

Act 2 Sc 3 – Mary Ellen and Janine

---

80

Act Two Scene 3

Time: Two weeks later. A Friday.

Place: The same.

*Lights up. Janine is in the diner alone. She is sitting having a coffee. She looks at her watch. Mary Ellen enters.*

Janine: Well, finally.

M.Ellen: Hi Janine.

Janine: Everybody's late today. It's almost five.

M.Ellen: I know. I had a lot of errands to run and I wanted to get an early jump on them but then Kyle came home and got an early jump on me.

Janine: Oh God, Mary Ellen. You've become awfully crude since this new and improved sex life began.

M.Ellen: I have, haven't I? It's actually rather liberating.

Janine: So, it's still going on?

M.Ellen: Like clockwork.

Janine: It's been over two weeks.

M.Ellen: I know. And there is no letup in sight.

Janine: And how do you feel about that?

M.Ellen: Janine, I'm quite enjoying it.

Janine: Are you?

M.Ellen: Oh my dear let me tell you. At first it was exhausting because I wasn't used to it. I wasn't in condition. It's like a marathon. You have to train for it. You can't just go out and start running willy nilly. But now that I'm in shape, well I can go the distance. And I'm not talking about a half marathon. No girl, we're going the full twenty-six miles every time out. And we're both losing weight too because we've skipped so many lunches. No, love, there is no down side to this.

Janine: Well, I'm glad to hear that. You sure seem rejuvenated.

M.Ellen: Oh, I am. I feel like a new woman.

Janine: Would you like a coffee?

M.Ellen: I'll get it. You stay put. You've probably had a long day and you're not nearly in the fine shape I'm in.

*(Mary Ellen goes behind the counter and pours herself a coffee.)*

Janine: It was a busier lunch crowd than usual today. They didn't clear out of here until about two.

M.Ellen: Well, it's the long weekend. I imagine a lot of folks are taking today off too to stretch it into four days.

Janine: Probably.

M.Ellen: And Johnny's leaving today. That's where Vi is. She drove him to the airport.

Janine: Does she know when she's leaving yet?

M.Ellen: If she does, she hasn't told me.

Janine: Things are really changing around here, aren't they?

M.Ellen: They sure are. It makes me sad, I won't lie to you. I mean, I have led an unspectacular life, Janine. In fact some would say my life has been mundane. And I would be one of those who said it. I've lived here all of my life. I married the first man I ever dated. We raised two boys, never traveled much. Well, we went to Chicago once to see the boys play in a hockey tournament. We spent two days in a hockey rink. We might as well have been in Pugwash for all the sights we saw. My job at the pre-school is nothing to write home about. It's a job that a million other women could do and I could be replaced in a day if I ever left. I'll bet you had dreams when you were a little girl, right? Dreams of becoming someone noteworthy. Someone that did something in this life? Well, I never had those dreams. I was told early on that my future was pretty much set in stone. Finish high school, find a man, have a family. And that's what I did. I didn't become someone noteworthy. Until I started coming here, with you and Vi and Rita. Here, with you three, I feel special. I'm someone. And I'm afraid of losing that.

Janine: You won't lose that, Mary Ellen. We're always going to be friends. And you're noteworthy on your own. You don't need us to make you feel that way.

M.Ellen: Thank you, love. But I do need you three to..Oh God, I'm going to start to get all weepy. You know me. Well, enough of that. I'll save my tears for a hard rain. That way they won't get noticed. So, what else is going on today?

Janine: Well, it's the doctor's last day.

M.Ellen: Oh my God. So it is. Have you seen him at all?

Janine: We had dinner together Wednesday night at The Cavalier.

M.Ellen: Yeah, I know you did.

Janine: Then why did you ask if I'd seen him.

M.Ellen: I was being polite. I didn't want you to think that everybody was talking about your business even though everybody is. So, how did that go?

Janine: It was fine. We had a nice conversation over dinner, went to Dugan's for a nightcap and then he walked me home. He didn't even try and kiss me goodnight.

M.Ellen: The worst date of your life.

Janine: No. It was the best. I like him, Mary Ellen. There's something about him. I like him a lot.

M.Ellen: Have you told him that?

Janine: No. You see the problem is, he likes me because he's on the rebound from his fiancée and now maybe I like him because I'm on the rebound from Bradley. That's way too much rebounding going on.

M.Ellen: Maybe you just like each other because you like each other.

Janine: It can't be that easy, can it?

M.Ellen: Sometimes it is.

Janine: Well, today's his last day so it doesn't really matter, does it?