

WILD GEESE  
By Maura Campbell

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Denise, a hairdresser, late 20s, she has breast cancer

Janice, a secretary, thirty, she chooses the wrong men

Barry, Denise's older brother and Denise's landlord

Jennifer, a massage therapist and a free spirit

Lannie, Denise's daughter, early twenties, played by the same actress who plays Lannie

## SETTING

A hair salon

## TIME

Early 1980s to 1990s

## NOTE:

This play can be filled out during the transitions between scenes by EXTRA CHARACTERS who would move in and out of this world, customers, friends of the main characters. The play works best when it combines the theatricality of the scripted scenes with improvised but relevant action between the scenes.

WHILE THE AUDIENCE ENTERS - HOUSE LIGHTS ARE UP...

Denise and a Client enter, the customer's hair in a towel- this is an improvised scene, very naturalistic, no projection, and normal levels.

Denise takes care of her client, she towels her hair, she combs it, she rolls it up - they talk, the laugh, and they tell stories. The lights go down.

SCENE 1, SUMMER 1980

JANICE

I'm sorry. May I use your phone? I'm trying to find my friends.

DENISE

I suppose-

JANICE

It's not long distance. I'm supposed to meet them at a bar and I thought it was Jack's but they're not there.

DENISE

The phone is next to the cash register.

JANICE

I need a book-

DENISE

Here.

JANICE

I tried them at work - from Jack's. Everyone was gone. Then I thought, maybe they said the Pub, so I went there.

DENISE

It's a popular place.

JANICE

"Hello? I'm looking for some friends, Bill Brownell, Andy Garner, Shelley Hathaway- What? I can't hear you... not Phil, Bill... He's wearing a red sweater... Yeah, Bill Brownell... okay... thanks."

JANICE (cont'd)

He's not there. Sorry. For barging in here. The pay phone is out of order. Out there.

DENISE

Bill Brownell. Insurance.

JANICE

Yes, he's my boss. That is, until today. He's moving. It was a little party- how do you know him?

DENISE

He sold me my policy.

JANICE

Oh. Then I probably typed up the contract. I'm his personal secretary.

DENISE

You're Janice Welborn.

JANICE

That's right.

DENISE

We went to high school together.

JANICE

I'm sorry I don't remember you.

DENISE

You were in my brother's class. Barry Wilson.

JANICE

Barry. I do remember him.

DENISE

Denise Lamberti.

JANICE

What a coincidence. How is Barry?

DENISE

Fine. He's a carpenter. Actually, now he's a contractor. Fixes up buildings and sells them. He's my landlord.

JANICE

You look a little like him.

DENISE

Really? I'm adopted. Just kidding. We do look alike. My brother had a crush on you.

JANICE

Barry? No.

DENISE

I swear to God. Do you want to try calling somewhere else?

JANICE

I can't believe I screwed this up. I left early to get my hair done. And my hairdresser - excuse me, stylist - went home sick. Never even called.

DENISE

What were you going to have done?

JANICE

Oh, a trim. I don't know. I was thinking about something new. My hair has always been long. I almost got one of those Dorothy Hamills. But, I don't know, I'm not... perky enough. There's this new girl at work, her hair is short and platinum blonde. Black eyebrows. I think she's a lesbian.

DENISE

What makes you think that?

JANICE

The way she carries herself. Dresses. She wears men's vests. I suppose the blonde black eyebrow thing is rather startling, maybe that's good for business in some way. Would you trim my hair?

DENISE

I was closing when you came in.

JANICE

Okay. It's late. Could I use your phone one more time? I left my car at Jack's. I'll need a taxi.

DENISE

Sure. Why don't I drop you off?

JANICE

Oh, I couldn't bother you.

DENISE

It's no bother. I go by there to get on the highway.

JANICE

Okay! Wow. You're really Barry's sister.

DENISE

I'm really Barry's sister.

JANICE

This is so nice of you. I'd- let me buy you a drink at Jack's for your trouble.

DENISE

Some other time.

JANICE

Okay!

SCENE 2, A FEW DAYS LATER

DENISE

"...Put her on the phone... I know she's upset, that's why I want to talk to her... Mother, I'm working, I have appointments, just put her on the... God, why do you get her worked up like that... Lannie! Hi, honey... stop crying... Daddy's probably very sorry... no, you don't... stop saying that... if something bad happened to him, how would you feel? Put Grandma back on the phone... stop crying... I'm sorry, I'm so sorry... Mother, I have to go... Around four... I'll pick something up... Maybe we can go to a movie... thank you... no, she doesn't... no, I won't... all right." Hi.

JANICE

Hi. I'm looking for Denise Lamberti.

DENISE

Hi, Janice.

JANICE

That's you? Wow. Your hair.

DENISE

It's a wig.

JANICE

I never would have recognized you. Wow. My God. You look like a completely different person... I like it. It suits you. But you have such great hair.

DENISE

It's just something fun.

JANICE

My mother wore wigs. It was kind of creepy. Not the wigs. The little stands she put them on. They had faces. Ew! I brought you this. Just a little something for your help. I realize it's a little late.

DENISE

It really isn't necessary.

JANICE

Go on. Open it. You're not going to believe it.

DENISE

I don't believe it.

JANICE

That's you, right? Welborn, Wentworth, Wilson. Barry and I practically marched together. That's me and my father in the receiving line. And I swear that's you.

DENISE

It's me.

JANICE

You just got in the picture.

DENISE

It's incredible.

JANICE

Well...

DENISE.

You are tiny! Do you eat?

DENISE

I'm kind of picky, I guess. My daughter's worse.

JANICE

Oh, is everything all right? I heard you on the phone.

DENISE

Nothing unusual. I have a rotten ex-husband. Promises to pick up Lannie and then doesn't show. We live with my mother.

JANICE

Yes, I know. That is, Barry told me. I have a confession to make. I called him. Can you believe it? Did he tell you? That night. I went into Jack's, got a little, you know, had a drink and I thought... Why not? I looked up his number when I got home and just called. Can you keep a secret? I told him I was on the reunion committee - we just had our tenth and I said we're already planning for the fifteenth, he probably didn't believe me, anyway. We talked for a long time. It was so great to hear his voice.

DENISE

He's married.

JANICE

I know. I just, we just talked, I guess his wife was out. He has two boys. I've embarrassed you. No. It's okay. I really came in here to thank you. And to make an appointment. I've decided to change hairdressers. Camille's is so impersonal. You know, to break an appointment like that and not call. God, I love that wig. Could I try it on? Wait- you know, I don't trust those pictures in the books, you know, the models? What if I tried on wigs?

