

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

Julian. Julian.

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.)

Cactus  
Flower

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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