

DARK EYES

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET SCENE - DAY

SUPER: "QUEENS, NEW YORK JANUARY 1942"

The street is lined with typical six-story apartment buildings built in the 1930s in NYC. Some have small businesses at ground level: groceries, candy stores, dry cleaners, shoe repair shops, etc.

The day is overcast. People walk about looking sad. Light auto traffic.

TEENAGE BOY AND GIRL (15) enter the candy store. "Begin the Beguine" plays from the store radio.

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

The soda fountain counter is on one side and three booths on the other side of the store. A pay phone is at back of store.

Two MIDDLE AGE MEN (40s) sit in a booth, one with his back to store door, the other facing it. They each sip Coca-Cola bottles through straws.

Teen boy orders a chocolate ice-cream soda at the soda fountain counter. Teen girl seats herself at an empty booth.

A YOUNG BOY (12) peruses the comic-book rack.

MAN BACK TO DOOR

Did you see in the paper that the Nazis and Nips signed an agreement with the 'talianis? Axis, I think they call it.

MAN FACING DOOR

Man, we're getting hit bad on both sides. Roosevelt sure inherited a bucket of crap when he decided to run for a third term.

Teen boy takes chocolate soda to booth with teen girl. They share it with two straws and two long spoons.

Young boy pays for a comic book with a dime placed on soda fountain counter as he leaves the store.

Song on the radio now plays "Moonglow."

ANGIE (23) enters. Looks sad, troubled, lost in thought. Seats herself on a soda fountain counter stool.

MR. ZIEGLER (50s) the candy store owner looks concerned about Angie's mood.

MR. ZIEGLER
You feelin' okay Angie?

ANGIE
Huh? Oh yeah. I'm okay. I'm good.

MR. ZIEGLER
Can I get you anything?

ANGIE
Uh... an egg cream. Yeah, an egg cream sounds good.

MR. ZIEGLER
Coming up!

Mr. Ziegler makes egg cream in a Coke glass. Stirs milk and chocolate syrup. Squirts seltzer from fountain seltzer dispenser onto spoon to build foam. Stirs. Serves drink to Angie. She pays for it.

MR. ZIEGLER (CONT'D)
Straw?

ANGIE
Nah. I'll drink it straight.

Angie manages a small smile. Mr. Ziegler smiles back at her. He looks concerned about her troubled sad look.

MAN FACING DOOR
Ya know? There's nothing like a pretty face to perk you up, even a little bit, when you're feelin' blue. And the way the war's goin' that's what I'm feelin'.

MAN BACK TO DOOR
Whatcha talkin' about?

MAN FACING DOOR
That pretty little thing at the counter.

Man with back to store door turns around to look at Angie.

MAN BACK TO DOOR

Oh, yeah. I seen her around the neighborhood. Sometimes give a little wave. Name's Angie. Got married a few months ago to some kind of engineer, a college guy.

MAN FACING DOOR

How come you know so much?

MAN BACK TO DOOR

I go outside. I talk to people. Try it sometimes. You might learn stuff.

Man facing door keeps looking at Angie.

MAN BACK TO DOOR (CONT'D)

Hey! Stop starin' at her. She don't need no old guy creepin' her out.

MAN FACING DOOR

Yeah, you're right. But she is so pretty I just don' wanna stop lookin'.

MAN BACK TO DOOR

You better stop anyway.

MAN FACING DOOR

I'm stoppin'. I'm stoppin'. Okay already? Betcha can't say those aren't the most beautiful dark eyes you ever seen. I just wish they didn' look so sad. A face like that shouldn' never be sad.

Angie finishes the egg cream. Wipes a little foam from her lips. "King Porter Stop" starts playing from the radio as she gets off the counter stool.

A little smile crosses her face. She loves to jitterbug and does a few dance steps on her way out the door.

MAN FACING DOOR (CONT'D)

Any chance ya know why she looks so sad?

MAN BACK TO DOOR

Nah... don't know her well enough!

MAN FACING DOOR

It's making me nuts why someone so pretty looks like that!

He gets up to talk to Mr. Ziegler standing behind the soda fountain counter.

MAN FACING DOOR (CONT'D)

Hey, Ziegler! Ya know why that pretty girl looks so sad?

MR. ZIEGLER

Angie? Yeah! Her husband Bill is going into the Navy on Sunday. Those two kids are crazy in love! By the way, how about buying a magazine and some cigarettes instead of just a Coke?

EXT. STREET SCENE - DAY

Angie scurries across the street. Walks a couple of blocks to Berski's grocery store.

A young guy turns his head away to cover his face as they pass each other in opposite directions. Angie takes a quick glance back at him as he passes by.

INT. BERSKI'S GROCERY STORE - DAY

Angie enters. A small bell tinkles to announce her presence. The smile she had after hearing "King Porter Stop" wore off. Her troubled sadness is again apparent.

The store is small with canned goods and packaged staples on shelves at both sides. A small island with various bins for vegetable and fruit items in the aisle center.

The small counter is at the end of the aisle from which MR. BERSKI (60s), watches Angie approach. She grabs a loaf of Wonder Bread, a bunch of carrots, an onion and a bag of coffee.

Mr. Berski notices her sadness but does not comment about that. He greets Angie. Speaks with a Yiddish accent.

MR. BERSKI

Good evening, Mrs. Baldwin.

ANGIE

And a good evening to you too. Mr. Berski. How is Mrs. Berski?

MR. BERSKI

Vhat can I say? Not good, not good!

ANGIE

I am so sorry! Let me know if I can help her with anything since we live in the same apartment building.

MR. BERSKI

Danks! Dat's a very nice offer.

Angie places her grabbed items on the counter.

ANGIE

Please call me Angie from now on.

MR. BERSKI

Den you can call me Izzy.

ANGIE

Thank you, but I'd rather call you Mr. Berski. It's the way I was raised to respect older folks.

Angie looks embarrassed.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

I am so sorry. I didn't mean to call you old.

MR. BERSKI

(laughs)

Don't be embarrassed for being honest. I am old. Vell maybe not very, very old. Okay... you Angie, me Mr. Berski. Deal?

ANGIE

(nods; little smile)

Deal!

MR. BERSKI

Need anything else, Mrs. ... oops... Angie?

ANGIE

Just a little of that Swiss cheese, a quart of milk and a pound of unsalted butter.

He retrieves the Swiss cheese from the clear glass refrigerated case behind the counter. He places a knife to cut a chunk of cheese.

MR. BERSKI
Is dat enough?

ANGIE
Just a little more, please.

Mr. Berski moves knife half an inch.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Perfect!

Mr. Berski cuts the Swiss cheese. Wraps it in waxed paper he tears from its large roll on the counter. He weighs the cheese and notes its price on a large paper bag.

He places cheese back in the case. Tears off some more waxed paper for the butter. Scoops butter from its tub onto the waxed paper until the scale indicates sixteen ounces.

Mr. Berski writes each item cost on a paper bag. Quickly adds total cost. Places all items in the bag.

MR. BERSKI
Dat'll be \$2.08. Some items are up
in cost. Dey are gonna start
rationing items like sugar, meat
and milk. Dis is last Sviss cheese
I could get. Maybe no more butter,
just margarine.

Angie pays for the items. Picks up the bag. Turns to leave the store.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)
Angie!

ANGIE
Yes?

MR. BERSKI
I don't vant to sound fresh, to
insult you, but you have such
beautiful dark eyes like my Sofia,
d'love of my life. And dat always
makes me feel good and happy
whenever I see you on the street.
Dank you very much for dat.

Angie hesitates. Eyes moisten because Angie knows Mrs. Berski might be near her end. Turns and leaves. The small door bell tinkles.

EXT. STREET SCENE - DAY

Angie walks a couple of blocks to her apartment building humming "Tea for Two." Despite her sadness, she manages to smile. Has look of anticipation.

ANGIE (V.O.)
Bill should be home by now.

Angie quickens her pace. She enters the building.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Angie takes the elevator to the fourth floor. Her pace quickens with excitement as she nears apartment 4B. She rings doorbell. Door opens.

BILL BALDWIN (23) is a tall good-looking guy you would expect to be with someone like Angie. He is an athletic 6'2" and Angie is a slight 5'1".

He greets her with a big grin and open arms to hug her as she enters with her bag of groceries.

INT. APARTMENT 4B - DAY

The entrance foyer has a coat rack, umbrella holder and a mat for wet footwear.

BILL
There's my sweet and gorgeous Mrs. Baldwin.

ANGIE
Hey, hey, hey! First take the grocery bag before you crush me!

Bill puts bag on kitchen counter. Hugs and kisses Angie.

BILL
I still love how that sounds! Can't stop saying it! Mrs. Baldwin... Mrs. Baldwin... Mrs. William Baldwin! Love it!

ANGIE
Yeah, great! I go from Italian sounding Angie Coiro to WASP sounding Angelina Baldwin! Is that a promotion?

BILL
(laughs)
It is in America!

ANGIE
Oh, whoopee for me!

BILL
Okay, serious now. I have to report
for duty at 1500 hours, that's
three PM for you civilians, on
Sunday at Penn Station.

ANGIE
Okay smarty pants, I know how to do
military time.

BILL
Yeah! And I'm gonna be a big shot
lieutenant in the Navy Seabee
Corps. Isn't that exciting?

ANGIE
(cries)
Maybe for you... not for me!

BILL
I'm a civil engineer and they need
people like me to design and build
bridges and airfields to fight the
Nips in the Pacific. Right?

ANGIE
(bawling sobs)
Yeah, yeah, I know. It's just that
we've been together for so long
since high school and went to
college together. We just got
married and now you gotta go away.
I'm so scared you might never come
back. I've never lived alone all my
life. First with my folks as I grew
up, then with you since we got
married. Bill, I'm more than
scared... I'm freakin' terrified to
be alone without you. I don't know
if I'm strong enough to live day
after day in an empty apartment...
to spend night after night without
you!

Bill takes her coat. Hangs it on the coat rack. Seats her at
the kitchen table. Caresses her face. Kisses her forehead.

BILL

Babe, you're scared now... I get that! But I learned in our eight years together that you're tougher than you think. War makes lives hell for everyone. Tears families apart. But we all need to do whatever we can for the war effort... to win the war.

ANGIE

(shouts)

The war effort, the war effort. I'm sick and tired of hearing about the damn war effort!

Bill continues to soothe Angie. Holds her shoulders. Looks straight into her eyes.

BILL

(speaks calmly)

But you're doing your part too. You got that good paying job building F6F Hellcats at the Grumman plant in Bethpage. And it's an easy bus ride to get there. Besides, they love you because you're so little and can do assemblies in tight spaces. I hear they got a neat name for ladies like you... "Rosie the Riveter," I think.

(slight pause)

Hey, here's an idea. Maybe there's another 'Rosie' at Grumman whose husband is away at war and also lives alone. Maybe you can offer her to share our apartment during the war so you won't be alone. She can use the Hide-A-Bed.

Bill changes the subject.

BILL (CONT'D)

Look, it's Friday and I hear they got a great swing band at the Roseland Ballroom in Times Square. So let's get a bite to eat and go. Okay?

ANGIE

'kay!

INT. SUBWAY - NIGHT

Angie and Bill sit silently in a half-empty subway car. He caresses her. She almost disappears in his arm because of their physical size differences.

Train stops at the Times Square station.

BILL
We're here, babe!

INT. TIMES SQUARE STATION - NIGHT

Angie and Bill hold hands as they exit the subway car. Angie wraps her other arm around Bill's arm while pressing her head against it as if she wants to hold on to him forever.

They walk to the stairs that take them outside to Times Square.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - NIGHT

Angie and Bill take in the magnificent light panorama that is Times Square.

They read the New York Times Building marquee: "AIRCRAFT CARRIERS YORKTOWN AND ENTERPRISE CONDUCT AIR RAIDS ON JAPANESE BASES IN THE GILBERT AND MARSHALL ISLANDS."

Angie and Bill find their way to the Roseland Ballroom on 52nd Street. They enter.

INT. ROSELAND DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Angie and Bill check their coats.

Other dancers in background.

The band is in the middle of "Sing, Sing, Sing."

Angie and Bill hasten to the dance floor.

Angie's mood is elevated during swing songs, not so much at the slower ones.

MONTAGE

-- They jitterbug to "Sing, Sing, Sing."

-- They slow cuddle to "Moonglow."

- They jitterbug to "King Porter Stomp."
- They slow cuddle to "Body and Soul."
- They jitterbug to "Stompin' at the Savoy."
- They swing dance to "Tea for Two."
- They swing dance to "You Turned the Tables on Me."

BACK TO SCENE

Band plays "After You've Gone!" accompanied by a female SINGER.

SINGER

"After you've gone and left me
crying.
After you've gone, there's no
denying.
You'll feel blue, you'll feel sad.
You'll miss the greatest love
you've ever had....."

Angie emotionally loses control. Bawls. Clings to Bill as the song plays. Bill comforts Angie.

BILL

Okay, that's enough, babe. Let's go
home.

ANGIE

'kay!

INT. SUBWAY CAR - NIGHT

Angie and Bill sit in an almost empty car this time, not saying a word. He caresses her. She hugs his arm with greater vigor than the first subway ride. Not a word is spoken until they get to the Forest Hills station.

BILL

We're home, babe! We'll be taking
this same train to Penn Station on
Sunday.

Angie jumps up and screams at him.

ANGIE

Why, why in hell do you need to
remind me?

Angie runs out the subway car door, bawling. Bill runs after Angie. Slaps the side of his head.

BILL (V.O.)

Idiot! Smart enough to be an engineer but an insensitive idiot when it comes to Angie's feelings! Shit!

EXT. STREET SCENE - NIGHT

Bill catches up to Angie who is still crying.

BILL

I'm sorry, babe! I am so sorry.

Angie grabs his arm. They silently walk back to their apartment.

INT. APARTMENT 4B - NIGHT

Angie and Bill hang their coats on the coat rack.

ANGIE

I'm tired and emotionally drained. Maybe you are too. It's Saturday now, so let's get a good night's sleep, eat breakfast and spend the rest of the day humping! Okay?

BILL (V.O.)

(nods)

God, I love that woman!

INT. APARTMENT 4B BEDROOM - DAY

Tastefully implicit erotic scene.

The bedroom has a large bed, two side tables, a dresser and two chairs.

Room fills with soft window morning light through thin drapes. Sun hasn't risen yet this last cold January morning. Both slept naked under quilted blanket for warmth and to cuddle.