(MORE)

Wouldn't that be a great way to figure out if a hairstyle is for you? Why don't more hairdressers do that?

DENISE

I have someone in fifteen minutes.

JANICE

Could I just try on one wig? Would you mind? And make an appointment. Sometime when you're not busy. Because I really want to make a change, it's just that I'm scared. I don't know what it is, whenever I see those scissors coming at me, I panic.

DENISE

Your hair looks great just like it is.

JANICE

But it's so old fashioned. That girl at work - the platinum blonde - she's been promoted. To administrative assistant. I mean, what the hell is that? Administrative assistant. And Sarah, she's in bookkeeping, Sarah says she got a fifty dollar a week raise. And I think it's the hair. I truly do. It's aggressive. It's - here I am - hair.

DENISE

You want to go platinum?

JANICE

God, I'd look like a freak.

DENISE

All right, sit down. Let's see what I can do with you. You wear too much make up for one thing.

JANICE

I do?

DENISE

You don't need it. You're beautiful. Great bones. You'll look forty when you're sixty.

JANICE

Ouch!

DENISE

What, you thought this was going to be painless? Let's try- this one. The color's all wrong, of course, but it gives you an idea how different you can look.

JANICE

God, that's awful. But it's- great, too.



JANICE (cont'd)

I look older. Don't I look older? I don't look anything like me. Can I buy this?

DENISE

Buy it?

JANICE

It would be too weird. Never mind. Where did you get these?

DENISE

I sort of collect them. I used to fool around with photography; I'd dress my friends up.

JANICE

What fun.

DENISE

I'm restyling a few of them for Damned Yankees.

JANICE

I love that musical! I mean, I've only ever seen it on television. Which one is Lola's?

DENISE

You're wearing it.

JANICE

This is going to be on the head of the actress playing Lola?

DENISE

Well, it's only Bridgett Eisler from Sanford's Supply. But she's got a great voice. Do you want to see her dress?

JANICE

You've got Lola's dress?

DENISE

I'm letting it out. The last Lola was a peanut. Isn't it fabulous? Try it on.

JANICE

What?

DENISE

You're about her size. I want to see how it looks.

JANICE

I can't just try it on.

DENISE

You'll be doing me a favor.

JANICE

Okay! You know, I think I was born in the wrong era. I love the clothes from the forties. Greta Garbo-

DENISE

It was the thirties, but okay.

JANICE

This is incredible. God, how I wish I could sing!

DENISE

What are you, a size eight?

JANICE

I am beautiful. Admit it!

DENISE

You're a knockout.

JANICE

*Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets-*

DENISE

Stand still, Lola, I'm checking the hem.

JANICE

Damned right, it looks good. Do you think I could borrow this outfit? If Bill had ever seen me in this, he never would have taken that job.

DENISE

Who's Bill?

JANICE

Oh, you know, my boss. Ex-boss. We were, you know, kind of involved.

DENISE

Walk over there... Now, turn around slowly... now spin.

JANICE

Do you think I could pull this off? The blonde hair.

DENISE

Never. Put your arms up over your head. Now turn around slowly again.

JANICE

Bill's wife was bleached.

DENISE

It was a heavy foil. Yeah, that looks pretty good. You're a little bigger in the bust than she is-

JANICE

What do you mean, a heavy foil?

DENISE

That's what it's called. You take these aluminum foil strips-

JANICE

Bill's wife came in here?

DENISE

Like I said, he was my insurance guy. She was pretty excited about the move.

JANICE

Can you unzip me?... Well, thank you.

DENISE

For what?

JANICE

The ride. Thanks again.

DENISE

Thanks for the picture.

JANICE

Mostly it's of me. It was- my graduation.

DENISE

Don't worry, I've got plenty where I'm the center of attraction.

JANICE

I'll call and make an appointment.

DENISE

I'll need that wig.

JANICE

Oh, for heaven's sake. That would have been funny. Can you imagine the looks? I'm going to think about cutting my hair. I mean, really cutting it. Not as short as Fawn's - she's the platinum lesbian - I mean, her name is Fawn, can you believe it? I think she must have made it up. Well, you've inspired me. When is Damned Yankees going up?

DENISE

This weekend.

JANICE

This weekend? Do you want to go? I mean, I could get tickets-

DENISE  
I'm backstage. I'm a dresser.

JANICE  
Oh. Okay. Well, maybe I'll call a friend. Maybe I'll see you there.

DENISE  
That would be great.

JANICE  
Okay! Bye!

JANICE(OFFSTAGE)(cont'd)  
God! Are you all right? Here, let me pick that up-

SCENE 3, A WEEK LATER

BARRY  
Sh!

JANICE  
What do you mean, sh? No one's here! God, that bartender.

BARRY  
He was an asshole. I hate those kinds of bars. All the waiters have bachelor degrees in fine arts. Where do they find these guys?

JANICE  
And that accent. "Oh, I spent six months in London and I can't seem to shake it." Give me a break.

BARRY  
He had a thing for you.

JANICE  
What are you talking about?

BARRY  
Can you blame him? What?

JANICE  
I can't believe you- he's gay.

BARRY  
What? No.

JANICE  
The earring? In his left ear?

BARRY  
He has an earring?

JANICE  
God, what planet are you from?

BARRY  
I didn't notice any earring.

JANICE  
I think you're more his type than I am. Wow. Those wigs look really creepy in this light. What would you think of me as a blonde?

BARRY  
Your hair is great just like it is.

JANICE  
I'm thinking about a change.

BARRY  
Yeah, me, too.

JANICE  
You thinking of going blonde?

BARRY  
That's not the kind of change I mean.

JANICE  
Does Colleen come here? For her hair?

BARRY  
Colleen? No, her aunt does her hair. Her aunt. Has a beauty shop in her house, for Chrissakes. Mostly she works on old ladies. She puts that blue shit in their hair. That's going to be Colleen one of these days. A blue-haired biddy.

JANICE  
I think Denise could update this place. Don't tell her I said that. Please. But it's just so old fashioned. She could at least call this place "Hair by Denise," attract a different clientele.

BARRY  
How about a drink?

JANICE  
What? You got a bar hidden here?

BARRY  
Wait right there. Don't go anywhere... Ta da!

JANICE  
Now you're going to have to explain yourself.

BARRY

I slept over a couple nights after the fire.

JANICE

What fire?

BARRY

There was a fire. Next door in the bakery. Came through that wall.

