

JULIA

JULIA CONNOR, 20s/30s, has just returned from a day at the fair with her daughter PEARL and encounters her host, HH HOLMES, in the lobby of the hotel.

HOLMES

Hello Mrs. Connor. Enjoying your stay?

JULIA

Such a lovely time at the fair today. Pearl's been enjoying some new nosh they call "cracker jack".

HOLMES (to Pearl:)

Very nice. What is it exactly?

JULIA

I'm afraid Pearl is awfully shy. She'll warm up to you, given a chance.

HOLMES

I hope to give her one. You're staying through until Saturday?

JULIA

Maybe longer? There's so much to see, I'll admit. I had no idea.

HOLMES

And where is your husband?

JULIA

Scrambling to find the races again, I'm sure. We parted ways early this morning.

HOLMES

You don't like for him to gamble.

JULIA

What reasonable wife would?

HOLMES

So you're a reasonable wife?

JULIA

When I need to be.

Julia looks to Pearl, who is playing with her doll.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Pearl- why don't you go play with Becky in our room? She seems like she needs a nap. Pearl.

HOLMES

Oh, my. Alone with a married woman. I'm going to get a reputation.

JULIA

I'd be surprised if you didn't already have one.

HOLMES

If you only knew.

JULIA

If I only did.

HOLMES

You're inviting me to tell you something.

JULIA

You don't strike me as the type that needs an invitation.

HOLMES

You have the most beautiful skin I've ever seen.

JULIA I--

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HOLMES

Translucent. So fair I can see the shapes of your veins as they pass through your cheeks to your ears.

JULIA ...Is that supposed to be a compliment?