Bill still sleeps. Angie plants soft kisses all over his face. Bill acknowledges her loving ministrations with a wakening smile.

Angie partially uncovers the quilt to continue her soft kisses down his body. Her hand slides under the quilt to slowly stroke him. Bill's body responds.

BILL

Oh...Oh...Ooooooh! Babe, I gotta pee! Really gotta pee!

ANGIE

You can wait a little longer. I'm wet, really wet and really want to slide that into me.

Bill reaches toward the side table drawer for a condom.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

No, no! Let's not use one.

BILL

You sure? Aren't you close to...

ANGIE

(interrupts)

I'm still safe. I want to feel all of you inside me.

Angie mounts Bill. Her wetness, tightness and heat is too much for Bill. His body spasms again and again.

Bill's response drives Angie into an orgasmic frenzy.

Angie waits for Bill's spasms to stop. Stays mounted a little longer, then slowly dismounts. Big grin.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Oooooh! My man is still hard like I knew he would be. Okay, my man. Go pee!

Both still naked. Angie follows Bill closely behind to the bathroom.

BATHROOM

Tastefully implicit erotic scene.

She wets a hand towel. Wipes her legs. Bill starts to pee. Angie reaches around to gently fondle him.

BILL

Babe, it's hard to pee when you get me worked up like that!

ANGIE
 (laughs)
 Awwww! Can't my man make pee-pee?

Bill finishes peeing.

BILL
 Now I respectfully lower the seat
 for m'lady's morning pee.

ANGIE
 Why thank you good sir!

Angie seats herself on the toilet and pees.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
 Come here, my man.

BILL
 What? Why?

ANGIE
 You ask too many questions. Just
 come stand in front of me.

Angie uses the wet hand towel to gently wipe him. She
 performs oral sex.

ANGIE (O.C.) (CONT'D)
 Mmmm! Yummy!

BILL
 Aaaaah! You're killing me, babe,
 you're killing me.

ANGIE
 (impish smile; looks at
 Bill)
 Better me than the Nips, right?

Angie is instantly shocked by her own words.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
 (bawls)
 What the hell is wrong with me? I
 didn't mean that. I didn't mean
 it... I didn't mean it... I didn't
 mean it.

Bill holds her shoulders and lifts her from the toilet. Grabs
 a Kleenex to wipe her tears, another to wipe her crotch. He
 calms Angie.

BILL

Not to worry, babe. Of course you didn't mean it. You were just trying to make light of a difficult time in our lives. Let's get showered and some breakfast.

Bill tosses the tissues into toilet and flushes.

BILL (CONT'D)

Let's take a temporary break from our... uh... activity. Okay?

ANGIE

'kay!

BILL

Good! Now let's take a shower and get some breakfast.

Angie and Bill silently shower and wash each other.

KITCHEN

Both now casually dressed. Angie prepares scrambled eggs and toast. She brings them to the table where Bill fills cups from a coffee percolator. They eat and sit quietly for a while.

BILL

By the way, how is Mrs. Berski doing?

ANGIE

She's not expected to last much longer. Mr. Berski never told me why she's so sick. Let's stop by his store so you can say goodbye. He thinks you're lucky to be married to me.

BILL

He's right... I am. Let's wash the dishes and go.

ANGIE

He's such a sweet man. Warning, he loves my dark eyes.

BILL

Seriously? How is it possible not to love them. Sometimes I think I could drown in them!

ANGIE
My husband! Such a romantic!

INT. BERSKI'S GROCERY STORE - DAY

The couple enters later that morning. The small bell tinkles to announce their presence. Mr. Berski rises from his seat behind the counter to greet them.

MR. BERSKI
Ah, Angie, vit d'handsome and lucky man who married you. He is so lucky! Am I right? Of course I am right. Right?

ANGIE
That's what he keeps telling me. So, as usual, Mr. Berski, you are always right. Please remember to call him Bill, not Mr. Baldwin.

MR. BERSKI
Oh, sure, sure. I remember from yesterday.

BILL
(whispers)
What happened yesterday?

ANGIE
(whispers back)
Shhh...shhh! I'll tell you later.

Bill is reporting for Navy duty tomorrow. We wanted to stop by before he leaves. Bill is gonna be an engineering officer in the Pacific war.

MR. BERSKI
Oy, d'Pacific var! Dose Japs are a nasty bunch. Look, do me a favor and kill a few extra of dem for me.

BILL
(laughs)
Sure thing, Mr. Berski. I'll see what I can do for you. I'm really glad to see you before I leave.
(whispers)
Hey, babe... let's go!

ANGIE
 (whispers back)
 What's the rush?

BILL
 (still whispers)
 I'm feeling frisky again.

ANGIE
 (laughs)
 That's my man!

Angie and Bill wave to Mr. Berski as they leave the store.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
 See you later Mr. Berski.

MR. BERSKI
 Come back safe, Bill. And Angie, I
 can't wait to see doze beautiful
 eyes again.

ANGIE
 See? Tollja!
 (New Yorkese for "Told you!")

INT. APARTMENT 4B KITCHEN - DAY

Tastefully implicit erotic scene.

They hang their coats on the coat rack. Bill moves behind Angie next to the kitchen table and nibbles the side of her neck. She reaches back down to his crotch.

ANGIE
 My, my, my! Your gun feels cocked
 and loaded, sailor. Shoot it soon
 because I've got a sopping wet
 target.

Silently, Bill removes Angie's dress over her head and raised arms. Bends her forward across the table and tears off her panty. He enters her.

The visual of her narrow waist flowing into a luscious heart-shaped butt drives him crazy. He pounds her like a madman.

Angie tightly grips the table edge. Orgasms a couple of times.

Bill's body stiffens as he explodes inside Angie. Still inside, he leans forward to rest his hands on the table beside Angie's body to catch his breath. Perspiration drips down his face and body.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Oh god! What a finish! You are my man!

BILL

Good... good thing, babe. My gun just ran out of ammo!

Bill unfastens her bra. Raises her from the table. Takes her hand. Leads her to the bedroom.

BEDROOM

Tastefully implicit erotic scene.

No one speaks. Bill seats Angie on the bed and pushes her onto her back to part her legs, those beautiful legs.

He kneels to grip his arms around her thighs and buries his face in her crotch. Angie twitches and moans at the initial electric-like shock.

Low moan from Angie gradually rising to a screaming crescendo as she writhes and bucks like a rodeo bronco. She grabs and hangs onto his hair with both her hands.

Bill controls Angie's bucking with his arms tightly gripping her thighs. He reaches up with one arm to cover her mouth with his hand.

BILL

(laughs)

Shhh... shhh... The neighbors will think I'm beating you.

ANGIE

You think this is funny?

BILL

(laughs louder)

Oh, yes I do, babe. I really do!
Was it fun for you?

ANGIE

Are you out of your mind? Of course it was. It always is.

BILL

Did you laugh during it all?

ANGIE

Did you suddenly go deaf? Did you hear me laugh? Did you? Did you?

BILL

Not a bit, babe! Not a bit! Actually, to be fair, your thighs did cover my ears while I hoped you wouldn't tear off my head or rip out my hair with all your bouncing around. See? It is true what they say?

ANGIE

What?

BILL

Sex is the most fun you can have without laughing.

ANGIE

I can top that! It's the most fun ever when you do it with the one you love! And that's you, my man!

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Sunday. Bill eats breakfast while Angie prepares three sandwiches. She puts them into a small brown paper bag.

Angie sits to eat her breakfast. Occasional silent fleeting sad glances between Angie and Bill. Bill reaches for the radio. Angie is not in the mood to turn it on today.

ANGIE

No. Don't turn it on.

They finish eating. Place their cups, dishes and silverware in the sink.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Here, here, I'll wash those. Why don't you get our coats? Let's get to Penn Station early so I can spend as much time as possible with you before check-in.

BILL

Okay, babe.

Nothing more is spoken. Their sad faces say it all.

He goes to the coat rack. Returns to put Angie's coat on her. Gives her a hug from behind and a soft kiss on her cheek.

Her arms enfold his to squeeze them tighter to her. Tears form on their faces. Bill puts on an old worn coat.

Angie grabs her small handbag and places the bag of sandwiches in it. They take one last sad look together at their apartment.

They exit holding hands.

INT. PENN STATION - DAY

Overview of the magnificent old Penn Station concourse. The huge concourse clock indicates 9:37. Angie and Bill still have several hours before check in.

Off to one side is a large poster announcing where the Navy recruits are to congregate at three PM.

Angie and Bill huddle together on a bench. They silently watch the crowd mill about.

The guys who look young are probably recruits. Hard to tell for sure because they wear civilian clothes.

Some look really young, 18 or so. Some are with young girls, others with some older folks, some alone.

Angie and Bill continue their silent people watching.

LATER

Concourse clock indicates 12:47.

ANGIE

Oh, here... don't forget your sandwiches.

Angie removes the small bag from her handbag. Gives it to Bill.

BILL

I'm a little hungry. You?

ANGIE

Yeah! Let's share one of these.

Bill unwraps one of the sandwiches and offers Angie a bite. They lovingly look into each others eye as she takes a small bite. Bill takes a bite.

They continue the back and forth sharing.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

I want to keep telling you how much
I love you, I love, I love you!

BILL

I know you do, babe. You know I do.
And you know how much I love you
too!
You know what? Yesterday is burned
into my memory forever. Let's do
one like that the day I return.

ANGIE

I would love that!

BILL

Know what else? I'm gonna save a
little piece of bread from this
sandwich and keep it with me always
because it's the last thing your
lips touched and made for me... for
just me.

ANGIE

(bawls)
Oh god! Only you know how to push
my buttons?

BILL

(hugs her tighter)
Because I love you. It's easy when
you're in love! I love you, I love
you, I love you, Angie. I will
always love you. You make life
worth living for... and soon
fighting for!

They sit silently. Finish the sandwich with back and forth bite shares.

LATER

Concourse clock indicates 2:45.

Recruits congregate near the large poster. Angie and Bill stand hugging and kissing as do many others.

NAVY OFFICER (30s) shouts through a cone-style megaphone.

NAVY OFFICER

Okay, guys! Listen up! When I call your name go to the check-in table over there.

(points)

When you hear your name, raise your hand and shout "here" or "yo" or anything else. But I don't want to hear "present." This ain't grade school no more. Got it?

You have a minute, just a minute, to say your good-byes after I call your name. After your name is checked off at the table, go through that gate.

(points)

Angie and Bill stand hugging in the foreground. As names are called, several "Here!" and "Yo!" responses in the background are heard.

NAVY OFFICER (CONT'D)

Baldwin, William!

BILL

Looks like they didn't forget me.

(raises hand, shouts)

Here!

Angie and Bill hug with a deep passionate kiss for their allotted minute. They reluctantly stop hugging. Bill turns and goes to the check-in table.

Bill turns for one last look at Angie. He blows her a kiss. She tearfully blows one back to Bill and waves until he disappears into the gate.

ANGIE

(whispers)

I love you, Bill. I
already miss you.

Names are continuously being called out in the background.

Angie turns to leave Penn Station and notices a young Puerto Rican couple, MARIA (19) and MATEO (22) hugging their good-byes. Watches them. They are too far for her to hear them speak.

ANGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(sympathetic smile)

Nice... just like Bill and me!

MARIA
 (in Spanish; subtitled)
 Will you always love me?

MATEO
 (in Spanish; subtitled)
 Of course! I will always love you,
 Maria.

MARIA
 (in Spanish; subtitled)
 Really?

Mateo gently caresses Maria's face. Then with his right hand points to his eyes with his index and middle fingers.

MATEO
 (in Spanish; subtitled)
 Here, Maria! Look at me here!

MARIA
 (in Spanish; subtitled)
 Why?

Mateo's left hand grasps Maria's right hand with her middle and index fingers pointing straight out mimicking a knife blade. He presses those fingers to his chest.

MATEO
 (in Spanish; subtitled)
 If you do not believe that I will
 always love you, then ...

Mateo quickly moves Maria's two fingers down his chest as in a cutting motion.

MATEO (CONT'D)
 (in Spanish; subtitled)
 ... cut open my heart, but be
 careful not to hurt yourself, ...
 because you are inside.

Maria bawls, collapses to her knees and hugs Mateo's legs.

NAVY OFFICER
 Torres, Mateo!

With one hand on kneeling Maria's head, Mateo raises the other to shout.

MATEO
 Yo!

Mateo lifts Maria. They hug and kiss for their allotted minute. They reluctantly stop hugging.

Mateo turns and goes to the check-in table. Takes one last look at Maria, blows her a kiss, points to her and shouts.

MATEO (CONT'D)
 (in Spanish; subtitled)
 Remember, I will always love you.

MARIA
 (in Spanish; subtitled)
 (whispers to herself)
 I will always love you too!

Angie turns to leave Penn Station. Hesitates.

Angie turns back and slowly approaches Maria. She had heard Mateo's Spanish farewell shout to Maria.

ANGIE
 Pardon me. Do you also speak
 English?

MARIA
 (surprised)
 Y-y-yes, fluently. English and
 Spanish are both first languages
 for me. Why do you ask?

ANGIE
 My husband just left for the
 service a few minutes ago too.

MARIA
 That was my husband too. We got
 married just last week. I know we
 look young. I'm 19, he's 22. Mateo
 thought we should get married so I
 get benefits in case something
 really bad happens to him.
 Oh, listen to me go on and on. I am
 so sorry to bother you.

ANGIE
 No, no, no! It's no bother at all.
 By the way, my name is Angie, short
 for Angelina.

MARIA
 I am Maria.

ANGIE

Would you like to get something to eat? My treat.

MARIA

You're very kind. It wouldn't be fair to you. We just met.

ANGIE

Maria, people sometimes become friends after they "just met."

MARIA

Oh, you are so kind, so nice! Someone I want... need to talk to today. Just a blessing!

ANGIE

Look, let's go outside and find a place to eat. There must be a Horn and Hardart Automat near Penn Station.

EXT. 33RD STREET - DAY

Typical busy foot traffic. Angie approaches a MAN in a fedora to ask MOS if he knows of an Automat nearby. Man points west toward 34th Street.

ANGIE

We're in luck. There's an Automat just one block over on 34th and 8th.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Have you ever eaten in an Automat?

MARIA

No, believe it or not because I've lived in New York since I was a little girl.

