



Confessions of *DIRTY* Old Women



(A movie adapted from the play)

By
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Confessions of *DIRTY* Old Women



Cast

- ENNIE**.....78 years old, speaks with very European, Jewish accent. Adorable.
- KIM**.....73 years old, speaks with Chinese accent, cute.
- BESSIE**.....75 years old, black, hip ex-madam.
- MARGARITE**.....67 years old, speaks with Irish brogue. Is uptight.
- CONSUELO**.....74 years old, speaks with Mexican accent. Personality.
- MARIE**.....75 years old, Italian, alcoholic.

Confessions of *DIRTY* Old Women

INT: 8 P.M.: ENNIE'S very ornate living room: 1
 Two couches, arm chair, a grandfather clock, photos,
 paintings, a coffee table filled with goodies and liquor.
 ALL are indulging, some holding books and talking. Some use
 Canes and ENNIE uses a walker. At director's discretion,
 some will gyrate when recalling romantic past.

ENNIE

(Speaks with heavy, European, Jewish accent throughout.)

Order, order in *dhe* court.
 It's my pleasure, it's been my
 pleasure for *dhe* last 42
 years, but who's counting, to
velcome you to *dhe* 72nd Street
 and Fifth Avenue International
 book club. *Ve* call it our
 International book club,
 because I came from Poland,
 Kim from, I think Fong shun
 nun, Consuelo from Mexico,
 Margarite from Ireland, Bessie
 from Mississippi and Marie
 from *dhe* Bronx.

ALL CHEER.

ENNIE (cont'd)

Before *ve* get started, I
 personally *vant* to *dhank* Kim
 for picking "*Snow in*
August," because Pete Hamil, an
 Irishman wrote a gorgeous,
 gorgeous book about *Yidlachs*,
 Jews. I hate to admit it, but
 I love reading about
 '*Yidlachs*' and again thank
 you, *Kimeleh*.

ALL

Kim, Kim, Kim!

KIM

(Stands and speaks with Chinese accent throughout.)

Thank you, thank you *bery*
much. I glad you like "*Snow in*
August," I like *bery* much too.
It not powerful like book
Marie pick long time ago, "*The*
Prince of Tides," but I like
bery much. I can't wait to
read "*Divine Secrets of the Ya*
Ya Sisterhood," because
Bessie say sisterhood *bery*
much like us. I also want
thank Ennie for use of
beautiful brownstone, all
delicious food and for always
being wonderful hostess.

ALL

(Chant and applaud.)

Three cheers for Ennie. Hip,
hip, hooray.

ENNIE

So, *what* would you like?

BESSIE

Now that you asked, I'd like
vodka with a twist, if you
don't mind, Ennie...?

ENNIE

Help yourself, '*Buhbaleh,*'
next.

CONSUELO

(Spanish accent throughout.)
'*Por favor,*' Ennie. I have
Tequila with Kosher salt and
lime.

ENNIE

I'll give you a '*por favor.*'

Haven't I taught you English,
Consuelo? '*Nu?*' I'm *vaiting,*
Marg, *what* do you *vant?*

MARGARITE

(Irish accent throughout.)
That's *Margarite*, thank you
and I think I'll have a bit of
Scotch, if you don't mind,
love...?

ENNIE

You know *where* it is and you
my Italian princess?

MARIE

Funny lady. You know I don't
indulge.

ENNIE

Ev'rybody, you'll have to
soive yourself, except you
'*buhbaleh*.' *What* can I get
you *Kimeleh*?

ALL except MARIE have a drink.

KIM

I think I smoke little pot
Enneleh. See, I talk Jewish
too.

CUT: Back in time:

2

RIVKA, ENNIE'S daughter is smoking a joint and tries to give
it to ENNIE:

RIVKA,

Try it Ma, it's wonderful and
you'll love it, I promise.

ENNIE

You know how I'm against
all drugs, even marijuana. If
you like it fine. Thank you
but I'm not interested.

WE are back:

3

ENNIE (Cont'd)

So, maybe it's time *Kimmeleh*?

MARGARITE

And what about my asthma?
You know how it always makes
me cough.

BESSIE

Man, let the woman smoke her
jive in peace. In fact, I
think I'm goin' to join you,
Kim. Man, I'm so nervous,
might as well have a taste.
Might mellow me out and do my
personal chamber some good.

KIM

I have one joint and if it
good for my *bagina*, it good
for your *bagina* too Bessie.
Lewie get it from big doctor.
He give Lewie pot and Lewie do
laundry very good, for free.
Hawaiian, bery green and
purple, I like bery green and
purple.

MARIE

Man, I sure wish I could get
stoned.

CUT: WE see MARIE drink and drunk nodding as we hear
MARGARITE'S VO:

4

MARGARITE

What's that they say, once a
drunk, always a drunk? I
guess you'll always be a
drunk, won't you Marie?

MARIE

Thanks for reminding me
sister. I'll make sure to do
the same for you when you pass
out,
sweetheart. Think that pot's
any good Bess?

KIM

How many times I tell you,
what I smoke is *bery* good
Marie. Better than the best
Russian vodka you used to
drink. One joint of this is
like six glasses of fine
Champagne.

MARIE

Sure wish I could, 'cause I am
in the mood.

MARGARITE

Don't do it, Marie. They say
smoking reefer is bad for an
alcoholic's soul.

CUT: WE see MARGARITE sitting on couch with a Priest's
5
arm around her. Both have glasses with booze in their hands
and have been drinking: WE hear BESSIE'S VO:

BESSIE

Talk about alcoholic souls,
Margarite, you oughta forget
about your romance novels and
move in with your freakin'
priest. Who knows, if you're
lucky you may get more from
him than all your books. I
mean, like all of us, you
haven't gottin' laid since
John...
Maybe, that's why you
developed asthma at your age
because you're so *nervous*?
Shit, I call it horny.

KIM in bed with husband, the light is low. Romantic,
she touches him and he turns away as we hear KIM'S VO.

6

KIM

I no have asthma, but I
nervous, *bery nervous*, because
he no want my *dim sum*. No
laid for 10, 15 years. So
long I don't think I remember
how. Do you remember how
Bessie?

BESSIE

What the hell do you mean, do I remember how? I just don't know if my *personal chamber* remembers, that's all...

ENNIE

I remember how, in fact to tell you *dhe* truth...

KIM

...You tell truth Ennie, Confucius say, truth good for soul, maybe good for your chop suey too...?

ENNIE

...All right... I hate to say *dhis*, but even *dthough* I'm 78 I still *dthink* about '*schtupping*' plenty. *Vhy*, there's something

ENNIE in bed with ABIE, the lights are low and soft music is heard as they make love as we hear ENNIE'S VO: 7

else to *dthink* about...? You see, *vhen* Abie and I used to make love, *dhey vere dhe* most exciting, fulfilling moments in my life, and *vhy* not...? Abie has *dhe* biggest '*schvontz*' I ever saw, and let me tell you, I saw a few '*veenies*' in my time. Nothing to write home about, but in London, Paris and
(Shakes.)
Hollywood, I did a *rumba* or two.

MARIE

Well, Carmine ain't too small either, know what I'm saying, Ennie? I mean the man carries six large ones and I mean '*large*.'

ENNIE

Six large *vones* is good...

MARIE

I told you Carmine wasn't lacking, didn't I, and there was a time when that sonofabitch knew how to use it. Now, he has a freaking stamp collection instead. I mean, even though those old bastards get old, they still pee with it, don't they? So why can't they...?

ABIE at thirteen in bathroom looking at his penis and smiling as we hear ENNIE's VO:

9

ENNIE

I hate to say *dhis*, but Abie says, *vhen* he vas '*Bar Mitzvahed*' even before, his '*schvontz*' was at least six large...

BESSIE

YOU MEAN A HALF A FOOT, YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING...? I mean, Leon maybe got five and that's pushin' it, six inches. What I wouldn't give for six big ones...

ENNIE

Now, even *dhough* he hasn't used it since, it's still, if I remember correctly, and at my age I have a hard time remembering *vhat* I had for super last night, at least 11 inches. It vas so big, can you imagine me, with my big mouth, couldn't handle *dhe*

CUT: WE see ENNIE and ABIE making love:

10

whole thing. I tried, a thousand times and no matter how I tried I just couldn't, so, ve '*schupted*,' '*nu?*' Believe me, I didn't complain, not *vonce*, because I loved '*schtuping*,' who doesn't?

KIM and Lewie making love as we hear her VO:

11

KIM

Oh, my God. How can it be that big? My Lewie has little one, maybe four inches, and he used to make me take whole thing, even his won tons. I no like won tons, even in won ton soup.

MARGARITE

I'm sure won tons means balls and I never liked to touch Johns balls, may he rest in peace and I didn't think penises grew that large.

BESSIE

At Macy's, peckers with a side of won tons come in small, medium and large. Ennie, just happens to be fortunate enough to have gotten an extra large, 'Super deluxe,' if I say so myself. Ooh we, 11 inches.

CONSUELO

Even though I did it in Mexico, Miami and Honduras, I never had one that big before I marry Pablo... 'Once' eleven inches must be...

WE see ABIE dressed as King Kong as we hear ENNIE'S VO:

12

ENNIE

(Sings.)
 ..."Heaven, I vas in Heaven,"
 because not only did it look like King Kong's, it vas just as hard, but dhat vas yesterday, 'nu?'

BESSIE

Man, I seen and had a lot of snappers in my life, that used to be my business, remember?

And if I ever met a cat that was built like that, I would have never gotten out of bed.

ENNIE

And I did? *Oy*, I remember *when* I used to be *dhe* happiest *voman*, and now, I'm so nervous I don't even talk to him. 'Nu?' are ve smoking or are ve just talking about it *Kimeleh*?

KIM

You smoke, you smoke too? I so happy, *Enneleh*. Jewish, right?

ENNIE

Vhat else should I do? I figure, maybe I *von't* be so *noivous*. You know, since ve stopped playing house, *which* must be at least 15-years, I've been a '*nervouseh chorlehrya*.' And *vhat's* going on here? By this time, because you're all usually so nervous too, you always have two or three drinks by now... So, *vhat* are you *vaiting* for, '*Tishabov*'?

ALL, refill glasses and down drink with much gusto:

MARGARITE

Are you happy now, Ennie?

Back in time: Cemetery: ENNIE, ABIE and many people at 13 RIVKA'S funeral. RIVKA'S name on tombstone: We hear ENNIE'S VO:

ENNIE

How could I be happy? My poor Rivka died 25 years ago.

KIM lights joint, inhales and passes it to BESSIE, who takes a couple of long drags and passes it to ENNIE:

ENNIE (cont'd)

You know how I'm against drugs. Do you think I should?

BESSIE

If you're nervous, 'cause you're thinkin' about your daughter, maybe it'll help you forget, know what I mean?

ENNIE nods yes.

BESSIE (cont'd)

Well, what are you waitin' for woman. Time's a wastin' and you ain't gettin' any younger.

CU: ENNIE takes one drag.

KIM

How you like, how you like?

ENNIE

(Takes three more puffs.)
Oy... I think I'm floating?
Am I floating?

