

Joe #1 start

(FRANK EXITS BACKSTAGE. The lights come up on TYLER crossing to JOE JOSEPHSON, who sits next to a much younger GUSSIE)

TYLER

Excuse me, but I got really excited when I saw your name on the reservation list, Mr. Josephson. Me, I'm just a waiter here. Well, actually, I'm holding down three different jobs, but only until I can get my invention launched. See, I have invented a brand new machine that can answer your telephone if you're not at home. Or even if you are. But somehow I just cannot get all the investors I need.

JOE

Kid, kid, I'm sorry, but there are answering services with operators already that, guess what, do exactly for people what you want this vercockte machine here to do.

TYLER

Mr. Josephson, I'm looking for only four thousand dollars and for that I will right now sign a contract giving you fifty percent of the return.

JOE

Whooooa. I live in a penthouse, kid, not in an asylum. Now I will invest my last red cent you come up with a sound idea, something like this new 3D movie process.

(To GUSSIE, as TYLER gathers his papers, puts JOE'S check on the table and EXITS S.L.)

When the hell am I ever going to meet a waiter who's just a waiter?

MARY

(Crossing to the SPENCERS, who are clearly not happy)

Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer. I'm Mary Flynn. Frank and Beth'll be out in less than a minute.

(MARY sits)

I bet you're excited about the wedding.

MRS. SPENCER

'Excited' is not the word.

MARY

You cannot imagine how important Frank is going to be someday.

MR. SPENCER

No, we can't.

MRS. SPENCER

Do you work in the show business too?

End

Joe #2

FRANK

(A pause. Then)
I'll wait for your call.

GUSSIE

Consider yourself kissed.

Start

(MARY, CHARLEY, and JOE RE-ENTER)

JOE

You got this guy everything anyone could ever want in a kitchen except for glasses.

FRANK

Here, I'll get them. They're still packed.
(HE EXITS, handing the Champagne bottle to JOE)

GUSSIE

(Still looking in her compact)
Oh, eek, look at me. That means 'don't.' I'm going to the little boy's room to rest.
(GUSSIE EXITS)

JOE

It's real first-class Champagne.

MARY

I don't drink.

JOE

What, never?

MARY

Well, hardly ever. I am a very excessive personality. Too much coffee, too much cigarettes, too much food...

CHARLEY

Too much Frank.

(MARY turns away)

JOE

Is Frank the only person in the world who doesn't know you're in love with him?

(MARY raises a hand for him to stop. JOE then points in the direction of FRANK and GUSSIE)

And how many people know about those two?

CHARLEY

(After exchanging a shocked glance with MARY)
Oh, there must be one or two — who don't.

JOE

I decided not to know. She's now Broadway's hottest star and the guy he's hot, too... obviously in more than one sense. I say let 'em get it out of their systems. As long as, please God, she don't leave me.

MARY

I think Frank's being gone the last eight months put an end to it.

JOE

(Opens Champagne bottle)
Gussie flew over and joined the cruise, you know.

CHARLEY

What?

MARY

We had no idea Gussie was on the cruise.

GUSSIE

(RE-ENTERING)

It will never cease to amaze me how everyone in this town knows everything I do. It was only for the last two weeks.

FRANK

(ENTERS with tray of glasses, hands it to GUSSIE)

Okay. Pretend these are Champagne glasses.

(JOE fills the glasses)

GUSSIE

(Passing the tray)

You've got yours. Now, Charley. Just one, Joe. Mary?

MARY

No, thank you.

GUSSIE

Oh, that's right, you never do. Well, more for us.

(Raises her glass in a toast to FRANK)

To our genius.

End

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