ANGIE

The food is pretty good. But the real fun is how you buy it.

MARIA

Oooh, I like fun! Hurry up and let's get there. I could... we could both use a little fun today!

I/E. AUTOMAT - DAY

Angie and Maria stand in front of 461 8th Avenue. They look through the large pane window. Maria presses her hand against the glass with a wide-eyed curious look of anticipation.

MARIA

Let's go! Let's go! Let's go! I'm excited like a kid with a new toy! That sounds silly, doesn't it?

ANGIE

Not at all!

Angie holds the door open for Maria. They enter.

Angie describes and points to the different Automat features.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Over there on the left long wall is where you select and pay for your food. You can see the food in those little windows. The price is posted right next to each window. You insert your money, mostly nickels, turn the knob and the little window pops open for you to take your food. Easy, right?

MARIA

Wow!

ANGIE

There in the middle are lots of tables. You can see it's pretty busy now because it's close to dinner time. But there are enough empties for us.

MARIA

Why are some men standing and eating at those little tall tables?

ANGIE

Sometimes they are alone and just want a snack... coffee, pie, danish... whatever! They don't want to take up a whole table just for that.

MARIA

Danish?

ANGIE

Those are sweet pastries.

MARIA

Why are they called danish?

ANGIE

Not sure! Probably introduced here by immigrants from Denmark... Danes, you know. So that's why those pastries are called danishes, I'm guessing. That's what's so wonderful about New York. We get to taste food from so many cultures. Some cultures, unfortunately, give us heartburn.

Angie points to the cashier's booth.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

That is where we get a little magic show to make change for nickels. Watch her hands as I drop this 50¢ coin on the marble slab. Don't blink or you'll miss it.

Angie drops her 50¢ coin. In a flash, the CASHIER'S left hand scoops in the 50¢ coin and her right hand quickly flicks twice to dispense two bunches of five nickels onto the marble slab.

Angie scoops the ten nickels.

MARIA

Wow! Do they always flick out five nickels at a time?

ANGIE

Sometimes they miss. If more than five, the other hand quickly grabs the extras. It's usually never less. They grab a handful of nickels and, I guess, from experience they can feel five nickels under their thumb and index finger.

MARIA

Amazing!

ANGIE

You think that's amazing? At another Automat there's a cashier who does it with only her right hand. She flicks back the 50¢ coin with her pinkie and flicks out two sets of five nickels with her thumb all in one smooth motion. It's magical!

MARIA

Yikes! Professional nickel flickers!

ANGIE

(laughs)

Hey... that's funny. I never heard them called that.

MARIA

(smiles)

It just popped into my head.

ANGIE

(points)

Okay, show's over. Let's get some trays over there. Remember... my treat. You point to what you like and I'll put in the change. You turn the knob and remove your selection.

They make their selections at the food windows. Place them on their respective trays. Look around for available tables holding trays with two hands. Angie motions with her head.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Let's grab that table over there.

Angie and Maria place their plates on the table and stack the empty trays aside. They start eating.

MARIA

Mmmm! Stew's pretty good.

ANGIE

Tollja!

(New Yorkese for "Told you!")

Angie and Maria continue eating silently for a while. There are occasional glancing smiles between them. Angie breaks the silence.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

So tell me, Maria. Where do you live?

MARIA

In the Bronx, South Bronx, with my parents while Mateo is away.

ANGIE

No kidding! I used to live in the Bronx, too, before Bill and I got married and moved to Queens.

MARIA

Where in the Bronx?

ANGIE

Near the Pelham Bay IRT Sound View station, on Manor and Watson Avenues.

MARIA

Wow! I used to take the Pelham Bay line to go to Orchard Beach.

ANGIE

I used to go to Orchard Beach too. I'll bet we were sometimes both there at the same time. Isn't that something!

MARIA

What school?

ANGIE

PS 77 then James Monroe High School. They were just a couple of blocks from where I lived. How about you?

MARIA

South Bronx High School on St. Anns Avenue. I took some bookkeeping classes. Thought I could get a job doing that after graduating.

How did you meet Bill?

ANGIE

Ready for a long story?

MARIA

Sure! Shoot! No need to go anywhere today.

ANGIE

Funny thing! We both lived on Manor Avenue. He lived a block closer to the schools. We both went to PS 77 and James Monroe... same grades, but never in any classes together. Sometimes we would see each other on the way. Other times see each other in the hallway. This was in the 7th grade... both twelve years old, you know.

He always gave me a smile... good looking boy... really nice... not silly like other boys. I think he really wanted to talk to me but couldn't get up the nerve. I couldn't understand why!

My Mom explained how it is with boys. They are intimidated by pretty girls and are afraid of rejection. So they act silly as a defense.

I never saw Bill act silly... always polite. I really wanted to talk to him.

Mom said girls are getting sick and tired of waiting for boys to do the asking. If you really like him, you do the asking. Go right up to him and say "Hi, Bill, I'm Angie!"

He'll be shocked you know his name. Find out what interests him and let him do the talking. He will be so relieved you broke the ice.

MARIA

So did you?

ANGIE

I did! I got up the courage one day and did. Mom was right. Turns out he was good at science and math. I was so-so at those subjects. He tutored me throughout high school and college.

MARIA

That is such a nice story!

ANGIE

When Bill and I began dating in high school, I asked him why he smiled but never approached to talk to me.

(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

He said my large dark eyes scared the hell out of him because they were so beautiful to him. He didn't know how to handle that! Can you imagine? He still raves about my eyes. Even my grocer does and loves whenever I come to his store.

MARIA

Wanna know a secret?

ANGIE

Sure!

MARIA

When you approached me at Penn Station, I also was immediately captivated by your eyes. They are so beautiful and so friendly and inviting. They gave me a warm fuzzy feeling. So it was a no-brainer to accept your kind offer to get something to eat.

ANGIE

Goodness! Thank you for that kindness. Now tell me how you met your husband, Mateo. I heard his name when the Navy guy was calling out names. I was watching your goodbye after Bill left through the gate.

MARIA

Yes, it is Mateo... Mateo Torres. I am now, of course, the recently new Maria Torres. We both lived pretty close in the South Bronx... pretty tough neighborhood.

ANGIE

So what happened?

MARIA

Unlike your shy Bill, machismo is very important in the Latino culture. So one day Mateo saw me, approached and without any hesitation said, in Spanish of course, "I like you. I hope you like me too!"

ANGIE

Wow! Just like that! What does that sound like in Spanish?

MARIA

Te agrado. Yo espero que me guste demasiado!

ANGIE

I don't know Spanish, but that sounds so beautiful... so musical! What did you say?

MARIA

I squinted my eyes with a mean tough look and sternly said maybe I will, maybe I won't, but I am no easy chica if that's what you're looking for.

ANGIE

What happened next?

MARIA

He grinned and said that's not what I want with you, mamasita. Let's go get a Coke. We did! And that's how we began as a couple.

ANGIE

Wow! Simple and to the point.

MARIA

Yeah! Kinda like when you first got the nerve to talk to Bill. Right?

ANGIE

Y'know... I think you are right!

Angie sits quietly for several seconds. She has a look of deep thought.

ANGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Bill's idea to share the apartment seems so right. So lucky to be married to such a smart guy!

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Maria, here's a thought, an idea you might wanna consider.

MARIA

Okay... what?

ANGIE

Both our guys are away for awhile.
I will not have anyone to come home
to each day. I've never lived alone
all my life... first with my
parents and then with Bill since we
got married. Now with him away, for
who knows how long, the thought to
come home to an empty apartment and
living alone day after day
terrifies, really terrifies me.
(pauses)

MARIA

And?

ANGIE

And since you also are now a
married woman you might want to
experience some independence and
not live with your parents any
longer. So how would you like to
share my apartment with me? I think
we would make good company
together. We seem to be comfortable
with each other.

Maria looks stunned by Angie's offer. She plops back against
her chair.

MARIA

Wow! What an offer! I don't know
how to answer that!

ANGIE

I don't need an answer right now.
Please at least think about it.

MARIA

But I don't have a job and can't
share in the rent or groceries.

ANGIE

That's no problem. I just don'
wanna be alone. I can handle those
items by myself. I have a good
paying job doing defense work at
the Grumman factory in Bethpage.
I'll take you there and maybe you
can get a job there too. They're
always looking for all kinds of
help. They even provide training if
they think you'd be good for
something after an interview.

(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

They prefer women with family in the service and with no kids to worry about at home.

(points back and forth)

And that's us, Maria.

MARIA

I need to think. I need time to think about that.

ANGIE

Maria, I live in a nice neighborhood without gangs. The South Bronx is tough and dangerous and especially scary for young and pretty girls like yourself. Right?

MARIA

You bet it is!

ANGIE

Wouldn't you like to get away from that especially since Mateo isn't around to protect you from all that machismo?

MARIA

You know? I thought I'd need time to think but you make such a convincing case. You should be a lawyer. I would be a fool to turn down your generous offer.

Maria turns in her chair toward Angie and gently caresses Angie's face.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Thank you, thank you so much. You are my angel! You were perfectly named Angelina!

ANGIE

You make me so happy! When can you move in?

MARIA

It's Sunday. So I'll pack some clothes and other personal items tonight. I don't have much. I'm not sure my parents will like the idea, but that's too bad! You talked me into becoming an independent married woman! I am soooo excited!

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

So how does tomorrow evening sound
for your roomie to move in?

ANGIE

Tomorrow? Wow! That's great! Now
I'm excited too.

Angie grabs a clean napkin from the dispenser and a pencil
from her handbag. Writes on the napkin.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Okay, this is my address in Queens.
You can take the IRT Lexington and
transfer to the Independent at
51st. Get off at Forest Hills. It's
just a few blocks from my place.
Ask someone for directions.
This is the telephone number at the
candy store across the street. In
case anything changes, leave a
message and someone will leave a
note under my door.

Maria places the napkin in her small handbag.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

I get home about seven. If you
arrive before that you can wait in
the candy store across the street.
I'll check to see if you're there
when I return from work. If not, I
hope you'll be waiting at my door,
apartment 4B.

MARIA

How can I ever thank you?

ANGIE

Easy! Just show up!

EXT. STREET SCENE - NEXT DAY

It's late Monday afternoon. Angie exits the bus from her
Grumman job. Mr. Ziegler spots her. Shouts and waves to her.

MR. ZIEGLER

Angie! Hey Angie! Over here!

ANGIE

(shouts back)
What? What?

MR. ZIEGLER

Your friend, your friend Maria is
waiting for you here.

Suddenly excited, Angie cautiously looks both ways to avoid traffic and runs across the street to the candy store. Mr. Ziegler holds open the door. Angie rushes in.

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

Maria sits in a booth with one small and two large suitcases on the floor next to her booth bench. Her handbag is on the table. Sitting with her is her smiling father, SR. GARCIA (40s).

Maria rises to greet Angie running toward her with open arms. They hug and greet each other as if they had known each other for years.

ANGIE

I thought about you all day and so
scared you wouldn't come.

MARIA

Well, here I am! This is my Papa,
Martine Garcia.

Sr. Garcia, big smile, stands to greet Angie. Holds out a hand to shake Angie's hand. Angie grasps Sr. Garcia's hand with her two hands.

ANGIE

What a nice surprise! I am so
pleased to meet you, Mr. Garcia.

SR. GARCIA

Maria told us so much wonderful
things about you. I wanted to help
Maria with her suitcases and get to
meet you. But I must get back
because I have a job to go to early
tomorrow.

Sr. Garcia kisses Maria on the cheek and whispers.

SR. GARCIA (CONT'D)

(in Spanish; subtitled)
You are right! She is so nice and
so pretty too!

MARIA

(in Spanish; subtitled)
I told you, Papa!

Sr. Garcia smiles and silently waves to the women as he leaves the candy store. They wave back.

Angie and Maria sit at the booth facing each other reaching across the table holding hands.

ANGIE

What did he whisper to you?

MARIA

He said you are very nice!

ANGIE

But we hardly said a word to each other!

MARIA

Believe me, after my pitch yesterday, a quick look and a 'hello' was all he needed. Papa also said you are very pretty.

ANGIE

(blushing smile)
How sweet! Jeet jet?
(New Yorkese for "Did you eat yet?")

MARIA

I'm good! Papa and I brought some lunch. We ate a few hours ago.

ANGIE

Want something to drink then? I like egg creams. How about you? Do you know what an egg cream is?

MARIA

You joke, of course! I'm from the Bronx too... remember? Even Latinos know about egg creams. It's not a big thing with us, but it's a nice treat. So, sure. I'd love one too.

Angie turns to Mr. Ziegler and holds up two fingers.

ANGIE

Two egg creams, please, Mr. Ziegler!

MR. ZIEGLER

Coming up, Angie!

ANGIE

So how did it go with your parents?

MARIA

Complete surprise! I told them all about you and your offer. They were instantly thrilled for me to move out of the neighborhood. Without Mateo around, they were scared for my safety. They couldn't help me fast enough to pack my stuff. They even gave me fifty dollars so I can chip in for rent and groceries.

ANGIE

Wow! Sounds like "fast enough" wasn't soon enough to get you out of the South Bronx.

MARIA

I'll say! This morning they both escorted me to the subway station. Papa carried one large suitcase, I the other and Mama the little one. Papa decided to travel with me because the suitcases would be too cumbersome for me to carry alone. Mama joyfully waved goodbye because I was leaving the neighborhood. So you see what you did, Angie? You made four people very happy... me, my parents and, of course, yourself.

Mr. Ziegler serves the egg creams.

MR. ZIEGLER

Here you are, ladies... enjoy!

ANGIE

Thank you, Mr. Ziegler.

MARIA

(looks lovingly at Angie)
You are my angel!

The two women quietly sip their drinks with occasional quick smiles at each other. They finish the drinks. After a few moments, Angie speaks.

ANGIE

Okay, roomie, ready to go home?

MARIA

Home! That sounds so nice! Yes, I'd love to go home!

Angie pays for the egg creams. Angie notices across the street through the store window the young guy who always turns to hide his face. Points.

ANGIE

Mr. Ziegler, do you know who that is?

MR. ZIEGLER

Yes... that's Joey Gorjhessy.

ANGIE

Why does he always turn his head away?

MR. ZIEGLER

Sad story! He was in the Merchant Marines. Last year he was on a freighter that was torpedoed in the North Atlantic. Several sailors were killed. Joey was rescued after swimming through burning fuel oil. The right side of his face and upper body were badly burned. Rarely goes out... too embarrassed to show his facial burn scars. Nice kid, but very shy. This made it worse. Only 19 years old too!

