

THE HOUSE IN THE WAY

written by

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READING selections for the character Ray

FADE IN:

TITLE CARD: 1962

READING VERSION NOTE: This scene occurs mid-script. A representative from the Department of Highways has already had separate discussions with Frank and Louise (husband and wife) in an attempt to acquire their home to clear the way for an interstate freeway project. Frank and Louise are both in the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

There is a knock at the front door, Frank opens the door. RAY, a neighbor stands at the door, Ray hands Frank an envelope.

RAY

I swear that mailman thinks you  
live at my house.

FRANK

Hey Ray, come on in. Want a beer?

RAY

No thanks.

FRANK

Did you take the offer?

Ashamed, Ray drops his head, and slowly nods.

FRANK (CONT'D)

That surprises me, especially  
after that statement you made at  
the public hearing. Tell Louise  
what you said.

Ray lets out a curt laugh. Looks toward Louise.

RAY

I said that the freeway is going  
to be like a tapeworm running  
through this neighborhood and  
then I said that the real  
parasites are- the freeway men  
and the real estate managers.

FRANK

So what could have possibly  
changed your mind?

RAY

Mildred.

FRANK

Mildred?

RAY

Yea, the widow that lives around  
the corner on X.

FRANK

Don't know her.

RAY

Anyway, her house isn't being  
purchased, she's going to be  
stuck with that monstrosity right  
across the street from her home.  
We're the lucky ones, we get to  
escape.

LOUISE

But they're gonna...

FRANK

Don't worry about this dear, I'll  
handle this.

LOUISE

This is my home too.

FRANK

Don't upset yourself.

Louise clearly frustrated moves toward the front door.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

LOUISE

Anywhere but here.

FRANK

And when will you be back?

LOUISE

Maybe never.

Louise slams the door behind her as she exits. Frank does not  
appear to be terribly concerned.

RAY

Whoa. Never knew Louise was such  
a hot head.

FRANK

She'll take a walk and calm down.

Frank opens the envelope and gives it a quick look.

RAY

What's the letter say?

FRANK

If you don't respond to this  
letter, an agent will be coming  
to see you.

Ray's uneasiness has "oops sorry" written all over him.