

Side 1: Mary, Jo

MARY. Did you notice a smell?

JO. What kind of smell?

MARY. A not-right smell.

JO. Body odor?

MARY. No.

JO. After-shave?

MARY. No, like chemical-y...

JO. Formaldehyde?

MARY. Oh my God.

JO. He is a dentist.

MARY. Do dentists use formaldehyde?

JO. They use fluoride.

MARY. He's a weirdo.

JO. He *is* a weirdo. Just sleep with him or whatever but don't subject your friends to...oh hey-y-y Liz!

Liz enters from the unseen living room.

MARY. (*Hearty.*) There she is...!

LIZ. *So.* What do you think?

MARY. It doesn't matter what *we* think.

JO. It matters what *you* think.

LIZ. Doesn't he look a little like [Christopher Walken]?

MARY. Oh my God he does.

JO. He so does.

Mary and Jo exchange an anxious look.

LIZ. When Jim left, I felt like my life was over. And now look. I have a *lover!*

MARY. Of course it's not over...

LIZ. All this time I thought Jim was so perfect when all along there was someone even better out there...

MARY. But so nice, Jim.

JO. So sane.

LIZ. Wait. Now you *like* Jim?

MARY. We're not defending his *behavior*...

LIZ. He leaves me for some soprano after three years of lying to my face...!

MARY. But from *our* perspective...

JO. Just to have dinner with...

LIZ. I know Jackson's awkward.

JO. *No.*

LIZ. That thing about zebras.

MARY. What thing?

LIZ. It's just he's out there, you know. His sense of humor. He is just so *out* there.

JO. Uh-huh.

LIZ. So I totally understand if you don't "get" him. But you will. His hygienists love him.

MARY. Oh?

LIZ. *Love* him. It's a very successful practice. I mean let's face it a dentist is...

JO. Not the most exciting [profession]...

LIZ. A doctor. A dentist is a doctor. Women are always desperate to marry doctors. Why not dentists? They're doctors who work regular hours. I said to him, I said Jackson, why did you never marry? Why weren't you *snatched up*? You who were so successful and sexy and *funny*?

MARY. Did he always want to be a dentist?

LIZ. He likes to fix things.

MARY. Oh right...

LIZ. He wants to get in there and fix things! I'm looking for the corkscrew. He loves the tools, he loves the teeth! He said that to me: "I love the teeth!" You must have noticed how my body is changing...

MARY. Well of course it is, all our bodies are changing...

LIZ. My hair is shinier, my lips are plumper, I'm *lubricated*, my hips swivel when I walk. You can actually feel the heat coming off me!

MARY. Well that happens to lots of women our age...

LIZ. There has been a *renaissance* of my nether parts! My desire has grown so fierce that I can't think of anything else! Sometimes Jackson and I actually weep together over the years we spent apart, when I was just one of those dateless divorced women in sensible shoes doing Fun Runs and book clubs.

MARY. But Liz, we're the divorced women doing Fun Runs and book clubs...

LIZ. Don't give up hope girls! *Your* Jackson is out there somewhere!

MARY. (*The wine bottle in Liz's hand.*) Is that for Jackson?

LIZ. Confidence in a bottle. He feels a little out of place.