

SEAN: I'll find a hotel, I guess.

JANINE: There aren't any.

SEAN: Any what? Hotels?

JANINE: No.

SEAN: There are no hotels here?

JANINE: No. Where do you think you are? Tatamagouche? We've got a bed and breakfast though. Luanne's. Just up the road.

SEAN: Well, maybe I'll try there then.

JANINE: So you drove all the way from Toronto without knowing where you were going to be staying when you got here?

SEAN: Well, coming here was kind of a last-minute decision.

JANINE: Ah. Interesting.

SEAN: So, I noticed that sign out on the highway that read "Halfway to the North Pole." What does that mean?

JANINE: Stewiacke is exactly halfway between the equator and the North Pole.

SEAN: Really?

JANINE: It's our claim to fame.

SEAN: That's funny.

JANINE: Why is that funny?

SEAN: No, I don't mean that it's funny about it being your claim to fame. I just mean . . . I recently split up with my fiancée. So, a month ago I had it made. A woman I loved. A future together. A good medical practice. And now here I am, sitting in a diner, halfway to the North Pole. I guess that's an indication of how far I've fallen in a month.

JANINE: It doesn't sound like you're flattering us.

SEAN: I'm sorry. It's nothing about your town. It's just . . . never mind. I'm sure it's a lovely town.

JANINE: It'll do.

SEAN: Are you from here?

JANINE: I am. Born and raised.

SEAN: You never had an urge to move away? See what's out there?

JANINE: Well, I'm not an idiot. I know what's out there. That's why I'm here. I've been to New York, Montreal, Los Angeles, Paris, Milan . . .

SEAN: Paris and Milan?

JANINE: Yeah. I used to be a buyer for a clothing store. I got the job when I graduated from the London College of Fashion.

SEAN: The London College of Fashion. Wow. So, you've been to all those places and you came back here? Why?

JANINE: I missed the life here. And I missed my friends.

SEAN: Your friends?

JANINE: Yeah.

SEAN: Violet, Rita, and Mary Ellen? Those friends?

JANINE: Yeah. And others. I've got plenty of friends in town.

SEAN: But you could make new friends.

JANINE: I don't want new friends.

SEAN: Why not?

JANINE: Because the old friends aren't broken.

SEAN: Hmm. You're uh . . .

JANINE: I'm what?

SEAN: You're an interesting woman.

JANINE: I am, aren't I? You, on the other hand, have a bit of a hangdog personality.

SEAN: Hangdog?

JANINE: A little woebegone, yes.

SEAN: Is that how I appear? Oh, that's pathetic. All right. No more of that. And thank you for bringing it to my attention.

JANINE: We speak our minds here.

SEAN: I'm learning that. So, I guess your parents were happy that you moved back home after being away.

JANINE: No, as soon as I left home they packed up and moved away themselves.

SEAN: Where did they go?

JANINE: Toronto. Yeah, Stewiacke isn't for everybody, but those of us who stay love it.

SEAN: Well, I believe that when you find a place that feels like home, that's where you should be.

JANINE: Have you found that place yet?

SEAN: I thought I had.

JANINE: Until your fiancée dumped you.

SEAN: I didn't say she dumped me. I said we split up.

JANINE: Because she dumped you.

SEAN: Yeah.

JANINE: You ever been married before?

SEAN: Nope. This was going to be the first and last time.

JANINE: Really? You've never been married at your age? What are you, forty-six? Forty-seven?

SEAN: Forty-two.

JANINE: Wow. This last month really has been hard on you.

SEAN: What about you? Have you ever been married?