MARGARITE

I hate to interrupt your euphoric escapade, but this is a meeting of our book club, is it not? And we are supposed to be discussing Pete Hamil's, wonderful book, "*Snow in August.*"

Back in time: SUN YI speaking to her mother KIM in beautiful oriental looking living room: 14

SUN YI

(Kim's daughter.)
I love "*Snow in August*" Mama, what a wonderful book you gave me.

KIM

I knew you would, Sun Yi, I'm glad.

WE are back:

14a

MARGARITE

I adored "*Snow in August*," an Irish boy, helping a poor Jewish Rabbi in Brooklyn. I thought it was wonderful, except for the part about the '*Golem*.' That monster scared me out of me bloomers.

KIM

I like everything except ending...

ENNIE

And *vhat's* wrong *vit dhe* ending?

KIM

I think when '*Golem*' show up, full-of-crap. Bad spirit very, very scary.

BESSIE

I kind of felt the same way, I mean monsters... There ain't no freakin' monsters in Brooklyn, maybe the Bronx, but Brooklyn?

MARIE

Oh yeah? To me, Carmine is worse than a freakin' monster.

MARIE is annoyed at her husband CARMINE because he doesn't want to make love:

15

CARMINE

I wish you would cut this bullshit out. I told you I have diabetes and I don't feel like getting laid, so for get it.

MARIE

What the hell does diabetes have to do with your meat? I mean, they're miles apart. Why don't you get a penile implant for your erectile dysfunction, you lazy

sonofabitch. If you get a heart attack and then you can shove your dysfunction up your diabetic ass.

WE are back:

16

MARIE

I'll leave that worthless, impotent guinea unless he gets on the ball.

BESSIE

If you leave Carmine, after, how long you married Marie?

MARIE

52 years...

BESSIE

52 years? Well, baby, I'm only married 43 years. And if you can cut out, I sure as hell can too, 'cause Leon the loser and me sure ain't been hittin' no pillows lately. Get me a young stud that will appreciate my *personal chamber*. Maybe me-and-you'll get an apartment together? How's that sound Marie?

KIM

Maybe I come too, I come too, funny no? I no like Lewie no more. He, no want my *dim sum* and I no like his eyes, too squinty. I think, because he loser too. I want big salami like Ennie has. Maybe this time I find Jew? All Jews have big salami, no?

BESSIE

Forget it Kim. Not all Jews have a big anything except maybe their ego. And let me tell you about them Jews, not that I have anything against them, except, maybe for the fact that they all want head. I mean, I never saw anything like it.

Back in time: Harlem: Smalls restaurant: BESSIE is
18
annoyed at her Boss who is a fat, old Jew who wants her to
give him a blow job:

BESSIE

Hey Harry, just because you
won Smalls the hippest
restaurant in Harlem and its
1956 and you let me work my 32
fine girls and as you know
they are the finest broads in
town.

BOSS

Now Bessie, I like all the
women that work for you and
all the money you give me, but
that ain't enough. Now be
reasonable, all I want to do
is put my big dick in those
juicy big lips of yours.
Just once and that's it, I
promise.

BESSIE

I ain't goin' to go down on
you and your Jewish cock, no
way.

WE are back:

19

BESSIE (Cont'd)

When those old rich Jews use
to come by, they'd take one
look at my big, juicy lips and
instead of choosin' one of my
fine lookin' bitches, they'd
choose me and you know what I
had to do, don'tcha? Except
for Ennie's Abie, I never saw
a Kosher hot dog bigger than
five, maybe six inches tops
and that's pushin' it.

KIM

I change my mind, I no want Jew, except Abie and Abie no good, because Ennie just as nervous as me. I want Tarzan. Tarzan have big, strong banana... I need banana. I want banana.

BESSIE

I had Tarzan and you can forget about his Chiquita.

MARGARITE

Is that what you think life's all about, ten inch, six inch and four inch penises with wontons, Tarzan with his banana? I think you're all crazy to give up your marriages over an orgasm. Believe me, despite the fact that I rarely moan and groan about not getting it anymore, it still bothers me, but I couldn't say goodbye to John, even though he stopped

MARGARITE is being wheeled into metal institution as we hear her VO: 20

wanting me. Remember, when I had a break down and they took me to the funny farm, and when we had to fly back to Killarney to bury my poor mother, Rose? When they said John Jr. was killed in Mi Lai. They never found his body. I couldn't have weathered the storm with out my Dear John... So, now I have a couple of drinks, put on a Sinatra record and turn to my good old vibrator and pretend it's still John, or Frank.

(Sings.)

"I'm gonna love you, like nobody's loved you, come rain or come shine."

ENNIE

I think Margarite's right, I mean, who had it better *dhan*

me? Nobody, *dhat's* vhy I *dhank* God Abie's still *vith* me. All right, I don't talk to him, because maybe he frustrates me too, after all, you're not *dhe* only one *mit* a *personal chamber* Bessie, but '*ah zoy gehtus,*' *dhat's* *dhe* *vay* it goes. He's my husband and even *dhough* I've seen a few guys *dhat* I *vouldn't* mind giving a tumble to; *dhat* Michael Douglas and *dhat* Jack
(MORE)

ENNIE (Cont'd)

Nicholson, I'm telling you, but I'm sure *dhey* don't have *vhat* Abie still has.

ABIE is a sleep as ENNIE trys to play with his penis 21
I *cootchy* his beauty *vhen* he sleeps... And all *dhose* actors have little ones. I know, I *vas* *dhere* Charley.

MARIE

But if Abie doesn't utilize his endowment, what good does
(Sings.)

it do you? "*Mem'ries, like* *dhe* *corner of your mind.*" I *vas* *vonce* *dhe* luckiest woman in *dhe* *vold*. It's his fault *dhat* it stopped *voicing*, my Caddy stopped *voiking* too.

BESSIE

Yeah, but they just came out with a new and improved model and that's exactly what I need, a new and improved Leon.

CUT: New Yorker headline: Hugh Heffner and Bob Dole try 22
new drug called Viagra and they say it really work. Picture show wives smiling, dancing, really happy.

MARGARITE

And may I ask what is Diagra?

KIM

According to Heffner and Dole, it put lead in pencil, make

hard.

CONSUELO

Oh, I heard about it, it no called Diagra, it called Biagra. It's supposed to be the hottest drug on market. Men, millions of men want it, they kill for it. They want to do it, except my Pablo.

MARIE

I think it's called Miagra Connie and I sure as hell would like to get a dose or two for his sausage.

BESSIE

It ain't Miagra, Diagra, or Biagra, its called Viagra and it's supposed to be fantastic. I tried to talk to Leon about it, but he said he would rather watch the Mets.

ENNIE

Biagra, Diagra, Miagra, Schmiagra... All I care is *dhat* it *voiks*. Because of how big it is, I bet Abie *vill* have to take two or three pills, and I think I read some *where dhat* it costs \$10 a pill, *dhose gonnifs*, those thieves.

KIM

I, pay thousand dollars if it work. What money do if you
(Smokes joint.)
crazy and I *bery* crazy. I hope you get Diagra like you get pot?

MARGARITE

Well, according to the papers and T.V., you need a prescription for whatever you

call it. You see, instead of leaving your husbands, perhaps all you need is...

KIM	BESSIE	CONSUELO	MARIE	ENNIE
Diagra.	Viagra.	Biagra.	Miagra.	Schmiagra.

MARIE
What ever, just let's get it.

BESSIE
And what happens if we get it and they don't want to take it? Leon says, if Mother Nature wanted it to still get hard, it would still get hard. That's why he ain't takin' nothin'.

CONSUELO
And if Mother Nature give him cancer, would he go for Chemo? You tell him he needs help, you tell him if he no take Biagra, you find somebody else... And I got another one of those freakin' threatening letters.

ENNIE
Forget about those letters.
(Rises and walks.)
Look, I'm *valking vithout* my *valker*.

KIM
(High, sings, laughs.)
Look at her she's walking, look at her she's talking...

BESSIE
Congratulations Ennie and you know there's more than one-way to skin a cat. I'm gonna get me a prescription and I'm gonna put it in his sweet potatoes, and then, one night

when he gets real hard, I sure hope it don't scare him, and he wants a taste of my *personal chamber*, I'm gonna tell him that Mother Nature just ain't in the mood.

Back in time: Beautiful bedroom, lights are low and we hear Nat King Cole singing: 24

LEON

Hey baby, you know how you do it to me, so lets get it on, woman, lets get it on .

BESSIE

You are the horniest man I ever seen but you got to wait for your dessert. Go get me a roast pork sandwich, and don't tell me it's three o'clock in the morning, and when you come back and make sure you get duck sauce and the Chinese mustard.

WE are back:

25

BESSIE (Cont'd)

By this time it was four in the morning, he didn't say a word, just got back in his Caddie and got me what I wanted...

KIM

...And then you give him *personal chamber*, right?

BESSIE

You bet your sweet ass I did...

CUT: WE see property described via VO:

26

That's why he bought me two houses, the brownstone on 84th, one in Bay Point in Miami, oh yeah, I almost forgot about my duplex in Tahiti. Guess you could say he was pussy

whipped, couldn't you and once I start feedin' him some Viagra, and let me tell you, they say all you need is one pill. I'm gonna put three of them suckers in his sweet potatoes and make him buy me the Empire State Buildin'. I'll have him climbin' the walls. I'll have him beggin' for my *personal chamber* and that's only the beginnin'.

MARGARET

Oh, how I wish I could still discuss it with my beloved John. He'd go for it, because he was such a reasonable man.

MARIE

I'll get the New Yorker and I'll show Carmine the article on Bob Dole. He's a staunch Republican, you know. He's given hundreds of thousand of dollars to the party and when he finds out what it did for Dole, why he'll probably buy the company. I don't think I'll put it in his sweet potatoes, because why waste it, he never eats them.

KIM

And what about my Lewie? Not only won't he eat sweet potatoes, he won't even take a Tylenol. Only take Chinese herbs. He'll say Diagra, American poison. I give anything if he take poison, I mean Diagra. I tell him he need it, because I so nervous, he say talk to Buhda, I tell him I talk to Buhda, but I still nervous. He say talk to Confucius. I tell Confucius to tell Lewie to take Diagra, Confucius, like Buhda will say, take left testicle of black bull, red beet and

Ginseng...

ENNIE

...Oy, and *vhat?* *Vhat* are you supposed to do *mit* a testicle from a black bull, a beet and Ginseng?

KIM

I wish I knew, but, just to be on the safe side, I got ten testicles from ten black bulls, cost me a fortune, ten red beets and ten Ginseng and I didn't know what the hell to do with them. I tell you, Confucius and Buddha drive me

CUT: Millions of Chinese people walking:
crazy. That's why one billion Chinese people walk around

27

(MORE)

KIM (Cont'd)

saying, '*Ne how ma, ne how ma?*' Which means, "*How are you?*" They don't know how they are, because they don't know what to do with testicles from those black bulls, the red beets and the Ginseng, so they ask, "*How are you,*" because they no want tell how they are. Crazy, Chinese people *bery* crazy.

MARIE

At least you have someone to talk to. All I have is Carmine.

Back in time: MARIE'S ornate Italian living room:
She's annoyed at CARMINE:

28

MARIE

How's it going Carmine?

CARMINE smiles: What time is it honey?

CARMINE smiles: Want to go see a movie?

CARMINE smiles: You know that beer commercial where that stupid looking dummy bobs his head? You remind me of that fuckin' dummy Carmine! Why don't you

get a fuckin' hearing aid? Ya know, Carmine, I just don't have any freakin' luck when it comes to dummies.

