

Mary helps her into her coat. Jo/Mary

LIZ. Lions and tigers and bears oh my! They'll be fine. He has a gun. (Earnestly.) Thank you, Mary.

MARY. Of course.

LIZ. (Holding both Mary's hands.) No. Thank you. For welcoming him.

MARY. It's the least I could do.

LIZ. Thank you for not judging him. That comment about having other hygienists was unacceptable. He *knows* that. He just says things like that when he's nervous.

JO. He doesn't need to be nervous around us.

LIZ. Oh?

JO. What?!

LIZ. You couldn't tell him where Cody goes to school? Do you think he's some kind of *kidnapper*?

JO. We don't really know who this man is!

LIZ. I would trust my own daughter with the man. Doesn't that tell you something?

MARY. It certainly does. Are we still on for Saturday?

LIZ. What's Saturday?

MARY. You know, the Fun Run for Cervical Cancer.

LIZ. Oh no! I *can't*. Jackson signed us up for a Thai massage workshop!

MARY. But it's *your* cousin.

LIZ. I *know*.

JO. So now *we're* running for *your* cousin's cervix?

LIZ. Well you should really be running for everybody's cervix!

MARY. The point is we want to spend some time together...

LIZ. We're doing that Intensive Spanish class!

MARY. But that's not till *June*.

JO. Tonight was kind of supposed to be a girls' thing... ,

MARY. Chardonnay Tuesday...

LIZ. But I really wanted you guys to meet Jackson! I know he's not as charming as Jim, but you liked him, didn't you Mary?

MARY. He's clearly crazy about *you*...

LIZ. And Amanda too! It's too good to be true. (Heading to the door, she turns back.) Watch me through the window.

MARY. We will.

LIZ. Make sure I get home safe. Thanks again Mary!

Start

Liz exits. Jo and Mary speak in urgent, hushed tones.

MARY. When did Liz become so clueless?

JO. She's always been clueless. She's from the Midwest.

MARY. Well, Minnesota.

JO. That's the Midwest.

MARY. It's not *Iowa*.

JO. No. No, it's not Iowa.

MARY. It's not *Ohio*...

JO. Okay, it's not Ohio.

MARY. It's not like it's...

JO. Are we gonna go through every state that it's *not*?

MARY. I mean it's pretty far north to be considered the Midwest!

JO. Camping? What is she *thinking*?

MARY. Do you think we should call the police?

JO. And say what?

MARY. We think maybe he did it.

JO. *They* think he did it. They brought him in for questioning!

They're measuring his shoes!

MARY. We can't let Amanda go off with that man.

JO. How do we stop her?

MARY. Maybe it will rain.

JO. Rain doesn't stop a serial killer!

MARY. It might stop him from *camping*.

JO. Obstacles just excite men.

MARY. Is that true?

JO. Delayed gratification.

MARY. That didn't work for Daniel.

JO. What didn't?

MARY. Obstacles. They just distracted him. A baby crying, a dog at the door...

JO. That's because he was gay Mary!

MARY. He wasn't gay yet!

JO. Ummm...

MARY. What if we talk to Amanda? She's got a good head on her shoulders!

JO. No she doesn't. Her SATs were in the single digits.

MARY. *Jo*.

JO. I'm just saying she's not the brightest girl...

MARY. She doesn't have to be. With those breasts.

JO. I don't think I *ever* had breasts like that.

MARY. We didn't have breasts like that in the '80s.

JO. It's all the hormones in the milk.

MARY. We have to get her alone somehow.

JO. Say you need to borrow a Bundt pan.

MARY. I already have a Bundt pan...

JO. (*Remedial.*) You're making a coffee cake and you need to borrow a Bundt pan, could Amanda bring it over.

MARY. She's always loved my coffee cake.

*Mary runs to pull the curtains closed.*

We tell Amanda that we think it's great her mother's happy and we couldn't be happier about her happiness...

JO. We all agree that happiness is great...

MARY. But then we question whether Liz's happiness is really happiness and we encourage Amanda to share her own misgivings...

JO. Your mother comes home with Jackson you've got to have some misgivings, right?

MARY. Going from Jim to Jackson. Please. I *loved* Jim.

JO. I did too. Why don't we just tell Amanda we think Jackson's the killer?

MARY. What if she tells Liz? Liz will never speak to us again.

JO. Okay, we go step by step.

MARY. First we get Amanda out of that camping trip.

JO. Then we undermine the relationship!

MARY. We *save* Liz from the relationship.

JO. We give Amanda permission to be a pain-in-the ass.

MARY. She's our secret weapon.

JO. Amanda on full throttle? Bye-bye Jackson.

*End*

## Scene 2

*Mary's kitchen. The next day. Amanda, Liz's big-breasted 19-year-old daughter, is wolfing down a fourth piece of coffee cake. Mary is drying the Bundt pan she just washed.*

MARY. It is *so* great to see your mother happy!

JO. We couldn't be happier about Liz's happiness!

MARY. *But...*

JO. She's been out of the dating scene for so long...

MARY. *So* long...

JO. That we worry she's lost her antennae...

MARY. After a divorce, you're *so* lonely...

JO. You want to find someone *so* badly...

AMANDA. No, I know, which is why I've been totally supportive...

MARY. It's good to be supportive...

JO. But you have to be *selectively* supportive...

AMANDA. (*Her mouth full.*) This is *amazing*...

MARY. Have another slice!

AMANDA. I've had like *four*...

MARY. You're a skinny-minny! Make it *five*...

AMANDA. Have you got any milk?

MARY. I've got some skim...

AMANDA. I can't drink skim. It's like *blue*.

MARY. Would you rather have orange juice?

AMANDA. Do you have any apple?

MARY. I have cranberry...

AMANDA. What about soda?

MARY. I think I have some iced tea...

AMANDA. Do you have any lemon?

MARY. I might have a lime...

AMANDA. Do you have any seltzer?

JO. She has tap. Drink it.

*Jo plunks a glass of water down in front of Amanda.*

MARY. You know we love your mother...

JO. We love her *style*...

MARY. Nobody can tie a scarf like Lizzie...

JO. And *fun*!

MARY. Nobody can *drink* like Lizzie...

JO. What a dancer!

MARY. She's our oldest and dearest friend!

AMANDA. If everybody's happy, then what's the problem?

JO. Problem?

MARY. What problem?

AMANDA. Just spit it out.

MARY. (*Carefully.*) What do you think of Jackson?

JO. Be honest.

AMANDA. He's a total freak!

JO. Isn't he?

MARY. The ski mask!