Cactus Flower

IGOR
(Knocking on her door)
Ahhh, is there somethin wrong? Ahh I smell gas.
Breaks in through the window. Opens windows, doors and turns off gas at stove. TONI is out. He turns her over and gives her mouth to mouth. This turns into kissing.

TONI

IGOR
I'm not Julian.

TONI
Julian, kiss me.

IGOR
Sorry Julian whoever you are.

TONI
Who are you? What are you doing?

IGOR
Mouth to mouth resuscitation.

TONI
You were kissing me.

IGOR
I lost my head.

TONI
Well, how did you get in here? I di--

IGOR
You left your gas on.

TONI
Gas? Oh, I'm alive. I blew it. I blew it. Oh boy, I really blew it.

IGOR
Take it easy. You're lucky I broke in.

TONI
Why did you?

IGOR
I thought you were dying.

TONI
Well that was the whole idea. Now why don’t you go back and mind your own business like everybody else in New York City.

IGOR
Okay lady. That's the last time you catch me saving your life.

TONI
Damn it you made me blow it.

IGOR
Well as it happens you were going about it all wrong. I believe you’re supposed to put your head in the stove.

TONI
Well it's a second hand stove. There were no directions.

IGOR
Why did you do it? Because of Julian?

TONI
How do you know about Julian?

IGOR
You called me that while you were kissing me.

TONI
I wasn't kissing you, you were kissing me! By the way, is that all you did?

IGOR
There wasn't much time.

TONI
Oh, I'm sorry. I guess I should be grateful. What's your name?

IGOR
Igor. Igor Sullivan.

TONI
Igor Sullivan that's wild.

IGOR
I made it up.

TONI
How come you picked Igor?

IGOR
Igor is my own. I made up Sullivan. It's a good name for a writer.

TONI
You're a writer. You're 'the' writer! The one who keeps pounding on his typewriter all night. You drive me crazy.
IGOR
Why didn't you complain so I could've met you earlier. You haven't told me your name.

TONI
Toni Simmons

IGOR
LL..Look Toni. What did this Julian do to you?

TONI
Nothing.

IGOR
Well he must've done something. What, did he cheat on you? Beat you? Is he a drunk? A crook?

TONI
Worse

IGOR
Oh, he's married.

TONI
For life! He's got 3 kids. I don't know why I'm telling you this, like you were Dear Abbey.

IGOR
(referring to photo)
Is that the dirty rat Julian?

TONI
Oh, he's not a dirty rat. He's a dentist. Fine dentist. 5th Avenue.

IGOR
With a wife and 3 kids.

TONI
Well, that's one of the things that attracted me to him.

IGOR
You go for married men huh?

TONI
I like honesty. All my life, people have lied to me and I can't stand it. Julian at least had the decency to warn me he had a wife and family. I was inlove with him so I accepted it. First I thought it was going to be a carefree fling. Whopee. And then came all those nights when he couldn't make it. When he called tonight and cancelled. It was our anniversary.

IGOR
Anniversary? Of what?

TONI
Julian and I met one year ago at Stereo Heaven. That's the record shop where I work.

IGOR
Stereo Heaven. I've been there. I never noticed you.

TONI
Julian did and I noticed him. He was charming, good looking, sophisticated. No sweatshirts.

IGOR
Sorry I didn't know suicide was black tie.

TONI
You know sitting here alone tonight made me realise I have wasted away my whole life. Do you realise I'm 21?

IGOR
It's a lucky thing I smoke too much. I was on my way down to the corner to get a pack of cigarettes.

TONI
The corner? Oh my God!

IGOR
What's the matter?

TONI
I wrote Julian, telling him what I was going to do.

IGOR
Why?

TONI
What would be the sense in killing myself if he didn't know about it.

IGOR
Where are you going?

TONI
I'm gonna get the letter back.

IGOR
Wait a minute. Hey! How do you plan to do that?

TONI
With a piece of string and chewing gum.

IGOR
Look, you already broke the law when you attempted suicide. Don't start monkeying around with the Federal government.

TONI
I guess you're right. What time is it?

IGOR
It's almost 3.

TONI
3 O'clock! I've gotta get up and go to work in the morning. Go away, I have to sleep. Oh hell with it, I'll take the day off.

IGOR
Yeah, why kill yourself?

TONI
Wow, you must be a very corny writer. What sort of things do you write?

IGOR
Plays.

TONI
What kind of plays?

IGOR
Very advanced. All the actors keep their clothes on. Public is not quite ready for that yet.

TONI
How do you live?

IGOR
I get an allowance from my father.

TONI
Oh boy, I was beginning to feel sorry for you.

IGOR
Everybody can't be poor. Look if you need anything, just pound on the wall and I'll come right away.

TONI
Thanks Igor.

IGOR
Good night.

(moments later, TONI pounds on the wall.)
IGOR
(Knocking on her door)
Ma'am, is there somethin wrong? Ma'am I smell gas.
(Breaks in through the window. Opens windows, doors and turns off gas at stove. Pumps TONI from the back a few times, turns her over and gives her mouth to mouth. She kisses him.)

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