

SIDE 2: MILLIE & KITTY

PERFECT ARRANGEMENT

23

Scene Two

(Afternoon, three weeks later. KITTY and MILLIE enter through the front door, both dressed for a day out with hats, handbags, and gloves. MILLIE struggles with the key, her purse, and two large grocery bags. KITTY makes no effort to assist.)

KITTY. I suppose I just don't understand when she finds the time. Normie's at the Department as much as Theodore or Bob, how does she maintain her home?

MILLIE. Norma's a very industrious woman. And Jim helps her around the house, picking up and such.

KITTY. No! Goodness, I can't imagine what our house would look like if Theodore did the cleaning. I don't think he knows where we keep the carpet sweeper. Hm.

MILLIE. What?

KITTY. I don't think I know where we keep the carpet sweeper either. Well, we have Beulah for that sort of thing. She is a treasure. Tell the truth, Millie. Is Normie's house clean?

MILLIE. Oh, quite. It sparkles. Like something out of an advertisement. Although, I'll tell you a secret. If you look in her icebox, you know what you'll find?

KITTY. Tell me.

MILLIE. *Frozen pie crust!*

KITTY. No! Stop, I cannot take it! You're the Devil!

MILLIE. You must swear you'll never mention it! She'd positively die from embarrassment!

KITTY. Listen to us! Gossiping! Like real girlfriends!

MILLIE. Yes. These past few weeks have been...such a kick.

KITTY. I never had girlfriends when I was younger. Did you?

MILLIE. I've had a few.

KITTY. Of course you have, you're delightful. I always tried... You know, there was this girl in my neighborhood? Fanny Robinson. Her cat had kittens.

and all the other children would come over to play with them, you know? And I thought, oh, I can do that. Fanny's not the only one who can get people in the door with a few furballs. So! I got a side of bacon and a pillowcase, and I trapped every darn stray cat in the neighborhood, hid them in our cellar.

MILLIE. How many cats are we talking here?

KITTY. Oh, probably fifteen, sixteen. So many cats! And then I invited everyone over!

MILLIE. How'd that turn out?

KITTY. There were a lot of injuries. But after that, everyone called me Kitty!

MILLIE. Ah. Well. How about that? Um, thank you so much for recommending that bakery, Kitty. I can't believe all I picked up!

KITTY. The French. They make the best pastries.

MILLIE. I do like a good crêpe.

KITTY. Always buy bread from the French, your produce from an Irishman, and get your meat from a Polack.

MILLIE. I'll keep that in mind. I'd best get these things put away –

KITTY. (*Removing her gloves.*) Oh, Millie. You're my very dearest friend!

MILLIE. Oh, Kitty, that's so...unlikely. I mean, we've only known each other a few weeks.

KITTY. No, I'm quite sincere! You and Normie, you're such fun! We're going to have so many adventures together!

~~MILLIE. Well, of course we will. Now, I hope you'll forgive –~~

~~KITTY. Something's been bothering me, Millie dear. I was hoping I could speak with you. It's about Normie's husband.~~

~~MILLIE. Well of course. You can speak to me about anything at all. What about Jim?~~

~~KITTY. Well, oh this is so delicate...~~

~~MILLIE. No, I insist.~~

~~KITTY. I don't wish to offend.~~