

RITA: Mary Ellen. You're late. Oh, by the way, Martine came into the bakery this afternoon.

MARY ELLEN: Loaf of bread?

RITA: The tip jar.

MARY ELLEN: I'll tell her to bring it back.

RITA: So, where have you been?

MARY ELLEN: Well, it's been quite the afternoon.

JANINE: Coffee?

MARY ELLEN: Please.

*JANINE pours MARY ELLEN a coffee.*

RITA: So, what happened?

MARY ELLEN: Well, I got home from work at about one, the usual time, and I had a bite to eat, and then I put a load of laundry in . . .

VI: Well, it's Tuesday.

MARY ELLEN: That's right. So I put the laundry in and I sat down to pay some bills and out of the blue Kyle walks in the door.

VI: In the middle of the afternoon?

MARY ELLEN: That's right.

RITA: Was he sick?

MARY ELLEN: No.

JANINE: Did he get fired?

MARY ELLEN: No, nothing like that. No, I guess he felt badly about my birthday, because you know I gave them quite the tongue-lashing last night when I went home to get changed for the Cavalier.

VI: So he came home in the middle of the afternoon to apologize?

MARY ELLEN: Yes. Two o'clock in the afternoon and in he walks. It was quite the surprise.

JANINE: Two o'clock?

MARY ELLEN: Yes.

JANINE: But it's four-thirty now.

MARY ELLEN: I know.

*MARY ELLEN smiles a big smile.*

RITA: Oh, Mary Ellen, you didn't.

MARY ELLEN: Oh Mary Ellen did. In the dead of the afternoon. Sun shining in just as bright as can be. And I didn't care.

VI: So this was his way of making it up to you? Coming home for sex in the afternoon?

MARY ELLEN: It appears so.

VI: Isn't that just like a man? They are so narcissistic that they think having sex with us is a cure-all. And you fell for it?

MARY ELLEN: Hook, line, and sinker. Twice.

VI: Well if it was twice, that's different. That means he's actually applying himself.

MARY ELLEN: So that's why I'm late. What did I miss?

RITA: Janine's going to Halifax with Doctor Feelgood.

MARY ELLEN: What?

JANINE: I'm thinking about it. That's all. He invited me to go along with him and show him the sights and stay in separate rooms. That's it.

MARY ELLEN: Oh.

VI: Oh? That's all you have to say? Oh?

MARY ELLEN: Well, what do you want me to say?

VI: I want you to talk her out of it.

MARY ELLEN: Why?

VI: Because she already has a man at home.

MARY ELLEN: He's not at home. He's two thousand miles away.

VI: Mary Ellen?

MARY ELLEN: What?

VI: Don't you think a person should be faithful to another person even if that person is away for a while?

MARY ELLEN: I do. Definitely.

VI: There. You see?

MARY ELLEN: As long as that person is faithful in return.

VI: What?

RITA: Mary Ellen.

VI: What does that mean?

RITA: It doesn't mean anything.

JANINE: What are you saying, Mary Ellen?

MARY ELLEN: I think if you want to go to Halifax with the doctor, then go.

VI: You do not think that.

MARY ELLEN: I do.

JANINE: Mary Ellen, what's going on?

RITA: She's just had sex two times in one afternoon. She's delirious.

JANINE: Mary Ellen?

MARY ELLEN: . . . Well

RITA: Mary Ellen, don't.

MARY ELLEN: Why shouldn't I, Rita? I've been keeping this inside of me for so long it's about to give me an ulcer.

JANINE: Keeping what inside?

MARY ELLEN: He made a pass at me.

VI: Who did? The doctor?

MARY ELLEN: No.

JANINE: Bradley did?

MARY ELLEN: Yes. And he made one at Rita too.

RITA: Oh, damn it, Mary Ellen.

VI: Wait, wait. Bradley hit on you? Both of you?

MARY ELLEN: Yes.

JANINE: When did this happen?

MARY ELLEN: It happened to me last Christmas.

JANINE: Rita?

RITA: The Christmas before that.

VI: What, is this like caroling to him?

MARY ELLEN: I don't know why he did it. I just know that it took me by surprise and made me feel dirty.

JANINE: Well, what happened?

MARY ELLEN: He cornered me at Joy Bellwood's Christmas party with mistletoe in his hand. I was about to give him a little peck and he . . . well, he went a lot deeper than that. I was embarrassed and ashamed.

JANINE: I was at that party.

MARY ELLEN: I know. So was Kyle. But Bradley caught me alone in the kitchen.

VI: Oh my God.

JANINE: Oh, Mary Ellen, I'm so sorry.

VI: (*to RITA*) And what about you?

RITA: I had just bought some Christmas lights at the hardware store and I was walking home. Bradley was coming out of Dugan's and he offered to walk me. I said no, but he tagged along anyway. When we got to my place, he tried to talk me into letting him come inside, but again I said no. Then he asked me for a kiss good-night, and before I could say no a third time he planted one on me.

JANINE: He forced himself on you?

RITA: It was a kiss. He didn't do anything else.

VI: Don't say that, Rita. He kissed you when you said no. That's a violation.

JANINE: Has he ever hit on you, Vi?

VI: Are you kidding? My Johnny's a cop. At least I hope that's the reason.

JANINE: Oh my God.

RITA: We're sorry, Janine.

JANINE: No, I'm sorry. I feel awful that he did this to my friends. Why didn't you tell me when it happened?