

51 CONTINUED:

JUSTINE
(in English, to Maggie)
What are you doing?

MAGGIE
I just can't believe I actually
found a legal parking space right
outside your mom's building.

JUSTINE
You're coming in?

MAGGIE
Just to say hi.

52 OMITTED

52

53 INT. GEORGETTE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

53

Georgette opens her door.

GEORGETTE
Hello--oh, hi, Maggie!

MAGGIE
John had a meeting so he asked me
to--

GEORGETTE
Come in.

The kids remove their shoes and greet their mother with great affection. Maggie watches this. Justine is very tender with her mother. Another person.

GEORGETTE (CONT'D)
I made you a nice snack and you are
allowed to watch one single episode
of something ghastly while eating
it, okay? But no fighting about
what it is, Paul. Justine gets to
choose.

GEORGETTE (CONT'D)
The snacks are already in the den.

(CONTINUED)

They go off down the hall. Georgette turns to Maggie, who is standing in the doorway.

GEORGETTE (CONT'D)

Come in, really. I'm just making coffee -- or tea?

MAGGIE

(removing her shoes)

Coffee would be great. Thank you. Your apartment is really nice.

GEORGETTE

Thank you.

MAGGIE

That's a lovely amulet.

GEORGETTE

It's Viking.

Large photographs of Geishas from the 1920's now dominate the walls. Georgette puts brewed coffee in a blender and holds a stick of butter.

GEORGETTE (CONT'D)

I put butter in mine. It nullifies afternoon sugar cravings.

MAGGIE

Great.

While Georgette blends the butter in the coffee, Maggie looks at a beautiful black and white image of a younger John holding Justine. Maggie doesn't notice Georgette coming up behind her.

GEORGETTE

That's a lovely photo, don't you think?

MAGGIE

(startled by her)

Yes. Thanks.

She sips the buttered coffee --ack-- and sits in a chair; Georgette takes the couch.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

It's good to meet you -- finally.

GEORGETTE

I won't pretend it doesn't cost me something.

MAGGIE

Of course.

GEORGETTE

I'm not into fakery.

MAGGIE

Me neither.

GEORGETTE

But for the sake of the children, I think we should communicate about them a little. You and me and John. I will be honest, it's been hard. You know it has, but I accept it all of course. I detest the role of the spurned wife, I won't play it--

MAGGIE

You're not.

GEORGETTE

Am I not?

MAGGIE

You still -- have such a deep connection to John.

GEORGETTE

We have managed to remain friends, it's true...

Georgette is looking at Maggie with surprise and a little suspicion.

MAGGIE

I mean, your phone calls...

GEORGETTE

Do you disapprove of that?

MAGGIE

No--

GEORGETTE

The marriage has dissolved, but we are still parenting together.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Well, I mean, it's more than just parenting, you guys are on the phone, like, several times a day. Don't get me wrong, I think it's great. I'm just saying over the past months it's occurred to me that... reading your book and watching you...

Georgette is looking at her carefully. Maggie's cheeks are going hot, her heart is speeding up.

GEORGETTE

Yes?

MAGGIE

Well, it's obvious you're still in love with him.

A moment of silence, of disbelief. Georgette is insulted.

GEORGETTE

Don't confuse my work and my illustrating my work with episodes from my life -- don't confuse that with my private self.

MAGGIE

It's just that I think he also has buried feelings for you.

GEORGETTE

What the hell are you playing at?

MAGGIE

Please. Just listen.

(a loaded moment of
silence)

John and I are in trouble. I don't know if he realizes how badly in trouble we are, I don't think he wants to know. When I met you -- well, it suddenly occurred to me that you and I could collaborate on -- I think there's an opening, somehow, to get you two back together.

A pause as Georgette's disbelief is replaced by anger.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGETTE

I can't believe this. So you're tired of your little affair. All done with it? And now you want to make sure you don't feel guilty, so you're going to manipulate us all into some absurd happy ending? I have met a lot of control freaks in my life, in fact I even thought I was one -- but you make me look like an amateur.

MAGGIE

I didn't mean to insult you.

GEORGETTE

Have the decency to leave him and face the fact that you poisoned my children's lives and my life and maybe John's life for your own selfishness. That's your burden. You earned it.

MAGGIE

Excuse me. Wait a minute. If you had such a perfect marriage why was John miserable? You neglected him. You used him. You didn't respect his talent.

GEORGETTE

So if I'm so awful, what the hell are you doing here trying to get him back together with me?

MAGGIE

I just think that actually, even though I do think you were pretty self-absorbed and extremely needy, that was -- it actually kept John in balance. Taking care of you made him think about someone other than himself.

GEORGETTE

I've had enough of this flatfooted psychologizing of my marriage. You have no idea what went on between John and me. What was awful and what was sublime -- you will never, ever know. Now please leave my apartment.