

you a drink? *(They move to the counter together.)*

JUANITA. Listen... That storm's just passed right on over our heads, like we didn't even matter... prob'ly on to some town that don't even need it. Believin' is so funny, ain't it?... When what you're believin' in doesn't even know you exist... all my life I prayed to Him, believed in Him...

SISSY. It's the prayin' that did it.

JUANITA. *(Picks up the bourbon bottle.)* Does this really make things different?

JOANNE. Not a bit.

SISSY. Go on an' take a swig, Juanita. *(SHE pulls the string on the "Last Supper.")* ... God's not lookin'.

JUANITA. Sidney said it did. I tried to protect him. I even lied to God so's he'd take him into heaven. Maybe that's why God has punished me. He prob'ly found out the truth about Sidney.

SISSY. Well, looks like it's all over, don't it?... beers gone, sandwiches are stale.

EDNA. It's so sad. I'm gonna cry, I just know it.

STELLA. Oh, for Chrissake.

EDNA. Aren't you sad, too? You must be at least a little sad.

STELLA. All right, I'm sad... you happy now? Come on, gather your crap together an' let's shove off before one of them gets the idea of startin' in on me next.

(EDNA exits to gather her things.)

SISSY. *(Laughs.)* You got somethin' hidden away

in your closet, Stella?

STELLA. *(Laughs back.)* Me?!... only secret I've got is the combination to my safety deposit box.

SISSY. Then what's your big hurry? Hey, why not spend a day or two?... Whattaya say?

STELLA. No, Merle don't like it when I stay away for long. *(Laughs.)* You know, I think the bastard's scared I'm gonna find somebody better.

EDNA. *(Entering.)* Well, goodbye everybody. I had such a very nice time. *(Starts to cry.)* I want to thank you all for still likin' me an' bein' nice to me although I'm not very smart. *(To JOANNE.)* Am I still glowin'?

JOANNE. Just like a Texas sunrise.

(EDNA beams.)

STELLA. *(To EDNA.)* C'mon.

SISSY. Goodbye, Stella. I'll see you in hell.

EDNA. It's not goodbye forever, I hope. We'll all get together sometime soon, won't we?

JOANNE. Shall we make a pact? Twenty years from tonight?

EDNA. *(Excited.)* Oh yea, let's... won't that be excitin' to look forward to?

STELLA. Next time let's pick someplace cool, huh?

EDNA. We could have it at my house... we've got us a window air-conditioner now... an' the kids will be all grown up by then.

STELLA. Honey, at the rate you're goin', you'll have seven more to replace 'em with, too. *(To SISSY)* Can ya imagine anythin' more horrible? *(Laughs.)*

SISSY. Stella, you'd give up everythin' you have

for just one of her kids, an' you know it.

STELLA. Me an' Merle's got kids... hundreds of 'em.
SISSY. Oil wells.

STELLA. They're our kids. We've got us a name for each one, too... Let's see now... there's Merle, Jr... Freddie... Stella Ann...

EDNA. But a real one... You don't have a real one.

STELLA. Wouldn't have one in the house. Merle says the only way to have a baby is with beans an' potato salad at a barbecue. (*Laughs.*) He's such a card.

EDNA. I feel sorry for you.

STELLA. Sorry for me? Who the hell are you to feel sorry for me?

EDNA. (*Simply.*) Edna Louise Johnson.

STELLA. An' who the hell is that?

EDNA. Somebody very important to me an' my family. We maybe don't have lots of money an' belong to fancy country clubs... but we're happy with each other.

STELLA. Happy?! Christ, anybody can be happy. Look at me. I laugh my ass off all the time... laugh at just about anythin'.

EDNA. But you're not happy.

STELLA. (*Angrily.*) I'm happy, Goddammit! (*A brief pause of embarrassment. Sissy starts to laugh. Then lightly.*) I never could stand people who say they have to go, then never do. (*SHE grabs EDNA and drags her out.*)

JUANITA. (*To MONA.*) You'll lock up an' turn off the lights when you leave now. (*To Sissy.*) An' I want to see you first thing in the mornin' takin' down them decorations. (*Removing her apron,*

gathering her purse, etc. MONA (THEN) enters the front door.) I'm gonna stop on over to the graveyard before goin' on home an' have myself a little talk with Sidney. I'll see you in the mornin', Mona... same time as always?

MONA (THEN). I'll be here, Juanita.

(*JUANITA starts to exit.*)

JOANNE. It was nice to see you agsin, Juanita.

JUANITA. (*Turns to her.*) I hope you found what you came in here lookin' for... Miss. (*SHE exits. MONA follows her to the door.*)

SISSY. Well I guess it's all over now... but the end.

JOANNE. How's it end?

SISSY. (*A glance to MONA at the door.*) With just us, I guess... same as it started.

(*JOE appears at the door with a suitcase. HE has changed clothes.*)

JOE. I came by to say so long, to Sissy.

MONA (THEN). She had herself a date over to the graveyard with Lester T.

JOE. (*Smiles.*) Tell her goodbye for me then, will ya? (*Starts to go.*)

MONA (THEN). Where you goin'... do you know?

JOE. Do you care?

MONA (THEN). I had to, Joe... will you ever forgive me?

JOE. (*A pause and then flatly.*) No. (*HE turns and exits.*)

SISSY. Don't worry none about your car... There's