

**BOBBY**

**LIZ**

WITH THIS RING

29

**ACT IV**

*SETTING: 2007 - Same furniture as act I-scene1.*

*AT RISE: Bobby, late 20s. Is checking his e-mail on his laptop.*

**BOBBY:** Liz, are you going to be long?

**LIZ:** I'll be right out.

**BOBBY:** It is *your* aunt that's coming to visit... hey, I got a response from John Tabaro.

**LIZ** (*enters from bedroom*): So how do I look?

**BOBBY** (*he looks at her*): Radiant, beautiful, astonishing...

**LIZ:** Yeah, I know, but how do I look?

**BOBBY:** What's the matter with you Liz, you look stunning. Why are you so tense?

**LIZ:** It's just that I haven't seen my Great Aunt Matilda for 10 years and now she's flying in from California for the wedding. I want everything to be perfect.

*He stands up and goes to kiss her.*

No Bobby, you'll ruin my makeup.

**BOBBY:** Who cares?

**LIZ:** I do.

**BOBBY:** Listen to me, you're perfect, your aunt is perfect and in two days we walk down the aisle and we'll be perfect together for the rest of our lives.

**LIZ:** In our little love nest apartment?

**BOBBY:** In a very upscale neighborhood with a view of the ocean... You know in the old days this place didn't even have an elevator. Then it went co-op in the nineties...

**LIZ:** Along with the rest of the neighborhood... you sure we can afford the mortgage? We're not strapping ourselves?

**BOBBY:** Not at all. We're both up and coming professionals who saved money and waited to get married. Do you know that financial problems doom most marriages?

**LIZ:** Says the investment banker.

**BOBBY:** Well that's not going to happen to us because you happen to be marrying a financial genius.

**LIZ:** Even despite this protracted recession. You sure everything is okay at the office?

**BOBBY:** Why do you ask?

**LIZ:** I keep looking at my 401k statement and it's turned into a 201K.

**BOBBY:** I suppose I could give up Wall Street and go back to what paid my college bills.

**LIZ:** Standup comedy? Oh no you don't.

**BOBBY:** What are you talking about, you love my "Elvis Selling Life Insurance Routine."

**LIZ:** Which one was that again?

**BOBBY:** O.K., the premise is that Elvis only attained cult status after he died. Before then he was kind of a clichéd rock oldies act with pending tax problems. With that crooked colonel managing him and the way he spent money he would have wound up broke and having to become a life insurance salesman to survive.

*(Doing Elvis imitation he pantomimes holding telephone)*

"Hello, Mrs. Smith, this is Elvis, yes that Elvis... you know you can never have enough life insurance, like I was telling my bass player the other day... sure I can hold..."

*Now becoming the woman answering the phone.*

"Honey, it's that pain in the ass Elvis again, what should I tell him... 'Sorry Elvis, we've got enough insurance, but can you sing me a chorus of 'Don't Be Cruel.''" What do you think?

**LIZ:** Please don't give up your day job.

**BOBBY:** Come on, you know I'd be a success no matter what I was doing. Finance, fine arts, acting,

*(He sings the word)*

singing...

**LIZ:** I think I'm marrying multiple personalities. Focus mister attention deficit.

**BOBBY:** But finance is so mundane. I need to express myself. You just can't keep raw talent like this bottled up. I've conquered the world of finance, it's time for the next challenge. What's my next big challenge?

**LIZ:** Why don't you try putting the toilet seat down after you use it.

**BOBBY:** Oh that's rich, sure, make fun of the "boy genius."

**LIZ:** It's all about you isn't it dude?

**BOBBY:** You know it dudette.

**LIZ:** Dudette?

**BOBBY:** Dudette, a female dude.

**LIZ:** That is not a real word.

**BOBBY:** Neither is dude.

**LIZ:** I think dude's a real word.

**BOBBY:** Let me google it and find out.

**LIZ:** It's not that important.

**BOBBY:** No, you asked, now curiosity has gotten the better of me.

*He moves to computer.*

**LIZ:** Dude ranch!

**BOBBY:** What?

**LIZ:** Dude ranch. My grandfather used to take us upstate to a dude ranch where you'd ride horses and stuff, it was a family tradition. And there is no such thing as a dudette. Dude is gender neutral.