ANGIE

That is so sad!

Maria walks out the door with a large suitcase and her handbag. Angie follows Maria out the door carrying the other large suitcase and the small one.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

See You later Mr. Ziegler!

MR. ZIEGLER

Sure thing, Angie!

EXT. STREET SCENE - DAY

Angie stands at the curb next Maria. Nods toward the right.

ANGIE

I live across the street a block away over there.

The women cautiously watch for traffic and scurry across the street. They continue walking quietly until they get to Angie's apartment building.

They notice the young guy across the street who turns his head away when he sees the two woman looking in his direction.

MARIA

Do you know him?

ANGIE

No... just his name, Joey. I seen him several times, but he always turns his head away. I was told the side of his face was badly burned when he was in the Merchant Marines... hides it from view.

Angie and Maria reach the front of Angie's apartment building.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Well, Maria... this is it!

MARIA

Nice! Looks much nicer than my building back in the Bronx.

I/E. ANGIE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Angie bumps open the building entrance door with her butt and holds it open for Maria to enter.

They move toward the elevator. Angie presses the button. They watch the elevator floor level indicator reach the ground floor.

MARIA

Wow! This is a treat! I never lived with an elevator before!

ANGIE

Nothing but the best for my roomie!

Angie and Maria enter the elevator. Angie presses button for the fourth floor.

FOURTH FLOOR HALLWAY

Elevator door opens. The women step out and walk hallway to apartment 4B. Angie places the two suitcases down and reaches into her handbag for her keys.

She unlocks and opens the door. With a big smile she gestures inside with her right arm.

ANGIE

Here we are, roomie! Home sweet home!

INT. APARTMENT 4B - DAY

The women enter with the luggage, which they place on the floor. Angie takes Maria's coat and hangs it with hers on the coat rack.

MARIA

Oh, Angie! This is so nice! Such a treat! You never seem to stop giving me gifts! I'm not a religious person, but some power brought you into my life at a difficult time.

ANGIE

Here, let me show you around. This is just a one bedroom, one bathroom apartment with a small living room.

Angie takes Maria's hand and leads her to the living room.

LIVING ROOM

The living room has a sofa, two stuffed chairs, two end tables, a small coffee table, a record player on a small table and a Hide-A-Bed.

ANGIE

Bill And I bought this double fold-out Hide-A-Bed in case we have company like our parents. This is where you'll sleep. I have blankets, sheets and extra pillows for you. I just ask you to not leave the bed open when you're not using it for sleep. Is that okay?

MARIA

Is it okay? It's better than okay.
It's a gift! Angie, please pinch me
to be sure I'm not dreaming!

ANGIE

(caresses Maria's face)
Maria, you're giving me a gift
too... the company I need because I
dread living alone. Now here is the
small linen closet where we keep
sheets, pillows, blankets, towels
and other small stuff.

MARIA

Wow! The linens live nicer than I
did back in the Bronx!

ANGIE

Okay, let's unpack your things. We
have two clothes closets. One was
Bill's, the other mine. I moved
Bill's things into mine so you can
have a closet all to yourself.
Okay?

MARIA

Please stop asking me if it's okay!
Everything you do for me is
perfect!

Angie leads Maria to the bedroom.

BEDROOM

ANGIE

This, of course, is where I sleep.

Angie leads Maria to the bathroom.

BATHROOM

ANGIE

Nothing fancy! Just the usual sink,
toilet and tub and shower. Bill and
I... we just liked to take showers.
Of course you know to keep the
shower curtain inside the tub and
spread it out to dry when you're
finished showering. Mine is the
blue toothbrush in the holder. I
left Bill's red one...

(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

(tears)

... there as a reminder of him.
There are extra slots for your
toothbrush.
The hamper is for our laundry which
we wash in the basement coin
machines.
Look, while you unpack and put your
things away, I'll make us some
supper. Okay?

MARIA

Sounds good!
(takes Angie's hand)
Thank you, Angie!

Maria carries her luggage into the living room. Opens them one at a time to hang her clothes. Puts two pairs of shoes in her closet.

She leaves undergarments and socks in the small suitcase because she has no dresser drawer. She stuffs the empty luggage in the closet.

KITCHEN - NIGHT

Angie and Maria sit at the kitchen quietly table eating chicken stew. Bread and two glasses of water are on the table.

Maria clearly enjoys the meal. Angie breaks the silence.

ANGIE

Like it?

MARIA

Mmmm mmmm! Can't you tell? This
chicken stew is delicious!

ANGIE

My Mom taught me how. It was a
favorite at our house. Where did
you and Mateo live?

MARIA

We never lived together... just
dated. We each lived with our
families.

ANGIE

So how did you get your private
moments?

MARIA

Sometimes on the roof... sometimes in an alley. We would kiss a lot and touch and play with our things. We were a couple about three months. We fooled around whenever we could. He made me feel so good whenever we did that. You know what I mean by fooling around, right?

ANGIE

(smiles)

Of course! Did you use protection?

MARIA

Most of the time. When we didn't have any, Mateo pulled out his thing when he felt he was gonna finish. I would stroke it and watch his stuff squirt out on the ground. That always excited and made me feel good. I guess you can call that feeling love. Longer we dated, the stronger the feeling felt. I was sure Mateo was falling in love with me. I was already in love with him! I would get a wonderful feeling even when I saw him from a few blocks away.

ANGIE

Did he have a job?

MARIA

Sure! He graduated Gompers vocational school where he learned about building construction. He was an apprentice at a union shop in Manhattan. Not much pay to start, but enough to get by and contribute to his family.

ANGIE

Sounds responsible!

MARIA

He is! He is! Then last month the draft called him up. You know the rest of the story. Like I said, he wanted me to get benefits in case something bad happens to him.

(tearfully)

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

I'm so scared to even think the words "widow benefits." So we got a quickie marriage in the courthouse.

ANGIE

Maria, those two words scare the hell out of me too!

Angie and Maria hug. They press their heads together and cry for a few moments. They lean back in their chairs.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

I like to go to bed early so I can get up early to shower, dress and eat breakfast. I need to catch the bus to Grumman at 7:30. Why don't you use the day to walk the neighborhood and get used to what's around. By the way, do you mind doing the dishes? Okay?

MARIA

Again with the "okay?" Do I mind? Do I mind? Go! Go do whatever you do for bed!

ANGIE

Thanks!

Maria washes dishes. Hums the tune "Besame, Besame Mucho!"

BACKGROUND SOUNDS are Angie brushing her teeth, taking a pee, flushing and washing her hands. Maria looks to take comfort in those sounds.

Maria finishes the dishes, wipes her hands. Turns toward the living room.

LIVING ROOM

Maria stares at the Hide-A-Bed. Removes the two cushions. Looks puzzled how to open the bed. Leaves the living room to go to Angie's bedroom.

BEDROOM

Bedroom door is open. Maria lightly knocks on the door jamb.

MARIA

Angie?

Angie lies on her bed about to cover herself with the quilt blanket.

ANGIE

What's up?

MARIA

I can't figure out how to open the Hide-A-Bed.

ANGIE

What's the matter with me? I am such a lousy hostess. I'm sorry, Maria. Let me show you.

Angie quickly slips out from under the quilt. She wears a T-shirt that barely covers her crotch. There's a brief flash of dark pubic hair as she gets up from the bed.

Maria is taken aback by the view.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

MARIA

Oh... uh... nothing!

Angie and Maria walk to the living room.

LIVING ROOM

ANGIE

I see you removed the cushions. Good! Now I'll tell you how and you do it. Okay? Bend down with your palms up and grab the bottom there. Now lift up and toward yourself. See? There's the folded mattress. Now grab the front of the mattress frame there and bring it forward.

Maria follows Angie's directions. The mattress opens flat and the whole assembly rests on the floor.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

See? Duck soup! Now let's get sheets, a pillow and a couple of blankets from the linen closet.

The two women spread the sheets and blankets. Angie tosses a pillow on the folded out bed.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

There you go! Ready for beddy-bye!
But first, Maria, please sit there
and look at me.

Maria seats herself on the Hide-A-Bed mattress.

MARIA

Wh... why?

ANGIE

Back at my bedroom you looked
uncomfortable when I got off the
bed. Why?

MARIA

I dunno! Did I?

ANGIE

Did my brief nakedness bother you?
I'm a girl... you're a girl. Didn't
you ever see girls naked?

MARIA

Only in high school gym class. You
don't understand, Angie. I never
saw anybody naked at home... not my
parents or even my little brother.
Now this is my home and I was
shocked to see you naked even if it
was just a little bit.

ANGIE

What about you and Mateo?

MARIA

We fooled around but were never all
naked because we were scared to get
caught.

ANGIE

Did you ever fool around with
anyone else?

MARIA

No, no, never. I swear! Mateo was
the only one I was ever with. And
we always rushed.
I am so uncomfortable talking about
this. Please, Angie, can we please
stop talking about this?

Angie sits quietly for a few moments. Then stands and slowly removes the T-shirt over her head. Completely naked now. Drops her arms at her side.

ANGIE

Am I so frightful to look at?

MARIA

My god! You are so beautiful...
like a statue or painting in the
museum.

Angie moves closer, takes Maria's right hand to touch her belly. Maria flinches. Angie tightens her grip to bring Maria's hand to her belly. Speaks softly.

ANGIE

How does that feel, Maria?

MARIA

So soft and smooth... like a silk
shirt. I never touched a girl's
body like that before. We were very
careful not to bump into each other
or even stare at each other in the
gym showers.

ANGIE

Why not?

MARIA

We didn't want to be called a
mariconna. That's an insulting word
for lesbians.

ANGIE

Oh... I see! But we are married, so
we can't be lesbians.

Angie brings Maria's other hand to her belly and slowly slides both her hands up her body to caress her breasts. Speaks even more softly and slowly.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Now... how does that feel... Maria?

MARIA

So soft... and so firm at the same
time.

Angie loosens her grip on Maria's hands. Maria, transfixed, does not release her caresses.

ANGIE

Do your breasts feel like that...
Maria?

MARIA

Huh... what? Oh, I never thought
about that!

ANGIE

Then let us think about that...
now. Stand up and take off your
clothes... Maria.

MARIA

Now? Everything?

ANGIE

Yes, Maria... now... everything!

Nervously, Maria reaches to unfasten the top button of her blouse. Her hands tremble a bit and hesitate.

Angie removes Maria's hands from the button and gently caresses Maria's face. Maria turns her head to the side with a look of trepidation for what was about to happen.

Maria just stands there while Angie slowly unbuttons and removes her blouse. She reaches around to unfasten and remove Maria's bra.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

They are beautiful, Maria... very beautiful. Now I want you to place one of your hands on one of your breasts and your other hand on one of mine.

Maria, in a trance, obeys Angie's instructions.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

How do they compare... Maria?

MARIA

Amazing! So amazing! Almost the same! Even size and shape.

ANGIE

Now... let's finish the job... take off everything else... Maria.

Maria hurriedly removes her shoes, socks and slacks. Hesitates to remove her panty.

Slowly, Angie hooks her thumbs into Maria's panty and slowly lowers it. Maria steps out of it. Now she too is completely naked.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Ah! So pretty! You look like a statue or painting in a museum too. I need you to understand why we went through this exercise even though it was a bit uncomfortable for you at first. You see, Bill and I sometimes like to walk around naked here at home. It's fun! So I don't intend to give up that fun. That means we must mutually trust and be comfortable about everything. Understand?

Maria nods.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Our guys are off to war. So in the meantime this is our home. I think you'll get to enjoy walking around naked too. Does that make sense?

MARIA

It does! It does! I don't know how you did it! Here we are both stark naked and I feel completely at ease with you. It must be... yes, it must be those beautiful dark eyes of yours... so warm and comforting! In less than ten minutes you completely eliminated my discomfort of being naked.

ANGIE

Okay! Let's go to sleep. I need to get up early tomorrow. You just sleep in and later explore the neighborhood. I'll leave your apartment key on the kitchen table. Night! Sleep tight!

Angie leaves the living room.

EXT. STREET SCENE - DAY

Late afternoon. Angie exits the bus from her Grumman job. She walks to her apartment building.

INT. APARTMENT 4B KITCHEN - DAY

Angie unlocks the door. She enters the apartment.

ANGIE

Wow! What is that delicious smell?

MARIA

Black beans and rice. See? My Mama taught me to cook too!

Maria places two plates of the food on the kitchen table. Angie hangs her coat on the foyer coat rack. Sits down at the kitchen table.

ANGIE

Oh my god! This is so delicious!

MARIA

I made it with Mama's special sauce. I used just a little pepper this time. I hope it's not too hot!

ANGIE

No! No! It's perfect! I never ate anything so delicious!

MARIA

It's simple and nutritious. It's also a big deal with us Latinos. Chew it slowly so you can savor its flavor.

ANGIE

I hope you made more! I'd love a little more!

MARIA

Sure did!

Maria gets the pot and ladles some beans and rice onto Angie's plate. Angie starts gobbling the food.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Slowly! Slowly!

Angie chews slowly again. Maria rests her chin on her hands, smiles and happily watches Angie enjoying the meal.

ANGIE

Where did you get the stuff to make this?

MARIA

I took your advice and explored the neighborhood. I looked inside several stores. One of them was Berski's Grocery.

ANGIE

Oooo! Oooo! That's where I get my... where we'll get our groceries. What do you think about Mr. Berski?

MARIA

What a nice man! So friendly! I was new to him, so he asked me about myself. I told him I lived nearby and about Mateo being inducted into the Navy on Sunday. He said he also has a young customer whose husband just joined on Sunday. What is her name, I asked. He told me yours. I told him I was living with you and how we met. Then even more questions and praise about you kept coming. I thought I would never get out of his store. I finally got the chance to ask if he had black beans, rice and spices. He did, of course! I paid him and left. I love that little tinkling bell at the door... such an inviting sound!

ANGIE

I am so happy you met Mr. Berski. Did he tell you his wife was very sick... doesn't expect her to last much longer?

MARIA

No, he didn't. That is so sad!

ANGIE

Let's do the dishes and go talk in the living room. I may have some good news for you.

MARIA

Oh, yeah? What?

ANGIE

Dishes first... talk later!

Angie and Maria walk to the living room after doing the dishes.

