

SCENE FIVE

TIM & DELLA

Scene Two

Della and Tim's bed. 9:00 p.m. Floral and pillow and fluff.

TIM is lovable. Big gut. Working class.

They lay next to each other.

TIM has a comforting hand on DELLA's breast like it's a cloud he can touch.

It's not sexual. Maybe it used to be, but it's not anymore.

TIM flips the channels.

*News, news, sitcom, news, porn.**

The sounds of porn.

They both study it. Unphased. Unaroused.

TIM. Cleaned some condoms out of a septic tank today!

No response from DELLA.

The kids flush 'em to get rid of the evidence.

The kid was home. Begged me not to tell his parents. I said, "Secret's safe with me."

Houses all clogged up with secrets and such.

No response from DELLA.

Oh! Honey! I wanted to tell ya – I heard this ad on the radio today! "Smell Good Plumbers." A whole plumbing business based on smellin' good. Can you believe it? That is stereotyping! If your plumber does happen to smell, maybe he might do better work or charge a fairer price than a plumber who shows up smellin' like France. How does odor correlate with quality of work?

Beat.

I usually smell pretty good, don't I?

DELLA. Right now, you do not smell amazing.

TIM. Well I pride myself on my appearance. All'a my guys, we tuck our shirts in, we wash our hands. And so I find that offensive. If everybody else is allowed to get offended by this or the other, then I get to be offended, too.

DELLA is still lost in space.

Hey! I am trying to have a cuddle and ask you about your day, Little.

DELLA. You're not asking, you're telling.

TIM. I was getting to the asking part!

DELLA. Go on, have your cuddle.

TIM cuddles up to her.

TIM. I'm gonna miss you when you go.

DELLA. It's just six weeks. Maybe less if I mess up.

TIM. Yeah but when was the last time we were apart for a month?

DELLA. I don't know, before we met?

TIM. Yep. So I can be dramatic if I want to.

Beat.

You better not get all Hollywood on me.

DELLA. What does that mean?

TIM. All wantin' to eat sushi all the time.

DELLA. You know I can't stand that seaweed stuff.

TIM. Just make sure you come back the same.

This lands on DELLA.

She contemplates what he's saying. It does not sit right with her.

He finally clocks that something is wrong.

...What?

DELLA. Jenny came into the store today.

TIM. Jenny's in town?

DELLA. She is.

TIM. Well we gotta have her over! You can make that cornflake fried chicken!

DELLA. I'll ask her.

TIM. Or is she still pretending she don't eat meat? Last time she was down, remember that? Took her to Little Richard's? I watched that girl eat a plate of just green beans and collards, it was upsetting. Honestly, I got upset. She's getting all corrupted by the liberals up there, sweat yoga, and all'a that.

DELLA. I think she was just experimenting.

TIM. That's how it starts. It starts small with experiments just 'cause everyone else is doing them. Next thing you know, you forget who you are, where you came from.