

ACT III

SCENE 2

SETTING:

BOUTIQUE IN FLORIDA.

AT RISE:

RACHEL IS WORKING IN THE BOUTIQUE.
THERE ARE CUSTOMERS AROUND THE STORE.
SHARON COMES TO THE FRONT AND WAVES
TO RACHEL. RACHEL COMES UP TO HER.
SHARON LEADS HER OVER TO A BENCH AND
PUSHES HER DOWN ON THE SEAT.

SHARON

Rachel, I've got the opportunity of a lifetime for you!

RACHEL

Oh no, not again Sharon!

SHARON

Again? What do you mean?

RACHEL

You know exactly what I mean! So to stop you before you go any further, no I do not want to go bungee jumping, coral reef surfing, to an Indian ashram, flying a helicopter into the eye of a hurricane, or on a yoga cruise, whatever that one meant. Am I safe now?

She crosses her arms.

SHARON

Really Rachel, I think that is most unfair. When have I asked you to do any of that? Except the bungee jumping. Oh right. And the helicopter thing. By the way, that was really cool. You totally missed out. But really, this is the opportunity of a lifetime.

RACHEL

Sharon, you say that every time.

(with a resigned sigh)

Just tell me what it is.

SHARON

I'm going to a Shabbat dinner this Friday night and I want you to come.

RACHEL

Come on! Really? This is worse than deep sea diving! No way!

SHARON

(pleading)

Come on Rachel. Be a sport. I met Mrs. Cohen while I was grocery shopping the other day. You should have seen the stuff that was going in her cart. I'm telling you, you won't regret it. What's the worst that can happen?

RACHEL

With you around, I can never tell? I might get my hair burnt off, but maybe that doesn't happen to people twice.

SHARON

(laughing)

That was totally your fault! You leaned your head into it!

RACHEL

Because who would light a fire in the bathroom sink?

SHARON

Okay, no fires this time. Will you come?

RACHEL

(resigned)

Do I have a choice?

SHARON

(cheerfully)

Not really! I'll pick you up at 7:30. See you!

She cheerfully walks away.
RACHEL is left shaking her
head.

ACT III

SCENE 3

SETTING:

COHEN'S HOUSE, FLORIDA.

AT RISE:

MRS COHEN IS PUTTING THE FINISHING
TOUCHES ON A BEAUTIFULLY SET SHABBOS
TABLE. SHARON KNOCKS ON THE DOOR AND
THEN DRAGS RACHEL IN BEHIND HER.
RACHEL LOOKS AROUND IN AWE.

SHARON

Hi Mrs C! I'm here right on time! And I brought a friend. This
is Rachel. Rachel, Mrs. Cohen.

RACHEL

Pleasure to meet you.

MRS COHEN

Pleasure to meet you too. We're so glad you could join us tonight.

SHARON

Is there anything we can do to help?

MRS COHEN

Thank you, that's very kind to offer. Right now, we must light
candles before it gets too late. But don't worry. I'll take you
up on that offer later!

SHARON

(whispering to Rachel)

Sorry. I didn't know about the fires before.

RACHEL just nods mutely and
watches as Mrs. Cohen
bentches licht. The rest
of the seuda is carried out
in pantomime. A solo
dancer accompanies
RACHEL's monologue.

RACHEL

It's... beautiful. It's more than that. It's regal. With the sunset and lighting the candles, I can feel peace fall upon the house like the soft folds of fabric rustling. Mrs Cohen seems transformed to a queen. Look with what regal bearing she turns to me and says "Shabbat shalom." And I, the princess, whisper back "Shabbat shalom." This is the royalty I've been searching for my whole life. This is not a superficial sense of belonging because of the labels on clothes. Look at that peaceful smile and the grace she uses while serving. Always with a kind word and a smile, even as she works busily without stop. I truly feel like I am in the presence of royalty. An inner royalty, that comes from within. A sense of majesty that cannot be bought and cannot be traded. It feels... special. It feels... divine. It feels like I can finally be at peace and understand who I am inside. I want to live like this. I want my face to glow with this inner majestic light. I want to glide queenly, serene in the knowledge that I am at peace with who I am. I must learn more. I must understand what this is!

MRS COHEN

Thank you so much for coming! It was a real pleasure to meet you.

RACHEL

Thank you! This experience was... life changing. Seriously. I can't even describe how moved I was. I just... well, thank you.

MRS COHEN

(with a warm smile)

It's our pleasure. By the way, we'll be having a Tanya class on Monday night. It's a class about the soul's journey on earth. Would you like to join?

RACHEL

I'm there!

The stage darkens and the
ROYALTY DANCE begins.

ACT III

SCENE 4

SETTING:

BOUTIQUE IN FLORIDA.

AT RISE: