

ACT TWO

Scene 1

Weeks later, late afternoon. Up-tempo jazz plays as downstage right pin spotlight comes up. Randa, wearing a dressy black skirt and top, steps into the light. She carries a small box.

RANDA. It's been said, "The more you complain, the longer God makes you live." Grandmother died *on her ninety-first birthday* — obviously even *He* couldn't take it anymore. Come to find out she had every cardiac issue imaginable, but, being Grandmother, she didn't bother telling anyone in the family about it. Frankly, it was a surprise to me to find out she *had* a heart. But die she did and thus began the endless tributes over the past six weeks that elevated her, in death, to sainthood. Being the dutiful doormat granddaughter, I showed up for all of it — the wake, the funeral, the memorial, the renaming of the park, and, today, the final indignity, the reading of the will. And because no Covington Family gathering is complete without "helpful" comments on my unrelenting single status, my eccentric Aunt Juliette cornered me with more words of wisdom. She said, "Miranda, darling, you must keep this in mind — it's important to have a man in your life who can repair things; it's important to have a man in your life who can make you laugh; it's important to have a man in your life who's good in bed. (*Lower.*) And it's very important that these three men never meet, or you could end up dead." (*Sighs.*) My family tree has incredibly twisted roots. (*A few bars of up-tempo jazz play as pin spotlight goes to black. Randa pockets the box, turns, and walks into the light as it comes up on the verandah.*)

JINX. (*Offstage.*) Yoo-hoo! Anybody home?

RANDA. (*Goes to side stairs, calls down.*) Yes, I just walked in! Come on up! I'm desperate to spend time in the company of sane people — (*Jinx glides in from side stairs dressed in a scarlet Renaissance costume: low, low square neckline, tops of the sleeves are overly puffed and just below the puff become straight and tight to wrist, a lace-up black corset is over the bodice*