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Has Anybody Here Seen Roy?

by Diane Grant

SCENE ONE:

SETTING: The living room of an old house.

TIME: Early Thursday evening. Present.

AT RISE: The door opens and Jean enters, carrying two Starbucks coffees, laptop, and a bag.

JEAN

(calling)

I'm home.

(No response. She kicks off her shoes, puts the coffees, bag and laptop on a table. Opens up the laptop, takes a sip of one of the coffees, takes a scone from the bag and nibbles on it.)

Linda?

(Linda enters, wearing a bathrobe and fuzzy neon pink slippers.)

LINDA

I thought you were going to be home by eight.

JEAN

I had to work late. The java chip is mine.

LINDA

Where's the cinnamon spice?

JEAN

I thought you liked Mocha.

LINDA

Oh.

JEAN

You don't like Mocha?

LINDA

It's OK. Thanks.

JEAN

Do you know what I heard on the radio driving home? *Can't Get Enough Of Your Love*. Remember how he used to sing that for us?

(speaks in a man's voice)

"And now, for Jeannie and Tweenie, *Can't Get Enough Of Your Love*. Why did he call you Tweenie? To rhyme with Jeannie?"

LINDA

Jean, I've had a hard day and if you go on and on about Roy tonight, I'm going to slash my wrists.

JEAN

I do not go on and on.

(Linda picks up Jean's shoes and puts them neatly by the door.)

LINDA

Yes, you do. Do I go on and on about Teddy?

JEAN

Why would you? Teddy Watson was a jerk.

(She exits to her bedroom.)

LINDA

On and on and on.

JEAN

(calling)

Royal Smith was the love of my life.

LINDA

And on.

(Linda exits to the kitchen, leaving her coffee on the table. The doorbell rings.)

JEAN

(calling)

I'll get it.

(Jean opens the door. Anna Denver stands there. She's in very high heels and she's drunk. Linda enters, wiping her hands on a kitchen towel.)

I'm looking for Royal Smith?

ANNA

Royal Smith?

JEAN
(shocked)

Do you know him?

ANNA

I'm his wife!

JEAN

Shut up! Fantastic.
(She lurches forward and grasps Jean.)
Oh my God. This is so fabulous.
(suddenly)
Do you have a... I have to... the bathroom is...?

JEAN

Down the hall.
(Anna rushes off.)
To your right!

LINDA

What are you doing?
(She opens the front door and looks out.)
I don't see a car. How did she get here?

JEAN

I don't know. I just answered the door.

LINDA

What if she's not alone?

JEAN

Are you going to change? You look awful!

LINDA

You want me to change for a weird person you just let into this house?

JEAN

Linda, she knows Roy. I didn't know if he was alive or dead.

LINDA
Dead would have been good.

JEAN
You know you don't mean that.

LINDA
She's drunk!

JEAN
A little, maybe.

LINDA
She can hardly stand up!

JEAN
You are so judgmental. How does my hair look?

LINDA
It's fine.

JEAN
Tell me the truth.

LINDA
I always tell you the truth. Who is she? Where is she from? Why is she here?

JEAN
When she comes back, you can ask her. Imagine. She knows Roy!
(sniffs)
You're not cooking, are you?

LINDA
I'm making roast beef for sandwiches. Muriel and Jackie are coming over.

JEAN
When?

LINDA
Tomorrow night.

JEAN
Tomorrow's Saturday.

LINDA
If today's Friday, it is. Why?

I love them to bits but... Saturday!

JEAN

Do you have a date?

LINDA

No. Do you?

JEAN

No.

LINDA

(laughing)
I guess it's all right then.

JEAN

God, I hate Saturdays. What is she doing in there?

LINDA

It's a bathroom, Linda.

JEAN

(Linda starts down the hall.)

LINDA

I'm going to listen at the door.

JEAN

Why?

LINDA

She could be shooting up in there.

(We hear a toilet flush.)

JEAN

She's just flushed the evidence.

LINDA

Ha. Ha. You're wearing Mother's earrings to work?

JEAN

She wanted us to wear them, Linda.

LINDA

You'll lose them.

JEAN

This is so exciting.

LINDA

So is a car accident. I'm going to sort this out right now.

JEAN

Just be pleasant.

LINDA

I'm always pleasant.

(Anna enters, carrying her jacket. She's wearing an expensive dress and a flamboyant diamond necklace.)

ANNA

Oh, my God. That was so necessary... I just...

(She twirls her finger in the air.)

LINDA

(not pleasantly)

Who are you? Where are you from? And why are you here?

ANNA

I'm Anna Denver? From Long Beach.

JEAN

That's a beautiful necklace.

LINDA

It lights up the room, doesn't it?

JEAN

I'm Jean Smith. And this is my sister, Linda.

LINDA

How did you get here?

ANNA

I walked.

LINDA

You walked from Long Beach?

ANNA

No, I walked down the street from the *Liquid Kitty*. That's where they're having the party. For this play I'm in, *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*? Is Roy here?

LINDA

He hasn't been here for fourteen years.

ANNA

(upset)
Where is he?

JEAN

He went to Alaska.

LINDA

And we haven't heard from him since.

ANNA

OMG. That is so insanely bizarre.

(She lurches forward again, totters.)

I was hoping... whoops, I have to... if I could sit for a...

(She drops into a chair.)

That's better.

JEAN

Why are you looking for Roy?

ANNA

I thought he might know where Ron is.

JEAN

Ron?

ANNA

Ron Saunders. My fiancé.

JEAN

I'm sorry?

ANNA

I've left half a million messages on his cell phone. We like text every second of the day but he's like not getting back to me.

JEAN

Maybe, his battery died.

ANNA

Maybe he did. You know?

LINDA

Can I get you something? Bread, dry crackers?

JEAN

Linda.

(Anna sees Linda's coffee on the table, picks it up.)

ANNA

Cool. Does this belong to anybody?

LINDA

Well, yeah.

JEAN

Go ahead.

(takes the top off it, gives it to Anna.)

It'll make you feel better.

(Linda stares at Jean, appalled.)

You don't even like it.

(Anna sips.)

ANNA

Oooh, yummilicious.

JEAN

So my Roy knows your Ron.

ANNA

I think so.

LINDA

Why!?

ANNA

When we drove past your house, the porch light was on?

JEAN

It was.

ANNA

And I saw the address... 12123 Euclid... well, this is wild...

(She looks in her purse.)

... last Tuesday, I found this business card in the pocket of Ron's jacket!

(She gives Jean the card.)

JEAN

(reading)

Royal Smith, President, *Jubilee Music*, 12123 Euclid Street, Santa Monica, CA.

ANNA

Isn't that wild?

JEAN

Jubilee Music! That's our company!

ANNA

You're in the music business.

JEAN

We were. We were promoting our first CD. *Songs For The Woman I Love*.

LINDA

Eat your heart out, Harry Connick.

ANNA

Ron's a movie producer.

JEAN

What fun. I have a lot of clients who work in the industry.

ANNA

OMG. Would I like know somebody?

JEAN

Well, I don't have Tom Cruise. Or Brad Pitt. But it's always interesting. Today, one of my idiot clients...

LINDA

They're all idiot clients.

ANNA

What did he do?

JEAN

He brought in a gallon jar of pennies and told me to count them! As his financial manager, I can now say that a gallon of pennies is worth fifty-five dollars and eighty four cents. He makes five hundred and fifty six thousand dollars a year. Can you believe that?

ANNA

Maybe, you can work for us. We're making this indie. It's a comedy called *Extremely Dangerous Women*. I'm playing the lead.

JEAN

Where did he get the card from?

ANNA

I don't know. He's away a lot? He goes all over the country, searching for talent, looking at locations. All that...

(She twirls her finger in the air.)

...stuff.

JEAN

Did he go to Alaska?

LINDA

He could have picked it up anywhere.

JEAN

(to Linda)

Or he knows Roy.

ANNA

That's what I thought. Maybe I met him and I don't remember.

JEAN

Oh, you'd remember Royal Smith!

(Anna eats a scone)

ANNA

Mmm. Yummilicious. Do you mind just like talking about him?

(Linda snorts.)

JEAN

Not at all.

ANNA

When did you meet him?

JEAN

In the summer, sixteen years ago.

(Anna tucks her feet up and makes herself comfortable.)

ANNA

Cool. A summer romance.

JEAN

I was working at this phony fifties restaurant called *Daisy's Diner*. All we waitresses had these pushup bras and big hair...

(gestures and Anna laughs)

I made enormous tips because I so fast and I always, I mean always, smiled.

ANNA

Fun.

JEAN

It was. It was easy to smile because *Daisy's* was like a family.

(to Linda)

Wasn't it, Linny?

(to Anna)

That was important to us. Our Mother died when I was still in high school...

ANNA

Oh, I'm sorry...

JEAN

...and then my Dad met this creature named Marie and moved to Lake Placid.

LINDA

Family history. Part one.

ANNA

Did Roy work at *Daisy's*?

JEAN

He was a customer! One day, August the eighth to be exact, he came in at noon. Twelve twenty one actually. I don't know why but I remember looking at my watch. When he came across the parking lot, I swear to God, I couldn't breathe.

