

## Radio Play: Fear Between Floors

Eli – Husband planning murder of wife with lover

Nancy – Eli's lover

**START**

*(MUSIC: NED plays surreal lullaby music for a short period of time. He fades the music out as ELI and NANCY's voice are heard.)*

ELI. You've got to settle down!

NANCY. But do you understand what you're suggesting?

ELI. I'm not suggesting it. I'm doing it! If we're ever going to be together it's the only way...

NANCY. But, Eli. It's murder. What if we get caught?

ELI. We won't get caught if you just do what I say.

NANCY. I don't know if I can...

RAY. I don't know how long I've been asleep but the voices wake me up. At first I'm not sure where I am or what's happening. But it's clear that I'm eavesdropping on a conversation that isn't meant for my ears. Did she say murder? It's so eerie. I sit here. Almost paralyzed.

ELI. Listen to me! Listen to me!

NANCY. Eli!

ELI. We've come too far Nancy. Everything's set in motion. If we stop now we'll be caught for sure.

NANCY. I didn't think it would really come to this. I thought it was just talk.

ELI. I'm going into the other room and getting us a drink. Now, you've got to settle down and start thinking clearly. This is going to happen, Nancy.

*(SOUND: Footsteps.)*

NANCY. No, Eli! Don't leave me alone.

*(SOUND: Footsteps departing.)*

RAY. The man's Mr. Whitney. The guy who hired me. The woman's Nancy Taylor from upstairs. What's got them so worked up? Murder? It's completely dark in the elevator now. I can see them through the crack but they can't see in.

*(SOUND: Footsteps.)*

ELI. Good. Drink it down. Here have another.

*(SOUND: Drink pouring.)*

Steady yourself, Nancy. Now, look. You love me don't you?

NANCY. Of course.

ELI. If I divorce Gillian, she'll get everything. We're living on her family's fortune. A divorce means I won't have anything to bring you.

NANCY. But, Eli, I don't need...

ELI. No! I've been planning this every day for the past year. Gillian dies in an attempted robbery. She leaves everything to me. The house, the money. It's all ours. Forever.

NANCY. But how can you live with this?

ELI. You know what kind of woman she is. She deserves this and more. Gillian's been making my life miserable. I've never been good enough for her. She treats me like I'm hired help.

NANCY. I can't be a part of a murder.

ELI. You are a part of it, Nancy. Do you have the gun?

NANCY. It's in my bedroom.

ELI. I told you to bring it.

NANCY. I can't even look at it.

ELI. I'll get it. You stay here.

*(SOUND: Footsteps.)*

I'll take the elevator up.

*(SOUND: Buzzing.)*

Something's wrong with the elevator. Oh, that senile old woman must have left the basement door open again. The elevator won't work if it's open. That's the third time this month... Never mind I'll take the stairs up.

*(SOUND: Footsteps. A door opening and closing.)*

*(NANCY cries.)*

**END**