and they had some kind of murderer in with them. They were hiding him!