

*(There is a long silence. COLUMBO sighs deeply, surprised and disappointed. Finally, he picks up his desk phone)*

COLUMBO. Fred? Send a car around for Miss Hudson, will you? *(He hangs up. To SUSAN.)* You can go. *(Quickly, without looking back, she gets up and goes to the door.)* Miss Hudson— *(She stops and he crosses to her. His voice is controlled, quiet, but it hints of anger and frustration.)* I hope you know this is only the beginning. . . . In a way, I feel sorry for you. From now on I'm gonna do everything I can to break you down. Understand? Flemming made one mistake, and that's you. You're the weak link, Miss Hudson. Tonight you surprised me, you were strong. But there's always tomorrow. And the day after that. And the day after that. Sooner or later you're gonna come back here and talk to me. And until you do, you're gonna be followed, you're gonna be hounded, you're gonna be questioned. You can't call Doctor Flemming because I have his phone tapped; you can't meet with him because I'll know about it. So you're on your own, Miss Hudson. I'll get him through you—that's a promise. *(He stops talking; she has not turned to look at him once. Finally, realizing he has finished, she*