

CHAPTER 2 – The movie version – George & Jennie First Date

(DOWNSTAIRS BUZZER RINGS)

JENNIE

Oh God, what am I doing? (PHONE RINGS) Hello? . . Oh Faye, I can't talk to you now, he's on his way up. George Schneider . . . Yes, *your* George Schneider . . . It's not a date. It's a look! Faye I'll call you back in five minutes . . . Because that's all the look takes. Oooo grrrr.

(KNOCK ON FRONT DOOR.)

JENNIE

Who is it?

GEORGE

Uh, five minute man.

Jennie opens the door.

GEORGE

Yeah! Okayyyyyy!

JENNIE

Is that a review?

GEORGE

No, no, uh , just a response . . . Hello.

JENNIE

Hello.

GEORGE

I think I've put a lot of pressure on these next five minutes.

JENNIE

You could cut it with a knife.

GEORGE

I think if you don't mind if I came in, it would lessen the tension.

JENNIE

Oh my God, yes, please. Come in.

GEORGE

Aha!

JENNIE

Does that mean you comprehend my apartment?

GEORGE

No. It means I like it. "Aha" can be used in many situations, like buying a little time to get over opening moment jitters.

JENNIE

Sometimes a glass of white wine can do the job.

GEORGE

That's good thinking.

JENNIE

Please sit down.

GEORGE

Is it all right if I pry? Occupational hazard.

JENNIE

Oh I understand. I generally motivate too much.

GEORGE

You a football fan?

JENNIE

Oh, that's my ex-husband. He was a wide receiver for the New York Giants.

GEORGE

No kidding! What's his name?

JENNIE

Gus Hendricks.

GEORGE

Gus Hendricks? . . . Funny, don't remember him. How wide a receiver was her?

JENNIE

Well, he was cut in the beginning of his second year. Bad hands, I think they call it. He couldn't hold on to the football.

GEORGE

Some coaches are very demanding. What does he do now?

JENNIE

Well, he was in mutual funds, he was partners in a saloon, he was in broadcasting, sports promotion -

GEORGE

Very ambitious.

JENNIE

He did all those in three months. He has some problems to work out.

GEORGE

Who doesn't?

JENNIE

True enough. (Hands him wine) Here's to working out problems.

GEORGE

Leo was right. You're very very attractive.

JENNIE

Thank you.

GEORGE

I'm curious. You don't have to answer this, but how was I described?

JENNIE

"Not gorgeous, but an intelligent face."

GEORGE

That's true. I have. You can ask my face anything. I like your perfume.

JENNIE

Oh, well, I may have overdone it. I didn't know how much to put on for 5 minutes.

GEORGE

Do you think this was a dumb thing to do?

JENNIE

I thought so three minutes ago, but I'm beginning to get the hang of it.

GEORGE

It was an idea born out of fear. "Necessity is the Mother of Calamity."

JENNIE

Do you write the way you talk?

GEORGE

This is not talking. This is impressing. Talking comes later.

JENNIE

Oh, good.

GEORGE

I don't know. No matter how old or experienced you are, the process never seems to get any easier, does it?

JENNIE

What process?

GEORGE
Mating.

JENNIE
Mating? My God, is *that* what we're doing?

GEORGE
First thing I did when you passed was inhale. Got a whiff of your fragrance. I don't know if you are aware of it or not, but in our particular species, the sense of smell is a determining factor in sexual attraction.

JENNIE
This is just a guess, but do you write for *Field and Stream*?

GEORGE
Please, give me a break, I'm doing this cold sober. To tell you the truth, you're not the first girl that Leo introduced me to.

JENNIE
What were the others like?

GEORGE
Like a walk down Broadway at two in the morning. First there was Bambi. Her name should tell you everything.

JENNIE
I got the picture.

GEORGE
Then there was Vilma. A dynamite girl.

JENNIE
Really?

GEORGE
Spent three years in a Turkish prison for carrying...

JENNIE
... dynamite.

GEORGE
Do you want me to go on?

JENNIE
No, I've had enough.

GEORGE
Since then I've decided to take everything Leo says with a grain of panic . . . And that's why I'm very surprised to be sitting here with an attractive, intelligent and what appears to be a very nice girl.

JENNIE

Thank you. I really enjoyed talking to you on the phone. You're very bright. I found I had to stay on my toes to keep up with you.

GEORGE

I write it all down and memorize it. Leave nothing to chance. (Long pause of silence) First awkward moment of silence. Not bad for five minutes.

JENNIE

I could fill it in nicely with some cheese.

GEORGE

Cheese is good, for an awkward moment. Gus Hendricks, 2nd round draft pick out of Penn State, dropped three touchdown passes against the Vikings, never heard from again.

JENNIE

I didn't hear much from him either.

GEORGE

I'm forty-two.

JENNIE

Today?

GEORGE

No, just in general.

JENNIE

Oh. Is that statement of some historic importance?

GEORGE

No. I just wanted you to know it because you look to be in your late 20's. I feel like I'm acting seventeen...I didn't want you to think I was too young for you.

JENNIE

I'm thirty-four.

GEORGE

Thirty-four. It's a good year for women. So what do you think?

JENNIE

About what?

GEORGE

About me?

JENNIE

God, you really like to come right to the point, don't you.

GEORGE

I'm not always this direct, but we are fighting the clock.

JENNIE

Well, my hunch is you're a very interesting person, George.

GEORGE

Well, my advice to you is to play your hunches.

JENNIE

Can I get you more wine?

GEORGE

No thanks. I think I'd better be going.

JENNIE

Oh? Time's up?

GEORGE

Well I don't need anymore. I think I know what my next move is.

JENNIE

Really, what's that?

GEORGE

I would like to make a regulation date...your basic normal hours... seven to twelve.

JENNIE

You mean with grown-up clothes and make-up?

GEORGE

Bath, shower – everything.

JENNIE

You think we're ready for the big time?

GEORGE

We've just spent four minutes in the Minors I think we can move up.

JENNIE

Okay, why not, let's make it.

GEORGE

What's today?

JENNIE

Tuesday.

GEORGE
How's Wednesday?

JENNIE
Wednesday works out well.

GEORGE
You could play hard to get and make it Thursday.

JENNIE
Let's stick with Wednesday and I'll keep you waiting half an hour.

GEORGE
Fair enough. This was really very nice. I'm very glad we met, Jennie.

JENNIE
So am I, George.

GEORGE
I can't believe that you would come from the same man who gave us Bambi and Vilma.