

*(SHE exits to the bedroom. DORIS goes to the door, straightens herself out, and opens it. SAM enters in a dark suit and bow tie. He does look handsome.)*

SAM. Hello, Doris.

DORIS. Hello, Sam.

*(Suddenly a WOMAN steps in beside Sam. DORIS is quite taken aback.)*

DORIS. Mildred?

MILDRED. Hello, Doris.

DORIS. I wasn't aware that you were coming with us.

MILDRED. Well, I was supposed to go with George and Elaine but Sam and I were out having dinner last night and I was telling him how the only thing worse than going to a wedding alone is going as a third wheel and he said he wasn't going with anyone either. I mean, he's driving you and Ida and Lucille but he wasn't going with anyone. So he asked me to go with him. How could I resist?

DORIS. Of course.

SAM. She didn't want to go with George and Elaine.

DORIS. *(To Sam.)* It's nice to see you working on a new chapter so quickly.

MILDRED. *(To Sam.)* I just hope those are your dancing shoes you're wearing because I have no intention of letting you leave the dance floor.

*(SHE puts her arm through his. Just then IDA comes down the stairs. SHE sees Mildred and freezes.)*

MILDRED. Hi, Ida.

IDA. *(Pause. Stunned.)* Mildred.

DORIS. *(Gently.)* Mildred's going with us. Well, actually, she's going with Sam but she's coming with us.

SAM. *(Awkwardly.)* Hello, Ida.

IDA. *(Trying to conceal the hurt.)* ... Hello, Sam.

MILDRED. (*Noticing the dresses.*) So you girls are bridesmaids this time.

IDA. Yeah.

MILDRED. I haven't been asked yet. Maybe her next wedding.

*(SHE laughs. NO ONE joins in.)*

SAM. (*To Ida.*) You look very nice. (*Also to Doris.*) You both do.

IDA. Thank you. (*Pause.*) Well, why don't we sit down?

*(SAM takes off his hat and coat. MILDRED gives him her back indicating that he should remove her fur wrap. HE does. THEY sit.)*

MILDRED. So, I hear this Ed fell a Selma's marrying is loaded. Have either of you met him?

DORIS. No.

IDA. Not yet.

DORIS. It all happened rather quickly.

MILDRED. I know. First she was with Arnold then before any of us knew it she was with Ed.

DORIS. It's amazing how fast some people find replacements, wouldn't you say?

IDA. (*Pause. To Sam.*) So I...haven't seen you for a while.

SAM. I've been busy.

DORIS. I'll say.

MILDRED. (*To Ida.*) Can you believe he's selling the butcher shop?

IDA. I didn't know.

MILDRED. *(To Sam.)* Oh, I'm sorry. Did you not want people to know yet?

SAM. It's no secret. I put it up for sale last week.

IDA. Why?

MILDRED. That's exactly what I said.

SAM. I think it's time.

IDA. What will you do?

SAM. I'm not sure yet.

MILDRED. Well, I can't imagine going anywhere else.

SAM. There's Irving's place over on Queens Boulevard. He's got a great little shop.

MILDRED. It just won't be the same. *(To Ida.)* Am I wrong?