MARGARITE

(Starts to sob.)

Talking about dummies, I'm the biggest and most deceitful dummy that ever lived... I'm jealous of all of you, because you still want it. I haven't wanted it since I went through my changes.

CUT: Back in time. MARGARITE is pleading with her husband JOHN who won't take no for an answer: 29

I'm sorry, John, but since my period stopped I've seemed to have lost all desire to...

JOHN

Just spread your legs and I'll give you the desire you need, Margarite. You know how I get when I've hoisted a few, so, lets do it me love!

MARGARITE

I told you I'm not in the mood so stop touching me!

JOHN

Well I am, Damnit!

MARGARITE starts to cry:

WE are back:

30

MARGARITE

The more I turned him away, the more he seemed to want it. Remember my break down? Hello. I thought there was something wrong with me, because all of you were still sexually active. I never told you, but I hated all of you. I was jealous, I was neurotic and I thought I was going

crazy...

ENNIE

...'*Neboch*,' you poor
thing...

MARGARITE

...My psychiatrist told me,
there comes a time in life,
when there's no one to turn
to, we must find other things
to supersede our sexual
desires... I tried to tell
that to Dear John, who didn't
seem to understand... I think
that's when he had that affair
with his secretary that I told
you about... I always felt it
was my fault, because he
wanted something that I just
couldn't give him. For the
next ten

(MORE)

MARGARITE (Cont'd)

years, every time he tried, I
wanted to hide, kill myself,
jump off the Brooklyn Bridge,
anything to relieve the
inadequacy I felt. I had been
going to seven o'clock mass
every morning in hope of
turned to black bulls and
testicles, Kim and I turned to
Jesus and Father O'Ryan, the
all-knowing Father O'Ryan told
me to pray and let Jesus'
will, not my will be done...
Poor John, he died in need.

BESSIE

...Keep goin' baby, I'm all
ears...

MARGARITE

...A miracle occurred, John's
desire abated and he gave up
his mistress. He began to
understand how tormented I
was.
He'd hug and kiss me as much
as he could... He asked my

forgiveness about his
unfaithfulness and a new
intimacy occurred. Every
three months he'd leave his
computer business and we'd go
on vacation to London, Paris,
Greece, Israel, China, oh how
I wish I could please him
now...I could go on, but I
don't want to bore you.

KIM

(High, laughs.)

But I still have Lewie.
That's why I need Diagra, lot
of Diagra, GIVE ME DIAGRA!

MARGARITE

You know I read somewhere that
there's a possibility that it
just might do the same for
women.

MARIE

Well, I sure hope so.

CONSUELO

What do you mean, you hope so.

MARIE

I never went to a funny farm,
not that I didn't need it and
I don't think Carmine, rather,
I hope, he didn't have an
affair, but Marg, I mean
Margarite, I haven't had the
urge since Warren Beatty did
"Shampoo." I haven't had
anything to do with Carmine
since my hysterectomy.

MARIE sees many psychiatrists because she's so frustrated: 31

Psychiatrist 1

I understand why you're so
upset, Marie and I suggest you
take a mild tranquilizer,
Xanax. See you next week.

Psychiatrist 2

You've been having this problem for quite awhile, Marie. Perhaps you should take Valium to calm your nerves?

MARIE

Dr. Morganstein, you're the tenth psychiatrist I've seen and as I've the rest, those tranquilizers make me dopey. And sleepy and no matter how much damn wine and booze I drank, including those freaking tranquilizers, I still didn't want to get laid, because I felt like a freaking, walking Zombie. Carmine doesn't understand why I'm always drooling, delirious, angry, isolating. So, he started coming home late, going to Met, Jet, Giant games whenever they were home and then I got scared that maybe he didn't want me,

(MORE)

MARIE (Cont'd)

didn't need me, because he stopped trying to nail me. When I looked in the mirror and saw I was no longer a size six, when I saw that the gray I had touched up, needed touching up, when the wrinkles and my double chin were more prominent than my suddenly large nose...

WE are back:

32

Talk about becoming insecure.

I sure hope that that Biagra, Diagra, Miagra, Schmiagra sure works on women too, because this woman sure would like to feel like a woman in need again.

KIM

Since we all be honest, I be honest too. I miss *bery* much Lewie not want my fortune

Back in time: cookie but what I miss more is the kissing, hugging, touching and sharing that Lewie always give. See, when I 14, father die fighting with Chiang Kai Shek and mother die two years later in Communist prison. I raised by mean old aunt and uncle. They no love me, they no want me, so I run away... I meet Lewie when I, 21. He bring to America and we get married and have five children... He wash lot of shirt and give me everything I ever needed, ever wanted. He was my sun, my moon, my world, my life... But more important than whole world, hearing Lewie say how much he love and need me, mean more than all money and with 20 laundries all over country, he have lot of money... I miss his closeness, his passion. More than anything, I miss his loving touch.

BESSIE

(Starts to sob.)

Tell it like it is Kim tell it like it is. Guess, that's what I miss too, his sweetness. Damn, Leon use to kiss me day and night, day and night, you hear? The man worshipped me. There was a time I was the only thing that mattered to him, because he loved me. From my toes to my heinie, the man loved little ole Bessie. Now, he goes his way and I go mine. I don't give two craps about gettin' laid, 'cause to tell you the truth, I'm all talk. I don't feel like shakin' my *personal chamber*, seems I'm just not in the mood, but I sure as hell would like to be kissed and

loved the way he used to kiss
and love me. Even though I
have you girls, and like in
the book that you're gonna
read about the "Ya Ya
Sisterhood," you are the best
friends a girl could ever
have... I still miss what I
used to have with my Leon.
Damn, Mets, Jets, Giants...
Damn sports.

ENNIE

Even *dhough* I talk like a big
shot, how my Abie has an 11
inch 'schvontz' and how ve
used to do it, I hate to admit
it, but I also miss *dhe*
closeness, *dhe varmth* and
companionship ve used to
share. Sex was important,
very important, but it isn't
dhe most important thing, not
by a long shot. He made me a
mother and he was *dhe* perfect
father, more important, he was
dhe perfect partner. He made
tens of millions of
dollars and he gave it all to
me.

CUT: Back in time: ABIE speaking to his children:
ENNIE is looking and smiling:

34

ABIE

Leyzer, Gitty, *vithout* Mama, I
vouldn't have become so
successful. *Vithout* Mama, I
am nothing and *dhat's* how I
feel...

LEYZER and GITTY

We know Papa, we love Mama
more than anything too.

WE are Back:

35

ENNIE

Sure, I talk how I *vant* to do
it. I *vant* to do it? I
haven't *vanted* to do it in a

million years. I say it,
because you say it. You
know, I have a big mouth and I
brag, because I want to be
like you, my best friends.

CONSUELO

Do I have to go now?

MARGARITE

Only if you want too love...

CONSUELO

I, 75 years old. I meet Pablo
in Mexico City 55 years ago
and we get married in two
weeks. When I first met him,
he was this '*magnifico
hombre.*'

CUT: Back in time: Mexico, huge hacienda. 36
Dancing, PABLO meets CONSUELO and sweeps her off her feet,
for she is very attracted to him. He talks, laughs, sings,
plays the guitar and recites poetry: Fade:

CUT: He introduces CONSUELO to his parents who are 37
enchanted with her:

Expanse of 5,000 acres as they ride on magnificent 38
horses. They stop under a tall oak tree and PABLO catches a
butterfly and brings it to CONSUELO:

PABLO

Here my beloved. You are more
beautiful than all the
butterflies in the world.

THEY embrace and make love under tree.

CUT: WE are back: 39

CONSUELO

His father was a millionaire
ten times over and when he
die, Pablo inherit all. He
raise sheep and cattle. Pablo
became the richest man in all
of Mexico, and can you
imagine, he marry me, a girl

who was so poor that she did not have 'zapatos,' shoes when she a little girl. Oh, Pablo was a wonderful lover, but at my old age, what I miss more is his 'compassione' his kindness and caring. You see I really am not in the mood to make love, I'm in the mood to be loved, to be caressed, to be wanted and needed, to feel his warmth, feel his large hands touching me all over, kissing my breasts, to smell his breath when he's a little 'tormentosa' after drinking too much sangria. I cry when he'd kiss me... I cry for that moment. That is what I miss, dear friends... Pablo's *amour*.

CUT: WE ARE BACK:

40

MARIE

I'd miss it too Connie. I hate to tell you this, but Carmine is no Don Juan, never was. Since he was born, he's used money to get everything he wanted,

(MORE)

MARIE (Cont'd)

including me. He was the richest sonofabitch I ever met.

CUT: Back in time: MARIE'S mother is convincing her to marry CARMINE because he's so rich:

41

MOTHER

Fools fall in love everyday, Marie, but a millionaire only happens once in a lifetime. Marry Carmine and you'll be set for life, I promise.

WE are back:

42

MARIE

Like a fool I listened to her and married Carmine. I've had everything money could buy, except falling in love... I

know I have two beautiful children with him, a mansion in Greenwich, a ten-room condo in Trumps, diamond rings, Mercedes, yachts, but I never had what you girls had and it looks like I'm never going to get it. I'd give it all up for just one moment of the tenderness you all talk about. One moment of the caring and sharing you all have had. Want me to tell you how Carmine cared and shared? Every time we balled, I'd find a thousand dollars under my pillow. When Tony and Angela were born, he gave me a hundred thousand dollars. I may be a rich, old bat, but emotionally I'm starving to death. And as far as me wanting to ball that fat, old wop, I'd rather read a good book and is there any more of that pot left?

KIM

Just roach, but enough to do
(Gives joint.)
trick here, I know you not
supposed to, but little roach
no hurt.

MARIE

I know I shouldn't, I haven't
(Smokes.)
smoked this since I went to
Yale and you know what, it
still smells and tastes good.

ENNIE

(High, she gyrates.)
I don't know *vhat* it is, but I
think my *poisonal chamber* got
a *tvitch*. Can you imagine, I
got a *tvitch*... *Oy*, if only my
Abie would get a *tvitch*, then
ve could *tvitch* together.
They say, those that *tvitch*
together stay happily married,
forever and ever.

MARGARITE

And you did it with out taking the Viagra. Maybe I should smoke a little of that reefer, too.

MARIE

You can't, I just finished it.

KIM

So, how you feel?

MARIE

Better and happier than all that freaking *grappa* and vodka I used to drink. Jesus, I sure missed getting high.

MARGARITE

Alcoholics always miss getting high, don't they?

MARIE

That's why I still go to A.A., *sweetheart*.

MARGARITE

And that's only because you need it, *sweetheart*.

KIM

Maybe I go with you. I smoke too much pot and I drink too much, too. Maybe I need help. See, I blame my smoking and drinking on Lewie, but Lewie only smoke at night, when he come home from laundry. I smoke in morning, I smoke and drink for lunch and I never stop. Eight joints a day. I ask Buddha, Confucius, how can Chinese be addict? They say, no ask them, ask myself. I blame it on I so horny.

BESSIE

You ain't horny. You're just

a damn addict like all of us.

ENNIE

Are you saying I'm an addict?

BESSIE

How much of your Merlot do you drink everyday?

ENNIE

Two, three glasses with dinner.