LINDA
OK.
(She starts out.)

JEAN
Where are you going?

LINDA
To make myself a cup of coffee.
(She exits.)

JEAN
Linda works for the DMV.

ANNA
Wow.

JEAN
She's a little tense sometimes but she's not only my sister, she's my best friend.

ANNA
That's so precious.

JEAN
I really miss Roy. She gets tired of hearing about him.

ANNA
I love it. What did he look like?

JEAN
He was tall and hard and lean and he kind of loped.

ANNA
Loped.

JEAN
Loped.
(She demonstrates and Anna laughs.)

When he came into the diner, I felt as if he was going to take me in his arms. His arms would fold around me and I'd be warm and safe forever. He didn't, of course. He ran his fingers through his hair and said, "How about a cup of coffee?" I can still hear it. "How about a cup of coffee?"

ANNA
He ran his fingers through his hair?

Always.

JEAN

(laughing)

ANNA

Ron does that.

JEAN

When did you meet him?

ANNA

Three years ago.

JEAN

Where?

ANNA

He was singing at a party in Long Beach. I mean like out of nowhere we catch eyes and I feel like we've been together forever. You know?

JEAN

He's a singer?

ANNA

His voice like turns me to butter.

JEAN

My Roy's a singer! He was the assistant choirmaster at St. Stephen's Episcopalian. Well, for a while. He and Father Peter had a falling out over a Bach cantata and he quit.

(sighs)

I used to love to watch him in the choir loft, with his flaming red hair...

ANNA

(startled)

Ron has red hair.

JEAN

Really?

ANNA

Does he have blue eyes?

JEAN

Yes. They're a piercing blue.

ANNA
... Ron has blue eyes. Intense.

JEAN
Does he have a dimple in his chin?

ANNA
Right here.

(She points to her chin.)

JEAN
He doesn't.

ANNA
He does. And he lopes.

JEAN
Does he always clear his throat before he sings the first note?

ANNA
Uh huh.
(They both clear their throats, a reflex action.)
It couldn't be.

JEAN
No, it couldn't.

ANNA
His wife is like dead!

JEAN
Oh.

(Linda enters, carrying a bowl.)

LINDA
(to Anna)
Nuts?
(Anna takes some. To Jean)
Anything wrong?

I think I might be dead. JEAN

Can you still chew? LINDA

(Jean absent-mindedly takes some nuts.)

Could they be the same? ANNA

Same what? LINDA

Person. Roy and Ron. JEAN

No, no, no! The day he moved in with me, he told me all about that terrible car accident when his first wife died. He was so like miserable. He cried and cried. ANNA

Was he driving? LINDA

What? ANNA

Did you invest in the film company? LINDA

No. ANNA

Maybe not. LINDA

My parents did. They made like a huge investment. ANNA

They're the same. LINDA

My husband moved in with you!? JEAN

ANNA
Your husband?

LINDA
Jeannie, it's been fifteen years.

JEAN
Fourteen and what do numbers have to do with it? I don't care what he called himself. I'm still his wife, not some wannabe actress looking for a part in a movie!

ANNA
I'm sixteen points off getting my Equity card and I'm in a hugely successful run of *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*. I'm on every Saturday night.

JEAN
I know an opportunist when I meet one.

ANNA
I know when I meet someone way too old for him!

JEAN
(to Linda)
Did you hear that!?

LINDA
You let her in.

JEAN
Our marriage was perfect.

ANNA
He is into me. Totally!

JEAN
I made him the happiest man in the world!

ANNA
I still do!

LINDA
But he left both of you, didn't he?

ANNA
(to Jean)
He left you?

JEAN

(to Linda)
 You are so negative.
 (to Anna)
 He didn't leave me. He went away.

LINDA

Took off. Disappeared. Vanished. Departed. Left.

ANNA

When?

JEAN

The day after our second anniversary. I found a note on my pillow.

ANNA

What did it say?

JEAN

"Darling. I'm off to Alaska."

(Anna moans.)

I kept thinking he'd come back.

LINDA

His clothes are still hanging in the closet.

ANNA

I like think I'm going to hurl.

LINDA

Don't you dare!

JEAN

I don't know why he went. I did something wrong and I don't know what it was. We'd had such a heavenly night... He took me out to dinner, bought me truffles and roses.

ANNA

Don't say truffles.

JEAN

And roses...?

ANNA

(sighs)

I guess I haven't told you the whole truth.

LINDA

Surprise, surprise.

ANNA

Two weeks ago, I found a note my pillow. It said, "*Anna Banana*"... he called me Anna Banana... "*Anna Banana. I'm off to New Zealand.*"

JEAN

New Zealand.

ANNA

I can't sleep. I can't think. We had such high hopes. We were like looking for investors, you know? For the movie?

(looks in her purse and brings out a bunch of postcards. Hands one to Jean and one to Linda)

I'd just made all these fantabulous publicity postcards. I sent them all over the country.

LINDA

(whistles)

Wow! That's really...

(She waves the postcard as if it were hot.)

JEAN

Is that the same necklace?

ANNA

Yes. It really stands out, doesn't it?

LINDA

Specially when it's the only thing you're wearing.

ANNA

Give some to your friends. Guys like them.

(She puts more on the table.)

JEAN

Thank you.

LINDA

Why did he change his name?

JEAN

He's in the movie business, Linda. People do that all the time.

LINDA

Do they say their wives are dead?

JEAN

He didn't say that. He wouldn't have. He loved me!

ANNA

(to Jean)

Like I hate to say it but I think he did love you.

JEAN

Why?

ANNA

Because he kept this. It was in his jacket.

(reaches into her purse, hands a piece of paper to Jean)

I was like so jealous.

JEAN

(reading)

Can't Get Enough Of You. Forever and always. Tweenie.

ANNA

That was your nickname, wasn't it, to rhyme with Jeannie?

(Jean and Linda are dumbstruck.)

No? What does it mean?

LINDA

It means between seventeen and twenty. No longer a girl and not yet a woman.

JEAN

(to Linda)

You wrote love notes to my Roy?

LINDA

Uh huh.

JEAN

Why?

LINDA

He was my Roy, too.

BLACKOUT

END OF SCENE

SCENE TWO:

TIME: A week later.

SETTING: The living room of Teddy's house.

AT RISE: Teddy, in casual clothes, is eating a sandwich. His cell phone rings.

TEDDY

(He puts the sandwich back on its plate and answers it.)

Yello. Donny. What can I do for you?

(listens)

I'll bring dessert. From the restaurant. My pleasure.

(listens, there's a knock on the front door.)

Hang on.

(He opens the door and sees Linda.)

Yes?

LINDA

Teddy Watson?

TEDDY

Yup.

LINDA

I didn't think you'd answer the door.

TEDDY

I usually do. It's my house.

LINDA

I know. I looked up your address.

TEDDY

How did you do that?

LINDA
I work for the DMV.

TEDDY
I passed the smog test.

LINDA
I'm not here in an official capacity.

TEDDY
What can I do for you, sweetheart?
(into phone)
You still there?
(listens)
Beats me.

LINDA
I'm Linda Segert.

TEDDY
I don't think...

LINDA
...Jean Smith's sister?

TEDDY
Jean Smith?
(suddenly, shouting)
Son of a bitch!!
(into phone)
Call you back.
(hangs up)
You got me fired!

LINDA
I know.

TEDDY
My wife wasn't working! We'd just bought a new car!

LINDA
I know.

TEDDY
What the hell are you doing here?

I came to say I'm sorry. LINDA

You're a little late. TEDDY

Fourteen years. LINDA

(Teddy's cell phone rings.)

(picks up the phone) TEDDY

Yello.

(listens, then into phone)

No. No. I'm fine. I'm hanging up, George.

(He hangs up. Then, to Linda)

My kid, George.

You have twins, don't you? LINDA

Donny and George. TEDDY

(starts to cry) LINDA
Donny and George.

You're not going to cry, are you? TEDDY

(crying) LINDA

No.

Do you want a tissue? TEDDY

(fishing in her purse) LINDA

I have some. Thank you.

(blowing nose on tissue)

I used to wonder all the time about what had happened to you. This is a beautiful house.

TEDDY

Linda, I don't know what I'm supposed to do here.

LINDA

You don't have to do anything. I've said what I wanted to say and I can see that things turned out all right. I'll just go.

TEDDY

OK.

LINDA

Can we shake hands?
(They shake hands and Linda starts out.)

TEDDY

Linda?
(She turns back)
What happened to the baby?

LINDA

Um... There wasn't one.

TEDDY

No baby!?

LINDA

No.

TEDDY

You told the world you were going to have my baby!

LINDA

I just told my sister.

TEDDY

She told everybody!

LINDA

I had to tell her something!

TEDDY

I never came near you!

(Linda starts to cry again.)

LINDA

I feel so bad about that!

TEDDY

You weren't pregnant?

LINDA

Oh, I was. I had a miscarriage. At five months.

TEDDY

Aw, hell. I'm sorry.

