

EUGENE. (*looks at audience then at her*) No, I don't mind. You can spray some on me. (*She smiles and sprays him playfully.*) Gee, it smells good.

ROWENA. If you'd like a bottle for your girl friend, I sell them. Five dollars apiece.

EUGENE. You sell perfume too?

ROWENA. I sell hard to get items. Silk stockings. Black panties . . . You interested?

EUGENE. (*earnestly*) . . . Do you carry men's clothing?

ROWENA. (*laughs*) That's cute. You're cute, honey . . . You want me to take your shoes off?

EUGENE. I can do it. Honest. I can do it. (*He gets his first shoe off.*)

ROWENA. Is this your first time?

EUGENE. My first time? (*He laughs.*) Are you kidding? That's funny . . . Noo . . . It's my second time . . . The first time they were closed.

ROWENA. You don't smoke cigarettes either, do you? (*She takes cigarette out of EUGENE's mouth.*)

EUGENE. How'd you know?

ROWENA. You looked like your face was on fire . . . If you want to look older, why don't you try a mustache?

EUGENE. I did but it wouldn't grow in on the left side . . . What's your name?

ROWENA. Rowena . . . What's yours?

EUGENE. My name? (*to audience*) I suddenly panicked. Supposing this girl kept a diary.

ROWENA. Well?

EUGENE. (*quickly*) Jack . . . Er . . . Jack Mulgroovey.

ROWENA. Yeah? I knew a Tom Mulgreevy once.

EUGENE. No. Mine is Mulgroovey. Oo not ee.

ROWENA. Where you from, Jack?

EUGENE. (*slight accent*) Texarkana.

ROWENA. Is that right?

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EUGENE. Yes, ma'am.
 ROWENA. Is that Texas or Arkansas?
 EUGENE. Arkansas, I think.
 ROWENA. You *think*?
 EUGENE. I left there when I was two. Then we moved to Georgia.
 ROWENA. Really? You a cracker?
 EUGENE. What's a cracker?
 ROWENA. Someone from Georgia.
 EUGENE. Oh, yeah. I'm a cracker. The whole family's crackers . . . Were you born in Biloxi?
 ROWENA. No. Gulfport. I still live there with my husband.
 EUGENE. Your husband?? . . . You're married?? . . . My God! If he finds me here he'll kill me.
 ROWENA. No he won't.
 EUGENE. Does he know that you're a—you're a—
 ROWENA. Sure he does. That's how we met. He's in the navy. He was one of my best customers. He still is.
 EUGENE. You mean you *charge* your own husband??
 ROWENA. I mean he's my best lover . . . You gonna do it from there, cowboy? 'Cause I'll have to make some adjustments.
 EUGENE. I'm ready. (*to ROWENA*) Here I come. (*She holds open blanket. He gets into the bed and clings to the side.*)
 ROWENA. If you're gonna hang on the edge like that, we're gonna be on the floor in two minutes.
 EUGENE. I didn't want to crowd you.
 ROWENA. Crowding is what this is all about, Tex. (*She pulls him over. He kneels above her.*) Okay, honey. Do your stuff.
 EUGENE. What stuff is that?
 ROWENA. Whatever you like to do.

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EUGENE. Why don't you start and I'll catch up.

ROWENA. Didn't anyone ever tell you what to do?

EUGENE. My brother once showed me but you look a lot different than my brother.

ROWENA. You're sweet. I went to high school with a boy like you. I had the biggest damn crush on him.

EUGENE. (*still above her*) Do you have a hanky?

ROWENA. Anything wrong?

EUGENE. My nose is running. (*She takes hanky, wipes his nose.*)

ROWENA. Better?

EUGENE. Thank you. Listen, please don't be offended but I really don't care if this is a wonderful experience or not. I just want to get it over with.

ROWENA. Whatever you say . . . Lights on or off?

EUGENE. Actually I'd like a blindfold. (*She reaches over and turns off lamp.*) . . . Oh, God . . . Oh, MY GOD!!! (*slumps down*) . . . WOW! . . . I DID IT! . . . I DID IT!!

ROWENA. Anything else, honey?

EUGENE. (*calmer, more mature*) Yes. I'd like two bottles of perfume and a pair of black panties.

(*Blackout.*)

Lights up on section of barracks. It's late Sunday night. SELRIDGE, CARNEY and ARNOLD are lying on their bunks. WYKOWSKI, pacing, has EUGENE's notebook of memoirs. CARNEY is on his stomach reading a letter and ARNOLD is reading a worn paperback of Kafka.)

WYKOWSKI. . . . I can't believe what this creep's been writing about us . . . Listen to this . . . "No matter how lunatic I think Sergeant Toomey is, there is method to

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