

ANN

Randy Batton made a pass at me . . .

BRENDA

No.

ANN

Yes.

BRENDA

No.

ANN

Yes. I was out in the yard with the kids . . . they were swinging . . .and he walked to the break in the hedge and motioned for me to come over there . . .

BRENDA

Unhuh?

ANN

I thought it was something to do with the hedge . . . it was Allen's turn to cut it and he hadn't . . . but he said the most amazing thing . . . he said "Give me your hand."--and I did because I thought he was going to do a joke or something--and then he said that for the past year the highlight of his life had been when we were both out in the yard and we had talked about the pine cones and the straw and the weather and that he loved me more than he had ever loved Cindy Sue, and would I please let him kiss me just once. Can you imagine? Right there in front of the kids holding my hand and saying all these things? I was so embarrassed, and the worst part was what he said last . . . he said that for the past year--every night--he had taped the news so that he could go out in his yard and pretend to be straightening up, but what he was really doing was watching me do my dishes.

BRENDA

No.

ANN

Well, ever since then I haven't been able to do the dishes even with the shade down. Just thinking about Randy Batton thinking about me doing the dishes makes me self conscious and I break plates. So for the past week Allen has been doing the dishes, and he is so mad about it he says we have to move.

BRENDA

I'm speechless.

ANN

I know. It's just awful.

BRENDA

You have put so much work into that house.

ANN

I know.

BRENDA

You just got your dining room the way you wanted it.

ANN

I know.

BRENDA

I can't believe you have to move. I don't know what to say.

ANN

I know.

BRENDA

Well. Where do you think you'll go?

ANN

I don't know. Allen's talking to Bud Graham about that lot across the street from us. It's a little swampy but it's bigger than the lot we have now and we'd be able to build a much bigger house.

BRENDA

You mean you're not leaving Oakland?

ANN

Of course not.

BRENDA

Oh. You had me worried.

ANN

We would never leave here. We were born here. This is where we belong.

BRENDA

That's what I thought. Won't it bother you being across the street from the Battons?

ANN

Huh?

BRENDA

Won't it bother you just as much being across the street from Randy Batton?

ANN

I don't think so. Besides the kitchen's going to be in the back.

BRENDA

The kitchen's going to be in the back?

ANN

Umhuh.

BRENDA

I don't believe you.

ANN

What?

BRENDA

I just don't believe you.

ANN

What?

BRENDA

Maybe we shouldn't talk about it anymore. Oh my oh!--Justin! It's all right. Mommy just didn't know where you were that's all. Go back and slide with Marylynn. For a few seconds I forgot all about that child. I wish I could leave Justin at home with a sitter. Your kids don't seem to mind that at all, but I would feel too guilty. Justin loves to go swimming. And, of course, we can't do that at home like you and your children can. We have to come here. We don't have a choice like you do. I suppose you'll be building a new pool too? Have you picked out the pool design?

ANN

What do you mean you don't believe me?

BRENDA

Nothing.

ANN

No tell me.

BRENDA

Nothing.

ANN

Now you're driving me crazy.

BRENDA

All right. I don't believe you went through this horrible experience, let yourself get so traumatized you couldn't even wash a plate and now you are planning to move right across the street from this man without even breathing a word of it to me. I would have loved to help you pick out your new house plan.

ANN

I know, but things have been so crazy.

BRENDA

I love you. Don't you know that? And when you face trouble I want to be there for you. You were there for me when my Nana died, and that meant so much. I'd just like to be able to return the favor, that's all. So from now on don't hold back on me. You make me so mad.

ANN

I'm sorry.

BRENDA

That's O.K. What kind of house plan did you pick?