MARGARITE

And before dinner Ennie?

ENNIE

I have a glass or two for lunch, maybe a glass at three o'clock, four o'clock, five o'clock and *dhen* it's time for dinner, *dhat's* all.

BESSIE

That's all? Sure sounds like somebody's got a problem.

MARIE

I say we all go to A.A. We'll have our book club meeting there. I can introduce you to all my friends. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

KIM

Instead of calling it International book club, we call it A.A. book club. Funny, no?

CONSUELO

You're all crazy. You're not addicts, addicts sleep in the street, they rob people. You're all rich. Who ever heard of rich people being addicts, especially Jews and Chinese. What you girls need is Biagra. Once you feel like making push, you forget about drinking, smoking, tranquilizers. You take

Biagra and you give to your
husbands and believe me, it
New Years Eve.

CUT: One month later: 8:P.M.: MARIE'S beautiful 42
living room. The coffee table is filled with goodies and we
see expensive furniture. There is a painting of Jesus.

BESSIE

(Laughs, gyrates.)

I mean, really Marie, with all
this delicious food, how do
you expect me to keep my
girlish
figure?

KIM

(Chinese accent throughout.)

You have good caterer. Cake
cookie, flied lice...

MARIE

...That's fried rice and I
made it Kim, also the egg
rolls.

CONSUELO

Ju can keep cake, cookie and
fried rice, yust give me
(Scats to "Tequilla.")
Tequila! "Da dada dada da,
Biagra...!" I don't understand
it.

(MORE)

CONSUELO (Cont'd)

I got another one of those
threatening letters again.
This shit's been going on for
years and I can't take it.

MARGARITE

As my favorite Jewish princess
(Toasts.)
would say, 'L' chaim' and
forget about the letter.

BESSIE

(Drinks.)

Damn, Ennie's my favorite Jew,
too. I drink to her and to

all the still horny women in
America. You drinkin'
Margarite, Marie...?

MARIE

Up yours, Bessie...

MARGARITE

Just because you're getting it
Bessie, you don't have to rub
it in.

BESSIE

My Leon rubs it in real good
and, even though you're a
baby, 67 Margarite, I'm sure
you know, that frustration can
kill you woman. I don't
understand it I'm eight years
older than you and since me
and my man started takin'
Viagra, my vibrator ain't no
where to be seen, 'cause let
me tell you girl, there ain't
nothin' like the real thing.
I'm partying like there's no
tomorrow. Far as I'm
concerned, the hell with
tomorrow, I'm partying today,
tomorrow and for as long as

(Sings.)

this old lady can party, "I'm
havin' a party, Bessie's
really swingin'." See,
partying is the most
satisfying, the

(MORE)

BESSIE (Cont'd)

most pleasurable thing I know
and it sure beats all them
tranquilizers you take
Margarite. Take my word,
party and you'll throw out
your vibrator and all your
freakin' tranquilizers.

KIM

(Eating.)

I throw my vibrator away too
and I like cake better than
flied lice. I tired of *flied*

lice.

BESSIE

(Eating - laughs.)

What I like is these egg rolls... Maybe you oughta try puttin' somethin' up your egg roll Marg? I mean Margarite.

MARGARITE

My Lord, that's all you ever think of, isn't it Bessie? doing it?

CONSUELO

I no understand, but since Pablito become '*macho*' man again, that's all he want is my egg roll and I'm glad, too...

KIM

I no want to change subject but, what you think of "*Ya Ya Sisterhood*," Marie?

MARIE

I loved it, but we really should wait for Ennie...

BESSIE

...Damn, we could be here all night long, waiting for that horny chick. I mean, there's no stopping her.

CONSUELO

'*Caramba*, *ju*' know why she's late, don't '*ju*'?

MARGARITE

I certainly do and I think it's disgusting, don't you? I mean a woman her age...

BESSIE

Disgusting my ass. If my old man was as endowed as Ennie's Abie, I'd be singin' all the time too. I always liked them

big, big and strong. And
 (Sings.)
 eleven inches... "Oh, sweet
*mystery of life I wish I
 screwed you."*

KIM

My Lewie, not big like Abie,
 but my Lewie, he okay.

MARIE

And since we're comparing
 sausages, let me tell you,
 Carmine has always been built
 like a bull, but he hasn't
 used it since the last rodeo
 came to town. Even though I
 hate his guts, I tried to get
 him to take some Miagra, but
 he said he'd rather take
 Rogaine. I said, what the
 hell does your baldhead have
 to do with my needs? He just
 smiled and bobbed his
 baldhead. I swear I could
 kill him.

MARGARITE

I thought we came to discuss
*"The Divine Secrets of the Ya
 Ya Sisterhood?"*

CONSUELO

We did, but 'Oye,' my *pecata*
 is important, no? And Biagra
 make *pecata* want to 'Yatta,
 yatta, yatta.'

(MORE)

CONSUELO (Cont'd)

Biagra make me feel like hot
 tamale. I born again. Too bad
 Marie can't get her 'esposo,'
 husband to take Biagra.

BESSIE

That's Viagra, Mrs. 'Oye' and
 as far as my hot *pecata* and
 (Sings.)
 Viagra is concerned, "*Smile,
 though your heart is aching.*"

KIM

(Bows.)

I like smiling too and I thank Confucius for Diagra bery much.

BESSIE

That's Viagra, not Diagra for you too, Mrs. Confucius.

KIM

Even though I in country 50 years, have doctorate and read plenty books, I no too good speaking English, I still like to do it. I love to do it. Sorry Margarite, sorry Marie.

BESSIE

What the hell are you sorry about and what the hell does speaking English have to do with getting it on?

ALL except MARGARITE and MARIE laugh.

CONSUELO

I think we should ask Ennie. She doesn't speak English too good either, but she's been walking around singing and her smile's as big as Viagra Falls.

MARIE

That's Niagara Falls...

CONSUELO

But, Bessie said it was Viagra Falls...

ALL laugh.

MARIE

Even though he got diabetes, I told him to forget about his freaking sugar and get a prescription? I mean, even though I'm 75, this woman still has needs too. Know what I mean?

KIM

If you got what I got, you pay \$20 for pill. I pay \$100 for Diagra, it worth it. I, 73 years old. No make nooky hooky 10 years. I no arrive ten years. Now, I arrive and have something to live for. I want to live forever. As long as I arrive, I want to live forever.

BESSIE

(Sings and laughs.)
"I'm a comin', ' sorry if I made you wait..."

CONSUELO, KIM and BESSIE

(Sings.)
"...I'm a comin', sorry if I came too late."

CONSUELO, KIM and BESSIE slap five and laugh.

MARGARITE

Are you all saying that just because I don't indulge anymore, I have nothing to live for?

BESSIE

Margarite, you are the most up tight broad I ever met. Damn, you get up tight when I say the word shit, and let me tell you woman, Viagra is God's gift to old broads like us. I'm 75 years old and I ain't felt this good or wanted to have anything to do with Leon for years.

(MORE)

BESSIE (Cont'd)

Now, I can't wait to get into bed with him. He may be an old hooch, but the man sure knows how to please this woman, and it feels good, real good. Remember when it used to feel good?

KIM

When was the last time you get
it, Margarite?

MARGARITE

I don't remember...

BESSIE

You don't remember? Ain't
that a bitch...?

CONSUELO

What Margarite need is my
Pablo. He no big like Abie.
He have little Pablito.
Little but, *bery* smart. Since
he take Biagra, little
Pablito, '*mucho caliente.*' He
want to push and when he want
to push, he push. '*Tu sabe?*'
Margarite, '*tu sabe?*' Find
somebody, take Biagra and push
and you arrive and you be
happy like me.

MARGARITE

You know what you can do with
your push, your arriving and
your little Pablito, Consuelo.
Shove it up your...

CONSUELO

...Oh, he do that too. Right
up my '*quista*' and '*ju*' know
what, I love it. I told you,
his little '*Pablito, es muey*
intelligente.' It know where
to go and I like it.

ENNIE, euphoric enters singing.

ENNIE

(Sings.)

"OH, SVEET MYSTERY OF LIFE AT
LAST I FOUND YOU." My nephew
dhe doctor gave me 30
prescriptions, so I just spent
\$2,000 and I sent 50 pills to
my friend Sylvie in Beverly

Hills, 50 pills to my other friend, Gitel in Brooklyn, 50 pills to her daughter, Stacy in Florida. Her husband hasn't '*schtupted*' her in five years and 50 pills to my brother, Eddie. He's 80 and I *dhink*, he even forgot that he has a '*schmeckle*.' *Vhat* a '*putz*.'

MARIE

Talk about being generous, Ennie.

ENNIE

Oh, I'm so sorry, Marie. I forgot you still have needs too.

MARIE

(Crosses self in front of picture of Jesus.)

Lead me not into temptation, Father. I'm 76 years old and sure I want it, but I don't want it if it's going to kill the diabetic.

KIM

I no hear anybody die in saddle.

ENNIE

Are you kidding, I should have a dollar for how many actors and I mean big time movie stars
I knew *dhat* died in *dhe* saddle.

BESSIE

You sure got around didn't you?

ENNIE

Vhen Abie met me in *Hollywood*, even *dhough* I had an accent, *Dhey* said I was going to be a big movie star, Goldwin,

Mayer, *dhey voishipped* me, and *dhen* I met Abie and no more *Hollywood*, and you know *vhat*, I'm glad you *dhink* I wanted one of those 'momzes' dying in my saddle? And *dhey* all got little '*pishers.*' I couldn't believe it, *deh* bigger *dhe* star, *dhe* smaller *dhe* '*pisher.*'

CONSUELO

When you talk about little pissers, I think right away of my Pablo. Since he take Biagra, his little pisser become big pain in my '*coolo.*' He don't leave me alone. I tell him, I not 18 *jears* old. I tired, I want to go to sleep. He no care, he no care because he become '*animale.*' He kiss my bongo bongos, then he rub and kiss my *pecata*. I tell him leave my *pecata* alone. He no care, because he hard all the time. I hate that Biagra more than anything, because it make Pablo crazy. He no leave me alone, I mean, I fall asleep, and I find him on top of me. I push him away and I scream, '*Tu loco de cabeza!*' He just laugh and push. All right, I like to push, but, '*oye,*' not six times a day. *Ju* see I make mistake, big mistake. I make Pablo take four pills, big mistake. He have erection 36 hours. We do six times, he want to do ten. So, I run away, and he follow me. I so embarrassed. When we walk in Bloomingdale, everybody look at his... his pants stick out like have rocket in pocket.

(MORE)

CONSUELO (Cont'd)

Big rocket in pocket hurt.
My *pecata* hurts. Maybe I need

lubricant, no?

MARGARITE

I wish I still had a use for a lubricant. In fact, now that I think about it, if I would have thought of a lubricant when Dear John was alive, perhaps I wouldn't have pushed him away. It always hurt... Then the poor man had a heart attack and passed. Sometimes it seems I hurt him more than he hurt me. That's why I blame myself for his passing, for I think he died because he was as lonely as I am now. Even though it hurt, I should have

(sobs)

given it to him and I bet he'd still be alive today... I think he died because of frustration. I believe frustration killed John, not the heart attack... I've gone to confession since John died. Six years I've asked Jesus to forgive me, six-long years. Did you hear from him? Well, I certainly didn't...

