

# HELEN & FRANNY

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10.

Say goodbye to your mother.

MITCH

Bye.

SARA

Sara exits.

I tried.

MITCH

Mitch kisses Lydia on the head and exits. Lydia crosses to the door and looks out. She shuts the door with a sigh of relief. She looks around the room. Franny enters. She is wearing pants and a kerchief on her head.

Mama, I'm leaving.

FRANNY

Lydia turns to Franny.

What?

LYDIA

Did you hear me?

FRANNY

I heard you.

LYDIA

I said I'm going.

FRANNY

Helen enters carrying a bowl of green beans.  
Lydia watches.

What are you hollering about?

HELEN

I have to go.

FRANNY

HELEN

You can't go out of the house looking like that.

FRANNY

These are my work clothes.

HELEN

Can't tell if you're a man or a woman.

FRANNY

Don't think it matters much today.

HELEN

It always matters.

FRANNY

(kissing Helen on the cheek)

All right, Mama. I've got to go now.

Helen sits at the kitchen table and starts to snap the beans.

HELEN

Fine. You go on. Just leave me here to do all this work myself.

FRANNY

I'll help you when I get home.

HELEN

It'll be dark when you get home. Factory folk work from sun up to sun down.

FRANNY

Then I'll help you this weekend.

HELEN

I've got vegetables covering the cellar. I can't wait til the weekend.

FRANNY

Mama, I know you don't want me to go to work, but we need the money.

HELEN

Oh, fiddle. We don't need it that bad.

FRANNY

Really? How are you planning on paying the light bill this month?

HELEN

The Lord provides.

FRANNY

I don't think the Lord can write a check to Virginia Gas and Power.

HELEN

Hold your tongue. There will be no disrespecting the Lord in my house.

FRANNY

I'm sorry.

HELEN

Besides I'm not objecting to you working. I'm a modern woman.

FRANNY

Since when?

HELEN

I'll have you know before I met your Daddy I was a working girl.

FRANNY

You sold preserves at the fruit stand on Route 7.

HELEN

It was a living.

FRANNY

Barely.

HELEN

At least it was respectable.

FRANNY

You think my working at DuPont isn't respectable?

HELEN

It's man's work.

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