

GEORGE

Oh, I don't know. It's silly to even talk about it. It was just a fantasy.

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CHARLEY

What's this?

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GEORGE

My mother's wedding ring. I found it when I was cleaning out a drawer. Charlotte dear, we are both in need of another drink.

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CHARLEY

Wait, wait, wait! Don't move. I LOVE this.

GEORGE

You are insane!

CHARLEY

Come on old man!

GEORGE

Don't move.

CHARLEY

Very smooth cigarette move.

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GEORGE

I've always wanted to do that.

CHARLEY

You don't even smoke.

GEORGE

Well, not for the last 16 years. Jim hated. What's to stop me now. It's not as if it's going to kill me is it?

CHARLEY

This is so nice lying here with you. Don't you ever miss this? What we could have been to each other? Having a real relationship and kids?

GEORGE

I had Jim.

CHARLEY

I know, but I mean a real relationship. Geo, let's be honest, what you and Jim had was great but wasn't it really just a substitute for something else?

GEORGE

Is that really what you think after all of these years? That Jim was just a substitute for real love? Jim wasn't a substitute for anything, and there is no substitute for Jim, anywhere! And by the way, what was so REAL about your relationship with Richard? He left you after 9 years! Jim and I were together for 16 years and if he hadn't died we would still be together! What the hell is not REAL about that!?

CHARLEY

I didn't mean it the way it sounded. I know how much the two of you loved each other. I just suppose that I was always a bit jealous that you and I never had that kind of love. Actually I've never had that kind of love with anyone. I don't think Richard ever loved me except for the way I looked. And Clay, I don't know. You raise a child and love it and then when they get old enough they just leave.

GEORGE

Charlotte, there is nothing wrong with your life. You like feeling sorry for yourself. It's one of your great pleasures.

CHARLEY

And it's not one of yours? You're as pathetic as I am.

GEORGE

Feeling sorry for myself is definitely not one of my great pleasures.

CHARLEY

Well it's not one of mine either. I don't like feeling sorry for myself one bit. I tried to hold onto Richard for so long even when it was obvious to everyone but me that it was over. Now Clay is grown up. I mean, what am I doing here Geo? Tell me that?

GEORGE

You have lots of friends. You'll be fine.

CHARLEY

Yes, I have friends. But none of them need me. And yes I have you and if you weren't such a goddamn poof we could have all been happy! I only have you now because you lost Jim, but I'll lose you again soon to someone else. It's not as easy for a woman. I did everything the way that I was supposed to and all I have to keep me company is a bottle of gin.

GEORGE

Maybe you should try donuts with your gin.

CHARLEY

Screw you!

GEORGE

Charlotte, you are dramatic. You really almost had me. A tiny tear was beginning to form in the corner of my eye. Now stop it, you know that you are still breathtakingly beautiful when you bother to get yourself up and out of bed and you stop whimpering about everything for five minutes. Move back to London! Change your life! If you're not happy being a woman then stop acting like one.

CHARLEY

You have all the goddamn answers don't you? If you're so smart why aren't YOU making something new happen in your life? (beat) I'm serious. Why don't you take that position at Stanford? Why do you keep teaching at that little school when you could have any position you want?

GEORGE

I think what I've done has been worthwhile.

CHARLEY

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said that. (beat) As much as I dread it, I think I might move back to London.

GEORGE

Why do you dread it?

CHARLEY

When I lived in London last I was YOUNG. I was fresh, I was everything. Coming to America was such a dream, it was the icing on the cake. Going home is defeat. None of it really worked out the way I'd planned.

GEORGE

Most things don't work out the way people plan. You're living in the past. You need to start thinking about the future.

CHARLEY

Living in the past IS my future. You're a man. It doesn't have to be yours. And you're a bore tonight. Can't we just feel sorry for ourselves a little bit longer? Mix me up another drink. Please?

GEORGE

I don't think so. I have to go. Come on. Walk me out.

CHARLEY

But this was such fun!

GEORGE

I have to.

CHARLEY

When will I see you again?

GEORGE

Aren't you moving to London?

CHARLEY

I'll never do that! It's far too much effort. Besides, I don't think Jim would want me to leave you here in LA all alone.

GEORGE

Don't worry about me Charley. I'm OK. I've got all the answers. Remember?

CHARLEY

What are you doing this weekend?

GEORGE

I think I might just be very quiet.

CHARLEY

You never really did take me seriously did you George?

GEORGE

I tried to Charley. Remember? A long time ago. It didn't quite work, did it? Good night Charley. Sleep tight. I love you.