

Approved Harvey Monologues

Cab Driver: Oh, no. Listen, lady. I've been drivin' this route fifteen years. I've brought 'em out here to get that stuff and drove 'em back after they had it. It changes 'em. On the way out here they sit back and enjoy the ride. They talk to me. Sometimes we stop and watch the sunsets and look at the birds flyin'. Sometimes we stop and watch the birds when there ain't no birds and look at the sunsets when it's rainin'. We have a swell time and I always get a big tip. But afterward—oh—oh— They crab, crab, crab. They yell at me to watch the lights, watch the brakes, watch the intersections. They scream at me to hurry. They got no faith—in me or my buggy—yet it's the same cab—the same driver—and we're goin' back over the very same road. It's no fun—and no tips—Lady, after this, he'll be a perfectly normal human being and you know what bastards they are.

Elwood: I had just helped Ed Hickey into a taxi. Ed had been mixing his rye with his gin, and I felt he needed conveying. I started to walk down the street when I heard a voice saying: "Good evening, Mr. Dowd." I turned and there was this great white rabbit leaning against a lamp post. Well I thought nothing of that, because when you have lived in a town as long as I have lived in this one, you get used to the fact that everybody knows your name. Naturally, I went over to chat with him. He said to me: "Ed Hickey is a little spiffed this evening, or could I be mistaken?" Well, of course he was not mistaken. I think the world and all of Ed but he was spiffed. Well, anyway, we stood there and talked, and finally I said— "you have the advantage of me. You know my name and I don't know yours." Right back at me he said: "What name do you like?" Well, I didn't even have to think a minute: Harvey has always been my favorite name. So I said, "Harvey," and this is the interesting part of the whole thing. He said—"What a coincidence! My name happens to be Harvey."

Veta: Yes, Doctor... he's... this isn't easy for me, Doctor. I noticed it right away when Mother died, and Myrtle Mae and I came back home to live with Elwood. I could see that he... that he... Doctor, everything I say to you is confidential, isn't it? Doctor, I want Elwood committed out here permanently because I can't stand another day of that Harvey. Myrtle and I have to set a place at the table for Harvey. We have to move over on the sofa and make a place for Harvey. We have to answer the telephone when Elwood calls and asks to speak to Harvey. Then, at the party this afternoon—(overcome, she pauses for a moment.) We didn't know about Harvey until we came back here. Doctor, don't you think it would have been a little kinder of Mother to have written and told me about Harvey? Harvey is a rabbit, a big white rabbit, six feet high—or is it six feet and a half? Heaven knows that I ought to know. He's been around the house long enough. My brother's closest friend is this big white rabbit. He and Elwood go to every place together. Elwood buys theatre tickets, railroad tickets for both of them. As I told Myrtle May—if your uncle is so lonesome he had to bring something home—why couldn't he bring home something human? He has me, doesn't he? He has Myrtle Mae. (Leans forward.) Doctor, I'm going to tell you something I've never told anybody in the world before. (Take a deep breath.) Every once in a while, I see that big white rabbit myself. Now isn't that terrible? I've never even told Myrtle Mae. And what's more, he's every bit as big as Elwood says he is. But don't tell anybody I told you so.