

STAGE KISS

HE

That'll be Laurie.

SHE

Who's Laurie?

HE

You know—Laurie.

SHE

The schoolteacher?

HE

Yes, her name is Laurie.

SHE

Do you *live together*?

HE

No, no, but she has keys.

SHE

Oh, God.

Does she keep her toothbrush here?

I think I used her toothbrush.

Oh, God.

Laurie, played by Millicent, but now some approximation of a blond, enters.

LAURIE

Hi honey, I brought groceries, I thought you might be out of provisions—oh—hello.

SHE

Hello.

HE

Hey—you met on opening night?

SHE/LAURIE

Yes.

LAURIE

Hi.

SHE

Hi.

LAURIE

You were great. In the play. That one costume! And the whole thing. It was so—neat.

SHE

Thanks. So—where are you from in the Midwest?

LAURIE

How'd you know I'm from the Midwest?

SHE

(Shrugging) Oh, I—

Laurie unpacks groceries—peanut butter, bananas, fruit roll-ups—kid food.

LAURIE

Iowa. Quad Cities? Do you know them?

She shakes her head.

LAURIE

You should visit! My father once said he never met a mean man from Iowa. *(Looking pointedly at He)* So—

HE

(About to say something important) I—

STAGE KISS

LAURIE

So the show's over?

SHE/HE

Yes.

LAURIE

You must be so relieved. It must have been so exhausting. Night after night . . . all those lines . . .

SHE

Once you know them, it's not really very tiring to repeat them.

LAURIE

Really? I think I would get so tired, repeating the same thing over and over again. That's why I like teaching kindergarten. Every day is different, you never know what to expect! I love children. I can't wait to have children. Of course we haven't been together that long, I don't even know if he likes children? Do you like children?

HE

Of course I like children.
I was a child once.

He takes a swig of whiskey.

LAURIE

Would anyone like some lunch?

SHE

Is it lunchtime?

LAURIE

It's twelve o'clock, isn't it? I never understood how everyone in this city ate so late. Noon comes, and ding I'm starving, it's like, ring the farm bell!

SHE

Ringadingding.

LAURIE

(Not laughing) You're funny.

Laurie starts preparing a meal.

SHE

When people say, you're funny, it makes me feel like they're saying: you're not funny.

LAURIE

Oh no, not at all, I think you're really funny and it's just rare, you know to find a pretty woman who's also funny because usually women are funny to compensate for not being pretty, I find. Or sometimes you meet a pretty and funny woman and find out she used to be like two hundred pounds or got a nose job and you're like: oh, right that's how she developed a sense of humor, in adolescence.
Sandwich?

END

SHE

No.

HE

No thanks, honey.

She looks at He.

HE

Laurie, I—

LAURIE

(To She) I'm so sorry about the bad reviews. That one seemed really *personal*. But maybe you don't read reviews?