CONSUELO

Letter say, if we don't give '*mucho dinero*,' 10 million dollars to charity, they tell F.B.I. everything. I don't know what to do. The letters are getting scarier and scarier.

KIM

Well, my Lewie make sure he no frustrated. I tell you, 15 year my fortune cookie pray for Lewie. Lewie no want fortune cookie. Lewie take Diagra and I no take. I wait and see if Diagra work.

(MORE)

KIM (Cont'd)

Diagra work too good, Lewie

become wild bull. Too bad he not black bull, I cut his balls off, because he make me give him chop suey on kitchen table, he take fortune cookie in bathroom, dim sum in bed room, smorgasbord drive me crazy. To fix him I take four Diagra. Nothing; I take four more and I go crazy. Then I make him do it on kitchen table. Lewie get tired, I scream, no get tired and I take him in bathroom I swallow everything, even won ton because I want Lewie hard. Lewie scream, 'wan ban don, wan ban don.' He called me devil and I smile. Then I take him in garage and I bang him in garage, I bang him good. Lewie say no more. We drink *Tzing tzao* beer and fall asleep, same thing, everyday for week. I wish I have bery big family. I send them all Diagra and make them bery happy.

MARGARITE

I'm jealous Kim. I'm damn jealous. I never did it to John on the kitchen table, or in the bathroom, or in the garage. How was it?

KIM

How you say, multiple orgasm? I get rash from multiple orgasm but I come three times in three hours. You have rash, Bessie?

BESSIE

No, but Leon is sure working on it and three times in three hours huh? Not bad. How many times do you think you would come if it was bigger than four inches?

KIM

If big like Abie, I come 100 times, maybe 200 hundred times. What all-Chinese women need, especially Communists is Abie. If Abie go to China, they forget about Mao, Confucius, they forget about Buhda right away, because they no have what Abie has. All women pray for such blessing. Ennie so lucky, she so blessed.

ENNIE

Three times is good, but it's not *dhe* record.

MARIE

Mind telling me what the record is?

ENNIE

I don't *vant* to make anyone jealous, especially you Margarite.

MARGARITE

Oh, you don't have to worry about me becoming jealous.

MARIA

I hear when you're frustrated you're always jealous.

ENNIE

Ve took *dhe Schmiagra* twelve o'clock last night and eight o'clock *dhis* morning, Abie gave me a 'zetz' and I'm talking about some 'zetz' because you know how big it is *dhat* he *vas* 'zeting' me with. I arrived ten times. I almost 'plahzed,' fainted. It's *dhe* most I ever arrived. Before I started taking *dhe schmiagra*, it was two, three times tops, *vhich* *vas* plenty. Now, *vith* Abie taking *dhe schmiagra* and

(MORE)

ENNIE (Cont'd)

me taking *dhe schmiagra*, *ve're* both going '*meshugeh*' over *dhe schmiagra*. I'm telling you, I never arrived, *dhat's* come so much in my life. I'll tell you *dhe* truth, *dhere's* nothing like arriving again and again,
(Laughs.)

and I didn't have to fly Continental, you know *what* I mean?

MARGARITE

Again-and-again. What can I tell you Ennie, some women are truly blessed.

MARIE

Poor *buhby*, do you want us to feel sorry for you Margaritte?

MARGARITE

You don't have to feel sorry for me Marie. In fact I feel sorry for you. I married John because I loved him, not because he was rich.

MARIE

And when you found out he was screwing his secretary, I suppose you loved him then too, you loved him all right! All the way to the funny farm, you had a damn nervous break down because you loved him so much. I'll give you love, all right. You can take your love and bury it next to your old man.

MARGARITE

But, he said he was sorry, that he would never do it again... I always loved him. 'Til the day he passed, I loved and forgave him.

ENNIE

I don't *dhink dhis* is *dhe* time
 ve should be playing, "*Dhis is
 your life.*" Ve came here to
 discuss "*Dhe Devine Secrets of
 dhe Ya Ya Sisterhood.*" A book
 about fifty-year old
 friendships *mit* a lot of
 divine secrets. I'm sure ve
 have a few Devine secrets
 also. *Dhe* last three, four
 books, fantastic, but I think
 "*Dhe Ya Ya,*" is my fav'rite.
Vhat a book, *dhose* vomen, *dhe*
vay *dhey* loved and stayed
 friends all *dhose* years remind
 me of us.

KIM

Hey, best friends like us, but
 they no have book club.
 Maybe, someone write book or
 play about International Book
 club that meet all over
 city...

CONSUELO

...They no have '*mucho dinero*'
 like us...

BESSIE

...Nor, did anyone of them
 ever as Ennie puts it,
 '*Arrive*' ten times. I mean,
 give me a break.

KIM

She belong in Guinness book of
 (Laughs.)
 World Record... Can I have
 autograph, Ennie?

BESSIE

I mean really Ennie, is you
 jivin' us about the ten times?

ENNIE

Dhis morning 10 times, and
vhat about five *dhis*
 afternoon?

MARIE

You hear that Marg? 15 times
in one day...

ENNIE

...Vhat fifteen times, at
night
doesn't count? At night
counts. Six times is six
times... Dhat Abie is a
miracle voiker. Gorgeous, just
gorgeous, now you see vhy I
left Hollywood?

CONSUELO

Ennie, did you go to school in
Poland? I mean did you learn
to count?

ENNIE

Like ev'rybody in my family, I
went to school 'til *dhe toid*
grade and of course I learned
to count, ve all did. Vhat
kind of question is *dhat*?
One, two, seven, eight, ten,
eleven. You vant me to go
foither? 15, 18, 20. Vhat do
you mean do I know how to
count? Any dope knows how to
count.

ALL LAUGH.

KIM

You know, after two, come
three...

MARGARET

...And after three comes
four...

CONSUELO

...And after four comes five
and six...

ENNIE

...Go on...

MARIE

...And then comes, seven...

BESSIE

...And after eight comes nine
ten and eleven...

ENNIE

...Oy...

KIM

...And after eleven comes 12,
13, 14 and then comes 15...

ENNIE

...Go on, you mean there's
also 12, 13, 14? Oy, I don't
believe it. Vy didn't *dhey*
tell me?

MARGARET

...And after 15 comes 16, 17,
18, 19 and then 20.

ENNIE

Dhen dhat means...

KIM

...Abie, no have 11 inches...

ENNIE

...Oy, I don't believe it...

BESSIE

...And you, young lady didn't
arrive 21 times... I knew it
was impossible.

ENNIE

... And *dhat* means his
'*schvontz*' is only...

MARGARITE

...According to the latest
Kinsey report, merely six
inches, if that...

BESSIE

I told you I never saw a
Jewish snapper bigger than six
inches, didn't I? And am I
glad you didn't arrive 21
times! Whew, I thought there
was something wrong with my
personal chamber.

ENNIE

All right, so I don't count so good, big deal.

BESSIE

(Laughing, hugs Ennie)

That's why me-and-all my children, Buck, Janet, Genna love you, your million arrivals and Abie's 40 inches. I love you woman.

ALL

(Cheer.)

ENNIE! ENNIE! ENNIE!

CONSUELO

That's three Ennies, Ennie.
'Tu sabe? Uno, dos, tres.
Uno, dos, tres?'

ENNIE

I'll give you, 'uno dos tres, uno, dos, tres.' Enough with the numbers, I'm sick and tired of numbers. I hate ev'ry God damn number in the void!
(MORE)

ENNIE (Cont'd)

I'm more int'rested in your rash. So, what did you do for it 'buhbaleh?'

KIM

Why, you have rash too?

ENNIE

Don't ask and does it itch...

MARGARITE

(Rises.)

I've had it with the rashes, the thousand orgasms, the Pablitos and the Lewies. I think you're all crude, vulgar and disgusting. You're nothing but a bunch of dirty old women and I will have nothing to do with you, or his

(Starts to exit.)

This book club anymore. I'm leaving.

BESSIE

Hold on there, Miss Goody Two-shoes. Are you sayin' you never thought about what we were sayin'? The only difference between us-and-you is, you are still frustrated. And if I remember correctly, there was a time me and you got really soused and you told me some crap that I couldn't believe that a church goin', God fearin', Jesus freak would ever do. Now, that's between me and you woman, but don't try and give us this jive that your crap don't stink.

CONSUELO

I'm sorry that you don't have a Pablo. Every woman need a Pablo. Whether to make push, or hear him whisper in your ear that he loves you... He (MORE)

needs you. We all have to feel we are needed, wanted, desired. I tell you Margarite, before Pablo become '*macho*' man again, for the last ten, fifteen jears or so, he hardly ever talk to me and I don't think he kiss my *bongo bongos* even once and even though I get those letters, I feel so much better when he touch me, when he make love to me.

ENNIE

Forget about *dhe* letters. Sure ve make a big '*tsimes*,' a big deal about arriving, but believe me, *dhat's* not *dhe* most important thing. *Dhe* most important *dhing* is to

feel, as Consuelo says,
 needed, wanted. Without that,
 who can live? Who *would* want to
 live?

KIM

You know Marg., we not only
 one consumed with sex.
 What about President and poor
 Hillary? He, not as old as
 us, and all he could think of
 is, I'm sorry for bringing it
 up, not budget, health,
 education and welfare, not
 Israel and the Palestinians,

Headline: Clinton denies having sex with Monica Lewinski: 43

not Bosnia or Biafra, only
 sex. The whole world wonder
 why we not proud of young
 President, Rhodes scholar who
 strong like bull, with much
 desire. French President
 Mitterand had child with
 mistress, nobody care, no
 Larry King, no C.N.N. This
 country ashamed when President
 have good time. Hebrews in
 Old Testament very horny, have

orgy. Hear of Sodom and
 Gomorrah? Some of the
 greatest writers, my favorite,
 Henry Miller spend entire life
 writing about sex. I'm sure
 you read "Lady Chatterly's
 Lover," Shakespeare, Tennessee
 Williams, even Mel Brooks
 write about sex, because they
 want it, they need it like
 everybody else. It is what
 makes the world go round. It
 is common denominator between
 all people. Beautiful seven
 foot Zulu from Africa, meet
 small, cute, intellectual
 professor from Yale on Safari.
 What you think they do after
 they smoke ghanja? Believe me
 they no talk about India

detonating nuclear device.
And reason why Indians so
interested in bomb is because
Indians no get chop suey. If
Lone Ranger there, he teach
all those Tontos about fortune
cookie and chop suey.

ENNIE

Dhe old testament is filled
with plenty chop suey. *Dhey*
all did it and they did it
good too. Since time and
memorial, they've been getting
plenty chop suey, sideways,
crossways, *dhe* old-fashioned
way, up and down. Maybe they
don't talk about it like we do
and that's because they don't
have girls friends like me.
They don't have an
international book club like
me. Believe me, if more
people, like that bastard,
Sadam Hussein in Iraq, that
Ayatollah in Iran, Castro and
dhe Chinese arrived more,
there would be a hell of a lot
less killing. Did you ever
hear anyone killing, raping,
mutilating while they were
'*schtuping*?' I rest my case.

ALL APPLAUD.

KIM

All these years, I thought we
were best friends Marg.? I
tell you everything; How Lewie
make so much money taking
numbers. Who, he work for...
Who I have affair with and how
I had to have abortion 40
years ago so Lewie don't know.
I tell you every dark secret
and you don't tell me what you
tell Bessie? I very
disappointed. I very hurt,
because I think of you as
sister.

