

Catherine, Charlotte, Frances, Pearl and Mr Reed

CHARLOTTE: And I told him, 'I absolutely intend to strike this match. And I can smoke if I want to. All the girls are doing it. You live in a cave? Haven't you picked up a *magazine*?' And I threw my *Collier's* at him, pointed to the picture of the girl in the Chesterfields ad and said, 'There. Is she sharp?' Besides, if men can do it, so can we, right? I can smoke all night and all day if I want to except that I have to work and that's using my hands, which wouldn't leave them *free* to smoke, but if I could, I would. I'd smoke and drink gin and shimmy and he said, 'Charlotte, you'd look like a harlot,' and he didn't even thing that was funny. That fella's so tight, if you put a piece of coal up his/

Rufus Reed, the supervisor, has entered with Catherine.

MR REED: If Mae West lived in Illinois and painted watches, she'd be Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE: (*teasing*) I heard that, Mr Reed.

MR REED: You know I mean it as a compliment.

CHARLOTTE: You know I take it as one.

MR REED: Morning, girls.

PEARL/FRANCES: Morning Mr Reed.

PEARL: Whatcha got there, Mr Reed?

MR REED: Girls, I'd like you to meet Catherine Donohue.

CATHERINE: Hello.

PEARL: Hi. I'm Pearl.

MR REED: Pearl's your girl if you want to hear a joke.

PEARL: (*giggling*) Oh no, not really, no, well, yes. Did you hear the one about/

MR REED: Then there's Frances.

FRANCES: Welcome.

MR REED: She's the moral backbone of this gang.

FRANCES: (*with a nod towards Charlotte.*) Got my work cut out for me, with this one here.

MR REED: The one she's referring to is Charlotte, of course. (*Charlotte gives a little nod*) Charlotte's been known to eat our young. The last new girl begged for mercy after three days at this table.

CHARLOTTE: Not true, Mr Reed. Not true at all. Is it girls?

FRANCES: Is the pope Catholic?

CHARLOTTE: Interesting haircut.

CATHERINE: Thanks. I bobbed it.

CHARLOTTE: Wasn't a compliment.

FRANCES: Here we go....

CHARLOTTE: That hair. Not too bad. Sorta makes you look like whatshername, the sassy movie star, big star, I love *her*, who is she, that one, you know, she was just in a movie with whosit.

PEARL/FRANCES: Louise Brooks.

CHARLOTTE: Brooks. Louise Brooks. Yeah. Her. Wears her hair like that. Looks good on her. Maybe it looks okay on you. Maybe. Makes you look young. I'll give that.

FRANCES: She *is* young.

CATHERINE: I am young.

CHARLOTTE: Either way, that's a hairdo that can take years off of any girl. You married? Kids?

FRANCES: Don't snoop, Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE: Just a question.

CATHERINE: A boy and a girl. Twins. Billy and Sally. My husband's name is Tom.

CHARLOTTE: Tom. Nice name, Tom. Tom sounds like/

MR REED: Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE: Yes, Mr Reed?

MR REED: You want to translate some of your talking into explaining how it's done?

CHARLOTTE: How what's done, Mr Reed?

MR REED: Painting the dials, Charlotte. You know, that thing you do by accident between words.

CHARLOTTE: I don't know, Mr Reed/

MR REED: Mrs Donohue isn't here to take your job, Charlotte. I gave her one of her own.

Tom and Catherine

CATHERINE: *(She gives him a peck on the cheek)* You beat me home.

TOM: Wasn't hard. You're late.

CATHERINE: I know. I'm sorry.

TOM: Your mom just left. The kids didn't take their nap, so they're monsters. Hungry monsters. I haven't had time to make dinner so, so....

CATHERINE: We worked overtime just a bit, then we/

TOM: *(Indicating something on her cheek)* What's that?

CATHERINE: What?

TOM: There. What is that? Mud?

CATHERINE: Oh. Um. It's. Um/ Hot fudge.

TOM: Hot fudge.

CATHERINE: Yeah.

TOM: I'm not even gonna ask. *(starts tossing the silverware on the table)*

CATHERINE: Me and the girls/

TOM: I didn't know where you were, then it got dark, and the kids were going crazy/

CATHERINE: We just stopped for a quick one on the way home.

TOM: A quick one?

CATHERINE: A quick, um, banana split.

TOM: A banana split.

CATHERINE: Not a whole one. We shared.

TOM: You split a split?

CATHERINE: Yeah.

TOM: Glad you got time for that.

Dinner's not going to be good. I didn't really know how to /

CATHERINE: You're acting like a baby.

