

JEANETTE Why am I here, Barney?

BARNEY What was that?

JEANETTE Why am I here? I've known you and Thelma for twelve years. She's been a good friend to me. I wouldn't hurt her for the world. You and Mel are closer than brothers. So why am I here?

BARNEY Why? Because I *asked* you here, that's why. I'm very fond of you. Look, why don't you put your pocketbook down, Jeanette, and relax, and I'll go inside and get us a drink, okay?

*(He starts for the kitchen)*

JEANETTE I don't find you physically attractive. You knew that didn't you?

*(That stops him)*

BARNEY No! No, I didn't know that ... It doesn't surprise me ... I mean it's not mandatory ...

JEANETTE I think you're sweet ... I think you're basically a good person. I do not think you're physically attractive.

BARNEY *(Cheerfully)* Listen, you can't win 'em all.

JEANETTE I can be honest with you, Barney, can't I? I think we've known each other long enough for that, haven't we?

BARNEY *(The good sport)* Hell, yes.

JEANETTE So I can just come out and say it, can't I? I do not find you physically attractive.

BARNEY *(Smiling)* Fine, fine. Listen, I think we've covered that ground pretty good, Jeanette. So why don't I go get the drinks and you put down your pocketbook and relax and then-

JEANETTE Don't misunderstand me. It's not the weight. The weight doesn't bother me. I have never been repelled by obesity.

BARNEY I'm glad to hear that, Jeanette. Actually, I was a skinny kid. I blew up in the army. I was a mess sergeant in Fort Totten for about two years, and I would constantly-

JEANETTE I am attracted to you emotionally, intellectu-

BARNEY Isn't that funny? I always felt that you and I had a certain rapport-

JEANETTE But not physically.

BARNEY (*Nods*) Not physically. We established that a number of times. Would you excuse me one second, Jeanette. I want to get the champagne.

*(He starts again)*