

DÉJA VU SAMPLE

LOUISE

I didn't mean you were a Lothario. Only that if you had happened to love one woman who *had* money, and another who *didn't*... well....

ED

I never asked you for a nickel! Did I ever ask you for a nickel?

LOUISE

No.

ED

And when that slimy divorce lawyer told me I should grab this chance to set myself up for life....

LOUISE

Yes. I love you for that. And I didn't I ask *you* for anything, either. Did I?

ED

I didn't *have* anything!

LOUISE

You had future earnings. *Everyone* has those. All I meant was, material things *do* have their appeal, don't they? Thank god we didn't have children. Though sometimes now I think how comforting it would be in old age....

ED

I think about that, too.

LOUISE

Brrrr! Close that window, would you? There's a real autumn chill!

(He does so.)

ED

Clocks go back tonight. Don't forget.

LOUISE

First fire. If I get home in time.

ED

You still do "first fire"?

LOUISE

Without fail. Always one of our nicer moments, I thought. At least they were for me.

ED

Not mulled wine and the whole nine yards!

LOUISE

Absolutely. Cold caviar and hot wine. And the first fire.

ED

All by yourself.

LOUISE

Well, these days, yes.

ED

I couldn't do that. Not by myself.

LOUISE

Pussums and I curl up on the sofa together. Of course she adores caviar.

ED

Pussums! I thought you told me Pussums died years ago.

LOUISE

New Pussums.

ED

Did you do "first fire" with Charlie?

LOUISE

Ed, you *are* jealous!

ED

Did you?

LOUISE

As a matter of fact...no. He thought wine and caviar was barbaric. Especially *hot* wine. I always thought you'd marry again. Why didn't you?

ED

Busy, I guess. Time passed. No one came along.

LOUISE

Oh Ed, really!

ED

Really what?

LOUISE

Such platitudes! Why didn't you? *Really.*

ED

Just like I said. And if there were other reasons, would they be any of your business?

LOUISE

No, I suppose not. I asked because I care about you. I always hoped, so very much hoped, that you'd find someone, be happy. You always needed someone. Whenever I'd go away on my little trips, you always acted like... a flea that had lost its dog.

ED

Thanks!

LOUISE

I didn't mean it that way. I meant—

ED

God damn it, Weezie, I know what you meant! Any more salt you want to rub in?

LOUISE

Ed, I--

ED

All right! All right! No other frigging dog came along who could match you! That what you wanted to hear?

LOUISE

I'm glad you didn't say bitch. No, I—

ED

I tried! I told myself I could learn to live with their down-sides. One woman...we got along real well...turned out to have a coked-out, transvestite son who'd suddenly show up out of nowhere looking for a handout.

LOUISE

Oh dear.

ED

There was another Louise. Lou. Bright, funny, a real high-octane performer. It could've been fun.

LOUISE

What stopped you?

ED

When she opened her mouth she sounded like she was stripping gears.

Poor thing!

LOUISE

And Wendy Palmer.

ED

Not the Wendy Palmer we knew!

LOUISE

Yes, sweet, beefy Wendy Palmer with the heart as big as a summer hotel. I even proposed to her.

ED

Ed, you didn't!

LOUISE

I did.

ED

And she turned you down?

LOUISE

I back-pedaled. I knew I'd roll back to my side of the bed every morning... wishing it had been you. Christ I tried!

ED

I'm sorry.

LOUISE

I *still* try.

ED

Dear oh dear. How unkind life can be. I hope David and Jaqui won't have to go through what we went through, don't you?

LOUISE

They will. I tell you, she's panning for gold.

ED

That's unfair. To David as well.

LOUISE

(ED has stripped down to red bikini briefs that are too small for him.)

ED

David! He's a good enough kid, don't get me wrong...

LOUISE

Maybe he sees something we don't see. Behind the bedroom doors.

ED

A good kid, but a wuss. Always was.

LOUISE

That's not nice to say about your godson.

ED

Your godson.

LOUISE

Our godson makes him yours as well. And you were the one he always adored. You and your violin.

ED

Fiddle.

LOUISE

Fiddle, then. It was the first thing he walked for. Your fiddle.

ED

Hey, he likes you, too. You know he does.

LOUISE

Then how come I've only heard from him once, maybe twice, since our divorce?

ED

'Cause nobody liked Charlie.

LOUISE

Charlie had lots of friends.

ED

Not *our* friends.

LOUISE

You mean *your* friends. The feeling was mutual.

(ED lies on the bed, arms behind his head, and watches her move around in bra and panties.)

ED

Did you love him?

LOUISE

Charlie?

ED
Why, was there someone else?

LOUISE
Yes, I loved him.

ED
More than you loved me?

LOUISE
More than I loved you at the end. For sure!

ED
How about at the beginning?

LOUISE
I loved Charlie differently. He was a very considerate man.

ED
And the sex?

LOUISE
Is that really any of *your* business?

ED
Just wondering.

LOUISE
Actually, Charlie was rather squeamish about the...*squishy* side of love.

ED
Aha.

LOUISE
Aha what?

ED
Aha aha.

(There is a silence.)

ED
A quickie, Weezie. Come on. For old times' sake.

LOUISE
No.

ED
Have I gotten that gross?

(LOUISE goes over to the bed
and sits beside him.)

LOUISE

No, dear Ed, you're certainly not gross.

(She gently strokes his belly.)