

Sally and Evelyn standing in the field. There is no warmth between them.

SALLY

Thank you for holding my pocketbook.

EVELYN

You're welcome.

Silence.

You know, Sally...

She trails off.

EVELYN

I knew you would be downtown. I know you ride those escalators when you need cheering up.

SALLY

Harvey's knew what they were doing when they got them.

EVELYN

*(An attempt at levity.)* Entertainment free of charge.

SALLY does not laugh.

I know I shouldn't've tracked you down like that, but I was worried-

SALLY

I...

EVELYN

Just say it. Get it out.

SALLY

While I was looking at those pretty clothes, and picking out what dresses I might find the sewing patterns to... I did something I never done before. Ever. For the first time in my life, I wondered... You know, it never crossed my mind 'til tonight. She was sitting right on my bladder, and I had to tinkle something awful. I passed all those clothes. I passed the restroom. I passed the diner counters. I walked out of the store. I walked all the way down Church Street to the alley. To that box. And I handed you my purse...

EVELYN

I didn't mind, Sally.

SALLY

You shouldn't have to. Pregnant or not, nobody ought to hold nobody's pocketbook so they can use the bathroom shopping.

EVELYN

I am so sorry-

SALLY

I wish there was a freedom ride for those boxes. They hopping on air-conditioned buses complaining about where they get to sit when my daughter is gonna have to watch her mama squat like a dog over a box cause ain't no Colored restrooms on Church Street. Like a dog. Without an ounce of dignity... That's exactly what it was. I'm squatting while you hold my pocketbook. I... hate that.

"Hate" is on her list of dirty words.

You go out in the world all day. Everybody treat you like a dog out there. And you come to your own house and get treat like a dog there. Then you invite somebody in your home- your sister- and get treat like a dog. Everywhere. I want a...I want a *god damn* Freedom Ride for me, Evelyn. Where's my god damn freedom?

Evelyn doesn't respond.

(*Nearly to tears.*) I'm asking you. I need to know. Where?

EVELYN

I can't tell you that, Sally. I don't even know for myself. I wish I did.

A long, long beat.

SALLY

Do you remember how we met?

EVELYN

Of course.

SALLY

Well?

EVELYN

You were working at the delicatessen and your coworker, James...James-

SALLY

James Cunningham.

EVELYN

Cunningham. Flirted with me every time I came in- Sally, you sure you want to-

SALLY

Keep going.

EVELYN

I need you to understand that-

SALLY

Keep going.

EVELYN

One day he asked me outright. Would I go down with him to the arcade [*Pronounced "are-kay"*] that evening. You was standing right there. Quiet as always.

SALLY

And what'd you say next?

EVELYN

I said I only go on double dates. And I asked him who's gonna take you. He said you already had you a fella sweet on you. And I say, Well the three of y'all meet me there or he might as well keep his advances. Low and behold, you and Tony came on.

SALLY

I didn't know you from Adam but Tony said 'To heck with it.' And there we were. You wearing that ol' bop-tail dress. Every time you walk, just bopping your tail.

EVELYN

And you looking like a nun. We had us a good old time. We took pictures and got popcorn. Took us two hours to walk from Fourth Avenue to Fifth and when we got to the five and dime,

SALLY

*(Joining the recollection.)* - McClellan's.

EVELYN

McClellan's... had ice cream and hot dogs. Never went out with that James again. But I knew you and Tony was my kind of folk.

SALLY

And we felt the same way about you... It was Tony who got the notion to suggested introduce you to Bowzie. He told Bowzie to go on down to where you was singing-

EVELYN

I can't lose you, Sally. I got a whole mess of siblings, and you the closest thing I got to a sister. I can't lose you.

Beat.

I just gotta ask...

SALLY

Anything!

EVELYN

Was that why you wanted me to leave him?

SALLY

God no, Sally. Jesus.

EVELYN

Don't take His name in vain.

SALLY

No. No no no. A hundred times over. It was a stupid, stupid mistake. It was a mistake; just lost myself.

EVELYN

(*Cold as ice.*) "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

SALLY

I am so, so sorry.

EVELYN

I'm watching you, girl.

SALLY

Watch me. As long as you don't quit me.

EVELYN