LIVING ROOM

Angie sits on the sofa facing Maria seated on the closed Hida-A-Bed.

ANGIE

I went to personnel and told them about you having a husband in the Navy and that you graduated high school where you learned bookkeeping... and that you have no kids. They sounded interested because they need folks in inventory control to track parts for the F6F Hellcats they're building there. I said I could bring you by tomorrow for an interview. "Hell yeah, bring her by!" they said. You interested?

MARIA

(shouts)
Hell, yeah!

EXT. BUS STOP OUTSIDE GRUMMAN PLANT - DAY

Maria sees Angie leaving the plant. Maria joyously jumps up and down when she spots Angie. Runs to and hugs Angie.

ANGIE

What? Did you get the job?

MARIA

I got it! I got it! I got it! I start tomorrow morning for training. I can ride with you! I can't believe this is all happening so fast just because you came into my life. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Isn't that great?

ANGIE

It is great!

Angie and Maria enter the bus for the ride home.

EXT. STREET SCENE - DAY

Angie and Maria exit the bus.

ANGIE

Hey! Let's get some groceries
before we go home.

MARIA

Yeah, let's! I got some more Latino
dishes in mind you might like!

FRONT OF MR. BERSKI'S GROCERY STORE

Mr. Berski's store is closed.

Angie, Maria and three neighbors read the hand-written note
taped to the door: CLOSED. SORRY FOR INCONVENIENCE. WILL OPEN
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ANGIE

Oh, no!

MARIA

What?

ANGIE

Mrs. Berski. I think it's Mrs.
Berski.

The two women rush to their apartment building.

APARTMENT BUILDING

A crowd of about fifteen sad-looking neighbors are gathered
in front of the building. Angie approaches one of her
neighbors, MRS. GOLDFARB (50s).

ANGIE

Mrs. Goldfarb, what happened?

MRS. GOLDFARB

(weeps)

Sofia... Sofia passed away last
night. The undertaker took her away
a few hours ago. Isadore is at the
funeral home. Tomorrow is the
funeral, of course.

ANGIE

(weeps)

We were expecting a long time for
this to happen. It still hurts when
it really does happen.

Angie and Maria enter the apartment building.

INT. APARTMENT 4B KITCHEN - NIGHT

Both women sit at the kitchen table. Maria leans forward arms crossed on the table. She looks at Angie who is slumped back in her chair.

ANGIE

(sad)
I'm beat! I don't feel like eating... maybe just some toast and a glass of milk.

MARIA

What did the neighbor mean that the funeral is tomorrow, of course.

ANGIE

It's a Jewish tradition that a person must be buried within 24 hours. It's a religion thing.

MARIA

Oh!

ANGIE

I'm just gonna make a little snack and lie down.

Angie finishes her snack. Washes plate and glass. Goes to her bedroom.

BEDROOM

Angie removes her shoes. Lies down still dressed.

Hugs Bill's pillow. It still has his scent from Sunday. Angie sobs as she hugs the pillow even tighter to inhale Bill's scent even more.

ANGIE

(whispers)
Bill, Bill, I miss you so much!

Angie drifts off to a semiconscious state.

FLASHBACK - ANGIE AND BILL

Dream-like vision of Angie and Bill hugging in bed like they did during their Saturday love-making.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Angie snaps out of her semiconscious state when Maria taps lightly on the door jamb.

MARIA
(quietly)
Angie?

ANGIE
Oh... huh... what? What is it,
Maria.

MARIA
May I lie next to you and hug you?

ANGIE
Uh... oh sure... I'd like that!

Maria silently moves to the edge of the bed. Lightly caresses Angie's face. Pauses. Stands quietly for a few moments and completely undresses. Stands naked.

Angie watches Maria, silently, expressionless. Motions Maria to sit next to her. Reaches to caress one of Maria's breasts.

Maria slowly undresses Angie until she too is naked. The women lie together face-to-face. Maria gives Angie a soft kiss on her cheek. Both women embrace and drift off to sleep.

KITCHEN - NEXT DAY

Next morning the two women silently eat breakfast of scrambled eggs, toast and coffee. It's chilly. Angie wears a robe. Maria wears one of Angie's spare robes. Angie speaks.

ANGIE
Thank you, Maria. That was a nice thing you did for me. I think I was dreaming about Bill hugging me and I so miss that. It was nice to hug a warm body. Again, thank you... I needed that!

MARIA
You're welcome, Angie! It was a new experience for me. I really... really need to talk about it when we get home after work. Okay?

ANGIE
Of course, Maria... of course! Oh, one more thing...
(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

you needn't keep your underthings
and socks in your small suitcase.
There's an empty drawer in my
dresser you can use... if you like.

EXT. STREET SCENE - DAY

Later that day Angie and Maria exit the bus from work.

ANGIE

Let's see if Mr. Berski is open. I
want to see how he's doing.

MARIA

Of course! I know how much you and
the neighbors care about... maybe
even love that sweet man!

INT. BERSKI'S GROCERY STORE - DAY

The two women enter. The small bell tinkles to announce their
presence.

Mr. Berski rises from his seat behind the counter and greets
them, however, not with his usual ebullience.

Mr. BERSKI

Hello, Angie and... wait... wait...
oh, yes... Marie. Right?

ANGIE

Maria.

MR. BERSKI

Maria... of course! I apologize!
Angie, can you do me a favor?

ANGIE

Yes, of course! What is it?

MR. BERSKI

Can you come by my apartment dis
evening after I close up here at
eight o'clock?

ANGIE

Oh... uh... Maria wants to talk...

MARIA

(interrupts)
No... no... it can wait!

ANGIE

You sure?

MARIA

(nods)

I'll shop around here for groceries
while you talk to Mr. Berski.

ANGIE

Thanks, Maria!

Yes, yes, Mr. Berski. I'd love to
come by. About 8:30 okay?

MR. BERSKI

Dat vould be nice. Dank you! I am
apartment 2C.

ANGIE

Oh, that's just two floors down
from me. I'm in apartment 4B.

INT. MR. BERSKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Small knock on the door. Mr. Berski answers. Greets Angie
with a welcoming smile.

MR. BERSKI

Come in! Come in! So happy you
here, Angie.

He directs her to the kitchen table. Apartment floor plan is
identical to Angie's, but with older furnishings.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Please, sit!

Mr. Berski sits across from Angie. A worn closed shoe-box on
the kitchen table between them.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

You probably vunder why I ask you
here.

Angie slightly nods her head. Says nothing. Her hands folded
together on the table.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Vhenever you come to d'store I get
such a vunderful feeling. I tell
you dis because you look so much
like my young Sofia, d'love of my
life.

Angie's eyes moisten. Keeps listening.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Vee met many years ago ven vee lived in Lower East Side, about your age. To make extra money I played violin in teeyaters. Dere vas many Yiddish teeyaters in Lower East Side.

Anyvay, vuhn evening in English class valks in dis pretty girl. Her big dark eyes vere like magnets to me. After class I talk vit her. Her name Sofia Melnik. She also from Ukraine.

ANGIE

Why did you leave Ukraine?

MR. BERSKI

Let's just say it vas no picnic having d'Cossacks for neighbors and leave it at dat.

Anyvay, long story, short, four muhnts later me and my Sofia marry. Vee save money from different jobs. Eight years later vee save enough to move here to Kveens and open grocery store.

ANGIE

No children?

MR. BERSKI

My Sofia vuhns pregnant, but vee lost baby. Miscarriage dey call it. Ever since she vas mostly unhappy. She vorked vit me in grocery store and vood be cheerful talking vit customers. At home, sad again. Sometimes vee dance vit record player in living room. Dat makes her happy most of d'time. Happy or not, my Sofia's beautiful dark eyes always made me feel good. Den tree years ago my Sofia get very sick vit TB. So, Angie, dats vhy I ask you here.

Angie wipes tears from her eyes with fingers.

Mr. Berski leaves kitchen momentarily and returns with a box of Kleenex. Angie wipes her eyes.

He sits down again. Opens the worn shoe box full of old sepia photos. He removes his favorite portrait of young Sofia. Slides it toward Angie.

Dat's vhy you remind me of my young
Sofia! Doze eyes beautiful... yes?

Angie stares at the photo for a few seconds. Stunned, looking at her doppelgänger.

ANGIE

That's amazing, Mr. Berski. It's
like looking in a mirror.

MR. BERSKI

See? Except maybe for d'clothes and
hair style... dat's vhy I feel so
good vhenever I see you! In my head
I say "My Sofia!" Dat gives me such
a pleasure. You should know vhat a
gift dat gives me. Dank you for
dat, Angie!

(pauses)

Vait! I want to show something
else.

Mr. Berski leaves kitchen momentarily and returns with an old fiddle.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

I kept dis from my days in Lower
East Side. My Sofia loved ven I
play dis famous song from old
country... very famous!

Mr. Berski plays a wistful version of "OCHI CHERNYE."

Angie looks astonished by Mr. Berski's virtuosity. He finishes the tune.

ANGIE

That is so beautiful! What's it
called.

MR. BERSKI

Ochi Chernye. It means "Dark Eyes."
I play it because my Sofia eyes so
beautiful, just like you! I don't
always play so slow and sad. Here,
listen to happy version.

Mr. Berski plays an up-beat version. Angie thoroughly enjoys the performance.

ANGIE

Oh, Mr. Berski! How is it possible not to be happy?

MR. BERSKI

Yes! My Sofia always get big smile, sometimes laugh, ven I play like dat.

ANGIE

Are there words to the song?

MR. BERSKI

Yes. Here, let me sing to you. Promise not to laugh at my singing. Promise?

ANGIE

I promise!

MR. BERSKI

(A cappella)

Ochi chornyeye, ochi zhguchiye,
Ochi strastnyye, i prekrasnyye!
Kak lyublyu ya vas, kak boyus' ya
vas!
Znat' uvidel vas, ya v nedobryi
chas!

ANGIE

Oh my! Can you translate to English for me?

MR. BERSKI

I try... maybe rough translation!
Here vee go!

Ochi chornyeye, ochi zhguchiye,
"Oh, deeze gorgeous eyes, dark and
glorious eyes"

Ochi strastnyye, i prekrasnyye!
"Burn vit passion eyes, how you
hypnotize!"

Kak lyublyu ya vas, kak boyus' ya
vas!
"How I love you so, how I fear you
so"

Znat' uvidel vas, ya v nedobryi
chas!
"Since I saw you glow! Now my
spirit is low!"

ANGIE

I think that's the most beautiful love songs I heard in my entire life. Oh thank you! This song is so meaningful to me because Bill once said the same thing to me. Not in the same words, of course. I once asked him why he looked scared to talk to me when we were in school. Like this song, he also said my eyes intimidated him.

MR. BERSKI

(grins)

You see? Vit great beauty comes great power over men. I keep you long enough.

ANGIE

No, no, Mr. Berski. You have no idea what a great gift you're giving me! Please let me know if I can do anything for you. Seriously... anything!

MR. BERSKI

Dank you! I tink maybe Maria vorried what happened to you! Vee neighbors, see again soon! Yes?

ANGIE

Absolutely yes, Mr. Berski... but always in the store. Again, thank you for sharing your story with me... your beautiful love story. Oh! One more thing, Mr. Berski! Do you know Joey Gorjhessy?

MR. BERSKI

Yes. He vas in Merchant Marines and...

ANGIE

(interrupts)

Yes, I know. Mr. Ziegler told me all about the sinking and how he got burned. Where does he live?

MR. BERSKI

He lives right across street from us vit his mudder and sister. Dey my customers too! Vhy you ask?

ANGIE

Just curious! Thank you, Mr. Berski.

Angie stands to leave. Mr. Berski also stands, kisses back of Angie's right hand as continental gentlemen are wont to do.

Angie leaves Mr. Berski's apartment.

INT. APARTMENT 4B KITCHEN - NIGHT

Maria sees Angie enter. Angie has a glazed look.

MARIA

You look weird! What happened?

ANGIE

I can't believe what just happened to me! Sit! Sit down!

MARIA

For god sake! You're freakin' me out! What the hell happened?

ANGIE

(calmly)

I'm 23 years old. I've dated Bill since tenth grade... that's eight years ago. We got married four months ago. We were so in love... I thought. I was told that sex is called "making love." Our sex was unbelievable! The feelings were so phenomenal! So to me I was in love! While walking back up the two flights from Mr. Berski's apartment I suddenly realized I knew about sex but didn't have a clue about love... at least love between a man and a woman! Sure, I love my parents, but it's not the same... I don't get the same wonderful loving feelings I get with Bill.

MARIA

What caused this insight?

ANGIE

Mr. and Mrs. Berski have... uh... had been together about 30 years. They met in their twenties. He's about sixty or so.

(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

They saved together to open their grocery store, a miscarriage strained their happiness, then the TB gradually killed her over the last three years. And yet, through all that, his love for her gave meaning to his life. He showed me a photo of Mrs. Berski in her twenties. She and I are almost doubles... can you imagine that? I never, ever heard him refer to her as just "Sofia." It was always "my Sofia!" Can you imagine... my Sofia! Then it hit me that my pet name for Bill is my man! My man! Come here, my man... kiss me, my man... I love you, my man!

Angie sobs. Slumps back in her chair. Maria lightly touches Angie's shoulder. That calms Angie.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Okay, Maria! What did you wanna talk to me about?

MARIA

It's kinda related to what you just told me. I went to bed a little after you did after we learned about poor Mrs. Berski. I was thinking about Mateo and how I missed him. I fondled one of my breasts and touched myself down there with my other hand. As kids, we were told it was a sin to do that. I felt guilty. So I stopped. But it felt so good!

ANGIE

(interrupts)

Listen to me, Maria! That's religious nonsense. You're Catholic, right?

MARIA

Yes.

ANGIE

If it makes you feel good and you're not hurting anyone else, then it's a sin not to do that. Understand?

MARIA

Yes, I do! Anyway, I took off my pajamas. The sheets felt so good on my naked body. That made me think about you when we slept together naked. That felt so nice. Mateo and I hugged a lot but were never naked. I don't even know what a man's naked body feels like. But I am sure it must feel sexy like hell!

ANGIE

Believe me, Maria, it sure does!

MARIA

But, Angie, your body felt so nice when I touched it! I just wanted to feel again how nice it was like we did last night. You completely destroyed my inhibitions about being naked. So I decided to take a chance and went to your room. I was so grateful you didn't tell me to get lost!