MARGARITE

You are my sister, my other sister and the reason I didn't tell you or anyone, besides Bessie is because I was always ashamed, embarrassed... It was the only secret I kept from... I married John when I was 30.

(MORE)

MARGARITE (Cont'd)

few years before that, when my father was dying in Killarney and he could no longer work and there just wasn't enough for my parents or my three brothers to survive, while going for my masters,

CUT: MARGARITE dressed as a hooker going off with a John. 45

... I started turning tricks to make money to help them.

(Crosses self.)

Lord, forgive me. I only did it for two years Kim. The most horrible two years in my life... The only reason I felt comfortable telling Bessie was we both got drunk and she did the same thing. You know what they say about, birds of a feather? I knew she wouldn't judge me, she'd understand. I apologize for not confiding in you Kim, but I always wanted you to respect me.

CONSUELO

Ju think *ju* have secret, *ju* have story? I have story. Big story. Do *ju* know how Pablo really make all his money? Not from the hacienda and the 5,000 acres his father leave him, not from the cattle and sheep I told you he raised, Pablo make his money from drugs. Do you know where all the marijuana and little heroin that came into this country 20 years ago came from? He don't do it no more,

because he too old, he lost his 'juevos,' balls and the young 'banditos' push him out. But for 'trenta anos,' 30 years, Pablo was even bigger than the Medellin cartel in Columbia. He made over 500 million dollars, but he bery smart. He invest in real estate.

(MORE)

CONSUELO (Cont'd)

Buy five buildings on Fifth and Madison Avenue, he own restaurants, banks in Miami and ju know what? Because I get him Biagra, because he love my bongo bongos, my pecata, I Consuelo Rivera is la patron. I tell him I am the big boss or he get 'nada.' That is a story, no? As my 'judeo' friend Ennie say, next!

ENNIE

Do you want to go, or should I Marie?

MARIE

Age, before beauty, 'buhbaleh.'

ENNIE

All right, I'll go, I'll go. I don't know if I should go there and tell you, but I'll go. You know how I always told you I was going to be a movie star...? Some movie star... I did vhat you did Margarite, only I did it with Pictures of Gable, Bogart, Cagney, Garfield and Tracey: 46 only rich movie stars. Gable, Bogart, Cagney, Garfield, Tracey. Dhat Tracey was something. And even dthough dhey vere all great actors, remember what I told you about their small 'pishers,' ev'ryvone of dhem and you know

how I met my Abie? He vas my richest customer. Serge suit, a top hat, gold chain; a regular fancy Dan. *vhen* he saw me he started singing and dancing. A regular Fred Astaire. He told me I was *dhe* most beautiful woman he ever saw, and I thought he was pretty good looking too. *Vhen* I saw *dhe* size of his 'schvontz,' *dhe* Caddie he was
(MORE)

ENNIE (Cont'd)

driving, all *dhe* fancy nightclubs and restaurants he took me too and *vhen* he asked me to marry him, I figured, *vhat dhe* hell, so, *ve* drove to Las Vegas and *ve* got married.

Dhat vas 56 years ago and *dhanks* to *schmiagra*, he still doesn't leave me alone. 21 times I arrived last night. You hear? 21 times.

ALL

Ennie...?

ENNIE

All right, two, three times. Are you counting? I never count.

BESSIE

We know you hate numbers.

ALL laugh.

ENNIE

Nu, Marie...?

MARIE

I hope someone has a handkerchief, 'cause I know I'm going to start crying... You know when you asked me if I'm an alcoholic and I told you I go to A.A. Well, the court ordered me to and I've been going to A.A. for the

past 12 years. I never told anyone, 'cause like a fool, I was so embarrassed by my disease. 12 years ago I was driving on Second Avenue, stoned-out-of-my-mind. I was always stoned out-of-my-mind. That was the only way I thought I could exist. Wait'll you hear this.

CUT: Back in time: Drunk, MARIE is driving and hits 47
Brakes, realizing she is about to hit a woman wheeling a
baby carriage, but to no avail. She gets out of the car,
shaken and stares at the little girl and cries. A policeman
sees the accident, examines the little girl who is dead and
arrests a frightened MARIE:

CUT: Courtroom: Policeman testifies to prosecuting 48
Attorney in court questioning policeman:

POLICEMAN

Yes, I saw the whole thing and
the woman, disregarding the
light and the on coming
traffic ran into the street
without looking, pushing a
baby carriage and
unfortunately her child was
killed. I can honestly say
the driver in question is not
at fault.

CUT: WE are back: MARIE resumes speaking: 49

MARIE

'Til this day I still see the
face of that little girl and I
still blame myself for killing
her. No matter how many
tricks you've turned, how much
dope you sold, killing
someone, an innocent baby is
the worst thing a person can
do. And sure I have a taste
now and then, but I no longer
drive. Now, who has that
handkerchief?

CUT: INT: One month later: 8: P.M. 50

BESSIE'S Beautiful living room.
There is a painting of MARTIN LUTHER KING: BESSIE and MARGARITE are drinking and commiserating:

MARGARITE

My heart breaks for Consuelo. From having everything and I mean everything, now, according to the Times, she's going to have nothing, nada, zilch. The Federal government's going after him and when they're after you, Lord help you.

BESSIE

Yeah, I read they're going to impose the Rico law and they're going to confiscate everything Pablo has. Poor, Consuelo. He'll probably have to do some time too. Guess, those letters meant somethin' after all.

MARGARITE

Those son of a bitches are heartless, that's what they are. He must be close to 80 years old. Isn't there a statute of limitations? He hasn't sold dope in over 20 years. I wonder who ratted on him?

BESSIE

There certainly is a Statue of Limitations and I'm going to ask Leon to call up an old friend of his. F. Lee use to be the top attorney in this country and I'm sure he knows all about the Statue of Limitations. He probably wrote the damn law.

MARGARITE

This government is going

haywire. They're having an inquiry concerning the abusive nature of the I.R.S., well the damn attorney generals office should be looked into also.

BESSIE

Somebody that really hates them wrote those letters.

CU: Buzzer sounds and BESSIE buzzes back.

BESSIE (CONT'D)

I hope its Kim, 'cause I can't wait to find out what happened to her dim sum.

MARGARITE

A woman of her intelligence, I'll, never understand why she's stayed with Lewie all these years. And who could hate Consuelo?

After a beat the door bell rings and BESSIE opens it and ushers in ENNIE.

BESSIE

...My girl Ennie, I was hoping it was you.

ENNIE

(Entering)

'Nu, ' did you hear?

BESSIE

No, only you heard.

ENNIE

Abie and I saw Consuelo and Pablo on *dhe* six o'clock news. 'Neboch,' sorry. So, *what* should we do?

MARGARITE

Bessie said she's going to ask Leon to call F. Lee.

ENNIE

Abie already called him. He's

too busy, so he called, I forgot his name, but he represents all those guys in *dhe* Mafia. He said he'll call him back. My Abie's some 'knocker.'

BESSIE

He knows all those big time attorneys, doesn't he?

ENNIE

For years, Abie knows everybody and anybody including Kissinger even Sinatra, may he rest in peace. Now he had a piece of equipment that was gorgeous.

MARGARITE

Are you telling me that you had relations with Sinatra?

ENNIE

(Sings.)

"*I did it my vay,*" and did I loved "*Dhe Color Vater,*" *vhat* a book.

Buzzer sounds and BESSIE buzzes back.

BESSIE

It was so honestly touching and I hope its Marie.

After a beat the door bell rings and BESSIE ushers in KIM, who enters walking bowlegged.

BESSIE (CONT'D)

I was hoping it was you, woman.

ENNIE

Look at Tex and how she's *valking*. *Vhat's dhe* matter *vit* you?

KIM

Damn rash, rash drive me crazy. Lewie no give crap about itching rash. Lewie no

care about anything except
Lewie.

ENNIE

Sounds just like Abie, who's
also a selfish, sonofabitch.
Always *vas*, always *vill* be.

BESSIE

They're all selfish
sonsabitches. Egotists, with
no humility and grandiose up
the kazoo. Men, you can't
live with them and now that
Leon's taking Viagra, I sure
don't want to live without
him.

KIM

Sound just like my Lewie. You
hear what happened to
Consuelo?

ENNIE

Vhat happened?

KIM

F.B.I. bust Pablo for selling
drugs. They say he used to be
the biggest smuggler. It make
no sense. Newspaper say he no
smuggle for 15, 20 years.
Don't they know about Statue
of Limitations?

BESSIE

I'm afraid the only statue
they know about is the Statue
of Liberty and somebody that
knows all about Pablo ratted
on him to the fuzz.

Buzzer rings and BESSIE buzzes back.

ENNIE

I hope its Consuelo and who
could hate him *dhat* much *dhat*
dhey would do such a terrible
thing?

AFTER a beat the door bell rings and BESSIE ushers in MARIE

who looks slightly seedy:

ENNIE (cont'd)

Marie, I vas hoping it vas
you...

BESSIE

What happened to you baby?
You look like you've been
through the mill.

MARIE

I've been to hell and back,
fourteen times.

MARGARITE

Want to talk about it love?

MARIE

Not really.

KIM

You talk and you feel better,
Marie.

MARIE

Remember when I smoked that
roach with you last month?
Getting high sure felt good.
Well, so here's what happened.

CUT: INT: A month ago. A little high MARIE enters a
51

liquor store and buys a bottle of Stoli. Goes home and
within and within an hour drinks the entire bottle. Heading
back to the liquor store she gets into her Jaguar and
speeding out of her driveway rams into CARMINE who was
pulling in. POV: Looks at him and seeing his glasses
smashed, eyes bleeding, some teeth knocked out, his face is
covered with blood, and unconscious, she wants to kill
herself:

CUT: We are back:

52

ENNIE
Oy...

BESSIE
Holy Toledo...

KIM
No luck, no luck...

MARIE

Even though I was blitzed at that moment, the whole thing came back to me and I saw the little girl that I killed 12 years ago. I couldn't take it I just couldn't take it.

ENNIE
Oy, not again?

BESSIE
You poor thing.

KIM
I so sorry.

MARIE

I sure as hell didn't want to get busted for another D.W.I., so, I scarfed a piece of bread, brushed my teeth three times, splashed my body with Shalimar and then I gathered my composure and called for an ambulance. Fortunately, no cops came. Thank God no cops came. Carmine was in a coma for two days.

(MORE)

MARIE (Cont'd)
Now, he's incommunicado.

KIM
Why you no call?

MARIE

Because, I've been drunk since then. What's that you said, Marg, I mean Margarite? Once a drunk, always a drunk. How true, how fucking true. I'm still soused, but I had to come. I had to talk to somebody.

ENNIE
Maybe ve should go see him?

MARIE

(Loud.)
He's incommunicado. I told you he was incommunicado, didn't I? Are you deaf too? Bad enough that impotent sonofabitch is deaf don't tell

me you're deaf too? Jesus,
I'm surrounded by a bunch a
deaf bastards!

KIM

He's still impotent, because
he no take Biagra, right?

MARIE

The ass hole said he didn't
want to have anything to do
with it.

KIM

Why you no put Biagra in sweet
potato like Bessie?

