

Harry Bunkin's Deal

by

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1.

Cast of Characters

SHELLY: 40 ' s

DUMAR: 40 ' s

FRANCES: 40 ' s

Place
Shelly & Frances home

Time
Afternoon

Setting: The play takes place inside the living room of Shelly and Frances' home. It is a large and studious home that is carefully built, designed and kept clean.

At Rise: The play opens up on Shelly and Dumar sitting opposite sides of a sofa. Shelly wears a white dress and occasionally uses a hand fan to cool down. Dumar is in a tailored dark navy suit and smokes from a pipe. When Frances enters he too wears a dark navy suit tailored made but a bit more up market.

DUMAR: Had you listened to me sooner, you would have scored.

SHELLY: That's not what you promised me.

DUMAR: I didn't promise you anything, I told you all about the risk involved.

SHELLY: You made it sound like there was no way for me to lose.

DUMAR: I was optimistic.

SHELLY: You were convincing.

DUMAR: You confuse optimism with fact. I gave you all the facts.

SHELLY: Why bother?

DUMAR: Because I care.

SHELLY: Care?! My husband and I lost our life savings.

DUMAR: I realize that Shelly.

SHELLY: Everything we saved, gone because I listened to you.

DUMAR: It's clear to me that no matter what I say you will hold this against me.

SHELLY: Of course! Of course i'll hold it against you, what do you expect?

DUMAR: I only wanted the best for you and Frances.

SHELLY: I wish you never told us anything about this investment.

DUMAR: You should have pulled out when I said.

SHELLY: I love how you keep trying to spin this back on me as if it's all my mistake, when I trusted you. I trusted you, Dumar! What will my husband and I live on now? Do you have any idea what you have done to us? Unless this was your plan all along...wasn't it? You wanted to see us destroyed. Maybe our destruction gives you some kind of secret pleasure...after all, my husband did buy your business out...I noticed the shift between the two of you and I should have trusted my own instinct...how stupid I have been! (beat) Thinking you wanted to grow our wealth...how much did you make from your investment? Seems to me that you did quite nicely...where was your advice to me when I needed it most? Oh I despise you! I want you out! Out of my home! Don't you ever come back here again! (beat) Dumar, I did such a terrible thing by not telling Frances...my husband has no idea what I had done...he is clueless of the investment...what am I going to do?

DUMAR: You mean to tell me that Frances does not know?

SHELLY: He doesn't know.

DUMAR: How is that even possible?

SHELLY: I kept it a secret.

DUMAR: Why would you do such a thing like that?

SHELLY: Because I thought he would be proud of me. All I kept thinking about is what you told me, how we could double if not triple our money...all I could see was the happiness in my husband's face, after I surprised him with the earnings...you swindled me.

DUMAR: Now Shelly, I refuse to be the scapegoat.

SHELLY: Then what are you really?

DUMAR: I am a close friend who brought you in on something very special and it was you, not me, YOU who made the decision to invest. In fact, as I recall it, I made you aware of the investment because I was already involved and was simply making conversation. You were the one who pressed me, asking me question after question, detail after detail...I had no intention of---I was only having a discussion with you and I was happy to leave it at that. But you wouldn't let it go Shelly, you pushed me to it.

SHELLY: You willfully took our money.

DUMAR: I did not! (composes himself) You practically begged me to take your money...in fact, I did all that I could to raise the risks and make you completely aware of what you were getting yourself into.

SHELLY: You told me it was a sure thing. Isn't that what you said?

DUMAR: I believe I said I was sure that things would work out in your favor but than I added, with no guarantees. Don't you remember?

SHELLY: If you were a real friend you never would have allowed me to invest.

DUMAR: This is getting frustrating for me Shelly, no doubt. I cannot---do you think that I traveled to your home in order to swindle you and make you and Frances poor? Why in God's name would I do such a thing as that?

SHELLY: Because Frances bought you out of a company that your father had built and it ate at your pride. You cannot sit there honestly and tell me that you did not have a cross thought over such business dealings.

DUMAR: Not for a moment.

SHELLY: I don't believe you.

DUMAR: You should.

SHELLY: Why should I?

DUMAR: Because your husband made me a rich man. The business was suffering, he bought me out at the most opportune time...he was the one who suffered the loss, not I. Didn't Frances take the fall?

SHELLY: Oh, I see...the truth! No wonder!

DUMAR: Shelly, your husband and I went over the accounts with a fine comb, there was no posturing, nothing of the sort. He explained to me how he would sell off the parts of the business making more money than the whole of what it was worth and according to him, he did quite well.

SHELLY: He most certainly did.

DUMAR: So you understand.

SHELLY: What?

DUMAR: That I never had the intention of hurting Frances when he bought me out. WE only grew the closer in friendship. We both made out quite handsomely on that deal.

SHELLY: Well, perhaps you have me there...but that doesn't change the fact that I lost a bundle of money on the investment you swore was a wise one.

(enter FRANCES)

FRANCES: Hello, hello, so nice to see you my dear friend.

(shaking DUMAR'S hand)

I thought it was Thursday you were coming for dinner, did I get the days wrong?

DUMAR: Uh, no, actually, there seems to be a serious matter.

FRANCES: Serious? What matter?

SHELLY: Sit down, dear.

FRANCES: I rather stand. What's this about?

SHELLY: Frances...Frances, dear...I...oh, I can't, I just can't tell you...

DUMAR: Uh...Frances...Shelly made an investment in a business that has gone under....she lost savings.

FRANCES: What business?