ANGIE

Tell me! How did it feel?

MARIA

You fell asleep before I did. It felt so nice to hug you... so soft, so warm! After a few minutes I felt wet down there just like I did with Mateo. Is that wrong if it's with you?

ANGIE

No, Maria, it's not wrong if it makes you feel good. Sex is fun... remarkable fun! It's not just for making babies. By the way, you're from the South Bronx, so don't you sometimes use English slang for sex?

MARIA

You mean say "pussy" instead of "down there?"

ANGIE

Yeah!

MARIA

I wasn't sure you are comfortable with that kinda talk. So, okay, now I know!

ANGIE

Now back to your question whether feeling wet was wrong when we were huddled together naked. Actually, that is a wonderful compliment for me. It means you trust and like me very much but don't necessarily mean you want to have sex with me.

MARIA

I could never understand why girls would want to do sex with girls instead of guys! Did you ever do it, you know, have sex with a girl?

ANGIE

Me? Oh, no! I did know several lesbians in college. They made many passes at me. Can't say I wasn't curious! But sex with Bill was more than enough for me. Remember in bed how good it felt when the sheets touched your naked body and you touched your pussy?

MARIA

Yes!

ANGIE

It's so much better when someone you trust and care for touches you like that. Did Mateo touch you like that?

MARIA

He slid his finger in and out some. It felt nice!

ANGIE

Just nice?

MARIA

What's wrong with "nice?"

ANGIE

Come with me, Maria.

Angie takes Maria's hand and leads her to the bedroom.

BEDROOM

Tastefully implicit erotic scene.

ANGIE

I want you to undress completely
and lie on the bed naked. I will
not undress myself.

Maria gets naked. Lies on the bed. Angie lies next to her.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Now keep your eyes shut as I lie
next to you and touch you. Take a
few deep breaths and pretend it's
Mateo touching you.

Angie strokes her finger in and out of Maria. Slowly at first
then speeds up the tempo.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Is that how it feels when Mateo
does it?

MARIA

(moans)

Yes! It feels very nice.

Angie quickly stimulates Maria's clit. Maria squirms and her
hips buck up and down. Angie continues stimulating. Maria's
body convulsions increase. Moans get louder.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Holy shit! What the hell is that?
Oh my god! My head is floating...
feels like it'll explode.

Maria's convulsions and vocals taper off. Big smile, turns to
hug Angie.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I never felt anything like that my
whole life. It was... it was... I
don't know the right word to
describe it!

ANGIE

Ecstasy?

MARIA

Yes, yes! That's what it was!

ANGIE

Congratulations! You just climaxed... had an orgasm! And that's one way two women can have sex. See? No dick needed! Isn't that better than "nice?"

MARIA

Oh god, yes! I never got that feeling with Mateo. Did you ever do that to another girl?

ANGIE

No, Maria, this is my first time.

MARIA

How do you know how to do that?

ANGIE

Bill does that to me a lot! He kisses me softly all over my body while slowly stroking with his finger and softly plays with the little nub.

MARIA

Nub? What nub?

ANGIE

See that little bump on top of your pussy?

MARIA

(surprised)

That spot was always covered. I would every now and then rub over that spot while stroking myself. It felt nice, but nothing, absolutely nothing like what you did.

ANGIE

Okay, let me show how you should do it to yourself.

INT. BUS - DAY

The next day Angie and Maria are in the bus taking them home after work.

ANGIE

How's the training going?

MARIA

The job is very important but isn't that complicated. It'll keep me busy all the time because the F6F has so many parts. Some are small like rivets and bolts, some are large like fuselage parts. Some items are made by Grumman right there and many small parts are ordered from sub-contractors. I'll be working in this huge warehouse with many shelves and bins. My job is to track count of every part as it's disbursed and report when to order more when the part count reaches a certain level. Nobody is allowed to take any parts without an inventory person present to track the count.

ANGIE

Sounds like a responsible job.

MARIA

It is, it is! Even running low on small parts can delay and screw up the F6F production schedule.

Angie and Maria sit quietly and watch the scene go by through the bus window.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I have a secret to tell you.

ANGIE

Oh, yeah! What?

MARIA

Shhhh! Not here.

INT. APARTMENT 4B KITCHEN - DAY

Angie and Maria eat leftover beans and rice at the kitchen table.

ANGIE

Oh god, this is so good! The flavor is even better as a leftover.

MARIA

The sauce had more time in the fridge to soak into the rice.

ANGIE

Okay! Are you ever gonna tell me
your big secret or not?

Impish smile. Maria giggles. Leans toward Angie.

MARIA

(whispers)

When I was alone...

ANGIE

Why are you whispering? It's only
us here!

MARIA

Oh, yeah... of course! When I was
alone by myself once in that big
warehouse I reached into my slacks
and played with myself the way you
showed me. Oh god it felt soooo
good! I stopped when I felt I might
moan out loud and get caught.

ANGIE

That is funny! Did you climax?

MARIA

Oh, no! If I did I might have
gotten caught. But my panty did get
a little wet though. I'm glad it
didn't wet through to my slacks.

ANGIE

Wear your dark slacks from now on.
It won't show if it does leak
through.

MARIA

(giggles)

I am sooo randy thinking about
that! Do you mind doing the dishes
so I can get myself off?

ANGIE

Wait! Let's do the dishes together
and then I'll show you something
else Bill does to me.

BEDROOM

Tastefully implicit erotic scene.

ANGIE

Maria, just like you did yesterday,
I want you to get naked.

Silently, Maria quickly undresses.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

This time I want you to sit at the
edge of the bed and lie on your
back with your legs spread wide
open.

Maria silently obeys Angie's command.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

What are you now thinking?

MARIA

I dunno... just wondering what's
next!

Angie kneels between Maria's and quickly buries her face in
Maria's crotch. Shocked, Maria bolts straight up.

MARIA (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing? That's
where I pee!

ANGIE

Are you gonna pee on my face?

MARIA

No!

ANGIE

Then please shut up and lie down!

Angie proceeds to perform oral sex with Bill's same skill and
abandon. Maria bucks and screams while Angie controls Maria's
bouncing with arms grasped around Maria's thighs.

Maria both cries and laughs after she calms down.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Sooooo? Howjah like it?
(New Yorkese for "How did you
like it")

MARIA

Are you kidding? That was amazing!
I climaxed, I think, five times!
That was even better than just the
finger!

ANGIE

(smiles)

It was five. I know. I was there.

Angie wraps her arm around Maria's shoulders. They look into each other's eyes. Maria caresses Angie's face. Cautiously, Maria softly kisses Angie's lips.

MARIA

I'm sorry! I really wanted to do that.

ANGIE

That was nice! I'm glad you did!

MARIA

Angie, may I spend the night with you again like last night?

ANGIE

Yes! I'm glad you asked!

INT. SUBWAY - NEXT EVENING

Angie and Maria ride to a USO center in Times Square. The subway car is half full. They sit together and clutch their small handbags.

ANGIE

I can't wait to get to Times Square. I hear the USO there is real nice and they always have great swing bands.

MARIA

I am so thrilled you love to swing dance too. It is so much fun.

Angie and Maria sit quietly as the train rumbles on. The door at one end of the subway car opens and two young TOUGH-LOOKING PUERTO RICAN KIDS (16) swagger in.

They spot Angie and Maria. Stand in front of them.

TOUGH KID #1

(in Spanish; subtitled)

Mmmm mmmm! Look at that sweet mamasita and fine white chick!

TOUGH KID #2

(in Spanish; subtitled)

Hey, mamasita, I got something special for you.

Tough kid #2 grabs his crotch. Gives some air kisses.

MARIA

(smiles)

(in Spanish; subtitled)

Oooh, that sounds like so much fun!
Thank you so much for that. I got
something special for you too.

Maria motions him to approach with her left hand while her right hand reaches into her handbag.

Tough kid #2 approaches Maria with a cocky grin.

TOUGH KID #2

(in Spanish; subtitled)

Oooh, show me, mamasita, show what
you got for me!

MARIA

(still smiling)

(in Spanish; subtitled)

What I got for you is the chance to
back off to keep me...

Calmly, Maria whips out and snaps open a switchblade knife.

MARIA(CONT'D)

(in Spanish; subtitled)

... from cutting off your balls!

Tough kid #2 jumps back.

TOUGH KID #2

(in Spanish; subtitled)

Let's get the hell out of here!
That is one crazy bitch!

Both tough kids run out to the next subway car.

Passengers watching the drama, many of them Spanish speakers, applaud and whistle. Give thumbs-up signs to Maria. Maria acknowledges and smiles to the crowd.

Maria calmly closes the knife, replaces it in her handbag and sits quietly as if nothing happened.

ANGIE

(shocked look)

Jeez louise! What... what the hell!
Where did you get that knife?

MARIA

It was Mateo's. He wanted me to keep it for protection.

ANGIE

What did you say to him?

MARIA

I said I would cut off his balls if he didn't back off.

ANGIE

But... but... but you did it so calmly!

MARIA

(shrugs)

In the South Bronx you learn how to act cool. To never show fear. It's a cultural thing.

ANGIE

Why didn't you let me know you had a switchblade?

MARIA

Why? Be honest with me, Angie. If I told you about it when I first moved in, wouldn't you have wondered what you got yourself into by inviting a tough street-smart chica to live with you?

ANGIE

But you never gave me a clue you were like that... so tough!

MARIA

Don't need to be that way when I'm out of the South Bronx. As I said, it's a cultural thing.

ANGIE

Now I really understand why your folks were thrilled for you to move in with me!

MARIA

Yeah, but we worry about my little brother. Hope he doesn't get mixed up with gangs.

INT. USO CENTER - NIGHT

Angie and Maria check their coats.

They enter the large ballroom.

Volunteers provide free non-alcoholic refreshments.

Hundreds of military service men and civilian women dance in background.

Bands provide medley of 1940s Big Band music. Medley accompanies following scenes

MONTAGE

-- Angie and Maria talk MOS with soldiers and sailors at the refreshment table.

-- Angie swing dances with a soldier.

-- Maria slow dances with a sailor.

-- Angie sits with a tearful sailor. Holds his hand. Sympathetically listens to him talk MOS.

-- Angie and Maria sit with several service members at a table. Sometimes the girls smile, sometimes look sad as they listen MOS to their stories.

-- Maria swing dances with a soldier.

-- Angie slow dances with a sailor.

END MONTAGE

EXT. TIMES SQUARE AREA - NIGHT

Angie and Maria read the New York Times building marquee: "JAPANESE FLYING BOATS BOMB PEARL HARBOR. ENTERPRISE ATTACKS MARCUS ISLAND 1000 MILES FROM JAPAN." They walk among the street crowd.

ANGIE

Oh, wow! That was fun. Those young guys really miss holding a woman. Some even wept during slow dances because they so miss their wives and girlfriends.

(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

In fact, one sailor I sat and talked with just cried because he missed his wife in Virginia so much. I held his hand and only listened. He just needed to talk to a woman.

MARIA

Yeah, I had similar experiences. Some held me so tightly I could feel their boners against my hip. I gotta admit being held by guys like that made me a little randy. My panty feels wet.

ANGIE

Oh, yeah? Me too! But they were always respectful... never made a pass at the married women.

MARIA

Yeah, they were nice, but I wasn't gonna pull away if that gave them even a little pleasure.

Angie and Maria continue their walk along Broadway then turn onto 42nd Street. They notice a HOOKER in a doorway performing oral sex on a SAILOR.

ANGIE

I love doing that to Bill.

MARIA

Doesn't it taste... yucky?

ANGIE

It's an acquired taste. I guess you never did that with Mateo.

MARIA

No.

ANGIE

I'll tell you about it later. Oh, look! I want to go into that record store.

EXT. RECORD STORE - NIGHT

Angie is seen, through the store window, talking to a SALESPERSON MOS.

Angie and Maria follow him to a record rack where he searches and shows Angie a 78.

He plays it on the store's record player. Angie looks thrilled and excited. Pays for the record.

The women exit the store. Angie holds the record bag.

MARIA

That's a great swing tune, but why are you so excited about it?

ANGIE

Oh, Maria, it's special because it's a gift for Mr. Berski. It's a swing version of "Dark Eyes." That's the beautiful Russian love song he played many times for Mrs. Berski. He told me he has a record player because he used to dance with her in their living room. I can't wait to give it to him. I'll bet he will love it!

INT. APARTMENT 4B - NIGHT

Tastefully implicit erotic scene.

They enter the apartment. Angie places the 78, still in its bag, on the kitchen table.

ANGIE

Let's get out of these wet panties and take a shower. We gotta get up early for work.

MARIA

Race you to the shower!

Angie and Maria shower and wash each other. The two women kiss. Each reaches down to play with the other.

BEDROOM

Angie and Maria lie together naked in bed under a quilted blanket.

MARIA

Oh, that was so good! You got me off three times! You're so good at that!

ANGIE

You're pretty good yourself. You got me off twice!

MARIA

Yeah, but thinking about all those guys at the USO, I really need to try it with a naked guy.

ANGIE

Yeah! Let's talk about that on the bus tomorrow.

INT. BERSKI'S GROCERY STORE - DAY

It's next day after work. Angie and Maria enter. The small bell tinkles to announce their entrance. Angie holds open the door for a MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN leaving with her purchase.

Angie and Maria approach the counter. A smiling Mr. Berski greets them.

MR. BERSKI

Welcome, my two pretty neighbors!

ANGIE

Maria, you get the things we need and talked about while I talk to Mr. Berski.

Maria shops around the store. Angie turns To Mr. Berski.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

It is so good to see your wonderful smile again.

MR. BERSKI

Angie, you already know why it is impossible for me to not feel good ven I see your eyes!

ANGIE

I do know and I am pleased by that. But there are two things I want to talk about. The first is a surprise I have for you.

MR. BERSKI

A surprise? Vhat kind of surprise?

ANGIE

You will have to wait for that! The second thing is advice Maria and I need. It's a very private matter and you are the only person we trust to advise us. So may we stop by your apartment tonight at 8:30?

MR. BERSKI

Absolutely! I wait for you.

INT. MR. BERSKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mr. Berski greets Angie and Maria at the door. An excited Angie hugs the bag with the 78 next to her chest.

MR. BERSKI

Come in! Please come in! Vood you like some tea?

ANGIE

Maybe later, Mr. Berski. I first want to show the surprise I have for you. Could we go to your living room with your record player?