MARIE

Forget the sweet potatoes,
will you? I've been
frustrated this long, I'm sure
I'll survive. But whose
survival I'm worried about is
Consuelo's. Who ever wrote
all those threatening letters
really meant business. She
must be just as bananas as I
am.

BESSIE

She hasn't even called. I
wonder how's she's doing?

MARIE

She's doing like I'm doing,
rotten.

ENNIE

I hope she's doing better and
if I was you, I'd be more
concerned for yourself. You
look terrible and you're
drunk, why are you drunk?

MARIE

Because like you, once an
alcoholic, always an
alcoholic.

ENNIE

I beg your pardon.

MARIE

Pardon my ass, will you

please? You call me an alcoholic, but you drink everyday day, all day too, don't you?

BESSIE

I drink all day too. What the hell does that mean?

MARIE

It means you're all as uncomfortable, as afraid and have that pain in your heart, just like me. You're all just lucky, that's all you all drive just as drunk as me, you
(Sobs.)
just didn't kill a little girl.

ENNIE

And *what* about your husband, didn't you make him delirious?

MARIE

He was unconscious, and now he's incommunicado and yes I did it. I killed that little girl and I almost killed
(MORE)

MARIE (Cont'd)

Carmine. I'm a murderer, a drunken, murder. They should have arrested me, instead of poor Pablo.

ENNIE

It *soives* him right, Pablo sold heroin. Do you know how many people died because of 'his dope?'

KIM

Consuelo say he sold pot and little heroin and you hypocrite. Didn't you smoke pot with us last month and you didn't die, did you?

She's very emotional:

ENNIE

My daughter Rivka, may she rest in peace started out smoking pot. She thought it was so much fun. She used to laugh all the time. I loved hearing her laugh more than anything. Then she tried sniffing cocaine. Cocaine, 'nu?' After awhile she took sleeping pills. She sniffed heroin... and then she shot it one time... one time... heroin... she shot it one time... They said it was very pure and she over dosed and died.

CUT: WE are back: ENNIE is speaking:

55

ENNIE

(Very emotional.)
She vas 29 vhen she died.

BESSIE

How come you never told us?

ENNIE

There's a lot of *dhings* I didn't tell you like, how I hate my accent. I'm in *this* country a million years and I still have an accent. I'm an American and I still sound like I just came off *dhe* boat. *Vhat* I *would* give to get rid of my rotten accent and talk like you...

KIM

(Laughs.)
You only person I know that want to talk like me.

ENNIE

You know how many people laugh at me because of my rotten accent? Even you make fun of

me sometimes, don't you?

MARGARITE

That's because we love you,
Ennie...

ENNIE

Certain *dhings* hurt too much
to talk about... I never told
you, but in 1933, *vhen* I was
13 years old, because my
father knew Hitler meant
trouble, sent me and my
brother to my uncle Noah and
my aunt Monya, who *vas* living
in *dhe* Bronx. A couple of
years later, *dhey* told us
dhat my parents *vent* to *dhe*
ovens in Auschwitz... I never
vanted to leave my parents,
especially Mama, never and
dhat's vhy I still miss *dhem*
so much... I also didn't tell
you I have a bad...

Buzzer sounds and BESSIE buzzes back:

MARGARITE

That's Consuelo. Let's not
all inundate her. Let's give
her a chance.

MARIE

Poor Consuelo.

Door bell sounds and BESSIE opens door and ushers in
CONSUELLO.

ALL

HI!

CONSUELO

'Buenos noches,' I'm sorry I'm
late.

BESSIE

We all heard what happened and
we're sorry.

KIM

How is Pablo?

CONSUELO

Out on seven million dollars

bail. 'Caramba,' he find out that somebody ratted on him. And you know how the government gives rewards? The government offer one million dollar and this person no want reward. He give five million to find out who ratted on him.

MARGARITE

Talk about a vendetta, this person sure had it in for the both of you.

ENNIE

I vonder why? Vhat could dhe two of you have done dhat's so terrible dhat dhey vant to punish you so much?

CONSUELO

This person has to know me bery good, because he tell about all our holdings. The buildings, the banks, the yachts, jewelry, 'todo enmass.' Only my 'familia,' know what I have.

BESSIE

So, what's the next move?

CONSUELO

The attorney said that Pablo's going to beat it, because something about some statue...

BESSIE

The statue of limitations...

CONSUELO

That's it, the Statue of Limitations.

ENNIE

In dhis country dhey have all kind of 'meshugeneh' laws.

(MORE)

ENNIE (Cont'd)

Statue or no statue, how can

he get away *vith* selling dope?

KIM

He sell pot over 20 years ago.

ENNIE

And *vhat* about *dhe* heroin?

KIM

Oh yes, he sell little heroin
but lot of pot.

CONSUELO

Pablo sold very little heroin.
Maybe, a kilo or two a week.
He, made most of his money
selling 'yelbita.' Tons of
grass. You see he had to
smuggle in the heroin because
the big boys threaten him.

BESSIE

You mean the Mafia?

CONSUELO

Si.

KIM

I hope Mafia leave Lewie
alone.

MARGARITE

What do they want with him?

KIM

Because, he take numbers for
them in all stores. Lewie
always afraid Cosa Nostra
think he gyp them.

ENNIE

If you *vant*, I'll ask Abie to
talk to them.

KIM

I don't want Abie to get into
trouble.

ENNIE

Don't worry about Abie,
Kimeleh, he can take care of
himself.

BESSIE

Boy, for a little guy, he sure carries a big stick.

MARGARITE

If I remember correctly, it's eleven inches, or is it more like five, Ennie?

ENNIE

I care and who's counting, I don't like to count. As long as it fills my *poisonal chamber* I'm happy and *dhat's* all *dhat* counts.

BESSIE

Tell it like it is, woman.

CONSUELO

You know, I didn't tell you but, just before they arrested Pablo, he took three Diagra. I was so worried.

KIM

What were you worried about?

CONSUELO

His rocket in pocket, remember the last time rocket didn't go down for 36 hours.

MARGARITE

And this time?

CONSUELO

When they let him out, still rocket.

BESSIE

(Sings.)

Fly me to the moon and let me play among the stars."

ALL laugh.

MARIE

Hey Kim, have any more of that reefer?

KIM

Maybe.

MARIE

(Stoned, angry)

What the hell does maybe mean?
I want to get high, damn it!

MARGARITE

Haven't you had enough? Don't
you remember what happened the
last time you smoked that
garbage?

MARIE

Why don't you refresh my
memory sister...

MARGARITE

You nearly killed your
husband, besides nearly
killing yourself, and what
about getting another D.W.I.
I feel sorry for you because
you must live in such agony...
You couldn't stand the fact
that you thought about the
little girl you killed while
you were driving drunk, you
drunk! And you want to do it
again?

MARIE

Anything else?

BESSIE

Hold on there. I think we've
heard enough...

MARGARITE

...You're an alcoholic. An
addict. You go to A.A.
because you can't indulge.

MARIE

That's my excuse, but what's
your excuse for not indulging
anymore? Do you still like
men, Margarite? Do you still
want some guy ramming it up
your personal chamber, like we
do? Or are you full of it? I
saw you holding hands with

that woman in Le Perigord last month. You've become a freaking dike, haven't you?

ENNIE

Oy, Margarite a dike, go on...

MARGARITE

You are the most disgusting, vile, despicable human being I have ever come across.

MARIE

Like wise, I'm sure.

MARGARITE

For your edification, that woman you saw me holding hands with and kissing last month was my sister Janet, who was in from Milwaukee. Unfortunately, because she is a very busy doctor, I haven't seen her since John's funeral. Six years ago. And sorry you're not my type, Marie. Beside, having an aversion for drunks that reside in la la land, I sure would like to fuck you where you breathe.

CONSUELO

'*Tu habla es muy malo,*' Marie. '*Es muy malo.*' You are a mean and vindictive person. We are supposed to be friends. You are not Margarite's friend.

KIM

She nobody friend.

BESSIE

With friends like her, who needs enemies? If I remember correctly, about 25, 26 years ago, you invested about five or six mil in an oil well off the coast of Mexico. You never forgave Pablo or

Consuelo, did you?

ENNIE

And I *dhink dhat's* when Consuelo started getting those letters. *Oy*, how could you do such a thing?

MARIE

(Pours vodka and drinks.)
You're out of your tits! Are you accusing me of sending those letters to Consuelo? Of having Pablo busted?!

CONSUELO

I never knew you hated me so much. It wasn't our fault, Marie. The surveyors assured Pablo there was oil. You only lost six million, Pablo lost a 100 million dollars. It wasn't his fault.

KIM

How could you do that to Consuelo?

MARIE

Blow it out of your ass!

ENNIE

I don't believe it. We've been friends for over 40 years.

MARIE

(Has another drink.)
Believe shit, will you?!
Believe shit! You know what?
I'm not going to listen to any
(Staggers as she starts to exit.)
more of this shit. I'm
leaving!

BESSIE

Where are you going?

MARIE

To see my impotent, deaf

fucking husband, that's where I'm going.

KIM

Don't go Marie. You want to have another accident? You too drunk to drive.

MARIE sits down and cries. MARGARITE tries to console her:

MARGARITE

It's all right... You don't have to go, I forgive you.

MARIE

Fuck you! And fuck you too Kim.

ENNIE

What do you want from Kim, what did she do to you?

MARIE

(Has another drink and becomes really stoned)

Oh, she didn't do anything to me, but ask her what she did to Consuelo. She, tried to steal her fucking husband, that's what she did. Didn't you? Well, didn't she Margarite? Remember when she told you she had to have an abortion, about 40 years ago? Well, who do you suppose was the fuckee?

CONSUELO

My Pablo screw around plenty, but he'd never do anything like that to my best friend.

MARIE

Oh no? Why don't you ask Kim?

CRYING, KIM rushes into bathroom.

MARIE (cont'd)

Still think it was me that's been sending you all those letters Consuelo?

CONSUELO

'Caramba... A yude me Jesus, a yude me.'

BESSIE

There's nothing like a woman's scorn...

MARGARITE

Only a vindictive person would send all those letters and who would be more vindictive than a discarded woman... I'm sorry for accusing you, Marie. Please for give me.

MARIE

(Slurs words)

Forget it, will you...?

ENNIE

Who ever *dhought* my *Kimeleh* would do such a thing...?

BESSIE

...Or Pablo, I can't believe it. If I were you, I'd forgive and forget it, Connie. Man no matter how kind, sweet or loving they are I believe all men, at one time or another have a piece of the forbidden fruit, and tell you the truth, I don't blame Kim. Lewie's this little guy, with squinty eyes

(MORE)

BESSIE (Cont'd)

Biagra make me feel and she said he only got four inches. Four inches wouldn't do crap for my *personal chamber* and Pablo was gorgeous.

CONSUELO

He always liked exotic woman and Kim is and was so beautiful... Wait'll you here this story.

CUT: Back in time: Via CONSUELO'S VO we see what she 57 describes:

CONSUELLO (VO)

I remember when we went to Russia, Yugoslavia and Rumania. He thought I didn't know that he slept with the Queen of the gypsies in Rumania, but I knew, I always knew. So, you know what I did to fix his ass? Even though he was short and fat, I screwed the king of the gypsies... Because he was always so 'romantico,' he probably had 20 affairs these past 50 years. So, did I. Tell you the truth it's great to screw the man you love and it's not so bad making it with someone you don't love especially if he's built like Abie. He probably played his guitar, sang and recited poetry to her. That was always his con. I guess that's why I fell for him too. Opened a bottle of his personal Cabernet Sauvignon and then he banged her.

