

CHAPTER TWO – PLAY VERSION
-knocking the door

George
Yeah!! Okayyy!

Jennie
Is that a review?

George
No. Just a response .. Hello.

Jennie
Hello
(they are both very embarrassed and don't know what to say or how to handle this situation)

George
This was a dumb idea, wasn't it ?

Jennie
Extremely

George
(nods in agreement)
I think I've put undue pressure on these next five minutes

Jennie
You could cut it with a knife

George
I think if I came in, it would lessen the tension

Jennie
Oh, im sorry, please yes
(he steps in, she closes the door)

George
(looks around the room and nods) Aha!

Jennie
Does that mean you comprehend my apartment ?

George
No. It means I like it. "Aha" can be used in many situations, this being one of them.

Jennie
Can I get you anything to drink

George
No, thanks I don't drink

Jennie
Oh, neither do I
(there is an awkward pause)

George
Although I'd love a glass of wine

Jennie
So would I. (she goes to the kitchen) Please, sit down

George
Thank you (but he doesn't, he wanders around the room looking at things, she brings in a opened bottle of wine with two glasses, he spots a framed picture of a football player in action) Is it all right if I pry ?

Jennie
Sure

George
You can scrutinize later (he examines the picture) Oh, are you a football fan ?

Jennie
That's my ex-husband. He was a wide receiver for the new york giants

George
No kidding! What's his name ?

Jennie
Gus Hendricks

George
(looks at picture again) Gus Hendricks? ... Funny, I cant remember him. How wide a receiver was he ?

Jennie

He was cut the beginning of his second year. Bad hands I think they call it. Couldn't hold on to the football

George

Well, some coaches are very demanding, what does he do now

Jennie

Well, he was in mutual funds, he was in the saloon business, he was in broadcasting, he was in sports promotion

George

Very ambitious

Jennie

He did all those in three months, he has some problems to work out.
(She pours the two glasses of wine)

George

Who doesn't ?

Jennie

True enough.
(she hands him a glass)

George

Thank you.

Jennie

Here's to working out problems.
(They both drink. He looks at her)

George

Leo was right. You're very attractive.

Jennie

Thank you.

George

I'm curious. You don't have to answer this... how was I described ?

Jennie

"Not gorgeous, but an intelligent face."

George

(Smiles) That's true, I have. You can ask my face anything. (Jennie sits. George is still standing)

No matter how old or experienced you are, the process never seems to get any easier, does it ?

Jennie

What process ?

George

Mating

Jennie

Mating? My god, is that what we're doing ?

George

(sits next to her on the sofa) Haven't you noticed? First thing I did as I passed you, I inhaled. Got a little whiff of your fragrance. In our particular species, the sense of smell is a determining factor in sexual attraction.

Jennie

This is just a guess. Do you write to Field and Stream ?

George

(Laughs) Please, give me a break, will you? I haven't done this in fourteen years, if you're patient, I get interesting with a little kindness.

Jennie

You're not uninteresting now.

George

I'll tell you the truth. You're not the first girl Leo's introduced me to. There were three others ... all ranked with such disasters as the Hindenburg and Pearl Harbor.

Jennie

Now I see. That's when the Five-Minute Plan was born

George

Necessity is the mother of Calamity.

Jennie

Tell me about them

George

Oh, they defy description

Jennie
Please, Defy it.

George
All right. Lets see. First there was Bambi. Her name tells you everything.

Jennie
I got the picture.

George
Then there was Vilma. A dynamite girl.

Jennie
Really?

George
Spent three years in a Turkish prison for carrying dynamite .. need I go on?

Jennie
No, I think I've had enough.

George
Since then I've decided to take everything Leo says with a grain of panic ... and now I feel rather foolish because I was very flippant with you on the phone. And now I find myself with an attractive, intelligent and what appears to be a very nice girl.

Jennie
You won't get a fight from me on that.

George
With an appealing sense of adventure

Jennie
You think so?

George
It's your five minutes, too.

Jennie
I was wondering why I said yes. I think its because I really enjoyed talking to you on the phone. You're very bright, and I found I had to keep on my toes to keep up with you.

George
Oh. And is that unusual ?

Jennie

I haven't been off my heels in years ... what kind of books do you write ?

George

Ah, we're moving into heavy territory, what kind of books do I write? For a living, I write spy novels, for posterity, I write good novels, I make a good living, but my posterity had a bad year.

Jennie

Name some books.

George

From column A or column B ?

Jennie

Both.

George

Well, the spy novels I write under the name of Kenneth Hyphen Hill.

Jennie

Hyphen hill?

George

You don't say the hyphen. You just put it in.

Jennie

Oh, God, yes. Of course. I've seen it. Drug stores, airports...

George

Unfortunately, not libraries .

Jennie

Who picked the name?

George

My wife. You see, my publisher said spy novels sell better when they sound like they were written in England. We spent our honeymoon in London, and we stayed at the Blakely Hotel, and it was on a hill and the hall porters name was Kenneth .. if we had money in those days, my name might have been Kenneth Savoy Grill.

Jennie

And from column B?

George

I only had two published. They were a modest failure. That's means "bring us more but not too soon".

Jennie

I'd like to read them someday.

George

I'll send you a couple of cartons of them. (they both sip their wine, he looks around, then back at her) I'm forty-two years old.

Jennie

Today?

George

No, in general

Jennie

Oh. Is that statement of some historic importance ?

George

No. I just wanted you to know, because you look to be about twenty-four and right now I feel like rather inept seventeen. And I don't want you to think I was too young for you.

Jennie

I'm thirty-two (they look at each other, it's the first time their gaze really holds)

George

Well. That's was very nice wasn't it? I mean, looking at each other like that.

Jennie

I wasn't scrutinizing

George

That's okay, I wasn't prying.

Jennie

My hunch is that you're a very interesting man, George.

George

Well, my advice is -play your hunches.

Jennie

Can I get you some more wine?

George
No thanks I think I'd better be going.

Jennie
Oh? ... okay. (they rise)

George
Not that I wouldn't like to stay.

Jennie
Not that you're not welcome, but I understand.

George
I think we've hit it off very well, if you've noticed.

Jennie
I've noticed.

George
Therefore, I would like to make a regulation date. Seven to twelve, your basic normal hours.

Jennie
Aha! With grown-up clothes and make-up?

George
Bath, shower-everything.

Jennie
Sounds good. Lets make it.

George
You mean now?

Jennie
Would you rather go home and do it one the phone?

George
No, no. dangerous, I could get the wrong number and wind up with Mrs. Jurgens..
let's see, what is this?

Jennie
Tuesday

George
How about Wednesday

Jennie
Wednesday works out well.

George
You could play hard to get and make it Thursday.

Jennie
No. lets stick with Wednesday and I'll keep you waiting half an hour.

George
(at the door) Fair enough. This was nice. I'm very glad we met Jennie.

Jennie
So am I, George.

George
I cant believe you're from the same man who gave us Bambi and Vilma.
(He goes, she closes the door, smiles and heads for her bedroom, the lights fade)