(There is a loud knocking at the door, which is open. Chris Korbanksy enters in a rush. He's a big, good looking man with a friendly manner. He's wearing a baseball cap and khaki shorts.)

CHRIS

(to Teddy)

Are you all right?

TEDDY

Did Donny call you?

CHRIS

And George. They said you had trouble.

(sees Linda)

Hey!

TEDDY

Careful. She may be packing.

(Chris points a forefinger at Linda)

CHRIS

Linda! Right? *Daisy's Diner*. Last booth, right next to the door. You parked your pink Schwinn with the whitewall tires, came in and ordered chocolate sourdough French toast with a grilled banana.

TEDDY

How do you do that?

CHRIS

I never forget a face.

(to Linda)

You used to tell this guy all your troubles. Right?

I did.

LINDA

CHRIS
(suddenly)
Your stepmother cut off all your credit cards.

TEDDY
That's what you remember?

CHRIS
That's pretty good.

TEDDY
Here's what I remember! Her cockamamie sister told my boss I'd seduced a teenaged girl and I was out the door.

CHRIS
Best thing that ever happened to you.

TEDDY
What!?

LINDA
It was?

CHRIS
Absolutely.
(to Linda)
He got a job at *Bellini's*, worked his way up, and now he owns the joint. Cathy never doubted him for a moment.

LINDA
(to Teddy)
I'm so glad to hear that.
(to Chris)
It's Chris, isn't it?

CHRIS
Chris Korbansky. You're good, too.

LINDA
Every time you came in, you got a free meal and all the coffee you could drink.

CHRIS
I was a friend of the manager.

LINDA
You were a cop!

TEDDY
He's head of the Fraud Squad, now. Big shot.

LINDA
Is he still giving you free coffee?

CHRIS
Yep. It hasn't improved over the years either.

TEDDY
Hey!

CHRIS
I live right down the street.

LINDA
That's nice.

CHRIS
What brings you to the neighborhood?

TEDDY
She just dropped in, Chris.
(Chris sits.)
Make yourself comfortable.

CHRIS
Thanks. You putting on a pot?

LINDA
I was just leaving.

CHRIS
Stay for a cup.
(to Teddy)
Whaddya say? One!

TEDDY
Godammit, Chris. One!

CHRIS

Daisy's Diner. One of those girls hit you over the head with a tray.

TEDDY

It was a dangerous job.

CHRIS

You got any of those biscotti left?

(Teddy exits.)

Cathy died four years ago and he's still broken up about it. Heart attack.

LINDA

She was so young. I'm sorry.

CHRIS

My wife's gone, too.

LINDA

Heart?

CHRIS

No. She ran off with a Robbery-Homicide captain. What was your sister's name?

LINDA

Jean Smith.

(Teddy enters with a plate of biscotti.)

CHRIS

Jean. Cute little brunette. Big smile. Right?

TEDDY

Her husband was such a piece of work.

CHRIS

He was?

TEDDY

Really tall...

LINDA

Six foot, two, actually.

TEDDY

Yeah. And skinny.

CHRIS
You did!

TEDDY
He sounded so good, Chris.

CHRIS
How good?

TEDDY
Three thousand dollars.

CHRIS
Cheesh, Ted.

TEDDY
Cathy chewed me out for months.

CHRIS
Did I ever meet this guy?

TEDDY
He was never around when you were.

CHRIS
There was a reason for that, you dummy.

TEDDY
I'll get that coffee.
(He starts to exit. His cell phone rings.)
Yello.

(He exits.)

CHRIS
(looks at the postcard)
Photoshop is really something, isn't it?

LIGHTS DOWN

SCENE THREE:

TIME: Saturday evening.

SETTING: Jean and Linda's house.

AT RISE: The house is dark. Offstage, we hear a knocking at the door. The doorbell rings. Once. Twice.

MURIEL

(offstage, calling)

Jeannie! Linda! It's Laverne and Squiggy.

(They ring the doorbell again.)

JACKIE

(offstage)

Where are you?

MURIEL

(offstage)

The key's up there behind the light.

JACKIE

(offstage)

Where?

MURIEL

(offstage)

Right there. Oh, for heaven's sake. Get out of my way.

(Offstage, we hear the key in the lock and the door opens. Muriel and her husband, Jackie, enter and turn on the lights.)

Jean? Linda?

(Jackie takes the Saran wrap off a plate of cookies and puts them on the table.)

JACKIE

Maybe they're in the kitchen. Linda?

(Jackie exits. Jean enters from the bedroom. She's bedraggled and wearing the same clothes she wore in Scene One.)

JEAN

I didn't hear you come in.

MURIEL

What's wrong?

JEAN

Nothing. I've been sleeping.

MURIEL
In your clothes? What's the matter?

JEAN
Nothing's the matter, Muriel.

MURIEL
(calling)
Jackie. Jean's here.
(to Jean)
It's not acid reflux, is it? I wouldn't wish that on anybody.

JEAN
I've got a headache, that's all.

(Muriel searches in her big bag. Finds a basketball pump.)

MURIEL
Why on earth do I have a basketball pump in here?
(puts it back, finds the aspirin bottle, gives it at Jean)
Take two, they're small.
(calls to kitchen)
Jackie. Jean's here.
(about the aspirin)
Jackie'll get you a glass of water.
(calling)
Jackie. We need a glass of water.

JACKIE
(calling)
I'm making roast beef sandwiches.

MURIEL
(calling)
I'm calling you, Jackie. Jean's here.

(Jackie enters.)

JACKIE
Hello, Jeannie. Where are the dill pickles?

JEAN
I don't know.

JACKIE

We always have pickles with the beef.

MURIEL

She doesn't know, Jackie. Look for them. We need a glass of water. Jean's not feeling well.

JACKIE

It's not acid reflux, is it?

JEAN

No.

JACKIE

It does terrible things to teeth. Do you know that George Washington started losing his teeth when he was twenty?

MURIEL

She is not losing her teeth. She has a headache.

JACKIE

Do you know what his dentures were made of?

MURIEL

Wood.

JACKIE

Hippopotamus ivory and the tooth of a cow. Are you hungry?

MURIEL

I was.

JACKIE

Where's Linda?

JEAN

Out.

JACKIE

I'll make the salad, then. Do you have an avocado?

JEAN

I don't think so.

JACKIE

This is California, Jeannie. We gave the world the avocado. And the black bean.

MURIEL

The Mexicans gave us the black bean.

JACKIE

They were here first.

(He exits.)

MURIEL

Don't ask him anything. He's taking a course at Santa Monica College. *Revisionist History – The Stories We Tell Ourselves*. This month it's *George Washington, Man or Myth?* Now, of course, he knows more than God.

(Jackie enters, carrying the sandwiches. Jean falls on the sandwiches and eats hungrily.)

MURIEL

Did you get Jean's glass of water?

(Jackie exits.)

He's just wearing me out.

(She fishes into her purse.)

Wait! This'll cheer you up.

(She pulls out a straw hat, decorated in red, white and blue.)

Isn't it cute?

(She gives it to Jean who takes the hat but doesn't try it on. Puts it on the coffee table.)

JEAN

Uh huh.

MURIEL

It's for you. For July the 4th!

JEAN

Oh. Thanks.

MURIEL

We're getting together, aren't we?

JEAN

I guess so.

MURIEL

Wonderful. Jackie's making his Flag Cake with the cream cheese frosting.

(Jackie enters, carrying a glass of water, hands Jean the glass, gives Muriel the aspirins.)

Good.

(Muriel takes an aspirin.)

I've been living on these. I've put my back out twice in the last four months, and my right shoulder keeps me up all night long.

JACKIE

Your mouth's still working.

(Jean continues to eat. Jackie exits. Jean reaches for another sandwich.)

MURIEL

When did you eat last?

JEAN

Last night.

(Muriel picks up the postcard.)

MURIEL

Extremely Dangerous Women. Good Heavens! That's some....you really can't call it an outfit, can you?

JEAN

That's Anna Denver. She's playing in Hollywood in *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*. She's on every Saturday night.

MURIEL

A friend?

JEAN

I just met her.

MURIEL

Well.

(reading the postcard)

Produced by Ron Saunders.

(to Jean)

Who's he?

JEAN

Roy.

MURIEL

Excuse me?

JEAN

Ron is Roy. My Roy. Anna had an affair with him.

MURIEL

Oh, Jeannie, how upsetting for you.

JEAN

Why? Fourteen years is a long time ago.

MURIEL

Is he still with her?

JEAN

No.

MURIEL

Where is he?

JEAN

She doesn't know. She's trying to find him.

(Jackie enters, carrying a salad.)

JACKIE

Did you know that George Washington's business partner was burned at the stake by the Sanduksy Indians? Seventeen eighty-two. The Indians didn't like land speculators. Seemed to think they were being cheated out of their territory.

(to Jean, who is still eating)

Juicy, aren't they? I love rare roast beef. With pickles.

(Jean stops eating.)

JACKIE

When's Linda coming back?

JEAN

I kicked her out!

JACKIE

What?

JEAN

She left a note.

(Jean hands Muriel a note.)

MURIEL

(reading)

I'm sorry for everything. The roast is in the fridge.

