

LUCILLE. Good. Better she should follow in *my* footsteps than in yours.

DORIS. *(Pause.)* So, have you spoken to her lately?

LUCILLE. I have been out a lot this past month.

DORIS. A week can go by and I don't even know she's alive.

At night she's out and during the day she's always got an excuse. Always a reason why she can't get together. I talk to her on the phone, it feels like a different person. Like ~~everything we shared was just in my mind.~~

LUCILLE. *(Changing the subject.)* Are you sure Sam's coming?

DORIS. I'm sure.

LUCILLE. You told him the right place?

DORIS. I told him.

LUCILLE. And he said he'd be here?

DORIS. How many times are you going to ask?

LUCILLE. I just want to make sure he's coming, that's all.

(Pause.) You told him four o'clock?

DORIS. *(Fed up.)* I told him midnight. I told him he should meet us at midnight, a week from tomorrow. On top of the Empire State building.

LUCILLE. Would've been better than here.

DORIS. *(Pause.)* You know what your going to say?

LUCILLE. What we discussed on the phone.

DORIS. *(Spotting SAM as HE approaches.)* Shh. Here he comes.

SAM. Hello Doris, Louise.

LUCILLE. *Lucille.*

SAM. Lucille, I'm sorry.

DORIS. Hello Sam.

SAM. So what's up? What did you want to talk to me about?

LUCILLE. *(To Doris.)* Tell Sam what you feel.

DORIS. What *I* feel? What happened to you?

LUCILLE. You're the one who brought it up.

SAM. What?

DORIS. Five minutes ago you were on my side, now you're on his?

LUCILLE. I'm not on anybody's side.

DORIS. Thank you, Miss Switzerland.

SAM. What sides? What are we talking about?

Lucille
DORIS
SAM

DORIS. We feel, *Lucille* and I, that uh ... that you should stop doing something you're doing.

SAM. *(To Doris.)* I've done something to you?

DORIS. Not to me.

SAM. *(To Lucille.)* To you?

LUCILLE. No, but I really haven't given you much of a chance.

SAM. To who then?

DORIS. To Ida.

SAM. *(Stunned.)* Ida?

LUCILLE. Yes.

SAM. What could I have possibly done to Ida?

(DORIS looks to LUCILLE who finally takes the lead. SHE begins to pace. A lecture is imminent.)

LUCILLE. Sam, a woman's heart is a funny thing. Am I right, Doris?

DORIS. Yes, Lucille.

LUCILLE. A woman's heart is a very fragile thing. Right or wrong, Doris?

DORIS. Right, Lucille.

LUCILLE. A woman's heart –

DORIS. It's gonna be *dark* soon, Lucille.

LUCILLE. And after a woman's husband dies her heart breaks. It breaks into many pieces. And when she finally tries to put those pieces back together again she finds that a whole half of her heart is missing, gone, buried six feet under a headstone with her husband's name on it.

(DORIS begins to weep.)

LUCILLE. She then has to find another half, a new half to her broken heart. And she does that by... playing the field.

DORIS. What?!

SAM. What does all this have to do with me?

DORIS. What Lucille is trying to say, *in the worst way possible*, is that what's going on with you and Ida is no good.

SAM. What are you talking about?

DORIS. What am I talking about? I'm talking about this whole past month. .

SAM. We've been having a wonderful time together. We've seen a few movies, gone out for dinner, saw a musical.

DORIS. Sam, Ida and I have been coming here together every month for almost three years and now since the two of you have started with this ... this ... *dating* she can't face her husband.

SAM. She told me last week that she just thought it would be good to not go as often.

DORIS. What do you expect her to say? She's afraid. She feels tremendous guilt.

LUCILLE. That's very true.

DORIS. And on top of that you're planning on taking her to Selma's wedding where she'll have to face *everyone*. All her friends. Everyone who saw her last time with Murry. What do you think that's going to do to her?

LUCILLE. And to you. Taking a woman to a wedding is no small matter.

SAM. But we have nothing to hide.

DORIS. All I'm saying is that going to Selma's wedding together is wrong. What if God forbid it was you in this cemetery? God forbid, you should only live and be well, but just suppose it was reversed. Do you think Merna would be showing up at Selma's wedding with a man? Especially someone you both knew. Not only are you defaming the memory of Merna and Murry, but it also shows no consideration for Ida.

SAM. Did she say this to you?

DORIS. When you've been friends as long as we have, words aren't necessary.

LUCILLE. We see it in her behavior.

DORIS. She's upset, confused.

SAM. I don't want to do anything to upset her.

DORIS. Then let her go to Selma's wedding with us the way she originally wanted to. .

LUCILLE. (*Suddenly.*) And then you can come and take all of us.

(*DORIS gives her a look.*)

LUCILLE. (*To Doris.*) That way it won't seem so much like a date.

DORIS. (*Ignoring her. To Sam.*) It's going to be hard enough