MR. BERSKI

Yes, of course.

Mr. Berski leads The way.

MR. BERSKI'S LIVING ROOM

There are a sofa, two stuffed chairs, side tables, a Philco radio and the record player on a small table.

ANGIE

Do you like swing music?

MR. BERSKI

You mean like Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw?

ANGIE

Yes.

MR. BERSKI

What's not to like! It's such happy and joyful music. Why do you ask?

ANGIE

Good!

(NOTE: This is important for the story. Intended song is Jack Teagarden's 1941 swing version of "Dark Eyes." Equivalent swing version is acceptable if Teagarden rights cannot be obtained.)

Angie removes the 78 from its case and places it on the record player. Turns on the player and cues the 78 at the starting groove. The trombone intro plays.

Angie holds an open palm toward Mr. Berski.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Wait! Wait!

"Dark Eyes" tune begins.

With wide-eyed surprise, Mr. Berski brings his hands to his face in wonder. Big happy smile. Listens for about ten seconds. Smile turns to sobs.

Angie moves to comfort him.

Mr. Berski's hands caress Angie's face. He looks into her dark eyes. He imagines seeing his young Sofia's face.

DISSOLVE TO:

Angie's face briefly dissolves to young Sofia's face.

MR. BERSKI

(sobs)

My Sofia... my Sofia... my
beautiful, beautiful Sofia!

DISSOLVE TO:

Young Sofia's face dissolves back to Angie's face.

Mr. Berski alternately kisses Angie's cheeks several times.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Dank you, Angie... dank you... dank
you... dank you!

Mr. Berski and Angie hug each other. Maria taps both hands to her chest.

MARIA

(whispers)

Anything I can do?

Angie silently motions for Maria to stop playing the 78. Maria lifts the needle as it keeps skipping in the final groove.

ANGIE

Do you have any Kleenex, Mr. Berski?

MR. BERSKI

(sobbing)

In bedroom on dresser.

Maria runs to fetch the Kleenex. Returns.

Angie grabs a couple of tissues. Maria is caught up in the emotion and grabs one for herself. All three cry and wipe their eyes.

They sit quietly and gradually calm down.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Can you do something for me?

ANGIE

Sure, Mr. Berski! What?

MR. BERSKI

Can you play d'record again and let me vatch you and Maria do a little sving dance for me for d'whole song?

ANGIE

Absolutely!

Angie moves the coffee table out of the way.

Maria cues the 78 near the end of the trombone intro.

Angie and Maria wait for the "Dark Eyes" tune to begin and skillfully swing dance being careful not to bump into any living room furnishings.

Mr. Berski claps and lightly taps his foot to the music's rhythm. His smile returns.

MR. BERSKI

Dat vas vunderful, ladies! Ver can I buy dat record?

ANGIE

Mr. Berski... that is my gift to you!

MR. BERSKI

But vhy?

ANGIE

Why? You ask me why? I will tell you why!
 During my last visit here with you, you gave me one of the most beautiful gifts I ever got... your beautiful love story about you and Mrs. Berski. And that song, oh, that beautiful love song! I told your story to Maria and it gave us a lot to think about our own lives, especially about the meaning of love between a man and a woman. That is why I asked you to advise us from your lifetime of experience and wisdom.

MR. BERSKI

Oh, I see! Den let's get some tea and talk in d'kitchen. It's such a comfortable place to sit and talk... yes?

MR. BERSKI'S KITCHEN

Angie, Maria and Mr. Berski sit at the kitchen table, each with a cup of tea.

Mr. BERSKI

Okay, ladies, what do you want to know from me?

Mr. Berski looks at Angie, then Maria, back again to Angie. Looks at them back and forth a few more times.

The two women look at each other. Neither knows how to start the conversation.

Mr. Berski patiently waits with his palms up to imply that one of them should say something. Finally, he speaks.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Okay, I start. I bet you tink of love as romance, like in d'movies... yes?

ANGIE

I guess so!

MR. BERSKI

Like Cole Porter song? Boids do it, bees do it... let's fall in love!
 (sarcastic anger)
 (MORE)

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Fall in love? Fall in love? What a bunch of crap! What do you tink d'song really means?

Angie and Maria look puzzled by Mr. Berski's question. They shrug.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

It means to do the sex. So what is d'reason for sex... d'real reason?

ANGIE

To make babies!

MR. BERSKI

Exactly! So vhen a girl dog is in heat, maybe twice a year, do you tink a boy dog goes to her and says "Let's fall in love?"

Angie and Maria shake their heads.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Of course not... dogs can't talk! Girl dog just raises tail, boy dog sniffs, mounts, schtups and goes away. Two muhnts later maybe some puppies come out, maybe not.

MARIA

Schtups?

MR. BERSKI

(laughs)

Dat's Yiddish vord for... pardon d'expression... "fucks."

Angie and Maria burst out laughing.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Dogs only vphant sex twice a year. So vhy do people vant to do it all year long?

Angie and Maria shrug.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Dis is vhere Mudder Nature is a sneaky bitch!

Angie and Maria laugh.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

She makes sex feel so vunderful all year dat people, especially young people like you two ladies, vant dat pleasure as much as possible. Vhy you tink young people?

ANGIE

Because that's the best time to make babies and to raise them.

MR. BERSKI

Exactly! Mudder Nature is selfish... just wants people to make babies. Love has no meaning to her! Dat's a romantic people notion. No babies means no more people. And dat's end of human race. So? Can you have dat loving pleasure vitout making babies?

ANGIE

Yes, of course! Bill and I use protection when necessary.

MR. BERSKI

Even Cole Porter wrote a song... "Vhat is dis ting called love." Vhant my opinion?

Angie and Maria look fascinated.

ANGIE

Yes, yes, Mr. Berski! Please go on!

MR. BERSKI

(sips tea)

So... you are bote vihdout your men and are bote hellty young ladies. So you must vant to feel sexual pleasure from time to time. Yes?

Angie and Maria look embarrassed by the question. Maria grasps Angie's hand with one of hers.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

Aha! I tuht so! Remember, d'deal is nobody but us vill know vaht vee say here. Yes?

The women nod.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

I come right out and ask. Are you two doing d'sex vit any men?

ANGIE AND MARIA

No! No! No! Mr. Berski.

MR. BERSKI

Vit each ahder, den?

Meekly, they nod and cry.

ANGIE

We are so embarrassed! You must be so ashamed of us.

MR. BERSKI

Ashamed? Ashamed? Did you two suddenly go stupid? Dat's d'most beautiful news! I don't need details how you do it. Only tell me how it feels.

MARIA

Oh, Mr. Berski, the feelings are wonderful with Angie... more wonderful than I ever felt with my husband.

MR. BERSKI

Even vitout d'sex vit Angie?

MARIA

Oh, my god... yes! Even just thinking about her! She does so many nice things for me.

MR. BERSKI

So tell me, Maria... how do the feelings compare vit your husband?

MARIA

It was nice, but nothing like with Angie.

MR. BERSKI

Did doze feelings make you feel in love vit your husband?

MARIA

I thought so. Now I'm not sure!

MR. BERSKI

You told me in store ven vee met
you and your husband vere togedder
only tree muhnts. Didn't even live
togedder... rushed to get
married... yes?

Maria nods.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

You vasn't in love... you vas in
lust. Lust doesn't last, only love
does. You need time togedder for
lust to become love. Lust makes
people just vant to have sex!
Just to make d'babies. Mudder
Nature, dat sneaky bitch! Dat is
how it vas vit me and my Sofia.
Back in d'old days dere vas never
sex before marriage in my culture.
But believe me, d'sex slows down in
time, but d'love remains as long as
you are togedder.

ANGIE

That's what we need you to explain
to us because you have been in love
with Mrs. Berski for so long.
What's the secret?

MR. BERSKI

Secret? I just told you... as long
as you are togedder... and, of
course, always being nice to each
ahder.

ANGIE AND MARIA

Oh!

MR. BERSKI

You two live togedder. You also
shop, eat, dance, go to jobs, talk,
sleep, do d'sex... everyting
togedder! You two actually share
your lives togedder. And now you,
Angie... an honest answer, please.

ANGIE

Please remember that Bill and I
have eight wonderful years
together. My feelings, my love for
Bill are insurmountable! You see,
Mr. Berski, Bill is the love of my
life.

Mr. Berski touches Angie's arm.

MR. BERSKI

(eyes moisten)

Yes, Angie. As you already know, I do understand dat feeling.

ANGIE

I am sure my feelings for Maria will get stronger while we live together.

Angie touches Maria's arm.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

I need time, Maria. Please be patient with me.

MR. BERSKI

So, again I ask, you vant my opinion?

ANGIE AND MARIA

Yes! Yes! Please!

MR. BERSKI

Remember. It is just my opinion. Don't sue me if I am wrong.

(looks at Angie)

I am sure Maria loves you very much, Angie. You and Maria don't just have d'sex... you two actually make love!

ANGIE

Oh my goodness!

MR. BERSKI

Because of your great love for Bill, I am also sure your affection for Maria vill, in time, grow into love for her too. So, Angie? How you feel about having anudder lover in your life?

Maria interrupts before Angie can reply.

MARIA

Wait Mr. Berski! I see it, I see it so clearly now! Angie teaches and does to me the loving things Bill does with her. So in my mind, she is sharing Bill's great love with me. Does that sound crazy?

Angie is taken aback by Maria's revelation. Angie grabs Maria's arm with both hands.

ANGIE

Oh my god, Maria! That never occurred to me. You are right. Because of our intimacy you are Bill's surrogate for me while he is away. That means I am falling in love with you!

MR. BERSKI

Surrogate? Dat sounds like fancy college vord. Vhat means "surrogate?"

ANGIE

Uhhh... that means a person who is a substitute for someone else. Maria is Bill's surrogate for me because I get similar feelings of love like I get with Bill.

MR. BERSKI

Vait a minute... let me tink.
(slight pause)
So, Angie, ven I look in your beautiful dark eyes I see and feel d'love for my Sofia. Doesn't dat make you, for me, d'surrogate for my Sofia?

Angie slumps back in her chair. Caresses her own face with a look of wonder.

ANGIE

You are right... you are absolutely right, Mr. Berski! What an epiphany!

MR. BERSKI

(puzzled look)
Epiphany? Vhat's vit all d'college vords vit you?
(impish smile)
So smart and so pretty too!

ANGIE

(laughs)
That's a sudden insight into the important meaning of something... that I remind you of the love of your life.

MR. BERSKI

(tears)

And such a vunderful gift dat is
for me! Dank you again for dat,
Angie.

The three people hold their hands together at the center of
the table.

MR. BERSKI (CONT'D)

(looks at Angie)

Dis is amazing visit. Maria makes
you feel your love for Bill and she
feels dat love right back from you.
Your beautiful dark eyes make me
feel d'love for my Sofia.
Surrogate! Epiphany! Who knew from
such tings?

Joyful tears form on their faces.

INT. APARTMENT 4B KITCHEN - NIGHT

Angie and Maria sit at the kitchen table trying to mentally
digest what just happened.

ANGIE

Oh wow! Oh wow! We went to Mr.
Berski for advice, but I never
expected an emotional punch like
that.

MARIA

Oh wow, is right! Does that make us
lesbians?

ANGIE

Well, we like guys too. That makes
us bisexual. But, for god sake,
never, ever tell anyone. Unlike
France, America is not ready for
that! Act insulted and berate
anyone who suspects us of being so.

The women sit in stunned silence for a while. They hold hands
and look into each other's eyes. Angie breaks the silence.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

On that note, Maria, still wanna
feel what it's like to have sex
with a naked guy?

MARIA

I do, Angie, I really wanna at least try it. I so envy you when you describe how you feel when you and Bill hold your naked bodies together. I never got to feel that way with Mateo.

ANGIE

You do, of course, realize that Bill and I have been together for years and our wonderful feelings are built on that? When you're not around I sometimes get that feeling just thinking about him. When I need sexual release, I look at his picture or close my eyes and see him in my mind's eye as my hands play all over my body. It's not quite as good as his being here, of course, but it's close enough. That's why I don't intend to have sex with any other guy while he's away.

MARIA

Oh god, I so wanna have that feeling!

ANGIE

You and Mateo never had the time and place to build up to that. So for a start, try it with somebody you like, even if he's not an experienced lover, to feel a man's naked body against yours.

MARIA

Why do I get the feeling you're up to something?

ANGIE

Oh, Maria, you really do know me! Before I tell you, I first need to teach you some things. Get that cucumber from the fridge and bring it to the bedroom.

INT. JOEY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

It's Sunday. Angie and Maria search the lobby mailboxes for the "Gorjhessy" apartment.

ANGIE

Gorjhessy... Gorjhessy... Oh! Oh!
 There it is... 5E. Before we go up
 and see if he's home, let's go over
 the plan again.
 From all I've heard about him, it's
 a very good chance he's a virgin.
 And the main reason we're doing
 this is why?

MARIA

So I get to feel what it's like to
 have sex with a naked guy.

ANGIE

And what is the most important
 thing to remember?

MARIA

When we introduce ourselves, we say
 you have a husband in the Navy and
 I have a boyfriend in the Navy so
 we don't freak him out he's fooling
 around with a married woman.

ANGIE

Right! Right!

MARIA

What if his mom or sister heard on
 the street that I'm married?

ANGIE

We look surprised and lie through
 our teeth that they heard wrong.

INT. APARTMENT 5E - DAY

Angie rings doorbell. JOEY'S MOM (40s), a large woman in an
 apron opens the door.

JOEY'S MOM

Yes?

ANGIE

We live across the street and heard
 what happened to Joey in the
 Merchant Marines. Since we are all
 military families, we thought we'd
 like to visit with Joey.

JOEY'S MOM

Really? That's very nice of you.
What are your names?

ANGIE

I am Angie. My husband Bill is in
the Navy. This is Maria. Her
boyfriend is also in the Navy.

JOEY'S MOM

My name is Lily... Lily Gorjhessy,
Joey's mother.

JENNY (25) comes to the door. Athletic, but not pretty like
Angie and Maria.

JENNY

Who is it Mama?

JOEY'S MOM

This is my daughter, Jenny. Her
husband is also in the Navy,
stationed at Newport News.
Jenny, this is Angie and Maria.
They also have family in the Navy
and came to visit Joey because they
know what happened. They live
across the street.

JENNY

Oh, how nice. I'll go get him!

Jenny hustles off to get JOEY (19).

