

SCENE

M/F  
26 March  
Comedy

Janet: Gem Silver

Dr. Schaefer: Athena ~~Bess~~ Marie

Dr. Schaefer: (*looks up and sees Jeanette enter*): Ah, do I have your name dear?

JANET: Janet Tomson (*goes to chair*)

Dr. Schaefer: (*checks off name*): Ah, Here it is. (*looks up smiling*) First time in counseling Dear?

JANET: (*taking off coat*): Yea, sorry I'm late. There was a fire at the bus station, and then some guy got shot—(*playing off his concerned expression*) some dude. I had to walk 12 blocks in these ---fn heels. *And then*, I had the wrong address! I thought it was on the west side, but it's on the east side—it's been a rotten day all the way around. . . (*shaking head*)

Dr. Schaefer (*smiling*): Well, often times it can feel like--

JANET: --I woke up at 3:30 with PMS and couldn't get back to sleep, there was a maggot in my tuna salad, and they raised my Blue Cross again! Is it hot in here or is it just me?—

Dr. Schaefer nods her head, becoming grated

Dr. Schaefer: (*agitated, rushed*)—I was *preparing* to say, when life squeezes you by the balls, sometimes you've just gotta ask the good Lord for a little *mercy*.

JANET: (*blank stare*) Mercy. Mind if I smoke?

Dr. Schaefer: Yes, I do mind—I'm a very delicate man, sensitive actually, sensitive to cat hair and dander, pollen and *especially* smoke. . .

JANET: tiff; Oh, give me a break! What, you think this little cigarette is gonna kill you? Ha, it makes me laugh with some of the stuff I have to smell riding Public Transportation everyday—you ever smell hot, rotting—

Dr. Schaefer: (*taking back control*): --It's, it's okay Janet. In here, everything is a-okay. (*takes a whiff of air*)—matter of fact, there's nothing like a fresh lungful of carbon monoxide every now and again; in fact, it's refreshing to meet someone who is so open and in touch with her feelings. (*smiles reassuringly*)

JANET (cont.): Yeah? . . .It's just, I've had it up to my ears with men today! When this guy got shot on the bus tonight, I'm standing there watching, and I swear, this clown next to me tries to start a conversation. Humph, they're all the same!

Dr. Schaefer: --Actually Janet, studies have shown that men are often sexually harassed more than women—often leaving them in bouts of depression or anger!

JANET: What do men have to be *angry about*? I'll tell you what—nothing, Bogus feelings. Do they know what it's like to be stepped on, patronized, and treated like a child, and be systematically abused, and dehumanized *and* mind-raped?—That's what it's like to be a woman everyday—except Christsmas!

Dr. Schaefer: (*startled, blank*) . . . uhhh . . .

JANET: Excuse me, I'm a little tense.