JANICE

Oh, and you slept here?

BARRY

Trying to get Denise back up and running.

JANICE

You know that dress Lola was wearing? I tried it on - on Tuesday.

BARRY

What, that witch's outfit?

JANICE

The red one. And I tried on the wig.

BARRY

You haven't changed since high school, you know that?

JANICE

What do you mean, I haven't changed?

BARRY

Kind of goofy. Sexy, but goofy.

JANICE

Goofy is a buck toothed dog!

BARRY

You could be his sister.

JANICE

Stop that!

BARRY

*Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets-* What about Barry? Wait here.

JANICE

Where am I going to go? Shall I pour us a drink?... You okay?

BARRY

Just a little - hey-

JANICE  
Hey, what?

BARRY  
I forgot I had this.

JANICE  
What is it?

BARRY  
A blow-up mattress.

JANICE  
What are you doing?

BARRY  
I just thought we might want to get comfortable. Have you tried sitting on that couch?

JANICE  
The couch is okay. Well. So it's a little lumpy.

BARRY  
This is going to take a while.

JANICE  
Let me know when you need a break. This is so adolescent. What do you think? Of course, now the makeup is all wrong. I need - emerald eye shadow- Something dramatic for lipstick. God, I look just like my mother. Maybe I'll stick to blonde-

BARRY  
Hey, careful with that. Denise needs those until her hair grows back.

JANICE  
What did you say?

BARRY  
You know, the chemo.

JANICE  
The chemo?

BARRY  
I figured you knew.

JANICE  
Oh, my God.

BARRY  
Hey, the prognosis is good. She's going to be fine.

JANICE

She didn't tell me. And I'm going on and on about those wigs.

BARRY

Let me tell you, cancer is no match for my sister. You know, when her hair started falling out, she just shaved it off.

JANICE

She has a daughter. What if she dies? What's that little girl going to do?

BARRY

Hey, hey, hey, I know this is sensitive for you. Come here. Come on. Nothing's going to happen. And if it does, I'll take care of Lannie. I'm her uncle, right? That's what you do.

JANICE

You don't know what it's like to grow up without a mother.

BARRY

Lannie is not going to grow up without a mother. She's beating this. Hell, it hasn't even stopped her from working. Okay? It's just minor cancer. Early. Early and minor.

JANICE

Sounds like country western band. It's not funny.

BARRY

It's okay. Sh. Okay.

They kiss and slide to the floor.

SCENE 4, LATER THAT NIGHT

Denise enters and sees Barry and Janice—  
and then runs out.

DENISE

(as she runs)

Oh, my God! Barry!

BARRY

Jesus! Fuck! Will you fucking wake up already?

JANICE

I'm going to be sick.

Barry pulls up his pants and chases Denise out the door. They can be heard screaming at each other.



BARRY (O.S.)

Hi, Tony... no, it's nothing... I stopped in to pick up a few things...

Janice staggers to her feet. She runs to the bathroom to throw up. Barry reenters. He follows Janice to the bathroom screaming at her.

SCENE 5, THE NEXT MORNING

(Lights come up to half. Denise cleans up the mess from the previous night. When she is done, she goes out. Lights go down.)

SCENE 6, A FEW DAYS LATER

DENISE

Oh. Hi. I guess I fell asleep. What time is it?

JANICE

Noon.

DENISE

I think I have someone coming in. Are you okay?

JANICE

Am I okay? I guess I'm here to apologize. For the other night. I didn't- I would never- intentionally hurt you. Or anyone. And it was outrageous. But I lost my job. And I don't know what I'm going to do. I don't see why-

DENISE

I don't know what you're talking about. Why did you lose your job?

JANICE

Because of the other night. For God's sake, you called them!

DENISE

You mean, the other night in here? You mean you were in here- with Barry? That was you?

JANICE

They said you called. My boss said you called. Didn't you call?

DENISE

No.

JANICE

I mean, he didn't exactly say that, he said there was a report from an insured. I just assumed you called. God. Who called?

DENISE

Probably Barry.

JANICE

Why would Barry call?

DENISE

I have no idea why he does anything. What were you doing with Barry?

JANICE

We went to Damned Yankees. I tried to find you. Then we had a drink, he said he had to get some tools or something.

DENISE

What is it with you and married men?

JANICE

We were just going out as friends. I didn't expect anything to happen. And what do you mean, me and married men?

DENISE

Bill Brownell-

JANICE

He was separated-

DENISE

Bullshit, I did his wife's hair.

JANICE

That's what he said. You did his wife's hair? Well, that's just precious.

DENISE

Are you mad at me?

JANICE

I'll get out of your way. Just give me a minute... You know they were going to fire me, anyway? Because I can't figure out how to use that fucking computer they got. I can type a hundred and twenty-five words a minute, but I don't know what they're talking about, putting documents in files, they say it's like a file cabinet, but there's no file cabinet, it's just this green screen. So, what am I supposed to do now?

DENISE

Will they give you a recommendation?

JANICE

We were in the middle of having our phones turned into this system where everyone had an extension number, Jesus Christ, you can't even pick up the telephone anymore, you have to put in a number.

DENISE

Maybe you could go back to school. Is there anything else you want to do?

JANICE

I'm thirty-one. I have a car payment, rent. Where are the wigs?

DENISE

I put them away.

JANICE

Why would Barry call my office?

DENISE

Maybe he didn't. Maybe someone saw you. .

JANICE

Barry said something about you. Your hair.

DENISE

A hairdresser without hair. It'll grow back.

JANICE

Do you feel really awful?

DENISE

Just medium awful. Tired, mostly. I keep falling asleep. Four more weeks of chemo and I'll be done. They did a lumpectomy - it was early. I'm lucky.

JANICE

What a terrible day this is.

DENISE

Look, my brother is a womanizer. I read this book about sex addicts. I think that's what he is.

JANICE

What's a sex addict?

DENISE

It's a condition, like an obsession, like alcoholism except that it's sex. Men like that are predators, it's on their minds constantly. It's a sickness.

JANICE

God, it sounds like Bill. He was always after me, even at work, he would call me into his office and lock the door. Maybe I'm one.

DENISE

I'll send you the book.

JANICE

I don't want to be a sex addict. I don't even like sex.

DENISE

I think you're just- used to it.

JANICE

I think you're on to something. I saw this show - about abused wives. They usually were abused children. And they- seek out abusive men because it's familiar.

DENISE

Were you abused?