TOM: You're acting like a guy.

CATHERINE: You come home late sometimes.

TOM: Exactly.

CATHERINE: So?

TOM: So, my late is different than your late.

CATHERINE: Oh, I don't think your late is all that different from my late.

TOM: Oh yeah? *I'm* late, nothing happens. *You're* late, this place falls apart, the kids go nuts, I gotta scramble!

CATHERINE: No, no, no! *I'm* late, you just have to do what I do every night, only I don't complain about it!

TOM: It better not happen again!

CATHERINE: So what if it does?! Then what?!

TOM: Then I'll.....

CATHERINE: What? You'll go home to my mother?!

TOM: I just might!

CATHERINE: Fine!

TOM: Fine!

CATHERINE: Fine!

They retreat to their corners. Then Catherine pulls a small box out of her handbag.

A little something. To make up for it.

She hands it to him.

TOM: For me?

CATHERINE: Yeah. Open it. Go ahead.

TOM: You know, don't think you can come home late whenever you want, and just bribe me with gifts. I'm not that kind of girl.

He opens the box and see the gift.

Yea, I am. Wow. You just bought me off with a pocket watch.

CATHERINE: I painted it. The numbers. You know. I hope it's nicer than the one you used to have.

TOM: It's... perfect.

CATHERINE: You said, back on my first day on the job, to be careful, because work can cost you something. Remember saying that?

TOM: I do.

CATHERINE: Not this job. It's not like work at all.

Company Dr, Catherine

COMPANY DR: Mrs. Catherine Wolfe Donohue?

CATHERINE: Yes.

COMPANY DR: You work for/

CATHERINE: The company. Radium Dial. You know that. That's why I'm here.

COMPANY DR: Certain questions..... Just a matter of procedure.

CATHERINE: Sorry.

COMPANY DR: And you have a...complaint?

CATHERINE: There's something wrong.

COMPANY DR: Mm.

CATHERINE: With my leg. My foot. Ankle. Moving up to here.

COMPANY DR: Arthritis is my guess.

CATHERINE: I'm too young for arthritis.

COMPANY DR: Weak blood.

CATHERINE: It's not weak blood

COMPANY DR: I'm prescribing aspirin.

CATHERINE: I've been taking aspirin. It doesn't work. I... I need to figure out what's wrong.

COMPANY DR: You're young. You're strong. You're a mother. You're a wife. You have a family to take care of. You're perfectly healthy. You're fine.

CATHERINE: At work they gave us a test. They had us breathe into a machine. A meter.

COMPANY DR: Standard procedure.

CATHERINE: Standard procedure for what?

COMPANY DR: For the company.

CATHERINE: What was the test *for*?

COMPANY DR: Employers give employees tests all the time. In the best interest of the workers. In the best interest of their health. Everyone wants a healthy workforce. The company has an investment in you. But maybe you're not cut out for this work. Maybe you're not as strong /

CATHERINE: How can you say that! I'm a good worker!

COMPANY DR: Listen. Mrs Donahue. You're doing your job. I'm doing mine. We work for the same people. We can make trouble. Or we can take

care of ourselves and get along. You're the picture of health. You're a beautiful young woman. There's nothing wrong with you. You want to know about the test? I'll tell you. Some people, some people think companies make their workers sick. But sometimes people are already sick when they get hired. And they try and pawn it off on the company. My job is to sort the cranks from the real McCoys.

CATHERINE: I thought you were a doctor, not a sorter.

COMPANY DR: As a doctor, sorting's my job.

CATHERINE: I wasn't sick when I started.

COMPANY DR: Didn't say you were.

Dr Dalitsch, Leonard Grossman

GROSSMAN: Dr Dalitsch, from your examination of Mr Donohue what would you say as to her condition – is it temporary or permanent?

DR DALITSCH: Permanent.

GROSSMAN: In your opinion, is it fatal?

DR DALITSCH: I'd rather not say in the presence of the witness.

GROSSMAN: You've already spoken to Mrs Donohue about her condition?

DR DALITSCH: Yes.

GROSSMAN: So, she won't be surprised here.

DR DALITSCH: No.

GROSSMAN: So I'll ask again, is it your opinion that Mrs Donohue's condition is fatal?

DR DALITSCH: Mrs Donohue might live for several months under the proper treatment.

GROSSMAN: And she is suffering from the effects of what illness?

DR DALITSCH: Radium poisoning.

GROSSMAN: Acquired through... in your belief....

DR DALITSCH: Her work at Radium Dial.