

Act 2 Sc 2 – Four Women

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Janine: Oh cut it out!

(Mary Ellen, Janine and Rita laugh.)

M.Ellen: We were just telling Janine that she has our blessing where Sean is concerned.

Rita: Oh. Good.

Janine: You were in on the discussion too?

Rita: The three of us had a conference call last night. We were going to get together in person but Mary Ellen was tied up at home.

M.Ellen: Yes. That's another new wrinkle.

Janine: Well, thank you all for your concern but I'm just going to take it slow right now.

Rita: Suit yourself. You know what's best for you. We're only saying this because we care about you.

Janine: And I appreciate that.

Vi: Listen everybody. I...uh...I have something to tell you.

Rita: Well, that's a mood changer. It sounds serious.

Vi: Well, it is kind of serious, yes.

M.Ellen: Are you all right? It's not something medical, is it?

Vi: No, it's nothing like that. I'm fine.

Janine: What is it, Vi?

Vi: Well...Johnny applied for a lateral transfer a couple of weeks ago and it's been approved.

M.Ellen: Lateral transfer? What does that mean?

Vi: It means he's going to be moving to Thunder Bay and joining the police force there.

Rita: What?!

Janine: Oh, Vi. No.

Vi: He thinks his daughter really needs him right now. He thinks he can help her by being closer. So, he'll be moving there right away.

Rita: For how long?

Vi: Well, for...for as long as it takes I guess. I'm not sure. Everything is so up in the air, you know?

M.Ellen: I'm sorry to hear that, Vi. I know how much you love him.

Vi: Oh Mary Ellen, I love him like crazy. Like I've never loved any man.

M.Ellen: Oh baby.

(Mary Ellen hugs Vi.)

We'll get you through this. Don't you worry.

Rita: And now there'll be three of us without partners so you'll have lots of company. Janine, maybe you'll want to give those pajama parties some more thought.

Vi: I'm going with him.

M.Ellen: You're what?

Vi: I'm moving to Thunder Bay with him.

Janine: Vi, you're moving?

Vi: I am. We talked it over and he wants me to come with him. And my skills are transferable so I can set up shop anywhere. Hell, Thunder Bay is fifty times the population of Stewiacke. I'll be turning business away. So, as soon as I tie up loose ends here I'll be going out to join him. God, I can't even think straight there's so much to do.

M.Ellen: I can't believe you're moving.

Vi: I know.

Rita: Is that why he asked you to marry him?

Vi: No, that's not why.

- Rita: Oh, I think it is, Vi.
- Vi: No, he asked me before the transfer was even approved.
- Janine: Are you going to marry him after all?
- Vi: I don't know. Maybe. Probably. I can't say for sure.
- Rita: Well, I don't like it. I don't like you picking up and moving to Thunder Bay. Thunder Bay? Where the hell is Thunder Bay?
- M.Ellen: Up on Lake Superior.
- Rita: I know where Thunder Bay is! And I don't like it! Following a man like a little puppy dog. That's not like you, Vi. You're better than that. You're stronger than that.
- Vi: I'm not following him like a little puppy dog, Rita. I love him. I've shared my life with him for nine years. We're a team. And this is a decision we made together.
- Rita: Well, I don't like it!
- Janine: Would you rather she stayed here, alone?
- Rita: She wouldn't be alone. She's got us. You've got us, Vi. You wouldn't have to worry about being alone.
- Vi: I'm not worried about being alone. I'm worried about losing someone I love. You, of all people, should know why that scares me so much.
- Rita: But what about the three of us? You love us.
- Vi: I wouldn't lose you, Rita. Or Janine or Mary Ellen. We're best friends. You don't lose best friends because you move away. We'll always be best friends.
- Rita: Well, I still don't like it.
- Vi: Well, I don't like it either, okay? I don't like it one bit. But that's life sometimes. Sometimes life just pisses on your leg like a blind bulldog. Now, I have to go. I'm meeting Johnny. Anybody else coming?

(Nobody moves.)

We've only got a few of these Friday nights left, ladies. Mary Ellen?
Are you coming or are you going home?

M.Ellen: Oh, God, I'm not going home. I'm getting too much attention at home.

Vi: Janine?

Janine: Yeah, I'll be there as soon as I shut everything down here.

Vi: Rita?

Rita: No, I'm not coming.

Vi: Oh you are so.

Rita: I am not.

Vi: Rita?

Rita: All right, yes I am, but I'm not sitting anywhere near Johnny.

Vi: Oh, you will so.

Rita: All right I will, but I'm not talking to him.

Vi: Oh you will too.

Rita: All right I will. But that's all I'm doing. I'm going and I'm sitting near him and I'm talking to him, but that's it!

Vi: And you'll be friendly.

Rita: And I'll be friendly but that's where it ends.

Vi: We'll see you over there, Janine.

M.Ellen: Oh my God. I just thought of something.

Vi: What?

M.Ellen: My birthday wish won't come true this year.

(Vi, Mary Ellen and Rita exit. Light down. End Act Two Scene 2.)