JANICE

What? No. I'm just saying. It's like that - I don't know what I'm saying. Maybe I should study psychology. Except I don't think I'm smart enough. Okay, look. I came in here to apologize. And I'm.. maybe you should study psychology!

DENISE

I don't think I'm going to do much of anything for a while. Kind of- let this pass.

JANICE

Yeah. Just take it easy. It'll be all right. Right?

DENISE

Oh, yeah.

JANICE

Well. I'm going down to apply for unemployment. Probably a waste of time. Probably get another job in no time.

DENISE

Of course you will.

JANICE

Denise, I could help you here. While you're getting chemo. I could wash your client's hair, do the bookkeeping. It would give me something to do. Until I get another job, I mean.

DENISE

I don't have many clients since I got sick. I'm only open afternoons.

JANICE

I could still help. I can do nails. I'm great at nails.

DENISE

I don't do nails-

JANICE

But you should! Camille's? They do nails, facials, they've even hired a masseuse. I think that's the trend. We could advertise nails. You know, I could probably do facials, too. What's there to it? You steam the face, put the stuff on, let it harden.

DENISE

It's not as if I have any room here.

JANICE

So we start with nails.

DENISE

I don't even know how much longer I can stay open. I'm lucky if I have two customers a day.

JANICE

That's why you need me. I'll help build the business back up. Then when you're strong again you'll be ready. Please. You'll be doing me a favor. I'll even buy the polishes and everything I need to do nails. We could use that corner. I have this Japanese screen at my apartment. I'll bring it in. You know, you could use a few plants in here.

DENISE

You're really something.

JANICE

What time is your next customer coming in?

DENISE

One. One fifteen.

JANICE

I'm going to work on an ad. Just for the classifieds. "Hair by Denise" adds new service-

DENISE

Hair by Denise?

JANICE

You need a new name. The Holiday Salon is just too- old ladyish.

DENISE

That was the name when I bought it-

JANICE

"Nails by Jan." That sounds better than Janice. I could make a new sign. I can do calligraphy. This is going to be so much fun!

DENISE

Nails by Jan. I like it.

JANICE

I'm going to run over to the newspaper and place the ad. Then I'll pick up some art supplies to make a sign - then I'll buy the nail stuff.

DENISE

Are you sure about this?

JANICE

We're going to make millions. Okay, thousands. Okay, hundreds.

DENISE

Hundreds would be good. A hundred would be good.

JANICE

Are you excited?

DENISE

I'm excited.

SCENE 7 - A FEW DAYS LATER

(Lights come up to half. Janice opens the door with a key and brings all her nail supplies and an ASIAN SCREEN WITH A WILD GEESE DESIGN, a table, a few plants, etc. She talks a little to herself, excitedly.)

Perhaps Janice has help bringing in the table - perhaps she couldn't fit it in her car and someone - a MAN - with a truck helps her. This scene is an opportunity to see Janice relating to a stranger - someone she feels indebted to - what are the possibilities?

When she is completely finished, she sits next to the phone and stares at it, willing it to ring.)

SCENE 8 - AUTUMN, TWO YEARS LATER

BARRY

Happy birthday!

DENISE

My birthday was last month.

BARRY

You were too sick to celebrate.

DENISE

I'm still too sick to celebrate.

BARRY

Let me get that -

DENISE

The screen is Janice's. She said she'll pick it up later. Oh, I've got her key. I'll call her-

BARRY

I'll call her. I'll meet her- What?

DENISE

What am I going to do with you?

BARRY

The question is, what am I going to do with you?

DENISE

Your blow up mattress is still in the closet. You're going to have to get that out of here.

BARRY

Well, you never know when I'm going to spend the night again.

DENISE

Don't get me started. What's the matter with motels?

BARRY

You know I don't like sleeping in anyone else's bed!

DENISE

Don't you have some work to do? I'm going to leave all this here. Maybe you'll rent it to another hairdresser. There's something I'm forgetting-

BARRY

I told you I would take care of this.

DENISE

It's okay. It's just a little work. I can do what I can do, still, okay? What I could use is some time off from Mom. Maybe like the rest of my life off.

BARRY

I've got an idea. I thought we could talk about it over lunch.

DENISE

You'd better spit it out now. Talking and eating, I can't do.

BARRY

It's about you and Lannie.

DENISE

Okay.

BARRY

I talked to Colleen. We want you to move in with us. Colleen's not working, she can take care of you-

DENISE

Colleen doesn't like me.

BARRY

She likes you. It's me she hates. Sometimes it rubs off. She was a nurse's aide, remember. Denise, she wants you to come. She wanted to tell you herself.

DENISE

What about Mom?

BARRY

That's not so easy.

DENISE

Your marriage will never survive the two of us. Three of us.

BARRY

I'm going to build a little cottage in the back. I've thought this through. You know, it's not fair. You drew the short straw and now I wind up with Mom.

DENISE

Pardon me for dying.

BARRY

I won't. I'll never forgive you.

DENISE

Where are we going to sleep?

BARRY

The third floor - it's almost finished. Jesse and Nick can sleep up there. Lannie can sleep in Nick's room, you can have Jesse's room and for now we'll put Mom in the root cellar. We've got the junk room downstairs. Mom can sleep there. We'll get rid of the junk.

DENISE

I would never have asked you.



BARRY  
I know.

DENISE  
It's going to get worse.

BARRY  
That's what I heard.

DENISE  
What about Lannie?

BARRY  
I told you, she can have Nick's room.

DENISE  
I mean, what about Lannie later?

BARRY  
Do you even have to ask?

DENISE  
Yes!

BARRY  
I'll take care of her to the day I die. And then some.  
Okay? Cross my heart. Okay?

DENISE  
Okay. She's special, Barry. She's kind of zany, and  
demanding, and stubborn, but she's so smart.

BARRY  
Yeah, she's just like you were. Crazy head. But you have to  
feed me. Italian. A big plate of spaghetti.

DENISE  
I think- I think I could eat something.

BARRY  
Now you're talking! Alfredo's - maybe linguini with clam  
sauce. Before the spaghetti.

DENISE  
You're a pig. Now what are you doing?

BARRY  
You don't lift a finger anymore. You got that?

SCENE 9 - A FEW WEEKS LATER

JENNIFER  
Hello? Oh! Hi! Mr. Wilson?

BARRY

You must be Jennifer.

JENNIFER

The door was open - I hope you don't mind.

BARRY

Open? Wow. I must not have locked it.

JENNIFER

I just came in. A moment ago. Really.

BARRY

I forgive you.

JENNIFER

So this is it. Nice space.