CUT: We are back:

58

CONSUELLO (Cont'd)

Kim, she was always so gullible. The thing that bothers me most is Kim is one of my oldest friends.

'Carajo,' (MORE)

CONSUELO (Cont'd)

how could he do that? Some how I still and always have loved Pablo and now that he's taking Viagra, you see Bessie, I learn, I've never loved him more. I believe he hasn't had an affair the last 15 years. Since 'it' went to sleep, he not only stopped fooling around with me, he didn't fool around with anybody. I know. I always know... And now that

he become a macho man again,
 he doesn't leave me alone.
 Now that he's old, who, would
 have him but me? He doesn't
 play his guitar any more. He
 was never a Carlos Montoya to
 begin with. He forgot most of
 the poems he used to recite.
 Wadsworth he's not. And his
 singing, like Sinatra, he also
 lost his voice. Despite all,
 I still love him, and Kim,
 she's not the only '*muchacha*'
 that fell for him. Tell her
 to come out. Tell her I
 forgive her. It happened 40
 years ago. 40 years ago I
 also fooled around.

BESSIE

Ain't that the truth.

ENNIE

You, fooled around too?

BESSIE

They didn't call me madam for
 nothing, and Leon didn't give
 a damn about me turning
 tricks. The more money I
 made, the more he had to spend
 on his ponies. 40 years ago,
 all he thought about was his
 'horses.' Because I was on my
 back, he became the number one
 breeder of thoroughbreds in
 the country? And once he
 started winning the

(MORE)

BESSIE (Cont'd)

Derby, Santa Anita, the
 Belmont Stakes. You name it
 he won it. Once he started
 making millions, all he cared
 about, was when he wanted some
 nooky, he got it. Tell you the
 truth, I was living like a
 princess
 and who would ever have
 thought that me, a black mammy
 from Mississippi would ever be

so rich? See, even though I was the madam, I liked ballin' all those fine lookin' studs and I didn't give two craps about Leon and his freakin' horses, but all that stopped once he realized how much he loved me, and when he did, he didn't want no man having my *personal chamber*. That's when we decided to have children. Raising children was the most fulfilling, the happiest moments in my life, and much to my surprise Leon became quite a dad. When I was pregnant with Buck, Leon Jr., I sold all my girls and let me tell you I had 60 of the finest lookin' broads in the city to Rocky Lee. He was this bad Chinese pimp that worked the East side for a cool three quarters of a mil. Leon took the bread and invested it in A.T. and T. and I.B.M. and you know the rest of the story. Zillions.

CONSUELO goes to bathroom door and knocks on it.

CONSUELO

Kim, Kim please come out. I'm not mad at you. I forgive you. In fact, I want you to forgive me, for the way Pablo used you. For making you '*prenjada*,' pregnant. Please come out...

Bathroom door opens and KIM enters. After a beat she and CONSUELO embrace and cry.

KIM

I'm so sorry, Consuelo.

CONSUELO

Forget it, will you please? Do you think you're the only woman he knocked up? Because of how much money he has, all the others, we had to pay off.

It cost me *'mucho dinero, Mucho.'*

ENNIE

Now, *dhat* ev'rybody's happy and ve're all friends again, I also have something to say. I'm through *vith dhe schmiagra*. Sure, in *dhe* beginning it was fun, but you know *vhat* happened, I started seeing blue. Ev'rything looked blue, my scrambled eggs, *dhe kishke, dhe* television, *dhe* sand on *dhe* beach, I couldn't stand it and *vhen* I took a look at Abie's beauty, it was also blue. I *vanted* to run away. And you know *vhat* Abie told me, *dhat* his face was very red, to me, it looked blue, but he told me it was very red. He said he was very embarrassed.

BESSIE

So, what happened?

ENNIE

He said, even *dthough* he had a good time, he didn't like *dhe* fact *dhat* all his friends knew he was taking *schmiagra* and laughing at him and calling him Red, and to tell you *dhe* truth, I never liked blue or red. So, ve both decided ve're not going to take any more *schmiagra*. Anyvay, I'm tired. Ve have about 30 pills left. I'm *vondering*, does anyone *vant* them?

KIM

Funny, just the opposite happened to me. My skin and face turned red and Lewie said he saw blue, but I didn't care that he saw blue, what I cared about is my rash. I tried ev'rything. Nothing worked

and Lewie said his knees hurt.
 I tell you, even though dim
 sum very happy, I'm not happy.
 My face is not red now,
 because I stopped taking
 Diagra last week. Lewie
 stopped also and he's not
 seeing blue, anymore. As far
 as I'm concerned, we're better
 off just thinking about it.
 At our age, reverie,
 Memories are far better than
 action. If I want action I go
 see a Shwartenazger movie.
 And I'm tired and so is Lewie.
 I have about 20 pills left,
 who wants them?

CONSUELO

I would take them, but for
 what? Pablo is so depressed I
 don't think he'll use his
chimi churi again. Funny, how
 things work out, no? For
 jears we pissed at 'esposo'
 for not doing it. Then we get
 Biagra and we do it.

(MORE)

CONSUELO (Cont'd)

We do it and we complain; See
 blue, face red, tired, knees
 hurt, friends laugh. '*Que
 pasa?*' How come we're not
 happy, now that we have
 orgasm?

ENNIE

Because, as I said, as we all
 said, *dhe* most important
dhing, *dhat* we all *vant*, *dhat*
 we all need is *dhe* closeness,
dhe companionship, *dhe* *varmeth*.
Arriving's good, *arriving's*
 good, but at my age, I don't

(MORE)

ENNIE (Cont'd)

know if I'm coming or going?
 At my age, I'd rather have a
 cold bowl of borsht...

CONSUELO

...I'd like 'arroz compoyo...'

MARIE

...Spaghetti with white clam
sauce...

KIM

(Laughs)

...Dim sum. But not my dim
sum...

MARGARITE

...Corned beef and cabbage...

BESSIE

...Some hog maws and collard
greens and I'll take those
pills, ladies. See, I'm not
through with Leon just yet.
Tell you the truth, give me
some time and hopefully I'll
arrive more times than Ennie.
If I don't, it's sure gonna
be fun tryin'.

ENNIE touches heart and gasps.

ALL

ENNIE, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

ENNIE

Remember *dhe* triple bypass I
had six years ago? *Dhe*
doctor said some arteries have
closed. My luck, they closed.

KIM

So, you have another
operation.

MARGARITE

It happens all the time. I
have a friend that had it done
three times...

ENNIE

(Sighs.)
...Oy, three times I couldn't
take.

CONSUELO

Maybe we should call a doctor?

MARIE

Ennie, if you die on me, I swear I'm going to kill you.

ENNIE

I'm not dying so fast, I'm not dying so fast.

MARIE

At least not until we find out who ratted on Pablo, you're not.

ENNIE collapses. Concerned, ALL hover above her. BESSIE, calls doctor on phone:

BESSIE

(On phone.)

Doc...? Bessie. You better come to my house real fast. We got a problem... Good and
(Hangs up.)

hurry. He's on his way. Can I get you anything, Ennie?

ENNIE

I don't *want* anything, except maybe I would like to go to sleep.

KIM

No, don't go to sleep Ennie, don't go to sleep.

ENNIE

I'm very tired *Kimeleh*.

MARGARITE

Would you like to sit up?

ENNIE

I just *want* to lay here... I'm so tired.

CONSUELO

Bessie called her doctor. He'll be here right away.

ENNIE

I don't *want* a doctor... It's

too late for a doctor.

BESSIE

What the hell do you mean it's too late for a doctor?

ENNIE

I'm dying, '*Buhbaleh*,' I know, I can feel it.

KIM

Oh, please don't die, '*Enneleh*.' Who else teach me Jewish?

ENNIE

It's my time *Kimeleh*, God is calling me, it's my time, I know and before I go, I have to tell you all something. It *vasn't* Marie or *Kimeleh dhat* told *dhe* F.B.I. on your Pablo, Consuello, it *vas* rotten me. I told *dhem*, because all these years, I blamed him for my Rivka's death. Like a dope, I thought all *dhe* heroin came from Pablo. I wrote you those letters because I hated him and you Consuello. Unfortunately, hate kills old ladies... Please forgive me.

Lying on couch, Ennie gasps, falls and appears to have died. ALL cry and are stunned.

ALL

ENNIE! ENNIE!

KIM

Poor Ennie, gone. She go to land of Confucius.

BESSIE

What kind of Confucius? She was Jewish.

KIM

Then she go to land of Ur, land of Abraham and Moses. They now have the best friend I ever had.

BESSIE

Ain't that the truth... Even though she ratted on you Connie, to me she was the sweetest, funniest and the most giving chick I ever met. When Buck was ten years old, not to show up Leon, because the two of them really dug each other, she gave my little boy the son of Man of War. Must of cost her fifty grand...

MARGARITE

...And when John died and I was so distraught she made me stay with her for two weeks. My own my mother couldn't have done more for me. She fed me, washed my underwear drank with me until I passed out. Then, I'm sure you remember she took me to her home in Hawaii I'll never forget her and I'll always love her. I love you
(Kisses Ennie and cries.)
Ennie. Do you hear, I love you.

MARIE

The woman meant more to me than all the freakin' psychiatrists I ever went to. When the kids were small, she knew how unhappy I was that I wanted to leave. She told me, when the children are grown is the time I should leave. When I killed that sweet little girl, I couldn't look at myself in the mirror, my kids, Carmine, I just wanted to end this drunk's life. Ennie kissed and hugged me, told me that things happen

(MORE)

MARIE (Cont'd)

and if God wanted me to die, then let him do it. HE doesn't need anybody's help...

Funny, I me her at the
Rockefeller skating ring about
50 years ago. I kept on
falling and she picked me up.
She's been picking me up ever
since.

CONSUELO

She's been picking me up too.
The first time I knew Pablo
was having an affair, I wanted
to kill him and then run away,
but she told me he had an
affair because he needed
something, he wanted something
that he thought he could not
live with out. She said, like
a little boy, he'll come home
with his tail between his legs
and beg my forgiveness. And
that's exactly what he did.
If he had 20 affairs, I turned
to Ennie 20 times. She always
knew what to say. She was
always there for me... You
know, I understand the pain
and torment that poor woman
must have lived with all these
years thinking her one and
only daughter Rivka, died
because of Pablo. Just before
she died, she realized how
wrong she was that Pablo was
as she used to say just a
'pisser' when it came to
(Kisses Ennie.)
heroin. DO YOU HEAR? I
FORGIVE AND LOVE YOU!

ALL

WE ALL FORGIVE AND LOVE YOU!

ENNIE scratches herself:

ENNIE

I'm glad you forgive me, but
this damn rash is killing me,
it's killing me.

BESSIE

Ennie, you old faker, you're

alive.

ALL
SHE'S ALIVE, SHE'S ALIVE.

ENNIE
Of course I'm alive. You
dhink vith a rash like *dhis*, I
could die in peace? Come
Kimeleh, ve'll scratch
together.

ALL embrace ENNIE and Laugh.

THE END