JACKIE

Did she say where she was going?

JEAN

No.

JACKIE

She'll be with cousins Bob and Billy.

MURIEL

She wouldn't have bothered them, Jackie. Billy's very ill.

JACKIE

What's wrong?

MURIEL

He has a tumor growing behind his eyes. It's traveling from one ear across to the other.

JACKIE

Who told you that?

MURIEL

He did.

JACKIE

I don't think tumors travel from ear to ear.

MURIEL

It's his tumor.

JEAN

I don't care where she is and I don't want her back. I am never going to speak to her again.

MURIEL

Why?

JEAN

All these years and I never knew.

MURIEL
 What did she do?

JEAN
 (to Muriel)
 She seduced him!

JACKIE
 Who?

JEAN
 I missed it all. The giggling, the whispers, the frosty lipstick.

JACKIE
 Frosty lipstick?

MURIEL
 Don't be obtuse, Jackie.

JEAN
 He wanted everyone to be happy. It made him so vulnerable.

JACKIE
 (to Muriel)
 Do you know?

JEAN
 He sang for everybody – the Children's Hospital, the Senior Centers, the Lion's, the Elks, weddings, funerals – he could never say, "No."

JACKIE
 Roy!

JEAN
 She was always moaning about being lost and abandoned. Her Mother died. Well, my Mother died, too. Her Dad left. My Dad left, too.

JACKIE
 Linda!

JEAN
 When I think of what I did to Teddy, I could just die. They let him go, you know, and she never said a word.

JACKIE
 (suddenly understanding again)
 Roy and Linda!

Jackie!! MURIEL

You knew about them!? JEAN

Not first hand. JACKIE

Who told you? JEAN

Muriel. JACKIE

(to Jackie)
Oh, thank you. MURIEL

(to Muriel)
You knew? JEAN
(Muriel doesn't respond.)

When? JACKIE

She saw them together at St. Stephen's. MURIEL

When I was coaching the girl's basketball team. JEAN

Where? MURIEL

In the sanctuary. JEAN

Doing what?
(Jackie shrugs.) MURIEL

At first, I wasn't sure. It's so dark in there, isn't it? I mean there's just the light from the stained glass windows.

JEAN

Muriel, please.

MURIEL

One of those ditzy girls had tossed a basketball through the door. I was peering under the pews, looking for it, when I heard a great crash from the organ and then a lot of noise in the choir loft. Linda and Roy were up there.

JEAN

What kind of noise?

MURIEL

You know.

JEAN

I do not know.

MURIEL

They were... you know...

JACKIE

...having sex.

MURIEL

...and they were making a lot of noise.

JEAN

In the choir loft? Did they see you?

MURIEL

They wouldn't have seen the roof fall in.

JEAN

Did anybody else see them?

MURIEL

Just Father Peter.

JEAN

I can't stand it. Why didn't you tell me?

MURIEL

We didn't want to hurt either of you.

JACKIE

Father Peter said he'd take care of it.

JEAN
That's why Roy quit the choir!

MURIEL
He didn't quit. He was fired.

JEAN
He lived for that choir! She ruined his life!

JACKIE
Nonsense.

JEAN
That's so hideous. And everybody knew but me!

MURIEL
We didn't tell another living soul.

JACKIE
Not a one.

JEAN
How could she? How could she? How could she?

MURIEL
What did you think would happen with the three of you living in the same house?

JEAN
She's my little sister!

MURIEL
You knew how lost she was.

JACKIE
(affectionately)
She was a crazy kid.

JEAN
You're defending her?

MURIEL
She made a mistake but she loves you.

JEAN
She betrayed me!

MURIEL

You and Roy should have found a place of your own.

JEAN

We didn't have any money.

MURIEL

You had your trust money.

(Jean doesn't answer.)

Jean?

JEAN

I invested in the company.

MURIEL

Your trust money?

JEAN

We were building the business.

MURIEL

Oh, Jeannie.

JEAN

How dare you take her side!

JACKIE

We're not taking anyone's side.

JEAN

I'll never forgive her. Never! And I'm not so sure about you.

MURIEL

Fine.

(She starts to wrap up the cookies.)

There were two people in that choir loft.

JACKIE

One of them was only eighteen.

JEAN

You let yourselves in, you can let yourselves out.

(She exits. Offstage, a door slams.)

MURIEL
 What are we going to do?

JACKIE
 About what?

MURIEL
 He took her trust money!

JACKIE
 Muriel, she gave it to him.

MURIEL
 She was coerced! And it's all our fault.

JACKIE
 Ours!?

MURIEL
 We promised Olivia we'd take care of her girls.

JACKIE
 We did what we thought was right.

MURIEL
 And it was wrong! If we'd inter...

JACKIE
 ...fered?

MURIEL
 ...intervened fifteen years ago, we'd have known. We could have made him return that money!

JACKIE
 It's long gone, now.

MURIEL
 And now they're paying. It breaks my heart.
 (Jackie absent-mindedly eats the sandwich. Then, suddenly, Muriel picks up the postcard.)
 How do you feel about *The Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*?

JACKIE
 I've never given them much thought.
 (picks up the postcard and studies it)

Hmmmm. JACKIE (continued)

MURIEL
(taking the postcard)
Hmmm?

JACKIE
She's not a patch on you, dumpling.

MURIEL
Awww. Sweet lips.
(They kiss.)

JACKIE
Did you know that George Washington had a dog named *Sweet Lips*?
(Muriel pummels him. Jackie laughs.)
Muriel, you are one extremely dangerous woman.

MURIEL
Well, let's pack up. We've got things to do.

JACKIE
What?

MURIEL
We're going to Hollywood.

(Offstage, a door slams. Muriel and Jackie tiptoe out.)

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

TIME – Saturday night, the following week.

SETTING: The lobby of a ninety-nine seat theatre in Hollywood, CA.

AT RISE: IN BLACK, we hear applause. As the lights come up, Muriel and Jackie, carrying programs, enter. (Note: if there are extras available, they can also come out of the theatre and exit.)

MURIEL

Can you believe that? Both of them. They must have seen us.

JACKIE

Let's get out of here. There's going to be blood on the floor!

MURIEL

I'm not going anywhere until I talk to that girl. Weren't those seats uncomfortable? The back of mine hit me right across here.

(massages her back)

I've got that sharp pain again.

(Linda enters, delighted to see Muriel and Jackie.)

LINDA

(hugging them)

Oh, you guys! I thought I saw you.

MURIEL

Linda! What a lovely surprise.

JACKIE

Where are you staying, sweetheart?

LINDA

With Bob and Billy.

MURIEL

Good. You're safe and sound.

LINDA

Safe, maybe. Not sound. How is she?

JACKIE

Jean?

LINDA

She came with you, didn't she?

(Jean enters, carrying Anna's jacket.)

JEAN
(furious)
What are you all doing here?

LINDA
What are you doing here?

JEAN
I have a complimentary ticket from the star.

MURIEL
We came to see the play.

JEAN
You've never been to the theatre in your life!

JACKIE
I was in *Hello Out There*, once.

JEAN
(to Linda)
I knew you'd run to them, sobbing.
(to Muriel and Jackie)
Did she tell you my side of the story?

MURIEL
We didn't know she was here.

LINDA
I'm on a date.

JEAN
Do I care?

LINDA
Didn't you see him?

JEAN
It was dark in there. All I could see was the back of your head!

LINDA
So, you looked.

JEAN
I didn't look. I saw.

I'm with Teddy Watson.

LINDA

Are you out of your mind?
(Linda nods.)
Why?

JEAN

He asked me out!

LINDA

He's old enough to be your father.
(Ted enters, having overheard.)

JEAN

Not quite.
(to Linda)
I had to walk across the stage to get to the john.
(to Jean)
Hello, Jean.

TEDDY

Hello.

JEAN

You haven't changed a bit.

TEDDY

(faintly, confused)
Thank you.

JEAN

Muriel Sinclair.

MURIEL

Ted Watson.

TEDDY

My husband, Jackie.

MURIEL

(shaking hands)
My pleasure.

JACKIE

MURIEL

(into the silence)

Well. What did you think of the play?

TEDDY

No intermission. That's unusual, isn't it?

JEAN

Everybody does that now.

MURIEL

I liked those harem pants. I have some but they make my hips look enormous.

JACKIE

George Washington had huge hips. Helped him to sit well on a horse.

(Anna enters, with red and blue and green spiked hair. She's wearing the necklace.)

ANNA

Oh, my God! People waiting for me? This is so fantabulous! Did you like the show?

JACKIE

We thought you were...

MURIEL

Magnificent!

ANNA

That is like insanely cool! Thank you!

(Jean gives her the jacket.)

OMG. I wondered where that was. Thank you.

MURIEL

Would you like to join us for a drink?

JEAN

What!?

ANNA

OMG. I'll be back in two minutes.

(She exits, leaving her jacket.)

JEAN

Oh, now I see. This is all about Roy, isn't it?

MURIEL
Well, not all. We just thought that...

JACKIE
We could help Anna...