BARRY

It's adaptable.

JENNIFER

Uh huh. There's plenty of room, really. I didn't know what fifteen by fifteen was.

BARRY

Water and heat are included.

JENNIFER

That's good. I have to keep it pretty warm in here.

BARRY

Well, it's set at sixty-eight.

JENNIFER

Oh, that's a problem. You know, people are undressed. Covered up, but-

BARRY

Undressed, huh?

JENNIFER

For massages. I'm a massage therapist.

BARRY

Massage therapist?

JENNIFER

Like I said I give massages.

BARRY

I see. How's that different from being a masseuse?

JENNIFER

It's not. Not necessarily. I'm trained in Shiatsu, Reiki, I do reflexology-

BARRY

All of it legal? I'm mean, I'm the landlord, I'm liable.

JENNIFER

Liable to what?

BARRY

You may want to get a space heater then. The electricity's on you.

JENNIFER

Uh huh. How much will that cost?

BARRY

Depends on how much you use.

JENNIFER

Uh huh. So three fifty for the rent and then I pay for electricity.

BARRY

I think it ran about forty a month for the last tenant. And they used blow dryers. A lot.

JENNIFER

Yeah, that's sort of like a heater. So, three fifty. And three fifty security. Is there a bathroom?

BARRY

Right this way.

JENNIFER

It's a bathroom!

BARRY

No Jacuzzi.

JENNIFER

That would cost more, right? But there is a shower. That'll be great.

BARRY

You're not planning to live here, are you?

JENNIFER

What? Oh, no. Why would I live here?

BARRY

People do strange things.

JENNIFER

I mean, I might spend the night once in a while. If it snows or something. I don't have snow tires. Of course, I could buy snow tires, but then I wouldn't have the rent money.

BARRY

So, what do you think?

JENNIFER

I like it. I love that screen.

BARRY

That belongs to the previous tenant. She's coming by for it.

JENNIFER

Do you think she might sell it?

BARRY

I have no idea.

JENNIFER

It's so beautiful.

BARRY

What made you become a massage therapist?

JENNIFER

I always liked touching people. It's natural for me. And I like them to feel good. So. I'm also an artist. A painter. Water colors. Could I paint in here? I mean, the walls.

BARRY

Depends on what color.

JENNIFER

Something soothing. Soft blue, maybe peach.

BARRY

Tell you what, you pick out the color, buy it, and I'll help you paint.

JENNIFER

Oh, you don't have to help me. My boyfriend can do it. He's not working. Well, he's going to law school, that's working, I know, but the physical exercise will be good for him. This is perfect. I'll take it.

BARRY

I am showing it to another prospective tenant.

JENNIFER

But isn't it first come, first serve or something like that?

BARRY

I'd have to check your references anyway.

JENNIFER

Oh. Well, we just moved here. They're out of state.

BARRY

So I'll make a long distance phone call.

JENNIFER

I'll write them down. Like, would a previous landlord - where we rented our last apartment be okay?

BARRY

I'll need three.

JENNIFER

Three references? Like landlords?

BARRY

Or any place you had credit.

JENNIFER

I don't have credit. Just, like, the phone company, things like that.

BARRY

Well, I'll start with the landlord.

JENNIFER

Okay. I don't actually know the phone number. But my boyfriend's father is a judge. Could I give you his number?

BARRY

Did you pay him rent?

JENNIFER

No.

BARRY

Why don't you call me with the reference. Probably it will be enough.

JENNIFER

Okay! So, how long will it take for you to decide?

BARRY

Not long.

JENNIFER

Well. Thanks for your time. Could I give you a check just to hold it?

BARRY

Call me with that reference.

JENNIFER

I'll call you. Bye. That your screen?

JANICE

Yes. I'm just picking it up.

JENNIFER

You wouldn't be interested in selling it, would you?

JANICE

My mother brought it back from Japan.

JENNIFER

Oh. It's beautiful. Well. Goodbye.

JANICE

Is she a stylist?

BARRY

She's a flake.

JANICE

She seems nice.

BARRY

A massage therapist. Whatever that means.

JANICE

I think it means she gives massages.

BARRY

Maybe.

JANICE

How's Denise?

BARRY

Recovering. Colleen's taking care of her.

JANICE

I saw her in the hospital.

BARRY

She said.

JANICE

Does she know I've called?

BARRY

We give her the messages. She's pretty depressed. But that's to be expected. Luckily, she's still on her ex-husband's insurance.

JANICE

How's Lannie?

BARRY

A pain in the ass. But what's one more kid around. You want help with that?

JANICE

It's not heavy.

BARRY

So, how did you like the nail business?

JANICE

It was fun. I got a lot of customers.

BARRY

So what's your new venture?

JANICE

I'm moving. To the country. About two hours south.

BARRY

You going to do nails in the country?

JANICE

I met someone. That's where he lives.

BARRY

Well, great. You getting married?

JANICE

Eventually. There's no rush. We're still getting to know each other. It's been a long distance thing. Mostly phone calls. Letters. But it just feels right. And I'm not getting any younger.

BARRY

But you're still beautiful. Janice.

JANICE

Are you coming on to me?

BARRY

What, I can't be friendly?

JANICE

I've seen your brand of friendly.

BARRY

Hey, Lola really is a witch under that red dress.

JANICE

You know what your problem is? You're a sex addict.

BARRY

I'm a what?

JANICE

There's a book about it. As far as I can tell, you're all sex addicts, every one of you.

BARRY

I'll consider that a compliment from a lousy lay like you.

JENNIFER

I left my sweater.

BARRY

You can have the place.

JENNIFER

I can?

BARRY

Give me a couple days to clean it out and get it painted.

JENNIFER

What about my references?

BARRY

It's okay. Stop by Abel's Hardware. Pick out a paint. Tell them it's for me.

JENNIFER

I really don't mind-

BARRY

I said stop by Abel's Hardware.

JENNIFER

Okay. I'll write you a check.

BARRY

You want any of this stuff?

JENNIFER

What? Well. The desk would be great. Maybe the couch. I don't know. Do I have to decide now? I mean, I don't need the hairdresser's chair. Maybe just take that. And I'll- if I replace anything-



BARRY

Just put it in the dumpster.

JENNIFER

Okay!

BARRY

"Jennifer Pratt." Well, Jennifer Pratt, the rent's due on the first of every month. I expect you to carry business insurance, I'll want to see a copy of your policy-

JENNIFER

Yeah, I guess I'll need it.

