

THOMAS AND EUDORA

(The scene shifts to EUDORA's home. EUDORA enters.)

EUDORA. Peggy? Peggy!

(THOMAS enters.)

EUDORA *(cont'd)*. Peggy, where have you—

(She freezes when she sees THOMAS.)

THOMAS. Hello, ma'am.

EUDORA. What do you want? Where is my maid? Where is Reginald?

THOMAS. You know why I'm here?

EUDORA. I'm sure I have no idea.

THOMAS. No? Are you certain? You haven't been writing any letters, have you?

EUDORA. I have not, but I thank God that someone is.

THOMAS. Oh, so you know about it then? And where did you hear it?

EUDORA. Why don't you ask your wife?

THOMAS. My wife.

EUDORA. She sent them. She knows now.

THOMAS. Sent who? Knows what, ma'am?

EUDORA. Get out of here.

THOMAS. Did someone come to see you? What did you say to them?

EUDORA. Nothing I haven't said before. I am not afraid of you.

THOMAS. I don't need you to be afraid of me. I just need you to believe me when I tell you that if you don't shut your bloody mouth, I will shut it for you. You believe that, don't you?

EUDORA. You cannot hurt me.

THOMAS. Right. You think that after all you've suffered, you're immune now. But I can tell you—and I have had some experience with this—you are not. Whatever pain you've endured in the past, there is always room for more. *(Pause.)* But neither of us wants that. So you just keep your mad ideas to yourself, you hear me? Because that's all anyone thinks it is. Madness.

(THOMAS moves toward EUDORA, and she flinches back. He smiles, leans in and kisses her cheek.)

THOMAS *(cont'd)*. It's good to see you again, Eudora.

(THOMAS exits. EUDORA holds out a shaking hand to steady herself, then collapses, sobbing.)