

ROBERT

No. Not possible.

#14a - Robert Leaves

FRANCESCA

(sobbing or nearly sobbing)

Don't leave me, Robert.

ROBERT

I'm not leaving you. I'm waiting for you.

He runs down the stairs and she follows

FRANCESCA

Robert!

ROBERT

Six o'clock.

But as she gets outside, she hears the door of his truck slam, and hears the engine start. She watches, tears streaming down her face, as the truck rolls out the driveway.

She sinks to the ground, still not understanding why she isn't with him. Finally, she stands and goes inside and washes her face in the kitchen sink. Or straightens some things, just trying to get everything done. Some time passes.

Francesca's House - Downstairs

And suddenly, the kids barge in the back door, screaming and starving.

MICHAEL & CAROLYN

Mom! Mom!

CAROLYN

I won a BLUE RIBBON! Stevie got Best Steer! Want to see it?

She shows it without waiting for an answer. Then opens the refrigerator door.

MICHAEL

Wait 'til you see the slide show.

CAROLYN

And I met this great guy who's going to teach me calf-roping.

MICHAEL

You're going to break your neck.

Michael
+ Carolyn #2
Start

FRANCESCA

Don't say that! Carolyn might like calf-roping.

She drinks water from the pitcher in the fridge.

CAROLYN

And I'm a way better rider than you are.

Michael puts the test tubes back in the fridge.

MICHAEL

Well, I think we should return all the horses to the wild anyway.

CAROLYN

Michael spent all his time talking to an anti-farm guy.

MICHAEL

An animal rights activist.

CAROLYN

Just what we need, for all the animals to be free. Then they can get hit by cars or break into houses, and eat all the catfood.

By this time they both have made peanut butter sandwiches and carry them into the next room to eat. Their argument continues as they go.

MICHAEL

That's not what he wants. He wants decent treatment for them, in their life and their death.

CAROLYN

Great. Maybe he can talk to vegetables too! Maybe the corn would like to be planted in circles.

MICHAEL

What we should do is ditch this vegetable thing and plant marijuana. They say it's gonna cure glaucoma one day. Or poppies. Last night this guy showed me how if you just scrape back the poppy bark you can get some of the gummy stuff they make—

CAROLYN

(whispering now)

Shut up, Michael.

MICHAEL

(whispering now)

—opium out of. All the hospitals use it for morphine.

Then he runs up the stairs.

End