

The doorbell rings.

MARIE

Shall I get the door, Madame?

COLLYN

Yes.

EMERSON

(realizing who it might be)

No!

MARIE opens the door. WILL BRANCH enters.

WILL

Honey, I'm home.

WILL crosses to EMERSON grabs her and kisses her.

COLLYN

Will, honey, I'm so glad you could make it. This is my husband, Will.

WILL looks from EMERSON to COLLYN.

SAMUEL

Your husband?

COLLYN

That kiss? Yes, we're very old friends. We always kiss like that.

COLLYN crosses to TED and kisses him with equal passion.

EMERSON coughs.

SAMUEL

I see.

COLLYN

Will, let me introduce you to everyone. This is Samuel Briarwood and his niece, Philomenia.

PHIL

Please call me Phil.

WILL

(crossing to PHIL and taking her hand)

You have the most interesting flecks of color in your eyes.

PHIL

Thank you.

COLLYN smacks his arm.

COLLYN

And this is Emerson's husband, Ted.

WILL

(shaking his hand)

So nice to meet you.

TED growls at WILL.

WILL pulls his hand back.

SAMUEL

I thought you were very old friends.

MARIE

Master Will, may I get you something to drink.

WILL looks at MARIE.

WILL

I'll have what the men are having.

MARIE

(to TED)

Master Ted, what are you having this evening?

TED
Whiskey. The Harpers.

WILL
Oh...well maybe a white wine.

SAMUEL
Not a whisky man?

WILL
Bad experience in college. (looking at MARIE) Umm...

MARIE
Mrs. Forrester, sir.

WILL
Mrs. Forrester, add a splash of soda and a lemon twist.

MARIE
(curtsying)
Yes, Master Will.

PHIL
You know you do look familiar. Have we met?

WILL
I don't believe we have.

PHIL
I know! You look a lot like that actor on Days of Night.

COLLYN
He gets that all the time.

SAMUEL
Will, what do you do?

WILL
I'm in real estate.

SAMUEL
Ted was just telling me he's in real estate. Do you work together?

COLLYN

Will is *not* in real estate. He meant to say he use to be in real estate. Now he does something else.

SAMUEL

Something else?

SAMUEL, PHIL, COLLYN, EMERSON and
TED look at him.

MARIE brings him his drink.

WILL drinks half the glass of wine.

WILL

I'm in psychology. I'm a psychologist.

COLLYN, EMERSON and TED react.

PHIL

Really?

WILL

Yep.

PHIL

Interesting.

EMERSON

Ted! Why don't you show Samuel and Phil the rest of the house? Will, you can go with them. That will give Mrs. Forrester a chance to set out the appetizers.

MARIE

(curtsying)

Yes, madame.

TED

Of course.

TED crosses to EMERSON, takes her in his
arms and kisses her passionately.

EMERSON is stunned.

TED glares at WILL.

TED

Right this way. I have a pool table in the basement.

SAMUEL

Now you're talking Will, do you play?

WILL

I can hold my own.

SAMUEL

Phil's been playing since she was old enough to reach the table. Right, Phil?

PHIL

Uncle you just ruined my hustle.

TED

Em, do we have time for a quick game?

EMERSON

Sure.

TED leads them all into the basement.

COLLYN

I think it's going well. Don't you think it's going well?

EMERSON

No, I don't think it's going well. My mother is speaking with a phony British accent bobbing up and down all over the place and Will...oh my God...Will! How is he ever going to pull off that whole psychologist blunder.

MARIE

He'll pull it off.

MARIE starts looking through the cabinets.