JOEY'S MOM

Please come in. Don't stand in the
hallway.

The three women stand in the entrance foyer. Before any can
speak, they hear voices from another room in the apartment.

JENNY (O.C.)

(barely audible, angry)
So that's it? You're gonna hide
from women the rest of your life?

JOEY (O.C.)

(muffled, unintelligible)

JENNY (O.C.)

(barely audible, angry)
Well, jackass, not one, but two
pretty girls came to visit you. I
would kill to have their looks!

JOEY (O.C.)
(muffled, unintelligible)

JOEY'S MOM
I'm sorry you have to hear that!
It's hard to get Joey to leave the
house because of the injury.

JENNY (O.C.)
(barely audible, angry)
Mama and I are sick and tired of
you feeling sorry for yourself.
Sure, life ain't fair. At least you
didn't come back in a damn body bag
like some of your ship mates.

JOEY'S MOM
Ummm... You can tell that Jenny is
rather strong minded!

JENNY (O.C.)
(barely audible, really
angry)
If you don't get off your fucking
ass to meet them, I'm gonna drag
you by your fucking hair!

JOEY'S MOM
Oh my! Once Jenny makes up her mind
to do something, watch out! No
delicate flower, my Jenny!

A room door opens. Jenny pulls Joey to the foyer by his left
arm. The right side of his face is turned away from Angie and
Maria. Joey has an athletic build.

JENNY
Joey, this is Angie and Maria.

MARIA
Hello, Joey. Angie and I are so
pleased to meet you.

Jenny has a tight grip on Joey's arm. His burned right side
is still turned away from Angie and Maria. He is silent.

JENNY
(firmly)
Say something! Say something now!

JOEY
(diffidently)
H... hello!

MARIA

Angie and I love ice cream sodas.
Do you?

JOEY

I... I... I don't like to go out
like this! I am ugly!

MARIA

Ugly? I don't see ugly. Do you see
any ugly, Angie?

ANGIE

Absolutely not! We see a hero who
helped in the war effort.

MARIA

Yes, how can that possibly be ugly?
Heroism is beautiful. We sometimes
see you in the street by yourself.
You always turn your head away.

ANGIE

You shouldn't hide your wound. It's
your wartime badge of honor. Show
America that you did your part.

JOEY

Really?

MARIA

Yes, sailor, really! Now show us
that badge!

Joey slowly turns his head. There is a little bashful smile.
His mother and sister look at each other and start to cry a
little.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Thank you, Joey! Now how about that
ice cream soda?

JOEY

That... that sounds nice!

Jenny runs to get Joey's coat. Returns and helps Joey put it
on.

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

Angie and Maria guide Joey to a booth. They seat him so that
the right side of his face is toward the wall to let him get
used to slowly show his wound.

Maria slides in beside him. Angie sits opposite them with their coats piled beside her.

Maria gently touches his left hand. "Love Me or Leave Me" plays on the store radio.

MARIA

What's your favorite flavor, Joey?

JOEY

Vanilla!

MARIA

With chocolate syrup?

JOEY

Y... yes, please.

MARIA

Angie and I love chocolate, all chocolate!

Angie turns toward the counter. Holds up three fingers. Calls out.

ANGIE

Three ice cream sodas, please, Mr. Ziegler. One white and black, two all black.

Mr. Ziegler acknowledges with a thumb up sign.

MARIA

We would like to hear your war story, sailor. Do you mind telling us?

JOEY

Oh, sure! I don't mind. I was a crew member on a freighter, the Pink Star, going to Britain last September. It was part of a large escorted convoy. My ship sank after being torpedoed by a U-Boat.

ANGIE

Did you all make it out before it sank.

JOEY

No! Seventeen didn't! We had to swim through burning fuel oil. That's how I got my "badge of honor."

(MORE)

JOEY (CONT'D)
(sarcastic smirk)
A destroyer rescued us.

Mr. Ziegler serves the sodas. Angie slides the white and black soda to Joey.

ANGIE
Mr. Ziegler, this is Joey
Gorjhessy. He's telling us his war
story.

MR. ZIEGLER
I'm pleased to meet you, Joey.

JOEY
Th... thank you, Mr. Ziegler. Me
too!

MARIA
So you're staying with your Mom?

JOEY
Yeah, until I get a job. I like to
work on cars. I think I can get a
job fixing military vehicles at the
Fort Hamilton Army Depot in
Brooklyn.

MARIA
That sounds promising!

JOEY
Yeah! I couldn't get work as a
Hollywood movie star because of my
looks... except maybe in horror
movies.

Angie and Maria burst out with hysterical laughter. Joey responds with his own laughter. The women use napkins to wipe away laughter tears.

Maria puts her arm around Joey's shoulders.

MARIA
Oh! Oh! Oh, Joey! You are a funny,
funny guy!

The women and Joey start laughing again. The laughter tapers off. More wiping away laughter tears.

ANGIE
What's the origin of your last
name?

JOEY
Gorjhessy is Hungarian... isn't
that funny?

ANGIE
What is?

JOEY
A Gorjhessy here with two gorgeous
girls!

MARIA
Oh, Joey! That is so sweet. Thank
you so much for that.

Maria hugs Joey's left arm.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Oh, Angie! You gotta feel that
bicep! It's something!

Angie reaches across the table.

ANGIE
Wow! I bet you must have powerful
body muscles.

JOEY
(bashful smile)
I'm pretty good there, I guess.

Store radio now plays "Moonglow."

MARIA
Oh, I love that song! Do you like
to dance, Joey?

JOEY
I never really danced.

MARIA
Not even in high school?

JOEY
No.

MARIA
Why not?

JOEY
I was too shy to talk to girls.

MARIA

Really? You're doing great with Angie and me.

JOEY

That's because you're so nice and make me feel so comfortable.

MARIA

So you never had a girlfriend?

JOEY

No.

Maria gives a little smile and wink in Angie's direction.

MARIA

Joey, Angie and I have a record player and some dance records. I would very much like to dance with you. Would you like to dance with me?

JOEY

That sounds nice. But only slow dances. I never tried jitterbug.

MARIA

That's not a problem. We have some slow ones.

ANGIE

That's sounds great you two! Look, I have some errands to run. Why don't you take Joey home and dance with him?

INT. APARTMENT 4B LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maria moves the coffee table out of the way. Joey watches Maria select a 78. The song is "Stardust."

MARIA

That is such a pretty song. It's nice and slow. Here, put your arm around my waist and hold my hand like this. It's slow, so we have to hold each other really close. I'll lead.

They do a simple box step. Maria rests her head against his chest. Joey occasionally steps on Maria's foot.

Record ends. Maria lifts the needle from the 78 skipping in the final groove.

JOEY

I'm so sorry I stepped on your toes.

MARIA

Don't worry. You didn't hurt me. But how did it feel to dance and hold me?

JOEY

It's nice. I never held a girl like that.

MARIA

Tell you what! Let's play the song again and just stand and hug. Okay?

JOEY

That sounds nice.

Maria cues "Stardust" again. She and Joey hug and slightly sway. About thirty seconds into the song she lightly strokes Joey's left cheek.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Oh, that's so nice. I've never been touched like that.

MARIA

Tell me what you feel?

JOEY

Your touch is so soft and I get wonderful chills all over my body.

Maria lightly strokes Joey's right cheek.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Please don't touch there.

MARIA

I want to, Joey. It's my favorite side. It's my war hero side.

JOEY

I don't feel anything because my nerves there are burn damaged.

MARIA

Here, let me do this and tell me when you feel my touch.

Maria lightly moves her touch from the burned area toward his lips.

JOEY

I feel it, I feel it. It's so nice
on my lips.

Joey squeezes Maria closer. Maria softly kisses him. She presses her hip against his growing erection.

JOEY (CONT'D)

I never had a feeling like this.
Look! I'm shaking!

Maria gently pushes away from Joey. She lifts the needle from the 78 skipping in the final groove. She points to the sofa.

MARIA

Sit!

Joey sits down on the sofa. Maria stands before him in the middle of the living room.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Have you ever seen a naked girl,
Joey?

JOEY

Only... only in pictures!

MARIA

Watch! Here comes the real deal!

Maria slowly, seductively undresses, never removing her gaze into Joey's eyes. Joey looks mesmerized.

Maria stands naked for a few moments then straddles his lap.

She softly kisses him and moves his hands all over her body. Maria caresses Joey's face, gazes closely into his eyes.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You know what's gonna happen next?

Joey nervously shakes his head.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You're gonna get laid, sailor!

INT. APARTMENT 4B - DAY

SUPER: "Four hours later."

Maria is at the kitchen table with a cup of tea. She wears a robe. Watches Angie enter as she hangs her coat on the coat rack. Angie smiles as she sits down at the table.

MARIA

What movie did you see?

ANGIE

"Woman of the Year" with Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy.

MARIA

How was it?

ANGIE

Silly! And the Movietone news reels don't exactly cheer you up. Forget about the damn movie. I want to hear how it went with Joey. Details, I want details.

MARIA

Well, it was nice.

ANGIE

What is it with you and "nice?" You look disappointed.

MARIA

Well, this definitely was Joey's first time. A really sweet guy! I did everything exactly like you taught me. Exactly. You were right, I had to provide all the guidance... all of it!

ANGIE

Did he like all of it?

MARIA

Oh, yeah! Every bit.

ANGIE

So what's the problem? How did it feel? That's what you wanted. Right?

MARIA

Like I said, it was nice but it wasn't thrilling like I thought it would be.

ANGIE

Wasn't he naked?

MARIA

Oh, yeah! Nice muscular body! Very manly... yeah, like an Army mule! Also looks Jewish there... what I hoped for! We pressed and hugged together when he was on top.

ANGIE

So why the disappointment?

MARIA

Well!

ANGIE

So help me, Maria, I'm gonna reach over and choke it out of you if you don't tell me.

MARIA

I just felt damp, not really wet like when I'm with you.

ANGIE

Did he climax?

MARIA

Oh, yeah! Twice when he was on top, once when I was on top, once doing it from behind and two more times my jerking him off!

ANGIE

Wow! You gave him one hell of a schtup for his first time.

Angie and Maria burst into convulsive laughter. Wipe away laughter tears.

MARIA

I sure did!
(catches breath)
Yeah, I sure did!

ANGIE

(catches breath)
Schtup... I love that word!

Angie and Maria burst into convulsive laughter again. Wipe away laughter tears.

MARIA

(catches breath)
I made sure he understood it was just a one-time thing...
(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

never, ever again with me because I have a boyfriend. So, for the future, I taught him where and how to touch a girl to drive her crazy. Hope that'll give him confidence with girls.

ANGIE

That was a very smart thing to do. After all that, did you climax at all?

MARIA

No.

ANGIE

Why not?

MARIA

I didn't get the feelings I get with you, Angie. I like Joey, but I don't love Joey like you love Bill... like I love you! While Joey was humping me in all those positions, I faked orgasms, but my mind had flashes of you. Does that make me a puta... you know, a "hoor?"

ANGIE

(laughs)

He didn't pay you, so no, it doesn't! But you did do a very nice thing... you turned a boy into a man!

MARIA

(smiles)

I did, didn't I? Anyway, after he left I took a shower and went to the bedroom. I closed my eyes and imagined I was with you and gave myself five mind-blowing orgasms.

ANGIE

Would you like to go to bed and cuddle with me now?

MARIA

Oh, I would, Angie. I really need you to hold me.

INT. GRUMMAN F6F ASSEMBLY AREA - DAY

SUPER: "Mid-March 1942"

Angie is working in an F6F Hellcat cockpit. She suddenly looks ill. Calls out to MAIZIE, a coworker.

ANGIE

Maizie! Maizie! I'm not feeling good. Can you please help me out of here.

MAIZIE

(shouts)

Hey! Somebody help me get Angie out!

A COWORKER rushes over. They help Angie out of the cockpit. Take her to a chair.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

(shouts)

Hey! Somebody get Grace to come over here.

Another COWORKER runs off. GRACE, a nurse on the plant medical staff, arrives. Kneels to talk to seated Angie.

GRACE

What's wrong, Angie?

ANGIE

I suddenly got a headache, back pain and feel queasy and a little dizzy.

GRACE

When did you last have relations.

ANGIE

On January 31st, the day before Bill reported for Navy duty.

GRACE

Did you miss your last period?

ANGIE

Yeah, but that happens once in a while.

GRACE

I think you might be pregnant this time, Angie. Let's go see Doc and check you out.

INT. BUS - DAY

Angie and Maria ride bus home from work. They hold hands. Both with happy smiles. Angie rests her head on Maria's shoulder.

ANGIE

I'm having Bill's baby! I'm having his baby! Gotta write Bill a letter that he's gonna be a dad. I'm having Bill's baby! I am so happy!

INT. APARTMENT 4B - DAY

Angie and Maria enter the apartment. Their happy smiles instantly turn to dread when they notice the Western Union telegram envelope that was slipped under the door.

Maria picks it up.

MARIA

It's addressed to you.

Angie takes it. Runs to the kitchen table. Tears open the envelope. Reads message for a few seconds. Cries hysterically.

ANGIE

Oh no, Bill! No! No! No! No! No!
No! No! No! No! No!

Angie pounds the table with her closed fists. Maria takes the telegram from Angie. Reads it.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

(somber monotone)

"THE NAVY DEPARTMENT DEEPLY REGRETS TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR HUSBAND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM BALDWIN WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON FOUR MARCH DURING JAPANESE FLYING BOAT ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY AND IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY. THE DEPARTMENT EXTENDS TO YOU ITS SINCEREST SYMPATHY IN YOUR GREAT LOSS....."

Angie continues pounding the table.

ANGIE

(hysterical crying)

Maria, that's what the Times
building marquee said when we were
in Times Square.
Bill was killed while we were
dancing... while we were having fun
dancing... while we were having
fun... while we were having fun...
while we were having fun... Maria,
Bill died while we were having
fun... while we were having fun...

Maria rushes behind Angie. Grips Angie's hands to stop her fists pounding the table. Maria wraps her and Angie's arms together to tightly embrace Angie.

Maria presses her face against Angie's cheek.

MARIA

(speaks softly)

Listen to me, Angie. I love you. I
will always love you. As long as
you want to have me here with you,
you will never be alone. We will be
a family. We... you and I... we
will raise Bill's baby together.

Soulful version of "OCHI CHERNYA" plays as scene fades to black from Angie's tearful dark eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.