

**BEN.** What is it, Dad? What happened?

**JOE.** I don't know.

**SARAH.** What happened, Dad? What is it?

**JOE.** I said I don't know.

**SARAH.** We heard the alarm go off.

**BEN.** Did you hear the alarm go off, Dad?

**JOE.** Certainly I heard it go off. That's why I'm down here.

(To **SARAH.**) Close your bathrobe.

(**SARAH** can never keep her robe tied. She closes it.)

**SARAH.** My God, it was really the alarm.

**BEN.** (*Points.*) The French door is open. Look!

**SARAH.** It's open, Dad. The French door. Look!

**JOE.** I can see it's open. Stop repeating everything.

(*The telephone rings.*)

**BEN.** It's the phone, Dad.

**SARAH.** Dad, it's the phone.

(*It rings again.*)

**JOE.** I can hear it. Close your bathrobe. Ben, answer the phone.

**SARAH.** Answer the phone, Ben.

**JOE.** I'm going to look outside.

**SARAH.** Suppose someone's out there?

**JOE.** That's why I'm looking. That's the whole point of it. Close your robe.

(*The phone rings again.*)

Answer that.

(**JOE** goes out to the portico, and **BEN** picks up the phone.)

**BEN.** (*Into the phone.*) Hello? ...Yes?

**SARAH.** Who is it?

**BEN.** The burglar alarm company.

**SARAH.** Daddy, it's the burglar alarm company.

**BEN.** *(Into the phone.)* Yes, we just heard it.

**SARAH.** Ben said we just heard it.

**JOE.** *(From out on the portico, yells.)* Close your bathrobe!

**BEN.** *(Into the phone.)* We found the living-room French door open. My father's checking now.

**SARAH.** What do they think?

**BEN.** *(Into the phone.)* What do you think?

**JOE.** *(Coming back into the room.)* I think someone tried to break in.

**BEN.** *(Into the phone.)* My father thinks someone tried to break in.

**JOE.** I found footprints in the snow.

**BEN.** *(Into the phone.)* He found footprints in the snow.

**SARAH.** My God, footprints in the snow.

**JOE.** Close your robe, you want to catch cold? Go to bed. Look at you shivering.

**SARAH.** I'm not cold. I'm scared. My God, someone tried to break in.

**JOE.** Stop using God's name in vain.

**SARAH.** It's not in vain. I'm really scared.

**BEN.** *(Into the phone.)* One second, please. *(To JOE.)* They want to know if they should send somebody.

**JOE.** No one got into the house.

**BEN.** How can you tell?

**JOE.** There's snow outside. There would be footprints on the rug.

**SARAH.** There *are* footprints. *(Points.)* Right there!

**JOE.** *Those are mine!* Wasn't I just in the snow?

**BEN.** Suppose he wore galoshes and left them outside?

**JOE.** What kind of a robber wears galoshes? No one got in. Tell them never mind. Everything's all right. I'm going to look around again.

*(He goes back out on the portico.)*