

MARACZEK

*(Dryly)*

Very impressive. You even managed to short change me.

*(GEORG ENTERS)*

GEORG

Mr. Maraczek...?

MARACZEK

Oh, Georg.

GEORG

What happened?

ARPAD

He shot himself accidentally. He was cleaning his gun.

MARACZEK

Arpad — will you please leave us alone?

*(ARPAD EXITS)*

GEORG

Are you in very much pain, Mr. Maraczek?

START

MARACZEK

The only place that doesn't hurt me is my left shoulder — where I shot myself.

GEORG

Is there anything I can do?

MARACZEK

First I've got to do something. Something very important. If I could stand up, you know what I'd do? I'd walk over and take you by the hand — and beg you to forgive me.

GEORG

I forgive you, Mr. Maraczek. Whatever happened — why ever it happened. I don't care.

MARACZEK

No. You can't let me off that easily. I did a terrible thing to you, and there's no excuse.

*(Changes his mind)*

Well — I guess there's *one* excuse: the jealousy of an old man.

GEORG

Jealousy?

MARACZEK

*(Ruefully)*

Poor Georg. Still in the dark. I guess you're the only man in the world who ever had an affair without knowing it.

GEORG

An affair?

MARACZEK

*(Calmly)*

You've been having an affair with my wife.

GEORG

*(Appalled)*

With your wife? With Mrs. Maraczek?

MARACZEK

I have all the facts.

GEORG

But it's not true!!

MARACZEK

I *know* it's not true. I know *now*. But last week — and two weeks ago — I didn't know.

GEORG

I can't believe it! Mrs. Maraczek and...? Did you really think — ?

MARACZEK

That's just the point. I *didn't* think.

GEORG

I can't get over it.

MARACZEK

Well — Georg — starting today — if you're willing — I'd like you to take over the shop.

GEORG

Of course I will. At least — keep the doors open — 'til you're well enough to come back.

MARACZEK

The key is on the table. Oh, and Georg... now that you're the boss, if you want to give yourself a raise...

GEORG

Well, I'll have a little talk with myself and if I don't ask for too much, I may grant it.

MARACZEK

The prefect executive! Now you better get going. You'll be very short-handed today. ~~Arpad tells me Miss Balash isn't coming in~~

END