

#4

MALE & FEMALE 80's

MURIEL
Excuse me?

ARTHUR
Frank Markus' wake—I saw you there. Also at...the memorial for Helen Luger! Right.

MURIEL
I'm sorry—do I know you?

ARTHUR
Yes, actually I think we were introduced at Maury Greenblatt's funeral. Is it Muriel?

MURIEL
Uh...yes.

ARTHUR
Nice to see you again, Muriel. Arthur Beasley.

MURIEL
(Very unsure.)

Hello.

START HERE

ARTHUR
So—this seems like a nice funeral. Who's it for?

MURIEL
You don't know who the deceased is?

ARTHUR
No, I'm here for the four o'clock viewing—McNulty. I'm a little early, just thought it'd be nice to pay my respects.

MURIEL
It's for Judith...Oh my, I don't know her name. I didn't actually know her. I just accompanied my girlfriend.

ARTHUR
That's nice of you. Would you like some salami?

MURIEL
Pardon?

ARTHUR
(Removing a sandwich from his pocket and unwrapping it.)
I knew I was early, I brought along a sandwich. The salami's fresh from the A&P, and I sliced some fresh red pepper on from that nice little deli that's very clean on Fifth. I usually buy the bread from Fellini's Bakery but today it didn't smell so good so I went to the Grand Union. They never give me the right change at the Grand Union so I started fighting with the manager...

(He can't help but notice MURIEL'S stare.)

I shouldn't eat this here, should I?

(MURIEL still stares.)

I can wait.

(He put it away.)

Had the viewing for my Sue here—married forty-three years.

MURIEL

Hmmm.

ARTHUR

And you?

MURIEL

What?

ARTHUR

Your husband? Is this where you had the wake?

MURIEL

How would know my husband passed away?

ARTHUR

Just had that look about you.

MURIEL

What look?

ARTHUR

That look of someone who has lost the person they've spent their life with.

(A short silence.)

MURIEL

My Jim's viewing was in Schlatter's. Two years and a couple of months ago.

ARTHUR

Schlatter's is nice. Their seats are nice.

MURIEL

Yes.

ARTHUR

Seeing anyone?

MURIEL

Excuse me?

ARTHUR

Was that too forward?

MURIEL

This is a wake. Someone has died. True, we don't know who she is, still...

ARTHUR

I'm sorry. I don't usually do this, I just seem to be going to a lot of these lately. I just like to talk. I'm sorry.

MURIEL

It's not a problem. And you shouldn't get your salami from the A&P 'cause their butcher doesn't look clean to me. And if you go to a deli, make sure it's Jewish, they know what a decent portion looks like.

ARTHUR

Would you be interested in getting a cup of coffee later? Of course, you'd have to hang around till after the McNulty viewing, but they're nice people. They probably won't be in the best mood, but...

MURIEL

Is this a pickup?

ARTHUR

No, in order for it to actually be a pickup, you'd have to agree to a date. Right now, it's just an attempted pickup.

(MURIEL looks at him for a moment, then laughs, and he joins in.)

I made her laugh.

(MURIEL notices that others are staring and quickly stops.)

MURIEL

(Very embarrassed, to no one in particular.)

Sorry...sorry...

ARTHUR

(Dismissing the stares.)

Ah!

(A beat.)

So Muriel, how about it? Cup of coffee won't kill ya, pardon the expression.

MURIEL

Arthur, you seem like a nice man—you do, but...

MUSIC 21: I CAN LIVE WITH THAT

I don't really go out like you're intending...No, I just don't.

I'VE GOT SOME PROBLEMS, MY HEALTH'S NOT GOOD

ARTHUR

WELL AT OUR AGE THAT'S UNDERSTOOD

END