

THE LIE

by Jean Blasiar

Copyright © August 2019 Jean Blasiar and Off The Wall Play
Publishers

<https://offthewallplays.com>

Caution: This script is provided for reading purposes only. Professionals and amateurs are hereby advised that it is subject to royalty. It is fully protected under the laws of the United States of America, the British Empire, including the Dominion of Canada, and all other countries of the Copyright Union. All rights, including but not limited to professional, amateur, film, radio, and all other media (including use on the worldwide web) and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved; and any unauthorized use of the material may subject the user to any and all applicable civil and criminal penalties. For any information about royalties or to apply for a performance license please click the following link:

<https://offthewallplays.com/royalties-and-licensing-of-plays-sold-by-off-the-wall-plays/>

THE LIE

MARVIN (late 40's) and MARILYN, Marvin's wife, (mid'40's) are alone in the living room of their home.

MARVIN

Marilyn, I have something to tell you.

(big sigh; takes his wife's hand)

I lied.

Marilyn stares at her husband.

MARILYN

Don't say that, Marvin.

MARVIN

I have to, Marilyn. They'll find out.

MARILYN

Marvin, do you know what you're saying? You'll go to prison.

I'll have to work. What about our retirement, my mother in

that nursing home? You can't tell the FBI that you lied.

MARVIN

You want me to lie about lying? They'll find out.

MARILYN

Not if you're clever. I didn't know. You fooled me.

MARVIN

You're easy. Not like the FBI. They'll probably come

for me soon, take me away in handcuffs.

MARILYN

I'll be here for you.

VOICE OFFSTAGE

(presumably Marilyn's subconscious)

What should I wear to that kind of thing?

MARVIN

I could pretend that I never participated willingly. It was coercion.

VOICE OFFSTAGE

Nothing revealing. Marvin's the one revealing. I'm innocent.

That's it. I'm a victim. Flat shoes. Oh, God!

(pauses; cringes)

Stop it! It's only one day.

MARVIN

They threatened you. I did it to save you.

VOICE OFFSTAGE

Not red. Blue. Yes, definitely blue. My new blue coat with the fur collar. NO! No fur. PETA will attack me. Remove the collar.

That's it. A plain blue coat. Very humbling.

MARVIN

Marilyn, are you listening to me? I'm about to be incarcerated.

Marilyn has been thinking about the problem and what she will wear.

MARILYN

I think, dear, that you are about to become a... saint! A saint for the innocent.

MARVIN

WHAT? I lied to the FBI. That's a felony. You can't lie to the FBI.

MARILYN

You didn't know, dear.

MARVIN

Didn't know what? I knew enough to lie.

MARILYN

You thought you were following orders from higher up.

MARVIN

You mean...?

Marvin thinks about that.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

The...?

MARILYN

Exactly. The ones who are never named. You're saving them.

And your wife. The highers-up...

(looks out at the audience)

The higher-ups? Anyway, those people will thank you with a big job in the administration.

MARVIN

Marilyn, if I tell the FBI that I was following orders from higher up, there won't be an administration. There'll be subpoenas all over the place. Everyone will go to jail. The government will shut down.

MARILYN

Then they won't have time for a little public servant who didn't know he was being martyred, will they. His head on the chopping block.

All that lovely hair.

(runs her fingers through Marvin's hair)

I don't think you should wear any of your red ties, Marvin.

I think you should wear gray, like your complexion. Your gray tie screams, *martyr!*

Marvin holds his head.

MARVIN

You aren't taking this seriously.

MARILYN

Oh, but I am, dear. Wear your gray suit and your gray tie and brown shoes. The media will hit on that. Brown shoes with a gray suit. Where is your wife when you need her sense of fashion?

MARVIN

Forget about what I should wear.

MARILYN

(screams at the horror of that statement)

Marvin! We're savants. We dress appropriately for every occasion. Remember what VOGUE said when they did that feature on me. The best dressed lady in Washington. I have an image to uphold no matter what you're accused of doing.

MARVIN

Even when I'm hauled off to prison, it's important what we're wearing?

MARILYN

Definitely when you're hauled off to prison. Maybe a chorus of BRING HIM HOME from Les Miz in the background. I'll call Simon.

Marvin grabs his wife before she can reach her cell phone. “

MARVIN

You will NOT call Simon. This is not a photo op.”

MARILYN

But, dear...