

DONOVAN

Jinx, do you realize what all this could mean to us if this thing catches on?

JINX

No. What?

DONOVAN

The big time! The Chrysanthemum Parade! America's salute to her favorite holiday flower! The flower of royalty. Our Mum Queen! Listen, Jinx. In two years this thing could be bigger than the Rose Parade. And that means easy street for us, kid.

JINX

Us?

DONOVAN

You and me in the middle of this rotten Depression. And all we'll have to worry about is where to park our Duesenberg. I'll finally be able to get that crummy ex-wife off my back, live a little. What about you, kid?

JINX

Me?

DONOVAN

What are you going to do with all that lovely money? Find a nice fella somewhere and raise a bunch of kids?

JINX

Funny thing about nice fellas, Pat...

DONOVAN

Yeah?

The phone RINGS again.

JINX

Never mind. (answering) Chrysanthemum Committee. Yes, Coach Elliott. The banquet is next Tuesday. Oh, yes. The Chrysanthemum Queen will be there. The Committee will be announcing her name on Monday. Yes, well hubba-hubba to you, too.

DONOVAN

That reminds me, Jinx. What have I got scheduled for later this afternoon?

Jinx checks her datebook.

JINX

Mmm - just a photo session with the basketball teams and the Chrysanthemum Court.

DONOVAN

Cancel it.

He pulls a new tie out of a desk drawer and uses the back of a desk photo as a mirror.

JINX

Right, Chief. What's wrong? More problems?

DONOVAN

Nope. No problem at all. I happen to have a luncheon engagement this afternoon.

JINX

Oh. (pause) Anyone I know?

DONOVAN

Well, yes as a matter of fact! I am dining with Miss Lyla January.

JINX

Lyla January? Miss 'in the running for Chrysanthemum Queen' January?

DONOVAN

That's right. What do you think about this tie?

JINX

That's not very bright.

DONOVAN

You're right. I think the other one looks better with this suit.

JINX

Donovan, do you remember rule thirty-six, paragraph three?

DONOVAN

You're sure about this tie?

She picks up the official rules manual.

JINX

Rule thirty-six, paragraph three, and I quote: "Members of the Chrysanthemum Queen Judging Committee shall not socialize with nominees for Chrysanthemum Queen. Such fraternization shall be considered contrary to the best interest of fair play in the judging of Mum Queen and subject to severe disciplinary action." Severe disciplinary action! You could lose your JOB, Pat.

DONOVAN

I doubt that. Besides, this little flower might just be worth all that.

JINX

Worth saying goodbye to that Duesenberg and all those overdue alimony checks?

DONOVAN

You worry too much, Jinx. Besides, you now as well as I do that the President of the Chrysanthemum Carnival, Mr. Terrence Mitchell Thomas, has been "fraternizing" with Mum Queens for years.

JINX

And that's just the point! Suppose HE finds out that you're tinkering with his little private toys?

DONOVAN

Will you stop jabbering and help me with this tie?

Jinx helps unravel the mess he has made of it.

JINX

All right. Go ahead. I just hope you don't hang yourself.