BARRY

And a policy to cover your equipment in case there's a loss. My insurance doesn't cover any loss you might have.

JENNIFER

Okay.

BARRY

I'll bring the lease, say tomorrow at five?

JENNIFER

Tomorrow. Great! Oh, wait. I'm picking up Harry. We only have one car. Is five thirty okay? I can bring Harry, you can meet him.

BARRY

I don't need to meet your boyfriend. I just need you to pay your rent on time.

JENNIFER

You won't have any problems from me.

BARRY

Good. I'll see you at five thirty tomorrow.

JENNIFER

Yes!

SCENE 10 - A FEW DAYS LATER

(The lights come up. Jennifer has brought in her massage table, added more plants, paintings, she has set out massage oils, towels, all the accruements of her trade. NEW AGE MUSIC plays. The JAPANESE SCREEN remains. Denise is trying to get on the massage table. Jennifer helps her.)

DENISE  
I don't think I can do this.

JENNIFER  
Lean on me. Put your weight on me.

DENISE  
Okay. God, I feel like a baby.

JENNIFER  
It's all right. Whatever you need.

DENISE  
This is very nice of you. Now what do I do?

JENNIFER  
You lie down.

DENISE  
Another trick!

JENNIFER  
Easy does it... How's that?

DENISE  
It hurts. Maybe I can lie on my side. Oh, that's better. Is this bed heated?

JENNIFER  
Heating pads. Three of them.

DENISE  
I've got to get one of these.

JENNIFER  
Feel good?

DENISE  
Oh, yes. You know, I've never had a massage before.

JENNIFER  
Then it's about time.

DENISE  
How much do you charge?

JENNIFER  
You're not supposed to ask.

DENISE  
I know, Barry's paying. I just want to know.

JENNIFER  
Thirty-five.

DENISE

That's all?

JENNIFER

It's a lot for people to pay. It's not as if they go away with a lamp or a new pair of shoes.

DENISE

I never paid thirty-five dollars for shoes in my life.

JENNIFER

But what they do get - hopefully - is the sense that someone really cares about how they feel. What scent do you like? I've got lavender, musk, tangerine, ylang ylang-

DENISE

What's ylang ylang?

JENNIFER

It's heaven.

(She gets a bottle and puts it under Denise's nose.)

DENISE

That's incredible. Oh... Don't worry about the lumps. They don't hurt.

JENNIFER

Okay. How's that?

DENISE

I wish I'd known I could feel so good.

JENNIFER

You could go to sleep. Most people do.

DENISE

What, and miss all this? Not on your life. My mother was disgusted that I was coming here.

JENNIFER

Disgusted?

DENISE

That's her favorite word. Just means she doesn't understand. She's never even had a manicure, much less... Course I'd hardly had a manicure myself until Janice showed up.

JENNIFER

"Nails by Jan."

DENISE

It was sad, really. I didn't know how to say no to her. I knew I wasn't going to be here much longer. She did get a couple of customers. She wasn't very good at it, though.

JENNIFER

I inherited that great screen.

DENISE

Her mother's. Her mother died when she was fifteen. Car crash. I'll never forget it.

JENNIFER

You knew her in high school?

DENISE

Sort of. I mean, the car crash was big news. And she was so pretty. I remember seeing her in school a few days later. Like nothing had happened. Laughing in the hall. I was just so... stunned.

JENNIFER

It must not have seemed real to her.

DENISE

Maybe. I wonder if Barry will remember to pick up Lannie from school. He'll remember. Of course, he'll remember.

I'm going to have to sit up. My shoulder. Sometimes that happens.

JENNIFER

Easy.

DENISE

I'm just not much good at this.

(Denise is in a lot of pain.)

JENNIFER

You don't have to be good at anything. This is not about being good. It's about letting someone do something for you. It's okay. Lean on me. Put lean your weight back. Is that better?

DENISE

Don't tell Barry. He was so excited about this. He got the idea in his head that I was going to have a massage and I couldn't talk him out of it.

JENNIFER

He loves you.

DENISE

I know. What's that music?

JENNIFER

Um, I'm not sure. It's a collection. Kind of floaty music, it doesn't resolve. It's supposed to make you think of water. Or air.

DENISE

Transcendental. Is that what you call it? I like it. It's not very... busy. It's not going anywhere. Yeah, I like it.

SCENE 11 - A YEAR LATER, WINTER

(Lights come up. THE SOUND OF THE DOOR BEING UNLOCKED - Jennifer enters, she is dressed in black. Then Janice enters, also dressed in black. Janice looks around.)

JANICE

Very nice. It's very peaceful.

JENNIFER

I hope so.

JANICE

Thanks for keeping it safe.

JENNIFER

Everyone asks about it. You know how many offers I've had to sell it?

JANICE

I like the art.

JENNIFER

Thank you. Most of it is mine. You want some tea?

JANICE

All right.

JENNIFER

So you're living in Suffolk?

JANICE

Outside. I moved about six months ago. And you're from-

JENNIFER

Portland, Maine. My boyfriend went to law school here.

JANICE

Oh, he graduated?

JENNIFER

Yeah. From school. And from me. I don't know, I like it here. I have a great clientele. I'm not crazy about my landlord.

JANICE

Barry?

JENNIFER

Kind of nosy.

JANICE

I went to high school with him.

JENNIFER

Denise told me. She said you lost your mother when you were fifteen. Sorry, I don't know why I said that. Just. The funeral, maybe. So you're married?

JANICE

No, just... living in sin. Although Tom would say I'm not sinful enough. He's nice. Teaches computer science.

JENNIFER

Wow, computers. I'm not in to them.

JANICE

I wasn't but... I guess you'd say I got trained. Now I work on one all day long. I used to be a secretary. So, do you have a boyfriend now?

JENNIFER

Oh, not really. I go out with a couple of guys. But I'm really more into women.

JANICE

Oh.

JENNIFER

I don't mean I'm gay. I just have some great girlfriends. I might move to China.

JANICE

China?

JENNIFER

To study acupuncture.

JANICE

You have to go to China to do that?

JENNIFER

You don't have to. But, why not go to the source?

JANICE

Why not? Why not go to China? I would no more have thought of doing something like that than... I never thought of doing anything. I've never even changed my hair.

JENNIFER

Well, why would you? You've got great hair.

JANICE

But I've wanted to do something different. Moving to China! How old are you?

JENNIFER

Twenty-six.