JEAN
You could help Anna hunt him down! That's it, isn't it?
(to Linda)
How dare you? What did you tell them?

LINDA
Nothing.

JEAN
My husband is my business.
(Anna renters.)

ANNA
Whoo hoo. Let's party!
(Valerie enters, points at Anna.)

VALERIE
You! Freakazoid!

ANNA
What?

VALERIE
You've still got it on. Do you sleep in it?

ANNA
In what?

VALERIE
That's mine!

ANNA
What is?

VALERIE
Don't be funny. That necklace.

The necklace? ANNA

The one on your neck. VALERIE

Who are you? ANNA

I'm the person you stole that necklace from. VALERIE

This necklace was a gift. ANNA

Whoever gave it to you stole it from me. VALERIE

Are you crazy? ANNA

Take it off! VALERIE

Never! ANNA

OK. I'll take it off for you. VALERIE

(She advances on Anna, who clutches her throat.)

Get away. Get away. ANNA

(to Jackie) MURIEL

Do something.

Girls! Girls! JACKIE

Give it to me VALERIE
!

Back off!
ANNA

Now, now. Take it easy.
TEDDY

Thief!
VALERIE

Help!
ANNA

Liar! Crook!
VALERIE

(Valerie lunges at Anna.)

Watch the hair! Watch the hair!
ANNA

I'll tear it out!
VALERIE

(Valerie gets her hands on Anna's shoulders. Anna grabs Valerie. Working together, Jackie tackles Valerie from behind and Teddy grabs Anna. Muriel wraps her arms around Jackie and they pull Valerie, who suddenly relaxes. Anna lets go. They are both exhausted.)

You can let go, now.
VALERIE (continued)
(Muriel and Jackie release her.)

Phew.

My back is better.
MURIEL

It's a miracle.
JACKIE

JEAN
(taking out her cell phone)
I'll call the police.

TEDDY
We don't need the police.

VALERIE

No, you don't. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to....I've been out of my mind.

(starting to Anna again)

Can I just...?

ANNA

Back, back, back.

VALERIE

Does anybody have any water?

(Muriel takes a small bottle of water out of her purse and gives it to Valerie.)

MURIEL

Anybody else?

(Jackie raises his hand and she gives him one, takes pill bottles out of her purse, giddily.)

Prevacid? Zantac?

ANNA

Me too, please.

(Muriel gives her a bottle. They all drink. Muriel takes a pill with her water.)

VALERIE

I'm so beat. I drove all day long.

LINDA

From where?

VALERIE

Vegas.

ANNA

To see the play?

VALERIE

No!! Do you have a mind at all? I came to get that necklace back.

ANNA

She keeps saying that and it's like freaking me out.

TEDDY

Why do you think it's your necklace?

VALERIE

Because I know my inventory, that's why. And that is one of a kind.

JEAN

Do you have a business?

TEDDY

Were you robbed?

VALERIE

Damn straight. My store was.

LINDA

You have a store?

VALERIE

(nods)

Precious Jewels. Just off the strip. We were robbed. I don't know how it happened. The door was locked. The alarm didn't go off. We came in on a Monday morning and we were missing three ruby rings, a couple of jade bracelets, six Tahitian black pearl earrings, and that necklace. Yesterday, when I saw that stupid postcard, I thought I'd die.

LINDA

What postcard?

(Valerie pulls the *Extremely Dangerous Women* postcard from her purse.)

VALERIE

One of my customers gave it to me. He recognized the necklace.

ANNA

OMG. He's like a friend of my Dad's.

VALERIE

He's very rich.

ANNA

Duh! That's why we sent him the postcard.

VALERIE

Duh! We looked on the back of the postcard and then we looked online. There it was. "Understudy Anna Denver in *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*.

ANNA

(miffed)
I play every Saturday.

VALERIE

My husband was so upset when he saw that necklace. He wanted to drive to L.A. that very second and rip it off your neck.

(Anna clutches her neck and looks around.)

ANNA

Where is he?

VALERIE

I don't know.

TEDDY

He didn't come with you?

VALERIE

He was going to.

TEDDY

But he didn't.

VALERIE

No.

TEDDY

Why?

VALERIE

He had a rehearsal with his club act. He's my business partner but what he really likes to do is sing.

LINDA

He's a singer.

VALERIE

I call him my singing partner.

LINDA

Is he good?

VALERIE

He's not bad once he gets started. He has this hideous habit of clearing his throat every time he sings.

ANNA

Every time?

VALERIE

(laughing)

Yes. God knows I didn't marry him for his voice.

LINDA

You didn't?

VALERIE

We have the best sex I've ever had in my entire life.

(to Muriel and Jackie)

Oh, excuse me.

(her phone vibrates)

That's probably him, now. You can talk to him and he'll back me up.

(looks at her phone)

It is. It's a text.

(reads)

So, yeah.

JEAN

What did it say?

(Valerie hands her the phone. Jean reads it.)

Baby. I'm off to Canada.

MURIEL

Well.

JACKIE

(into the silence)

George Washington tried to take Canada. Sent a force up to Quebec with Benedict Arnold. Arnold took a bullet in the leg.

LINDA

(to Anna)

Looks like you've found your movie producer.

JEAN

You don't know that!

You're kidding me. LINDA

What's your husband's name? JEAN

Rick Savage. VALERIE

(Anna takes the necklace off, gives it a kiss.)

I'm going to miss you. ANNA

(She gives it to Valerie.)

You believe me? VALERIE

I think we all do. ANNA

I don't. JEAN

Jean! LINDA

He wouldn't steal. JEAN

He stole three thousand from me. TEDDY

My Roy is not a common criminal! JEAN

Who? VALERIE

Roy. JEAN

Or Ron. ANNA

VALERIE

(confused)
Who gave you the necklace?

ANNA

My fiancé, Ron. I think you like call him Rick.

VALERIE

Rick?

ANNA

Like Rick is Ron.

LINDA

And Roy.

TEDDY

He's Roy and Ron and I guess, Rick.

JEAN

You don't know that.

VALERIE

(suddenly)
Rick gave you that necklace!

ANNA

OMG. My parents are going to like kill me.

LINDA

He left her, too.

ANNA

Right after we sent out that postcard.

VALERIE

He left without the necklace?

ANNA

Sometimes, I do sleep in it. And I had this tricky little lock put on it.
(shows her)

See?

VALERIE

How do I do it? My first two were such bums. Rick charmed the customers, he kept the books. He adored me. I thought it was third time lucky.

JACKIE

More like three strikes and you're out.

VALERIE

Tell me about it.

LINDA

There's something else.

VALERIE

Great.

LINDA

Rick's name is Royal Smith. He's married to my sister.

JEAN

He could have bought that necklace from the thief!

VALERIE

And pigs can fly.

(to Jean)

So, yeah. We should have known but some fakes look better than the genuine article. Right?

(pointing to Jean's earrings)

I'll bet most people think those are diamonds.

JEAN

They are!

VALERIE

They look like CZ to me.

JEAN

What?

VALERIE

Cubic Zirconia.

JEAN

These are my Mother's diamond earrings!

VALERIE

May I look at them?

(Jean hesitates.)

It's all right. I'm a GIA certified gemologist. *The Gemological Institute of America.*

(She hands Jean her business card. Jean gives her the earrings. Valerie takes a grease pencil out of her purse.)

JEAN AND LINDA

(alarmed)

What are you doing!?

(Valerie marks the earrings with the pen. Jean gasps.)

VALERIE

Diamonds attract grease. CZ repels it.

(shows Jean the earrings.)

See? Not a mark. I'm sorry.

(gives her back the earrings)

Somebody played the old switcheroo on you.

LINDA

Oh, no.

(Jean covers her face, overcome. Linda goes to her.)

It's all right. They were just things.

JEAN

They were hers!

LINDA

It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter.

(Linda tries to comfort her.)

JEAN

Don't touch me.

(She exits, running. Muriel follows.)

MURIEL

Jean! Wait! Jean!

(Linda follows Jean, out, handing Anna's jacket to Muriel.)

LINDA

Jeannie! Jeannie!

(Teddy takes out his cell phone.)

TEDDY

Now we need the police. Linda, wait for me.

(He exits, on the phone.)

ANNA

Huh! Are we like still going out for a drink?

VALERIE

You're on, freakazoid. I could use one.

MURIEL

Count us in.

JACKIE

When I find that man, I'm going to crush him like a walnut.

END OF SCENE

SCENE TWO

SETTING: Jean and Linda's darkened living room. A plastic bag full of clothes is tied up at the edge of the sofa. There are bags and ties beside it. The place is littered with empty takeout food containers, a couple of boxes of Kleenex.

TIME: Three weeks later.

AT RISE: Jean's laptop is on the table, playing *A Song for the Woman I Love*. Jean sits on the sofa, wearing Linda's fuzzy neon pink slippers and a nightgown with a man's jacket over it. She sings along to the music, intermittently breaking down and crying.

ROY (singing, recorded)

This is a song for the woman I love
The only woman I'd ever known
This is a song for the woman I love
How I longed to make her my own.

When we walked on the beach in the moonlight
I gently took her soft hand.
Said, "I want to love you forever,"
And kissed her right there on the sand.