**BOBBY:** We'll see. Here it is. "The term 'dude' is an English slang word used to informally address a male person." A *male* person. I am right as usual.

**LIZ:** Keep reading. "The word may also be used in the same manner for a female." You are *wrong* as usual.

**BOBBY:** "Other, older definitions of dude exist. A particularly well dressed male or one who is unfamiliar with life outside a large city. These definitions may go hand in hand. I.e. an Easterner in the West."

**LIZ:** Hence the term dude ranch, I'm right again on all accounts, pay up.

**BOBBY:** We didn't bet anything... But you've just given me a great idea. We honeymoon at a dude ranch upstate!

**LIZ:** We go to Hawaii as planned. So what did John Tabaro say? Is he coming?

**BOBBY:** He said he wouldn't miss the wedding for the world and he'd be there with "bells on."

**LIZ:** Isn't it wonderful that all our friends, all the people from the same neighborhood where we all grew up are coming back from parts unknown just to be with us to celebrate?

**BOBBY:** Sweetheart, the only person who I want to show up is standing right in front of me. The most important person to me in the world.

**LIZ:** Oh Bobby, you know I feel the same way... We're going to be so happy together.

**BOBBY:** How can you not be happy when you know you're going to spend the rest of your life with your best friend?

**LIZ:** Always.

*They kiss.*

Enough. She's going to be here any minute.

**BOBBY:** I can't believe I'm finally going to meet your old spinster Aunt Matilda. Matilda, it even sounds like an old spinster Aunt name.

**LIZ:** She's not a spinster, she's a widow. She lost her husband not long after they were married.

**BOBBY:** And she never re-married? How come?

**LIZ:** My mother says that she lost the love of her life and no one else could ever replace him.

**BOBBY:** That's very touching.

**LIZ:** Bobby... if something ever happened to me, would you, I mean...

**BOBBY:** I don't even want to discuss the subject.

**LIZ:** But it could you know... something could happen to me and I'd want you to be with someone. I wouldn't want you to be lonely for the rest of your life like Aunt Matty.

**BOBBY:** Nothing is going to happen to either of us. We're going to grow old together and spoil our grandkids. It's going to be a great wedding. Oh, I heard from the orchestra, we're going to have strolling violins at the cocktail reception.

**LIZ:** How elegant... and then Hawaii!

**BOBBY:** Two weeks in Hawaii. The most beautiful sunsets in the world.

**LIZ:** Tell me about Maui again.

**BOBBY:** We'll stay at a quaint hotel right in the old whaling village of Lahaina. In the morning you can look out at the ocean from your balcony and see dolphins jumping in the water.

**LIZ:** I can't think of a more romantic place on earth.

**BOBBY:** Do you want to know what really makes it romantic?

**LIZ:** What?

**BOBBY:** Being there with the most beautiful woman on earth, unfortunately your sister is not available so I'll have to settle for you.

**LIZ:** Oh you are going to pay for that mister!

**BOBBY:** Come on, just want to lighten the mood. I'm a little nervous about meeting your aunt.

**LIZ:** Do I have to remind you one more time about my dislike of callous sarcasm?

**BOBBY:** It was stupid, I apologize. Don't make me beg.

**LIZ:** Let me hear it.

**BOBBY:** Not again, c'mon Lizzie.

**LIZ:** Don't Lizzie me. Let me hear it.

**BOBBY:** But it's so demeaning. Why do I have to?

**LIZ:** Because I'm the woman. You love me. And you'll never find anyone as kind, wonderful and exciting as I am.

**BOBBY:** That's it?

**LIZ:** Feel like ever having sex again?

**BOBBY:** I'll say it.

**LIZ:** Good.