JANICE

Twenty-six. When I was twenty-six I had already been working at this insurance company for eight years. I was a secretary. I would arrange his calendar, screen his phone calls. I know short hand, my boss would say, "Janice, take a letter." And I would take a letter. He'd rattle off the gist of what he wanted to say and I'd smooth it out - give it to him to sign - and that was what I did. I really loved it. It's not like going to China, but I felt like I was doing something useful. Now I work for this big company and I sit in a room with twenty other people and we key information all day.

JENNIFER

Is there something you'd rather do?

JANICE

I think I wanted to be a writer once. But of course, I haven't done anything to write about.

JENNIFER

There's always your imagination.

JANICE

Oh, that. Maybe I'll go to China and study acupuncture, too. Do you have to know Chinese? Wouldn't that be something. I would love to see the look on Tom's face when I'd tell him. "I'm going to China." That would be just perfect. He doesn't think I can do anything. He thinks I'm the biggest bore. I don't know why he doesn't throw me out... Hey, it was a lovely funeral. I don't like funerals. They're, well, so sad. I had never met Denise's mother.

JENNIFER

I just knew Denise. And Barry. Denise came in a few times before she got too sick.

JANICE

That was Lannie - with the hair? She looks just like her mother. Denise wore wigs when she lost her hair.

JENNIFER

You know what else is still here?

JANICE

What?

JENNIFER

I'd forgotten about these. When I moved in, I put them in that closet thinking, you know, someone would want them. But no one ever did.

JANICE

I wore them, too. When I worked here. I had a nail business. Not much of a business, really. But it was something different.

JENNIFER

See? You could write about that, you could write about Denise and your mother dying and the wigs. And in the story you could be planning to move to China. And you could be married to someone like Barry - you'll need a villain. I shouldn't say that. Denise loved him. There was something there, I don't know what, a bond.

JANICE

Do you mind? Lola wore it in Damned Yankees.

JENNIFER

What's Damned Yankees?

JANICE

It's a musical. Lola was a woman who traded her soul to be beautiful.

JANICE (cont'd)

It's a bear to put on. I'm wasting your afternoon.

JENNIFER

Very- Lola.

JANICE

What I'd really like is the dress. It's this red thing, sheer - I had the legs for it.

JENNIFER

Still do.

JANICE

It's not that simple.

JENNIFER

I think it is.



JANICE

My mother used to get dressed behind hit. Very elegant. She said reminded her of living in Japan.

JENNIFER

Did you live there?

JANICE

I was born there.

JENNIFER

Now, how many people can say that?

JANICE

Well, there's plenty of Japanese people who could say that! But I don't remember it. I was only there a year. So it really doesn't count for anything.

JENNIFER

I think it makes you exotic.

JANICE

You know, you're really... nice.

JENNIFER

I'm a massage therapist, I exude niceness!

JANICE

Do you ever get massages?

JENNIFER

Are you kidding? I'm like the carpenter in the unfinished house. That's what was so great about school - giving massages, and getting them.

JANICE

I'm pretty good at it. Tom makes me massage his head every night. He says I have great hands. It's why he keeps me around.

JENNIFER

I'll make an appointment.

JANICE

How about right now?

JENNIFER

Ooh. Massage by Lola.

JANICE

Sit in the chair. It's a massage chair, right? Come on, you'll be doing me a favor. Or at least Tom. I'll stay in practice. I'm good at it. Really. I'm good.

(MORE)

This is going to be a great experience. This is going to be as good as going to China.

(Janice starts massaging Jennifer's head. She looks at the screen.)

JANICE ( (cont'd)  
Do you think Lannie would like it?

JENNIFER  
Like what?

JANICE  
The screen. I'm thinking. I'm thinking I don't really have a place for it.

JENNIFER  
Just keep massaging me and I'll do anything you ask. Oh, my God... That's incredible. Come on, baby, do it.

SCENE 12 - EIGHT YEARS LATER, SPRING

(The lights come up a little. A guy with a lot of tattoos makes a few changes to the place - he is preparing it to be a tattoo parlor. The bed remains, the desk, the screen. Perhaps a MANNEQUIN with piercings - and a WIG. Posters now suggest a much more contemporary culture. LIGHTS GO DOWN.)

SCENE 13 - SOON AFTER

(Lights come up. Lannie sits behind the JAPANESE SCREEN with Barry and is about to pierce Barry's ear. We do not see them.)

BARRY  
Hey! Jesus Christ, that hurts!

LANNIE  
I haven't done anything yet. Now hold still.

(She shoots him in the earlobe.)

BARRY  
Christ! God!

LANNIE  
Big baby.

BARRY  
You're a sadist.

LANNIE

Ten year old girls make less noise than you do.

BARRY

Let me see it.

And now we see Lannie. She looks like her mother, but times have changed. A wild wig, leather and awesome makeup.

LANNIE

What do you think?

BARRY

I don't know. What do you think?

LANNIE

I think you're having a mid-life crisis, but hey, what do I know?

BARRY

How much do I owe you?

LANNIE

You're actually going to pay me?

BARRY

It looks... okay. Do you think anyone will notice?

LANNIE

We could elongate your earlobe, you know stretch it, put a disc in-

BARRY

Like one of those freaks?

LANNIE

Depends on who you want to attract.

BARRY

I don't want to attract anyone. I'm doing this for Allison. It's a surprise.

LANNIE

You want to really surprise her we should pierce your nipple. Or how about your-

BARRY

Don't even say it! Do you really pierce guys down there?

LANNIE

What, their cocks?

BARRY

You should not be talking to me this way.

LANNIE

You'll be back. Everyone comes back. It's like an addiction. First the ear, then the nose, then the eyebrow - then the lip.

BARRY

I think it looks okay. Probably should grow my hair a little longer.

LANNIE

Yeah, then you'd look really pathetic. How about growing a mullet?

BARRY

What's a mullet?

LANNIE

It's a haircut from the eighties. Short in the front, long in the back.

BARRY

I had a haircut like that. Billy Ray Cyrus had his hair cut like that!

LANNIE

Famous mullets.

BARRY

Come on, what do you really think? Will Allison like it?

LANNIE

She'll love it. When does she turn thirteen?

BARRY

Cut it out. She's older than you.

LANNIE

Not by much.

BARRY

She's nice. Don't you think she's nice?

LANNIE

She's nice.

BARRY

Okay, how much.

LANNIE

You mean you're actually going to pay?

BARRY

Very funny.

LANNIE

Tell you what. I normally charge fifteen. But for you, twelve-fifty.

BARRY

Do you take credit cards?

LANNIE

You don't have twelve fifty?

BARRY

I have two teenage sons. I know better than to carry cash.