(A key turns in the front door. Linda enters and turns on the light. Jean shields her eyes.)

This is a song for the woman I love

The only woman I'll ever know
This is a song for the woman I love
And I'll never ever, never ever, never let her go.

LINDA

Is that Roy? Turn that junk off!
(She races across the room and turns the music off.)
What is wrong with you?
(Jean shrugs.)
Why are you sitting in the dark?

JEAN

Is there a law against it?

(Linda picks up a KFC container.)

LINDA

Popcorn chicken. We know why that recipe's a secret, don't we?

JEAN

You're the experts on secrets.

LINDA

Jeannie, I've been calling you for three weeks. I'm worried about you.

JEAN

How is Billy?

LINDA

He's in remission. They're on a cruise through the Panama Canal.

JEAN

That's nice.

LINDA

Would you like some coffee?

JEAN

Not really.

LINDA

Are those my slippers?

JEAN

Well, you weren't wearing them.

LINDA

Are those Roy's clothes?

JEAN

I'm giving them to Goodwill.

(She puts more clothes into the bag.)

LINDA

How come?

JEAN

I don't suppose he's coming back.

LINDA

You think?

JEAN

(indicates the jacket she's wearing)

Do you remember this jacket? He was wearing it the day we met. It was in the back of the closet.

(rubs her hands on the sleeves)

It's so soft. I'd forgotten about it.

(touches the lapel)

Look at this lapel. Some things really do go out of style, don't they?

LINDA

Take it off. Let's get rid of it.

JEAN

(holds the jacket tighter around her)

I tried so hard to hold on to him. That's why I studied accounting, did you know that? So he wouldn't think I was just another dumb blonde.

LINDA

You've never been a dumb blonde.

JEAN

I was dumb enough not to see what my own sister was up to.

LINDA

You married Roy and I had nobody! Mother was gone. Dad was gone.

JEAN

You had me.

LINDA

You didn't care if I lived or died.

JEAN

So, you went after him to spite me.

LINDA

No! Jeannie, I was stupid and monstrous and I made the worst mistake of my life. I didn't know how to tell you.

JEAN

I thought you always told the truth. You could have told the truth.

LINDA

I know that now. Telling you the truth was the best thing I've done in years. Do you know what I'm doing in the evenings now? At the rec center? Counseling teenaged girls who are pregnant. They come to me to talk and I actually know how to help them.

JEAN

That's very nice, I'm sure. Did he end it?

LINDA

I did.

JEAN

Why?

LINDA

Father Peter and I had a talk.

JEAN

About cheating with your sister's husband?

LINDA

About hurting the one I loved the most.

JEAN

Who?

LINDA

You. I just want to be friends again.

JEAN

And how are we going to manage that?

LINDA
I'm going to make some coffee.

(Linda exits. Teddy knocks and enters.)

TEDDY
Jean?

JEAN
I'm not dressed!

TEDDY
You look fine.

JEAN
I do not! What are you doing here?

TEDDY
Picking up Linda. We're going to Donny's for lunch.

JEAN
She's in the kitchen.

(Teddy's cell phone rings.)

TEDDY
(into phone)
Yello.
(listens, then into phone)
Korbansky? You're in the parade? Fantastic. Wouldn't miss it.
(to Jean)
Chris's in the parade. On the Fourth.
(into phone)
You're --

TEDDY (into phone, continued)
You're where? Were you tailing us?
(looking at Jean)
She still is. I don't know.
(Jean blows her nose.)
It might not be a good time. Uh huh.
(hangs up, to Jean)
That was Chris.

JEAN
That's nice.

TEDDY

(suddenly)

Jean, what are you doing on July the Fourth?

JEAN

The Fourth?

TEDDY

My village always has a great parade. We've got the biggest floats and the best marching bands in the county. And a barbeque at my place afterwards. Can you join us?

JEAN

Thanks all the same. I'm meeting friends.

TEDDY

Bring them, too. The more the merrier.

(A knock at the door. Chris pokes his head in.)

CHRIS

Anybody home?

(Chris enters.)

TEDDY

Where the hell were you hiding?

CHRIS

I was right behind you. Have you seen my dog?

TEDDY

Your dog died two years ago, Chris.

CHRIS

Why was I not informed? Nobody tells me anything. Jean!

JEAN

Hello.

CHRIS

It *is* you! I remember that beautiful hair.

JEAN

You do?

CHRIS

You were the best waitress *Daisy's Diner* ever had. Wasn't she, Ted?

TEDDY

Yep.

CHRIS

You had the big smile.

(Jean smiles.)

And that cute little walk.

(Linda enters.)

LINDA

Hi, Chris.

CHRIS

Do I smell coffee?

JEAN

Would you like a cup? It's fresh.

(Linda gasps. To Jean)

LINDA

It's fresh?

CHRIS

I sure would.

TEDDY

Come on, Chris. We've got to get to Donny's.

CHRIS

One!

JEAN

Cream and sugar?

CHRIS

You got it.

(Jean, doing the cute little walk, exits. Chris points at Teddy, meaning "See?")

It's fresh!?

LINDA

She hasn't changed a bit, has she?

CHRIS

(to Teddy)

Do I have time to get a couple of things from my bedroom?

LINDA

Yep.

TEDDY

(Linda exits.)

CHRIS

Do you think she remembers me?

TEDDY

Who could forget you?

(Jean enters and gives Chris a cup of coffee.)

CHRIS

Thanks.

(sips it)

Now, that's coffee.

JEAN

Linda made it. I make terrible coffee.

(Teddy's phone rings.)

TEDDY

(answers it, into phone)

Yello! We're on our way, Donny. Fifteen minutes.

(Chris holds up a finger.)

Make it twenty.

(Teddy hangs up.)

CHRIS

We just got here.

TEDDY

You just got here, Chris.

(calling)

Linda, I'll be in the car.

(Teddy exits.)

CHRIS

Are you coming to the parade?

JEAN

I'm busy but thanks for asking me.

CHRIS

Next time. Thanks for the coffee.

(He puts his cup down on the table and exits. Linda enters, carrying an armful of clothes.)

JEAN

You are so insensitive. How could you bring an absolute stranger over here without telling me first?

LINDA

It's my house, too. Remember?

JEAN

I look like Godzilla's dog.

LINDA

You look perfectly OK.

JEAN

How could you? All all things? The choir loft!

LINDA

Who told you?

JEAN

Muriel.

LINDA

Can you forgive me?

JEAN

You didn't mean a thing to Roy! He loved me. He married me. I am his wife.

LINDA

He married Valerie, too.

JEAN

He married me first!

LINDA

He said you were dead.

(starting out)

How much money did you put into *Jubilee Music*?

JEAN

None of your business. How could you let Teddy call the police? Talking to them was so humiliating and I felt so dirty and mean and stupid. I hope I never see another cop in my whole life.

LINDA

Will you come to the Fourth with us?

JEAN

Never!

LINDA

OK. Fine.

JEAN

Will you just go?

LINDA

Yep. Why don't you just sit here and brood? I'll turn out the light for you.

(She switches off the light and exits. Jean turns it back on. Linda reenters.)

Bob and Billy knew about the choir loft, too.

JEAN

Who told them?

LINDA

Father Peter.

(She turns off the light and exits. Jean turns the light back on, screams and kicks an armchair.)

JEAN

Ow!

(She limps to the sofa and starts to cry. Chris reenters and crosses to her.)

CHRIS

Are you all right?

JEAN

I hurt my foot.

CHRIS

Let me look at it.

(He takes off her slipper and looks at her foot.)

JEAN

Oooh. Oooh.

CHRIS

You're going to have a nice big bruise there.

JEAN

I know.

(starts to tear up)

He took my Mother's earrings and left me these...fakes. They were all we had left of her. He knew how much they meant to me.

CHRIS

Roy?

JEAN

He stole them. You know? He stole them.

(Chris sits beside her.)

CHRIS

There, there.

JEAN

When Linda lost the baby, I was so sad. And now to find out that it was Roy's, it's... confusing.

(She begins to sob.)

CHRIS

(holds her)

It is. It is. There, there.

JEAN

I never cry. Linda's the one who cries.

CHRIS

There, there, there.

(Jean stops crying.)

JEAN

I just want things to be the way they were. You know?

CHRIS

Are you OK now?

JEAN

Yes. Thank you.

(blows her nose)

I didn't even ask. Why did you come back?

CHRIS

I couldn't remember. Did I tell you I was in the parade?

JEAN

No.

CHRIS

It's going to be a blast. Will you come?

JEAN

I'd love to.

CHRIS

Sunset and Via. Near the judge's stand.

(Jean nods.)

One o'clock.

(Chris touches her face and exits. Jean looks for another Kleenex and puts her hands in the pockets of Roy's jacket. She pulls one hand out, holding a piece of paper. She opens up the paper and begins to read it. She reads it, again and again.)

BLACKOUT

SCENE THREE:

TIME: Two weeks later, the Fourth of July.

SETTING: The parade route, just out of sight of the judges' stand. We can hear the recorded commentary from the stand. The characters can see the stand with binoculars.

