

CURLY, TINKER, FANNY

52.

(6)

LYDIA

Why do you care what I do?

MITCH

Of course, I care. Jesus, Ly dia, would I still be here if I didn't care?

LYDIA

You stayed for Sara not me. She's the one you care about.

Mitch looks quietly at Ly dia for a moment.

MITCH

I stayed for you.

Mitch sits. Ly dia turns away from him, facing the kitchen door. Curly appears at the door, cracking it open.

CURLY

(whispering)

Tinker.

Curly steps cautiously into the room.

CURLY

(whispering a little louder)

Hey, Tinker.

Tinker enters from upstairs. He is wearing his Seabees uniform and carrying his coat.

TINKER

I'm coming, Curly.

CURLY

Hurry up. We can't be late.

Tinker crosses to Curly, pulling on his coat.

TINKER

Hold your horses.

CURLY

Boot camp or bust, Tink.

TINKER

All right, all right.

Franny enters from upstairs. She is wearing a nightgown.

FRANNY

Do you really have to go?

Tinker looks longingly at Franny.

TINKER

Lord, I wish I didn't.

CURLY

Don't worry, Franny. I'll bring him back to you.

FRANNY

When will that be?

TINKER

I hope I can get back after basic.

FRANNY

But that'll be weeks and weeks.

CURLY

After boot camp, we've got Seabee "A" school. The Navy should let us come home before our first tour.

FRANNY

Can't you stay a little longer now?

TINKER

Sun's coming up.

CURLY

I best get him of here before your Mama sees him and shoots me dead.

FRANNY

She won't.

CURLY

Have you met your mama?

FRANNY

She doesn't have any reason to shoot him now.

Franny runs into Tinker's arms. Tinker twirls her around.

TINKER

That's right. I made an honest woman of you, didn't I?

FRANNY

That's right.

Tinke puts Franny down. Franny holds out her hand and looks at her wedding ring.

FRANNY

I can't believe we really did it.

TINKER

Me either.

CURLY

Me either.

FRANNY

Thanks for being our witness, Curly.

CURLY

It was an honor, ma'am.

FRANNY

It's not how I imagined I'd get married.

TINKER

I guess no girl dreams of a courthouse wedding, but we had to.

CURLY
(feigning shock)

You had to?!

FRANNY
Don't say it like that. You make me sound like a girl in trouble.

TINKER
I don't know how that would have happened.

FRANNY
Hush.

TINKER
I just meant we had to because there was no way I was leaving without having you all sewn up.

FRANNY
You think you have me right where you want me, don't you?

TINKER
Where I want you is right here.

Tinker pulls Franny to him and kisses her.

CURLY
All right, you two. Time's up.

FRANNY
Are you sure you have to leave?

TINKER
Yeah, I can't be late.

Tinker buttons up his coat.

FRANNY
Maybe you could tell them you changed your mind.

TINKER
Even if I could I wouldn't.

FRANNY
Why not?

TINKER
Duty calls.

CURLY
Time to tear down the enemy.

TINKER
I've never been one for tearing things down.

FRANNY
Then why are you going?

TINKER
It's hard to explain.

FRANNY
Try.

TINKER
It's the most important thing I'll ever do.

MITCH
Lyddie?

TINKER
I'll write as soon as I get there.

MITCH
Lydia?

FRANNY
Take care of yourself.

TINKER
I will.

FRANNY
You too, Curly.

CURLY

Don't worry. No gold stars for us.

TINKER

Goodbye, Honey.

Tinker kisses Franny.

CURLY

(pulling Tinker out the door)

Come on, already.

Tinker and Curly exit. Franny watches them go
and then exits after them.

MITCH

Lydia!

LYDIA

What?

MITCH

Where *are* you?

LYDIA

I'm . . . here.

MITCH

You okay?

LYDIA

I'm fine.

MITCH

You seem a million miles away.

LYDIA

I'm fine, Mitch.

MITCH

How many did you take today?