(He hands her his credit card.)

LANNIE

Uh oh. It says denied. I may have to call the police.

BARRY

What? Let me see that... Try it again.

(She swipes it again.)

LANNIE

Now it says to call.

BARRY

Don't call, for Christ's sake. Here. Try this one.

LANNIE

I don't take American Express.

BARRY

I didn't bring my checkbook.

LANNIE

Loser.

BARRY

Hey, come on. Give me a break. That card should have worked.

LANNIE

So when do I get my twelve fifty?

BARRY

I'll go to an ATM. For crying out loud.

(Janice enters.)

LANNIE

You know you love me.

BARRY

We're having dinner together this weekend. You and me and Allison. She's cooking.

LANNIE

I'm a vegetarian.

BARRY

You think I don't know?

LANNIE

Can I help you?

JANICE

I'm thinking of getting a tattoo.

LANNIE

Excellent! What kind?

JANICE

I don't know. I'm just starting to look into it.

LANNIE

Well, do you want something that makes a statement, or something intimate? Big? Small?

JANICE

Probably small.

LANNIE

A lot of women get butterflies.

JANICE

I hate butterflies.

LANNIE

Great. Me, too.

JANICE

Are you the artist?

LANNIE

Me? No, that's Bud. He's incredible. What till you see him, his entire body is covered. Everything but his face. And I mean everything.

JANICE

Is he your boyfriend?

LANNIE

He's my employee.

JANICE

Sorry.

LANNIE

I do the piercing, though.

JANICE

Does it hurt very much?

LANNIE

Depends on your tolerance for pain.

JANICE

I don't have much tolerance at all. Do people, I suppose they, what take a shot of Southern Comfort?

LANNIE

We don't recommend drinking before you get a tattoo.

JANICE

Not exactly my drink anyway.

LANNIE

Oh, aspirin helps. You should really make an appointment with Bud. He has an amazing way of helping clients figure out what they really want. And then he makes a color sketch.

JANICE

I know what I want. I want a she-devil.

LANNIE

A she-devil. That's what I'm saying!

JANICE

It's a personal thing.

LANNIE

It always is.

JANICE

I have to tell you, it's rather a coincidence. I mean, I really am interested in getting a tattoo. But I was going to stop here all the same.

LANNIE

Oh.

JANICE

I knew your mother. I went to school with her.

LANNIE

No kidding.

(A pause. Lannie turns the music off.)

JANICE

I once worked with her. She was a hairdresser and I did nails.

LANNIE

You were the nail lady?

JANICE

Janice. Janice Welborn.

LANNIE

I remember you. But I don't remember you. You were so girly.

JANICE

Well, I was younger.

LANNIE

That was my uncle Barry.

JANICE

I know. We graduated together. I don't think he recognized me.

LANNIE

Yeah, well, he's pretty unrecognizable himself. Got a divorce last year and now he's going out with Allison. She's my age. I just pierced his ear.

JANICE

You're kidding.

LANNIE

No. And he's into astrology. Big time. So. What's with the accent?

JANICE

Oh. It's just a trace. I went to school in England. And I just sort of picked it up and can't seem to shake it entirely.

LANNIE

What did you do in England?

JANICE

Studied English. And I fell in love.

LANNIE

Naturally.

JANICE

Is there something-



LANNIE

There's a picture of you here. I found it in the desk. You must have left it here.

JANICE

That's your mother. There. I gave it to her. Your uncle must be just outside the picture.

LANNIE

For once. She looks so young.

JANICE

She must be fifteen.

LANNIE

Fifteen. I was fifteen when she died.

JANICE

I know. I- lost my mother when I was fifteen. I saw you at the funeral, I wanted to say something, anything, but I didn't have any idea what. Because nothing was okay for me after that. Probably nothing was really right before that, either. I didn't know my mother very well... And I just wanted to tell you that it would all be all right, that your mother loved you, that she would do anything for you, and if she could have lived, she would have. I was afraid you'd feel unfinished. Like I did.

LANNIE

But I don't. I mean, I didn't. I was with her when she died. She was talking to me, it was like any other day. My grandmother was complaining about something in the kitchen, I think we laughed. And then she just went to sleep. We had these scented oils that this friend gave her and you plugged it in the wall - Mom liked ylang ylang - so I turned it on. And I sat with her. And then she started feeling cold. I checked the heating pad, and it was on. So that's how I knew. There was something really beautiful about the way she died. It was like the way she lived. Calm. Another day. She took everything in stride.

JANICE

You must miss her.

LANNIE

Every day. It sucks.

JANICE

I hope I haven't upset you.

LANNIE

Hey, everybody's upset about something.

(Barry comes back in.)

BARRY  
Here's your twelve-fifty.

JANICE  
Hi, Barry.

(Barry looks at her.)

JANICE (cont'd)  
It's me. Janice.

BARRY  
I would never have recognized you. You look like a dyke.

LANNIE  
You are such an asshole!

BARRY  
I'm just kidding. But, what's with the suit?

JANICE  
I was at a burial today.

(He looks at her blankly.)

JANICE (cont'd)  
My father died this winter. Had to wait for the ground to thaw.

BARRY  
Oh. I'm sorry. I must have missed that. You doing okay?

JANICE  
He remarried. We sort of lost touch.

BARRY  
Well- so how are you otherwise? You still with that guy?

JANICE  
Oh. No. God, that feels like a lifetime ago.

LANNIE  
She lived in England.

BARRY  
You?

JANICE  
You should try it.

BARRY  
I hear the food stinks.

JANICE

The Indian food is fabulous.

BARRY

Gives me heartburn. I'm kind of an Italian man, myself.

JANICE

Barry- you know, you haven't changed a bit.

(She kisses him on the mouth.)

JANICE (cont'd)

I have to go. Phyllis is in the car. It's really good to see you again, Barry.

LANNIE

What about the tattoo?

JANICE

Well-

LANNIE

How about tomorrow? Around eleven? Bud will be here.

JANICE

I'd like that.

LANNIE

And bring your friend.

JANICE

Right. Tomorrow. Good-bye.

BARRY

Bye!

(Janice exits.)

LANNIE

(punching him)

What's the matter with you, you freak! She is a dyke!

BARRY

What? No! Janice? No way. She was really into me! She couldn't keep her hands to herself. Did she say she was getting a tattoo?

LANNIE

You are so deluded.

BARRY

Janice? When did hell freeze over?

Lannie turns up the music. She opens a magazine. She is living her life.

END OF PLAY.