SHELLY: Dumar, you tell him.

DUMAR: Harry Bunkins started making gin and well he got busted with the law. The money invested has been confiscated.

FRANCES: What money Shelly?

SHELLY: Our savings.

FRANCES: All of our savings?

SHELLY: Yes.

FRANCES: Why would you invest in such an enterprise?

SHELLY: It was only supposed to be a month's turnover, that's what Dumar said and we would have doubled our initial investment.

FRANCES: Doubled?

DUMAR: That's correct. But what happened was the law came down on Bunkins and slapped him with all kinds of fines and he's flat out devastated.

FRANCES: Dumar...how much did you lose?

DUMAR: Me? Uh, I came out in time.

FRANCES: How so?

DUMAR: Well, I, I already made my money back, didn't feel it necessary to be greedy, I knew it was risky, which is what I told Shelly but the timing was off for her, had she invested when I did, she would have made out quite nicely.

FRANCES: This is quite a shock. Shelly, I'm so disappointed in you.

SHELLY: Please Frances...

FRANCES: Dumar, why wouldn't you have come to me about this first?

DUMAR: It just so happened that Shelly and I got to talking and one word led into another word, which led to her investment...I warned her of the dangers.

FRANCES: Of course you did, didn't you.

DUMAR: I most certainly did.

FRANCES: And despite all those dangers Shelly, you still refused to tell me?

SHELLY: I trusted Dumar.

FRANCES: What's for dinner?

SHELLY: Dinner? Oh, ah, Adelaide is making roasted chicken for us.

FRANCES: Will you join us this evening Dumar?

DUMAR: Well, uh, I imagine you and Shelly have some ironing out to do, I don't wish to impose--

FRANCES: There is nothing for us to iron out as you say.

DUMAR: Uh, I'm not so sure Shelly wishes for me to---

FRANCES: Shelly do you mind if Dumar joins us for dinner this evening?

SHELLY: Well, Frances...

FRANCES: Everything is out in the open, isn't it? There's nothing we can't discuss out in the open that hasn't already been discussed. Wouldn't you both agree?

SHELLY and DUMAR together on

SHELLY and DUMAR: YES.

FRANCES: So it's settled...

SHELLY: What's settled, dear?

FRANCES: That Dumar will join us for dinner and I will explain to both of you the truth of the Harry Bunkin's deal.

DUMAR: Truth? What truth?

FRANCES: The reason behind Harry Bunkin's arrest and the case that is being brought against you Dumar.

DUMAR: Case? Whatever do you mean?

FRANCES: Well, it's quite obvious isn't it? You clearly had ill intention.

DUMAR: Excuse me?

FRANCES: Dumar, Dumar, Dumar...let's stop playing possum.

DUMAR: I remain in the dark, what is going on here?

FRANCES: I've been all too aware.

SHELLY: Aware?

FRANCES: I've known all along about this venture with Harry Bunkins. The old drunkard fool told half the town inside of two hours. Do you think such news of Shelly's investment would have been kept secret for long? Luckily, I was able to remove our savings in time after I spoke with Mr. Bunkins.

DUMAR: You did what? HOW can this be?

FRANCES: I only just explained it to you.

DUMAR: You spoke with Harry Bunkins? You removed Shelly's investment?

FRANCES: Of course.

SHELLY: We have our money intact?

FRANCES: Always. Dumar, do you wish to continue playing along or should I drop the case on your head?

DUMAR: What is this business about a case? What case?

FRANCES: Very well. You have been in cahoots with Mr. Bunkins all along, he told me everything...now, I'm willing to drop the charges against you but I really must advise that you find yourself a good lawyer if you don't agree.

DUMAR: Agree to what?

FRANCES: Agree to paying Shelly back all the money she invested.

DUMAR: But you just said that you got it back.

FANCES: That's true. I did.

DUMAR: So, why do you need me to give her any money?

FRANCES: Ah, that's the rub, isn't it Dumar.

DUMAR: Do you mean to tell me that you are blackmailing me?

FRANCES: Blackmail?

DUMAR: That if I don't give Shelly the same amount on her original investment, that you will press charges on me?

FRANCES: That makes good sense.

DUMAR: That is preposterous!

FRANCES: You did say she would double her money and I intend to see things doubled, wouldn't you?

DUMAR: Ridiculous nonsense!

FRANCES: Before you start shouting in my home, which I advise you don't do, it's all quite simple. You really aren't in any position to get upset. It's obvious. You and Harry Bunkins are business partners who tried to extort my wife out of a substantial amount of money and were caught in the process. Harry remains in jail and is waiting to talk, unless you pay my wife the exact sum of her investment.

DUMAR: I'll do no such thing.

FRANCES: That's fine. I am sure Harry Bunkins doesn't mind throwing the book at you. There are witnesses all over town Dumar, you should have thought this through more carefully. I have all the evidence to convict you in the court of law Dumar.

DUMAR: If I pay, what will happen?

FRANCES: The charges brought against you will be dropped. Harry Bunkins will be a free man and so will you. Everything will be arranged with a simple phone call.

DUMAR: Agreed.

FRANCES: There.

SHELLY: Frances, is this the right thing to do? We have our money returned, we don't need---

FRANCES: Doubled. That word should ring a bell in everyone's ears. Doubled. Harry told me the entire scheme. Therefore, doubled is what will be received.

DUMAR: You are a shrewd business man, Frances.

FRANCES: And you are a snake.

DUMAR: You will have your money at once...sorry, I cannot stay for dinner.

DUMAR exits.

END OF PLAY