

SIDE 1: NORMA & BOB

PERFECT ARRANGEMENT

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(BOB opens the closet and moves the coats aside. He pushes on the wall, which opens to an unseen room on the other side.)

BOB. Good night, girls.

MILLIE. G'night Bob. G'night, Jimmy.

(MILLIE exits to the kitchen.)

NORMA. *(Exiting to the hall.)* Oh, Bob, your briefcase is still in our bedroom.

BOB. Of course.

(To JIM.)

I'll be right over.

(JIM exits through the closet.)

What would I do without you, Mrs. Baxter?

NORMA. *(Returning.)* Well, you'd lose your briefcase, we know that for sure.

BOB. G'night, Norma.

NORMA. Bob. I didn't want to say anything in front of Jimmy, he overreacts so easily. And Millie, well, you know... I'm concerned, Bob.

BOB. There's no reason to be perturbed -

NORMA. When the Department first started rooting out Communists, it was only a few dozen very obvious sympathizers.

BOB. We have been careful. Over four years without incident.

NORMA. But circumstances have changed -

BOB. No. They haven't. And that's the sort of thinking that causes trouble. We know how to get around the system because we created it.

NORMA. The whole thing has blown up, Bob, McCarthy's made it his personal mission.

BOB. Nobody's taking Senator McCarthy seriously.

NORMA. The newspapers certainly are.

BOB. Newspapers don't set policy.

NORMA. You sure about that? Bob, if there's anything that leaves us vulnerable, then the four of us...we lose everything. Are you sure we're safe?

BOB. I'm sure.

NORMA. Then sleep well. I'll see you in the morning.

(NORMA exits to the kitchen, leaving BOB. He's not sure.)

(Lights fade.)