

*His apartment. It is two weeks later, about 9 P.M. GEORGE walks into the living room, carrying a reference book. He looks for something at the desk and around the sofa, then goes to the phone and dials, still looking about him.*

SCENE 5

GEORGE (*Into the phone*) Marilyn? . . . George . . . Is Leo there? . . . No, you can just yell into the bathroom . . . Ask him if he remembers where he left the phone number for a Mrs. Jenkins, or Jergins, or something like that. He wrote it down and left it for me somewhere in here last week . . . Jenkins, Jergins . . . (*Looking through some papers*) She's the old woman he told me about who used to work for the Harvard University Library about forty years ago . . . No. It's research for the book . . . Would you? (*Spots a paper under the kitchen phone*) Wait a minute, Marilyn, I'm gonna put you on hold. Just a second. (*Pushes the "hold" button, gets the paper from under the kitchen phone and picks up that receiver*) Marilyn, I found it. It was right under the other phone . . . Yeah . . . Give Tina a kiss for me. Goodbye.

(*He hangs up both phones and looks at the paper. He dials again . . . And the phone rings in her empty apartment. Just then we hear the key in the door and JENNIE enters. She turns on the lights. The phone rings again. She puts down her suitcase and picks up the receiver*)

ACT ONE

JENNIE Hello?

GEORGE Hello? Is this, uh . . . I'm sorry. I'm not sure I have your name right . . . This is George Schneider—Leo Schneider's brother? I believe he told you I would be calling you.

JENNIE George Schneider?

GEORGE The writer.

JENNIE Oh . . . God! Yes . . . George Schneider. It seemed so long ago . . . I'm sorry, you caught me at a bad time. I just got off a plane and walked in the door.

GEORGE Oh, I didn't know. I'm sorry. Can I call you back?

JENNIE Well . . . Yes, I suppose so but, er . . . I'll be very honest with you, Mr. Schneider. I'm going through sort of a transition period right now, and I'm not planning to date for a while.

GEORGE Date? Did Leo say I was going to call you for a date?

JENNIE Well, he said you were going to call, so I assumed—

GEORGE No, no. This wasn't a date call. I'm very surprised at Leo, Miss, er . . . Is it Jenkins or Jergins?

JENNIE Is what?

GEORGE Your name.

CHAPTER TWO

JENNIE It's Malone. Jennifer Malone.

GEORGE (*Confused, looks at the paper*) Jennifer Malone?  
... No, that's wrong.

JENNIE I could show you my driver's license.

GEORGE That's not the name he gave me... (*He looks on the back of the paper*) Oh, geez, it's on the other side. I couldn't read his writing. Serene Jurgens was the one I wanted. She's an elderly woman, about eighty-five years old.

JENNIE Well, you know what you want better than I do.

GEORGE Look, I am so embarrassed. I really was going to call you socially. At another time. I mean, I really was.

JENNIE Well, let's see how it goes with Serene first. Okay? Goodbye.

(*She hangs up*)

GEORGE (*Looks at the scrap of paper*) God damn you, Leo, get your women straight, will ya?

(*JENNIE takes her suitcase to the bedroom. GEORGE thinks a moment about what to do, then looks at the paper and dials again. The phone rings in her bedroom*)

JENNIE (*Answering it*) Hello?

GEORGE It's me. I'm back.

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ACT ONE

JENNIE You and the old lady didn't hit it off?

GEORGE Now I know who you are. The girl Leo met at "21." Jennie Malone.

JENNIE That sounds right to me.

GEORGE Anyway, I'm calling back because I wanted you to know that I got the phone numbers mixed up, and I didn't want you to think I wasn't calling you. I *was*. I mean, I wasn't *then*. I am *now*.

JENNIE For a date?

GEORGE No. Not yet. I thought I'd wait and explain the *last* call before I went ahead with the *next* call.

JENNIE I'm a little slow. Which call are we on now?

GEORGE This is the call back to explain the dumb call. The charming call comes after we hang up from this one.

JENNIE I'm so glad I'm home. If I got this message on my answering service, I'd need a private detective.

GEORGE I'll tell you the absolute truth. I haven't made a call to a nice single girl in fourteen years. I wasn't even good at it then. If I seem inept, please bear with me.

JENNIE You seem ept enough. The point is, Mister ... er ...

GEORGE George Schneider. I got it here on the paper.

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