AT RISE: Crowd noises. Band music. A horse whinnying. Parade goes enter and set up their chairs to watch the parade. Officer Cunningham patrols. A man in a fez could walk through the audience, giving out candies, or a Citizen of the Year, or Miss Fourth, etc. could enter and go through the audience.

Linda and Teddy enter, carrying chairs. Teddy looks at his watch.

LINDA

It's one twenty-two. I can't see her anywhere.

TEDDY

She's just late.

LINDA

She's not coming.

TEDDY

She might.

LINDA

She said, "No." She meant, "No."

TEDDY

It's the Fourth. If she comes, she comes. Forget about her!

LINDA

She was still so upset about Roy.

TEDDY

For God's sake! Roy is gone. He's out there in the ether. I don't want to think about him.

LINDA

OK.

TEDDY

It's the Fourth. Let's have a good time!

Are we fighting? LINDA

No! TEDDY

It feels as if we are. LINDA

We are not fighting. TEDDY

Good. LINDA

You're just a little jumpy. TEDDY

National holidays make me nervous. LINDA

(seriously)
Linda, I want to tell you something. TEDDY

Before you do, I'd like to say something. LINDA

You first. TEDDY

I've been dumped on New Year's Eve, on Valentine's Day, Veteran's Day, and Halloween. Am I going to add July the Fourth? LINDA

You nut. For me, everyday is an *I Love Linda Day*. TEDDY

It is? LINDA

I feel alive again and every minute I spend with you is a joy. TEDDY

Will you say that again? LINDA

TEDDY

Every minute I spend with you is a joy.

LINDA

Me, too. Oh, me too.

(Teddy's phone rings.)

TEDDY

(He answers it.)

Yello.

(listens)

We haven't seen her. Uh huh. Of course, she will. You're irresistible, Chris. OK. See you later.

(Hangs up. His phone rings.)

What now?

(He answers it.)

Jorge.

(to Linda)

Jorge.

(into phone)

Your kids? Of course, they can. It's at the house after the parade. Bring them all. *Si. Muy Linda.* 'Bye.

(He hangs up and puts the phone in his pocket. To Linda)

Jorge.

LINDA

Your maitre d'?

TEDDY

He thinks you're very pretty. *Muy Linda.*

(Linda smiles. Teddy continues to look at her.)

LINDA

What?

TEDDY

Nothing. I just like to look at you.

LINDA

Oh.

TEDDY

When you laugh, the tip of your nose goes red.

(Linda laughs.)

I don't want to push you, sweetheart. Twelve years is a big difference and I don't know how you feel about that. When I'm ninety, you'll still be a blooming girl of seventy-eight.

LINDA

I wouldn't care if we were fifty years apart. I love you.

TEDDY

You do?

LINDA

Oh, I just blurted that out. It's too soon, isn't it?

TEDDY

Are you going to take it back?

LINDA

No.

TEDDY

Eres mi Linda, then?

LINDA

Yes. Oh, Teddy, after... you know who, I thought I'd never be able to trust any man ever again. But I trust you. Absolutely. You're...

TEDDY

Trustable.

LINDA

And kind and good...

TEDDY

And over the moon.

LINDA

Me, too.

TEDDY

We've both been alone too long.

(He moves to kiss her. The phone rings.)

LINDA

You're never alone!

TEDDY

(answering the phone)

Yello.

(listens)

Not yet, Chris. OK. 'Bye.

(He hangs up and presses a button on his phone.)

LINDA

What are you doing?

TEDDY

Turning off my phone.

(He kisses Linda. They look offstage.)

LINDA

There's Donny.

(Teddy waves and calls.)

TEDDY

Donny!

(to Linda)

Let's go say, "Hi."

(They kiss again, then exit, holding hands, leaving their chairs on the pavement.)

BAND MUSIC. Muriel and Jackie enter, carrying chairs. Muriel is carrying Anna's jacket.

JACKIE

(putting down the chairs)

Do you realize that without George Washington, there wouldn't be a parade?

MURIEL

Yes, I do, dear.

JACKIE

Did you know that he was one of the country's largest whiskey producers? Had his own distillery.

MURIEL

He's very young looking, you know.

JACKIE
Who?

MURIEL
Teddy.

JACKIE
(looking about)
Where's the judges' stand?

MURIEL
Is that Gail Darling?

JACKIE
I can't see a thing. If I were George Washington, I could see over everybody's head.
He was six feet, four.

MURIEL
Look! From Channel Eleven!
(calling)
Ms. Darling!
(to Jackie)
Pooh. She didn't see me.
(digs in her bag, comes up with sunscreen, puts some on)
I wish I'd known about sunscreen before I turned into a prune. It must be ninety degrees.
(gives it to Jackie)
Here, put some on.
(Jackie puts some on. Muriel takes binoculars out of her purse.)
I can just see it.

JACKIE
What?

MURIEL
The judges' stand. There's Linda. She's with him!
(Jackie takes the binoculars and looks.)

JACKIE
Where?

MURIEL
Over there! Is it love, do you think?

JACKIE
It must be something.

MURIEL

I hope they get married. I could use a good wedding.

(pointing)

You've got too much on your nose. Rub it in.

(Jackie rubs his nose.)

Here, let me.

(rubs his nose, stops and looks)

That's the Mayor!

JACKIE

Where?

MURIEL

With all the teeth!

(pointing)

Right there.

(calling)

Mr. Mayor!

(Muriel waves.)

He waved back!

(looks through the binoculars)

They're leaving!

JACKIE

Who?

MURIEL

Linda and Teddy!

(calling)

Linda! We're over here!

(to Jackie)

She didn't hear me. Go after them, Jackie.

JACKIE

What?

MURIEL

Tell them we're here.

(Jackie exits. Muriel looks through the binoculars. Calls)

They went around the corner. To your left!

(Valerie enters.)

VALERIE

(singing an improvised tune and waving a flag)

"I'm so happy to be here on this glorious day. Hello, Hello, Hello."
I've been looking all over for you.

MURIEL

(hugging her)

How was the flight?

VALERIE

You know. The plane goes up, it comes down. I think I got a cup of coffee but I'm not sure.

MURIEL

(to Valerie)

Are you coming to the party?

(Anna enters. She's heard. She's wearing an elaborate red, white and blue dress, a large red, white, and blue hat, and Jean's earrings. She's carrying a flag and a Fourth of July balloon.)

ANNA

OMG, yes!

MURIEL

Anna, you look...

(Words fail her.)

ANNA

(showing off her outfit)

Is it too much, do you think?

MURIEL

It's grand.

(She gives Anna her jacket back.)

ANNA

OMG, thank you. I wondered where that was. Some clown asked me if I was in the Parade.

(She takes out her phone and gives it to Muriel.)

Would you?

MURIEL

Smile.

(She takes a photo of Anna.)

ANNA

Now, you. Say “whisky.”

(Valerie and Muriel smile. Anne takes their photo. Teddy and Jackie enter.)

Say, “whisky.”

TEDDY AND JACKIE

Whisky.

(They smile and Anna takes their photo.)

MURIEL

Well, hello!

TEDDY

Hello. Hello, Anna. Are you in the parade?

ANNA

No.

(Linda enters.)

LINDA

I didn't expect you guys.

MURIEL

Jean invited us.

LINDA

Jean?

MURIEL

Jackie's made his Flag Cake with the cream cheese frosting. We'll pick it up and bring it to the party.

LINDA

To the party?

(to Anna)

Are those Mother's earrings?

ANNA

Jean gave them to me. They're like not really your Mother's anymore, are they? You don't mind, do you?

LINDA

No.

VALERIE

She's got the bling, bling.

ANNA

And the ding, ding, ding.

(They do a little dance step together, waving their flags.)

LINDA

You came in from Vegas?

VALERIE

Jean asked me.

LINDA

She did?

VALERIE

(to Teddy)

There's a case of beer frying in the car.

TEDDY

Terrific. We can put it in ice later.

LINDA

(faintly)

You're all coming to the party?

TEDDY

(taking Linda's hand)

The more the merrier. Right?

(Jean enters.)

JEAN

Right!

LINDA

Jean?

JEAN

(kisses Teddy on the cheek.)

You really are very nice, Teddy. I'm sorry for all the times I called you a jerk.

TEDDY

I didn't know you had.

JEAN

Uh huh. And I'm sorry I got you fired.

TEDDY

I heard it was the best thing that ever happened to me.

(smiles at Linda)

Well, almost the best.

LINDA

Did you know she was coming?

ANNA

Jean, this is so fabulous of you to invite me. The police came to "interview" my parents about Ron, so I thought I'd kind of stay away from the house for a while. Isn't it crazy, without him, I wouldn't have met all you wonderful people?

VALERIE

Come to think of it, without Rick, I'd never have found a really good business manager who, thank God, doesn't sing.

LINDA

What business manager?

VALERIE

Jean. She's flying back to Vegas with me to try and straighten things out.

LINDA

(to Jean)

All right. That's it. What is going on?

JEAN

Nothing.

LINDA

Will you stop teasing? Tell me, please. Why are you here?

