

LUCILLE. Asleep. We stayed up late after we got back. You know women.

SAM. Could I talk to Ida alone for a minute?

LUCILLE. Oh sure. I'll uh ... I'll go make some tea. *(SHE walks to the kitchen, holding on to each piece of furniture along the way for balance. SHE exits.)*

SAM. *(Gathering up his nerve.)* I uh ... I uh "" I'm not sure what I came here to say. I just knew that I had to come over to see you. I guess ... I guess what I want to say is ... is that I don't want to stop seeing you.

IDA. *(Firmly.)* You already did.

SAM. Only because ... because I started to realize that there was the possibility that ... that maybe something was going to happen ... I mean, that something was developing between us that ... that

IDA. I wasn't ready for.

SAM. That *I* wasn't ready for. When I think back, I was talking like such a big shot-ready to start a new chapter. Who was I kidding? I was terrified. All I needed was a door to run out of and Lucille and Doris gave me one. We started talking about Selma's wedding and what it meant to take you and

IDA. *(Angrily.)* So you asked Mildred.

SAM. Not because I had any real feelings for her. But because I *didn't* ... It felt safe ... It wasn't a nice thing to do to you or to her.

IDA. No.

SAM. Ida, that afternoon I spent here with you was one of the nicest afternoons I had since Merna died. And the nights we went out together felt wonderful. Each time I was with you I thought about Merna less and less. And that's what started to get to me. For the first time I wasn't comparing someone to Merna. I was enjoying you for just being you and ... and that frightened me.

IDA. *(Pause.)* I just want to know one thing. These last two weeks ... did you miss me?

SAM. Oh yes. *(Almost fearful.)* And you?

IDA. *(Nonchalantly.)* You were on my mind.

SAM. *(Pause.)* I've lost one woman in my life because there was nothing I could do to stop it. I don't want to lose you if there's still anything I can do to hold on.

(IDA looks at him with tears in her eyes as SHE starts crying and laughing.)

SAM. What?

IDA. I think somewhere right now Murry and Merna are having one hell of a laugh.

SAM. You think so?

IDA. Yeah.

SAM
IDA