

JEANNIE Audition

START

JEANNIE I know I said I wasn't gonna . . . but I really need to know.

TOM What?

JEANNIE Her. (*Points at computer screen.*) What's the story with that one?

TOM Jeannie . . .

JEANNIE I mean, I hope it's some mothering thing or whatever, because if not, it's just so off-the-charts gross that I don't know what to say.

TOM We should probably stop now.

JEANNIE I mean, you know what everybody is saying around here, right? I know that you know. And it doesn't even faze you, huh? At all?

TOM I'm . . . I don't wanna do this. Here.

JEANNIE It's not like she's . . . She's really fat, Tom! A fat sow and you know it. I can tell you're aware by the way you're acting, which is really the puzzling part . . .

TOM I-like-her. *End of story.*

JEANNIE Yeah, but what the hell? Did you do something bad in some other life that you're making up for? Tell me, because she's . . . well, you know what she's like better than the rest of us . . . I mean . . . is she a good cook, or . . . ?

TOM STOP IT! Jeannie, just stop this. I get that you're pissed at me and you needed to blow off some steam, so that's why I, . . . I allowed you to say stuff, but . . .

JEANNIE You didn't "allow" me shit, Tom! I can say whatever I want, anytime I want. The whole company is, why should I be any different?

TOM Then talk if you want to! I-DO-NOT-CARE!! I enjoy her because she's not you, *anything* like you . . . she's not obsessed with looks and money and clothes and useless bullshit like that! OKAY?! (*Beat.*) I like who I am when I'm with her, okay, so just . . . fuck, just leave us alone . . .

JEANNIE Ohhhh . . . "us." So it's "us" now, huh?

TOM Yeah. It is.

JEANNIE And, forgive me for saying it, but she seems a little obsessed with some things . . . like maybe *Cheetos*.

TOM *starts to come around his desk now, determined to put an end to this.* JEANNIE *stares him down.*

TOM I'm serious here . . . you need to go.

JEANNIE I am going, I am, but not because you say so. Because I want to. I want to be as far away from you as I can be . . .

TOM Good.

FINISH