JEAN

I wanted to give you something.

(Jean pulls the paper out of her pocket and gives it to Linda. Linda reads.)

This was in Roy's jacket pocket.

LINDA

(reading out loud)

"Reggie,

Please pick up a loaf of Wonder bread and a dozen eggs. Donna. Xoxo."

(to Jean)

His first wife!!!

MURIEL

Or his second!

VALERIE

Or third.

JACKIE

Who knows?

(Jean puts the paper back in her pocket.)

LINDA

OMG.

JEAN

Can you forgive me?

LINDA

For what?

JEAN

I should have taken better care of you.

LINDA

Will you ever forgive me?

JEAN

I already have.

(Linda puts her arm around her shoulder. Jean puts her arm around Linda's waist.)

LINDA AND JEAN

Sisters forever.

(Anna takes out her phone and takes their picture.)

ANNA

Now, like everybody.

(Everyone gathers around Anna, who holds out the phone.)

Say “whiskey.”

ALL

Whisky.

(Anna takes the photo.)

LINDA

(to Jean)

Is that my scarf?

(Offstage, Bob, the parade judge, taps the mike.)

BOB

(recorded)

Are we on?

JEAN

It's starting!

BOB

(Offstage, recorded)

We're on, Gail.

GAIL

(Offstage, recorded)

And we're off, Bob. Welcome to our Independence Day Parade. Happy Fourth of July, everybody!!

(Cheers, and applause.)

TEDDY

(to Jackie)

It's hard to believe we won the Revolutionary War, isn't it? The British were the most powerful nation in the world.

JACKIE

They thought it would be a cakewalk.

TEDDY

Some cake. Some walk.

BOB

(offstage, recorded)

Ladies and Gentleman. Raise your eyes to the sky as we kick off the day with the Village Park Skydivers!

(Everybody looks up. Muriel looks through the binoculars.)

VALERIE

It's every woman's dream. Men dropping from the sky!

MURIEL

He looks just like George Clooney.

(Muriel gives Valerie the binoculars.)

The one in front.

VALERIE

(looking through the binoculars)

How can you tell?

(She gives Muriel back the binoculars.)

BOB

(offstage, recorded)

Give it up for our spectacular Skydivers, everybody. Floating to the ground, safe and sound. Good work, boys and girls.

(Cheers and applause.)

TEDDY

(to Jean)

I couldn't find Chris. Did he come by?

JEAN

Who?

TEDDY

Chris, from *Daisy's*?

JEAN

(innocently)

Oh, Chris. That's right. He's in the parade, isn't he?

(Offstage, the crowd cheers.)

GAIL

(offstage, recorded)

Here we go again, folks. Get ready for a treat.

LINDA

Who's next?

TEDDY

(looking at his program)

Irene Ferguson. From Chula Vista.

(Offstage, a car horn toots.)

BOB

(Offstage, recorded)

Look at that classic nineteen seventy-five Cadillac Eldorado convertible, folks, from our own American Legion, with the Commander at the wheel. "Hi, Commander. That's one beautiful automobile."

(Applause and cheers. Teddy takes the binoculars.)

Lou's driving soprano Irene Ferguson from the Methodist Church of Chula Vista, folks. Pull her up here, Commander.

(Offstage, we hear a car slowly down and stopping)

TEDDY

You can't beat an old Caddy.

BOB (recorded)

Wait a sec. You sure don't look like Irene Ferguson. What's that, Gail?

GAIL

(offstage, recorded)

We have last minute change, Bob. Irene has the flu.

BOB

(offstage, recorded)

Hey, Irene. Drink lots of liquids and get plenty of bed rest. What do we do now, Gail?

ANNA

(calling)

I could sing it!

GAIL

(offstage, recorded)

Fear not, Bob. She's lent us her singing partner, Mr. Randy Stanton.

VALERIE
Her singing partner?

BOB
(offstage, recorded)
Come on up to the mike, Randy.

(Linda takes the binoculars. Looks.)

JEAN
What does he look like?

LINDA
I can't tell. He's got a beard and big sunglasses.

MURIEL
Let me see.
(Muriel takes the binoculars.)
There's something familiar about him.

JEAN
What?

MURIEL
That funny walk, I think. Something.

BOB
What are you going to sing for us, Randy? Ope, here it is, right in the program. *America, the Beautiful*. Who wrote that, Gail?

(Muriel adjusts the binoculars.)

MURIEL
Drat! How do you focus these things?

GAIL
(offstage, recorded)
I'm glad you asked me that, Bob. Katharine Lee Bates wrote the original version in eighteen ninety-three. Boy, she really worked on that, Bob. She wrote a second version in nineteen oh four and a third version in nineteen thirteen.

JEAN
May I have them?
(Jean takes the binoculars, adjusts them and looks.)
It can't be!

VALERIE
What?

BOB
(offstage, recorded)
All that work really paid off, didn't it? It's one great song. Take it away, Randy.

(offstage, recorded, Roy clears his throat.)

JEAN AND LINDA AND MURIEL
It's Roy!

ANNA
It's Ron!

VALERIE
It's Rick!

ANNA
OMG! Where's my phone?
(She finds her phone and dials.)
Pops?!! He's back in California.
(listens)
Yes, sir. Ron! I will sir, yes, sir.

MURIEL
He's going to come right past us. We'll be able to reach out and touch him.

JACKIE
I'm going to reach out and paste him one.

ROY (recorded)
(offstage, clears his throat again and sings)
O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crowned thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!

God mend thine every flaw,
 Confirm thy soul in self-control,
 Thy liberty in law!

(Roy's singing is interspersed with the dialogue. Anna holds up the phone, pointing it toward the sound.)

ANNA

Listen!

JEAN

(to Jackie)

Give me your phone.

(Jackie gives her his phone. Jean dials 911.)

Come on, come on.

(into phone)

Yes, it's an emergency. Ma'am? I want you to arrest someone. He's in the Fourth of July parade! On the stage!

(holds phone up)

His name is Royal Smith. Can you hear him singing? He's a jewel thief and a bigamist! What do you mean, hold? He owes me sixty two thousand dollars!

LINDA

Sixty two thousand...?

(Linda stares at her, appalled. Chris enters, dressed as a clown.)

ANNA

Look! There's that clown.

(into phone)

Poppy? May I call you back? Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

JEAN

(waves the phone)

Fine. I'll arrest him myself!

(She starts to exit. Suddenly, the clown takes the phone from her.)

CHRIS

(to Jean)

I'm on it.

(Chris, into phone)

Who's this? Captain? Chris Korbansky. Fraud Squad. Get me the Watch Commander. I need someone to pick up an arrestee! Now!

(He exits, still on the phone.)

JEAN

(to Linda)
He's a cop!!?

(Linda shrugs.)

TEDDY

Go, Chris.

LINDA

(looking through the binoculars)
Run, Chris, run!

(Offstage, Roy finishes singing, followed by loud cheers and applause.)

BOB

Thank you, Randy. That's one hell of a voice. Give it up again, Ladies and Gentleman, for Chula Vista's own...Randy Stanton.

(Offstage, the crowd applauds and cheers. The car revs up.)

JACKIE

Go, Chris. Go!

MURIEL

Faster, faster.

VALERIE

He's not going to make it!

ANNA

Run, run!

ROY

Wait! Wait! Stop the car! I'm going to sing the third verse.

JACKIE

There's a third verse?

(Offstage, the car stops. Roy clears his throat and then sings.)

ROY (recorded)

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved

And mercy more than life!

TEDDY

(takes the binoculars)

Chris is at the stand.

ROY

Across the...

(offstage, speaking)

What the hell!?

CHRIS

(offstage)

Officer Cunningham! Officer Cunningham! To the judges stand. Now!

(Officer Cunningham exits, running. Offstage, there is a sound of a scuffle.)

Down on the ground. Put your hands where I can see them.

ROY

(offstage)

Get this man off me. I'm singing here.

MURIEL

(laughing)

Roy never did know when enough was enough.

(Offstage, the mikes squeak and bump and the sound of a scuffle.)

CHRIS

(offstage)

Officer Cunningham? Book him.

JEAN

(looking through the binoculars)

Got him!!

(Everybody in the party applauds and cheers.)

GAIL

(offstage, recorded, sound of mike being turned on)

Here we are again, folks. Let's get going. Help us out, people!

(singing with Bob)

"O beautiful for spacious skies,

For amber waves of grain...

BOB, GAIL, (recorded) JEAN, MURIEL,
JACKIE, LINDA, TEDDY, VALERIE AND
ANNA

For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

(Chris enters, dressed as a clown, stands beside Jean and sings. Anna encourages the audience to sing.)

ALL

America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crowned thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

CHRIS

Happy Fourth of July, Jeannie.

(Offstage, a police siren wails.)

JEAN

Good-bye, Roy.

TO BLACK

(IN BLACK, A POLICE SIREN continues, coming closer.)

THE END

Performance rights must be secured before production. For contact information, please see the *Has Anybody Here Seen Roy?* information page (click on your browser's Back button, or visit <http://proplay.ws/seenroy.html>)